

MICA Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

June 2004

Happy Spring!

We now have over 330 members!

Your executive has been meeting monthly over the winter, working on our various projects. Each committee chair has tabled a report for this newsletter; everyone is working hard toward our mission.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Jun 15 Lunenburg Yacht Club
7:00 PM**

**Government Proposal Project
Island Acquisition Plan
Election of Officers**

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

Our Next Steps.....

This newsletter provides us an opportunity to review some of our accomplishments, and put forward our plans for 2004 and 2005.

During the winter, we started our oral history program, with the objective of establishing a historical database for the local islands and shoreline communities. With the rapid changes taking place in this area, we feel it is important to conserve this knowledge before it is lost. This information will also provide a base line for us to measure development against.

Another important project was the compilation of a funding proposal for submission to all levels of government by the Resource Documentation Committee. After many hours of the work, copies were submitted to Federal Environment Minister David Anderson, Senator Willie Moore and Gerald Keddy, MP. The Committee also made presentations to ministers of the Nova Scotia Provincial government and the Municipality of Lunenburg. The message to all levels is that the Mahone Bay Islands are a very unique environment that requires protection. MICA has worked to engage public support for this issue, but we do need help from government if we are to achieve a balance between environment, recreation and development.

The next important move is an acquisition program. We are looking at a number of avenues for acquisition for environmental protection and maintaining public access. We plan to start the process of negotiating the purchase of two islands this year. This is a huge step for MICA to take, but we feel that the public support is there to warrant it. This process involves our having the islands appraised, establishing criteria to justify our decisions, negotiating with the owners and fundraising if our offer is accepted. If we value this area, then we all must be prepared to contribute to its protection.

The MICA Directors welcome the opportunity to discuss our plans with members and the public at large. Please let us know if you have any concerns or suggestions. Our schedule of events for the year is listed in the newsletter, so hopefully we will have chance to meet and talk in more detail.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Through its volunteer membership, MICA has begun its oral history project of the Islands with interviews already underway. Thanks to the Fisheries Museum in Lunenburg which has helped us with interviewing techniques and the loan of equipment, several interviews have taken place and been transcribed throughout the winter. The summer will see a more full-blown effort when interviews can be done, with video, from the islands themselves.

Short term, MICA due to the time sensitivity of the project is to interview as many people as possible. The plan then being to incorporate these initial interviews into booklet form as a merchandising and fundraising project for MICA

Long term, the intention is to build a body of interviews and background videos as a foundation for an eventual documentary film.

MICA has already developed a long list of interviewees and interviewers. And we welcome anyone who can provide us with a name or individual, who could enrich this project with photos, documents and/or be willing to be interviewed. Please contact anyone of your MICA directors in this regard.

SHEEP ISLAND PICNIC

MICA will be hosting an open picnic on Sheep Island in August, date TBA. We would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, for making the island available.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our annual membership fee (currently \$10) is due at the date of our annual general meeting. Please bring your payment to the AGM, or mail it to:

MICA, 189 Hirtle Cove Rd, Oakland, Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0

SUMMER MEETING (for Chester Chapter of Nova Scotia Nature Trust)

Location: Royal Canadian Legion, Duke Street and Regent, Chester

Date: Monday, August 23rd

Time: 7 pm Reception; 8pm Speaker (Elizabeth May), followed by discussion & questions

Cost: Donations accepted at the door; cash bar

ISLAND CLEAN-UP DAY

MICA is organizing an Island clean-up day for September 18, 2004. We will e-mail details to everyone on our directory, later in the summer with details.

UNION CHURCH at INDIAN POINT – Centennial Celebration June 13th

The Union Church of Indian Point will hold its 100th anniversary celebration on Sunday June 13th at 2:30 pm beginning with an ecumenical service at the Church with choral music and scripture readings.

As a Union church, many of its worshippers were from the Mahone Bay Islands and were those very people who helped to build it. It incorporates the 5 founding denominations – Baptist, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian.

One of the few remaining Union Churches in Nova Scotia, the Church has been designated as a Heritage Building by the Municipality of Lunenburg. The official unveiling ceremony will be part of the service.

After the service, refreshments will be provided at the Indian Point Fire Hall. MICA members are welcome to join in this celebration.

ART AUCTION DINNER

On November 21, we held our first major fundraiser event, an Art Auction & Dinner, at Oak Island Inn & Spa.

We would like to extend a tremendous THANK YOU to the many artists who donated their work, to the local businesses who donated gifts, and to the dedicated volunteers who gave hundreds of hours to this cause.

The result? Over 250 tickets sold and a net amount of \$16,500 raised. Well Done!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – THIS YEAR’S ART AUCTION DINNER WILL BE NOVEMBER 20, 2004!

RESOURCE DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee has taken on the development of a proposal intended to be used for both private and public fundraising towards the MICA goal of acquiring islands. The proposal was completed during the winter and has been presented in person to Provincial Cabinet Ministers and to the Lunenburg Municipal Council. In addition, it has been sent to several Federal Cabinet Ministers. Response from all three levels of government was quite complimentary on the proposal with a general commitment and encouragement for support of our cause. Specific follow up is now required.

The proposal details the MICA organization, the problem or crisis as we see it, our proposed solution of the Mahone Islands Conservation Area, and our funding requirements. The BACAP report 'Ecological Assessment of the Mahone Bay Islands' provides supporting documentation along with others.

Many thanks to Heather Olivella, Sally Steele, Peter Darnell, Ken Gregoire, Michael Ernst, Georg Ernst and all the MICA Directors for their help and contribution in the development of this proposal.

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

