

# MICA Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

May 2006

*We now have over 700 members!*

## ISLAND UPDATE

ANDREWS ISLAND – CONSERVED!  
SHEEP ISLAND – NCC  
SPECTACLE ISLAND – POSTED CROWN  
BELLA ISLAND – POSTED CROWN  
BACKMAN'S ISLAND – UNDER  
NEGOTIATION

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.mahoneislands.ns.ca](http://www.mahoneislands.ns.ca)

NEW PHOTOS, CONSERVATION AREA MAP  
PLEDGE CAMPAIGN, WHO'S WHO AT MICA  
PLUS MUCH MORE

IN THIS ISSUE:

CHAIR'S REPORT  
AGM JUNE 13  
ART AUCTION UPDATE  
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS  
ANDREWS ISLAND BEACH SWEEP & PICNIC

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.

Please visit our website:

[www.mahoneislands.ns.ca](http://www.mahoneislands.ns.ca)

Mahone  
Islands  
Conservation  
Association



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Andrews Island becoming Crown Land in April 2006, is the result of thousands of volunteer hours by hundreds of individuals. This acquisition was brought about through a partnership agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and the Mahone Islands Conservation Association. The agreement was facilitated by Richard Hurlburt, then Minister for Natural Resources and our MLA, Michael Baker.

MICA is the first community based conservation group that the Province has offered such an agreement.

Under the terms of the agreement, the province cannot dispose of the island in anyway without the permission of MICA and it will be owned by Nova Scotians, for all to enjoy, in perpetuity. Without the support of the Province this acquisition may not have happened. What has to be acknowledged however, is that the Province's decision to partner in purchasing the island was strongly influenced by MICA's work in raising public awareness, fundraising and offering to take on a stewardship role.

Andrews is the first step in creating a Mahone Islands Conservation Area. A new partnership agreement has been signed for the acquisition of other islands and negotiations have started with the owners of Backmans Island.

In closing, the MICA directors would like to take this opportunity to thank the Andrews families for their patience during this process and the MICA membership and friends for their generous support.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday June 13, 7pm

Lunenburg Yacht Club

Refreshments will be served

All members are encouraged to attend

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

April 1 is the beginning of the financial year for MICA and annual membership dues of \$10 per person will cover the April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007 year. These dues are used to pay our operating expenses, such as postage, photocopying, liability insurance, accounting audit, etc. Because our volunteers provide many services free of charge, we have been able to keep these expenses and the membership fees very low.

If you have not yet paid your fees for 2006-7, you may do so by mailing a cheque to MICA, 189 Hirtle Cove Rd., RR 2 Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0 or by Visa or Mastercard at our website:  
[www.mahoneislands.ns.ca](http://www.mahoneislands.ns.ca)

## **2005 MICA ART AUCTION & DINNER**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraising Art Auction and Dinner was, once again, a most successful event for MICA.

A thank you to all the Membership and the donors for the outstanding support that contributed to our highest attendance ever – and the most substantial financially. The Oak Island Resort was filled to its maximum of 260 with a waiting list for tickets. And sales this year produced a net total of \$23,688 – a 41% increase over 2004.

One of the highlights of the evening was Hon. Michael Baker's acknowledgement of the first-ever community land securement partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia.

With the Andrew's Island purchase, MICA will assume the stewardship role for the Island. Thus fundraising continues to be a crucial activity for the Board and Members – to assume the stewardship role and to continue on to the next island purchase.

## **DATE TO REMEMBER FOR 2006**

Mark your calendars for 2006 – MICA's Art Auction & Dinner will be held again at the Oak Island Resort and Spa on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Remembrance Day weekend. Stay tuned for further details.

For those interested in helping with next year's event or who can and wish to contribute in any tangible way, whether it be as a volunteer, as a donor, or even in the form of an idea, please contact any of your Board members.

Let's all be proud of our success.

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

*Whom do you call if you witness an environmental threat in your community that you feel is wrong? Whom do you call in the event of an environmental emergency? The following numbers may be of assistance:*

Destruction of a wetland - Environment 543- 4685 / Natural Resources 527- 5984

Seawall or wharf construction- Natural Resources 527- 5984 / Fisheries and Oceans 1- 800- 782- 3058

Clear-cutting along a river, lake, or seashore - Natural Resources 527- 5984

Environmental emergencies, oil and chemical spills - 1- 800- 565-1633

Coast Guard Lifeboat Stations - 1- 800- 565-1633

## **NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

MICA has grown into a strong organization and been successful thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of the membership. As we go into our fourth year we need more people to come on board and help us move forward.

MICA has a strong committee structure that is responsible for the major tasks that we undertake. We do, however, have a number of specific short term projects where additional help is often needed. These include:

Information Booths - a two hour time slot, two people each session;

Annual Dinner Art Auction- selling tickets, contacting artists, collating and set up.

Membership Renewals - help with contacting MICA members.

Stewardship Activities - participate in our Annual Islands Clean Up

We value our volunteers and their free time and try very hard not to be burdensome with requests. Therefore, we are very specific with time commitments and required tasks.

If you can help please contact MICA at [info@mahoneislands.ns.ca](mailto:info@mahoneislands.ns.ca) or telephone 624-8864 for more information.

## **HELP US CELEBRATE THE PURCHASE OF ANDREWS ISLAND**

JULY 30, 2006

12:00 NOON, Andrews Island, North Point Beach

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME

Please send us an email or call if you plan to help out. We can arrange transport for those without a boat.

All musicians welcome!

## **MICA BASEBALL HATS FOR SALE!**

We are selling beautiful MICA Baseball hats, for the bargain price of \$15.00. They are green with white trim, very stylish, and will help us to promote our organization and raise funds.

We will have a supply for sale at the AGM.