

# The Rucksack

Newsletter of the Friends of McNabs Island Society  
The society is a registered charity: CCRA number 88847 4194 RR 0001

Volume Thirteen, Issue Two

Fall/Winter 2004



## The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual McNabs Island Paddle and Clean-up

written by Katalin Ohlsson, photos by Dusan Soudek

Saturday morning, on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 turned out to be a strikingly bright, sunny day with a brisk 20 + km/h northerly breeze for this year's McNabs Island cleanup. There was not a cloud in the sky; our coastal weather cooperated to the very last minute, as it had every single time in the past with the annual paddle/cleanups.

The rendezvous point for the paddle cleanup was at Dooks Wharf in Eastern Passage right across from Tim Horton's, which I might add is a perfect put-in point with a good sized parking lot. As everyone prepared themselves for launching, there was a sense of contemplation and gratitude over the fact that last year's group had even managed to get in their cleanup before the ravaging of Hurricane Juan along Nova Scotia's coastline. So there has been a continuous good streak of luck associated with this annual environmental event.



Upon launching, the group paddled across and stopped to collect many bags of litter, along several points of McNabs Island. There was even one last bag collected from the Dooks Wharf put in. Now how is that for dedication!!!

The ever cheerful Captain Mike Tilley resourcefully collected all the bags before the paddlers' return crossing to Dooks Wharf, checking up on the paddlers as they were making their

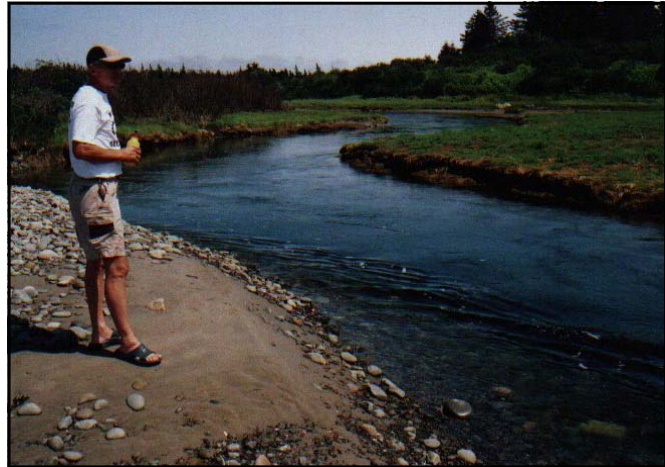
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way across the water, giving them a thumbs up for their clean-up effort, and then motored off to carry out the final stage of having the bags transported away from the Island.

Our many thanks go out to Dusan Soudek for organizing this year's event, Mike Tilley for all his assistance, and of course the heart-felt enthusiasm of all the paddlers. We would like to emphasize that we're hoping to have many, many more



participants at next year's paddle/cleanup. We really need your help and support in carrying out this annual event!!! So mark the annual fall paddle/cleanup on next year's calendars and spread the word, it certainly is a satisfying and crucial way of keeping our Island clean.



**Hear, hear and Paddles Up for a job well done by all!!!**

## Wildlife Festival Eastern Passage October 3, 2004

An estimated 200 people stopped by the Friends of McNabs' display at the Wildlife Festival in Eastern Passage on Sunday October 3rd according to Denyse Contrasty, co-ordinator for this event. Five Friends answered questions about McNabs and Lawlor islands and encouraged visitors to participate in the upcoming Fall Foliage tour. Many expressed interest in this outing and inquired about reliable and affordable transportation for getting to McNabs at other times. A significant number of people felt that they would use the park more frequently if there was a Visitor's Centre on site or at least information boards along the trails to point out the various geographical, historical and cultural aspects of the islands.

by Denyse Contrasty



**The author and Chris Poulain manning the booth at the Wildlife Festival.**





**Mike Crowell discusses the reasons why the approximately 130 year old copper beech tree on the Hugonin-Perrin estate is dying during the Fall Foliage tour in October.**

### **Fall Foliage Tours**

The annual McNabs Island Fall Tour held on October 17 was a success in spite of the unpredictable weather. 60 people ventured to the island on what became a warm fall day. Mike Crowell provided much insight and humour to the nature tour and Royce Walker fascinated visitors with a glimpse into McNabs Island's colourful history on the history tour. Visitors were treated to a tour of the historic houses, which were open to the public for the day. Many new visitors to the island were



**The outhouse on Garrison Rd. on its side one year after Hurricane Juan left it dangling in the trees.**



**The lighthouse and harbour as viewed from Tea House Lane**

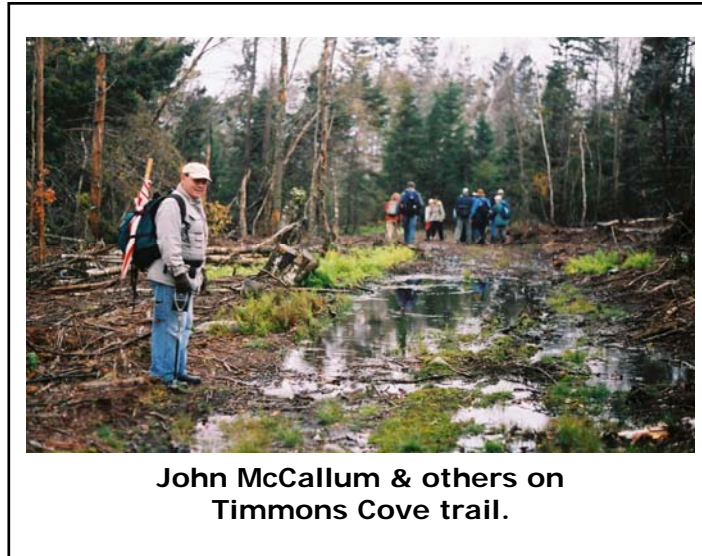
saddened to see the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Juan. Visitors to the island couldn't understand why Natural Resources contractors did not upright and repair the convenient and well-used outhouse located at the foot of Garrison Pier. Rumor has it that one of the woodsmen working on the island did upright the outhouse last spring, but was told by his superiors to tip it over again.

