

MICA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2003

It has been a busy summer!

We now have over 250 members!

Your executive has met several times over the summer, working on our various projects. Each committee chair has tabled a report for this newsletter; everyone is working hard toward our mission.

Summer Highlights

- July 16 **Public Meeting @ Lunenburg Yacht Club**
 Over 90 in attendance
- 17 **Nature Conservancy of Canada**
 Announces purchase of Sheep Island
- Aug 1,2,3 **Information Booth, Mahone Bay**
 Wooden Boat Festival
- Sept 6, 13 **Clean up of Sheep Island**

Our Mission : To protect and conserve the natural environment of the shoreline and islands of Mahone Bay, and the traditional social and recreational opportunities valued by its various communities.

Mahone
Islands
Conservation
Association



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Chairman's Report

This newsletter is a great opportunity to acknowledge the many people who have supported the Mahone Islands Conservation Association since its beginnings in March 2003. To those who promoted MICA during the Wooden Boat Festival, you brought 67 new members into the Association. The 20 people who helped remove the old camp from Sheep Island, provided a valuable service to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and helped us form a stronger bond with that organization. Thanks must also be given to Indian Point Marine Farms for providing their barge to bring all the material from the clean up ashore. A special thanks has to go to Lunenburg Yacht Club for hosting our public meeting in July. They provided a wonderful facility that helped us reach even more individuals. Lighthouse Publishing and the Chester Clipper must also be thanked for their generous coverage of our activities. To the many individuals who have supported us with membership fees and donations, you have shown how important the Mahone Bay islands are to you. MICA has a membership of over 250 people, comprised of local residents, other Nova Scotians and individuals from many provinces and four other countries.

And finally, a thank you to the directors for the many hours given towards meetings, presentations, setting goals and helping us to achieve them, their work has helped immensely in raising the profile of MICA.

The Directors have been busy since our public meeting in March. We have met face to face with all levels of government-Gerald Keddy MP, Michael Baker MLA and the Municipality of Lunenburg Council, and received support and encouragement from all three. At our second public meeting at the Lunenburg Yacht Club, we put forward our concept for an Island Conservation Area that would incorporate environmental protection and recreational access on selected islands in the South West area of Mahone Bay.

In aid of this Conservation Area we are currently preparing a major proposal to be presented to government and other stakeholders this autumn. Additionally we are planning our first fund raiser, a dinner and art auction for Friday November 21 at the Oak Island Resort. Finally we are collecting any historical information on the Mahone Bay islands and an oral history workshop is being scheduled for 2004.

It is an indication of the importance people attach to the Mahone Bay islands that individuals have given freely of their time, and shown their commitment to this conservation cause. There is still much work to do, but the great support given by so many people since MICA's formation just a few months ago, is a positive indicator that a lot will be achieved in the future.

Attention all Web Masters!

We need a volunteer interested in designing and maintaining the MICA Web Page.
All interested parties, please call Dale Rafuse at 624-1555

Conservation Report

A major clean up of Sheep Island took place by 2 teams of volunteers on Sept 6 and 13, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

On Sept 6, ten volunteers dismantled an abandoned camp and hauled 2 large piles of debris to the shoreline. On Sept 13, our second team loaded the debris on a barge (2 trips) kindly provided by Peter Darnell of Indian Point Mussel Farms, and ferried it to the mainland. From there we filled 2 dumpsters.

We would like to publicly thank the volunteers who came out for this project. Special thanks to David Elliott for the use of his wharf and Tim Johnston for his kind hospitality. Thank you to ABCO for donating the use of their boat. Sheep Island is now clean, and safe to visit. A job well done.

Resource Documentation Committee

The Resource Documentation Committee has been focused on the development of a detailed proposal that will be used for the solicitation of funds for the creation of the Mahone Islands Conservation Area.

This work has led to very interesting discussions around the concept of the Conservation Area – the short term and long term goals and the strategy for implementation.

Thanks to the RD Committee members and also to Ms. Sally Steele and Dr. Ken Gregoire for their input and assistance.

The RD Committee will continue to work on the historical documentation of the islands through research and personal interviews.

Art Auction / Dinner Fundraiser

A Must on your Fall Agenda!!!!!!!

We are presenting a Dinner and Art Auction on Friday, Nov 21, 2003 at the Oak Island Inn Spa and Resort. Tickets are \$30. There will be a silent auction on some works, and a regular auction on all others. The auction will be from 7 to 11, with a bar available. All proceeds are for MICA Projects.

We are appealing to all members! We need volunteers to help collect art work, and to participate that evening.

Please call Ron Myers at 624-9308.

Tickets will be available at the MICA Booth at the Mahone Bay Scarecrow Festival, located at P'lovers' Neat Stuff, and from Ron Myers.

Help Protect Mahone Bay's Islands

MICA is initiating a pledge campaign to acquire islands and establish the Mahone Islands Conservation Area. A strong pledge campaign not only provides funding for island acquisition but it also demonstrates to governments and other organizations that we value our islands and want to protect them. Before calling pledges, MICA will diligently assess the values and constraints of desired islands and then make an informed acquisition decision. We feel it is very important to allocate your money as effectively as possible.

All members, other residents and businesses will receive a pledge letter requesting pledges towards island acquisition and establishing the Mahone Islands Conservation Area. We ask that you support the pledge campaign and help protect Mahone Bay's beautiful islands.

We are looking for new members to join our association. Please circulate this newsletter to your friends and family. This is “a call to action”, as time may be short to save some of our islands.

Please, think about someone who might need a substantial tax break. The purchase and subsequent donation of an island may be the answer. This could be an individual or an estate. Do you know of someone who owns an island that may consider working with us?

These are some of the issues we need to communicate to our community. Please help. Thank you!

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Membership Application

I would like to become a member of the Mahone Islands Conservation Association. Here is my annual \$10 membership fee.

Name _____
Address _____
City/town _____ Prov/State _____
PostalCode/Zip _____ Country _____
Telephone (H) _____ Telephone (W) _____
e-mail _____
Organization _____

I would like to donate an additional amount toward MICA’s efforts.

Amount _____

A charitable tax receipt will be issued by the Nature Conservancy of Canada for all donations of \$100 or greater. Please make cheque payable to “The Nature Conservancy of Canada” with a memo stating “in support of the Mahone Islands Conservation Association.” Once MICA obtains it’s own charitable status, we will be able to issue tax receipts for donations less than \$100.

Please mail to : MICA, 189 Hirtle Cove Rd, Oakland, Mahone Bay, B0J 2E0

Thank you for becoming a member of MICA! We believe that when many passionate people work together, we can indeed protect the things we cherish.