by Cathy McCarthy

## McNabs Island Hurricane Juan Restoration

Most McNabs Island trails are now open with the exception of the Pond Trail and Lighthouse Road. The Pond Trail travels along the southern end of McNabs Pond and passes by the ruins of the Peter McNab I homestead. Natural Resources contractors have not cleared this trail. The Lighthouse Road was washed out by the hurricane which means that the Mauger's Beach Lighthouse is inaccessible.

Most of the trails now look like logging roads and many of them are heavily rutted and full of standing water. Natural Resources tells us that work will begin this winter to cut and remove all damaged spruce trees from the island. Since most of the island is spruce cover, this will be a major forestry operation.



John McCallum & others on  
Timmons Cove trail.



## McNabs and Lawlor Islands Management Plan

The Park Advisory committee met in September to review the final draft of the Management Plan. The Plan has been sent to the Minister of Natural Resources for approval and signing.

### Email Updates

If you wish to receive updates about the status of McNabs Island by email, please send your information to either:

Carolyn Mont at [carolynmont@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:carolynmont@ns.sympatico.ca)  
or Cathy McCarthy at [cathymc@accesscable.net](mailto:cathymc@accesscable.net)



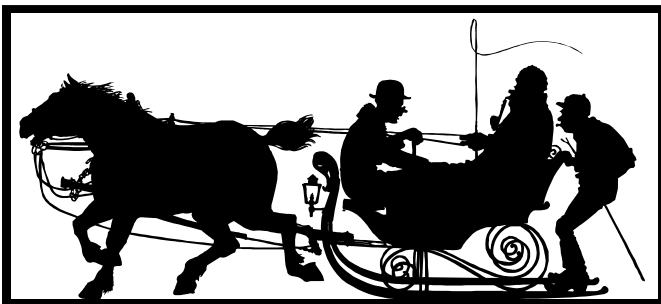
## Gifts, Gifts and more Gifts!

Consider the gift of membership for friends or family. For a special \$25 gift membership fee we will package a **Discover McNabs Island** book and a special gift card for your loved one. Is there anyone in your family who is hard to buy for? This is a gift you don't have to dust and is the perfect size for everyone. For orders within Metro the gift can be hand delivered with sufficient notice.

The Friends of McNabs Island has an updated poster that would make an excellent gift for the discerning map lover for only \$5.00. Or the critically acclaimed **Discover McNabs Island** book can start the hiker on your list dreaming of spring weather and planning a trip to the island. Books are only \$10.00 and are an indispensable resource for people visiting the island. Call Carolyn at 477-0187 to purchase your copy.

Do you need a special gift for someone who enjoys great food? We have tickets available for the **Annual Friends of McNabs Dinner and Auction**. The dinner is held in the beautiful, historic Officers Mess at RA Park. There is good music, an exquisite dinner and fabulous company.

Prices for tickets are \$30 per ticket before January 15th. Tickets can be hand delivered with a gift card.



### Seventh Annual Friends of McNabs Dinner and Auction

February 26, 2004

6 to 10 pm

Officers Mess

Royal Artillery Park

Cost is \$35 per person

after Jan 15, 2005

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**

is \$30 per person

**tickets MUST be purchased prior to 15 January 2005.**

Get your tickets **NOW** and save.

Call Faye Power 443-1749 or email [fayepower@hotmail.com](mailto:fayepower@hotmail.com) to order your tickets.

**Donations of services or goods** for the annual auction are being accepted at this time. If you have something to donate please call **Katalin Ohlsson at 464-1236** or **Carolyn Mont at 477-0187** to arrange for drop off or pick-up. Tax receipts can be given for physical items but not gift certificates.

**Island Brochures and Maps still available call Carolyn at 477-0187 to order yours!**

**Hurry! Renew before the end of the tax year!**

**THE FRIENDS OF McNABS ISLAND SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM**

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL

Address:

I AM ENCLOSING \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR

DONATION

SUSTAINING MEMBER (\$100 annually)

SUPPORTING MEMBER (\$50 annually)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (\$15 annually)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$20 annually)

NEWSLETTER ONLY (\$15 annually)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to help out? \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership to the Friends of McNabs Island Society starts on the date of payment of dues and includes a year's subscription to the society's quarterly newsletter, *The Rucksack*. We thank you for your continued support and welcome your interest!

Send money or cheque, payable to:  
**The Friends of McNabs Island Society**

PO Box 31240  
Gladstone RPO  
Halifax, NS  
B3K 5Y1



or phone Carolyn Mont at 477-0187 for membership inquiries. **The society is a registered charity: CCRA number 88847 4194 RR 0001**

***The Rucksack*** is published by the **Friends of McNabs Island Society**.

Contributions, ideas and feedback are welcome.

Visit our website at: ***www.mcnabsisland.ca***

Phone: Cathy (902) 434-2254 evenings or Carolyn (902) 477-0187

This issue went to print December 2004.