

MICA Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2005

We now have over 450 members!

FALL HIGHLIGHTS:

ANDREWS ISLAND CLEAN-UP

DINNER AND ART AUCTION

CHARITABLE STATUS OBTAINED

**ANDREWS ISLAND
OFFER TO PURCHASE**

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.mahoneislands.ns.ca

NEW PHOTOS, CONSERVATION AREA MAP

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN, WHO'S WHO AT MICA

PLUS MUCH MORE

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Chairman's remarks
- 2 Andrews and Backman Island Project
- 3 Andrews Island Clean-up
- 4 Conservation Corner
- 4 Art Auction Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

More Good News!

As chair of the Mahone Islands Conservation Association I have many opportunities to meet people and talk about our organization's accomplishments. There is always something happening, and the news is so often positive.

The start of our acquisition campaign has moved our activities to another level. Our goal to raise \$620,000 to purchase Andrews Island has meant the commitment of hours of volunteer work by many members of the Association. It is humbling to see the response from our members and friends with donations, pledges and time given to achieve this goal. The response is indicative of the importance that our community places on our environment and how hard we are prepared to work to save some in its natural state for ourselves, and future generations to enjoy. We should feel proud of our accomplishments.

Also, as chair, I am aware of the steps that remain to be taken. The 'In Tray' is never empty, and it would be a cause for concern if it ever got to that state. 'May you live in exciting times' seems appropriate as MICA's activities move through their development stages.

As an Association, we are aware of the help and trust that everyone has put in us to date. The list of individuals and organizations is a long one. On behalf of the MICA directors, and membership, therefore, I would like to pass on our thanks.

**Michael Ernst,
MICA Chair**

ANDREWS AND BACKMAN ISLAND PURCHASE PROJECT

The Board of Directors of MICA is very pleased to advise that we have an accepted offer to purchase Andrews Island, for \$620,000, to close on April 30, 2005. We have also made an offer to purchase Backman Island. To date, the private fundraising campaign for the purchase of both islands has resulted in a very significant financial commitment.

We offer a sincere thank you to those who have responded. The generous pledges and contributions show your very tangible support and endorsement of our Mission and provide our group with encouragement for working towards the pursuit of our goals.

As a friendly and respectful reminder to those who have not yet responded and are in support of our Mission, we still have a long way to go. MICA appreciates and needs your support to realize our objectives. Pledge letters may be obtained from any MICA Director, or from our web site.

The more funding we can raise from the private sector, the higher we believe our expectations can be from Provincial Government participation. We have been in discussions with the Honorable Michael Baker since last spring and plan to meet with him again in the near future at which time we would hope to know the amount of provincial commitment.

We appreciate and need your support to make this happen. Please contact your MLA, or Member of Parliament to help lobby their support. Every phone call and letter counts. Thank you!

CORPORATE FUND RAISING

We are also beginning a Corporate Fund Raising drive for the purchase of Andrews and Backman Islands. Many local companies will be contacted in the near future.

ANDREWS ISLAND CLEAN-UP DAY

MICA held a beach sweep and picnic on Andrews Island on Sept 12, 2003.

28 volunteers braved the cold southeast wind to help gather broken bottles, old tires, and enough garbage to fill a half-ton truck. MICA would like to thank all the volunteers for a very positive effort. We would like to extend a special thanks to John Swinamer, who volunteered his boat as the "garbage barge".

Please visit our website at www.mahoneislands.ns.ca for photos of the clean up.

WEB SITE PHOTO GALLERY and UPDATES

We will be starting a Web Site Photo Gallery, where you will be able to submit your favorite photos of the Mahone Bay Islands and shoreline (with photo credits). Please log on and look for the PHOTO GALLERY tab.

MICA at the HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

MICA will have a booth at the Boat Show, Feb 17 – 20. We are looking for volunteers to help at the booth. Please call Michael Ernst at 624- 8864 if you can spare an hour or two. This would be a great way for some of our Metro members to come out and help. Everyone is welcome!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The MICA newsletter is also available on our web site in PDF (Portable Document Format) Adobe Acrobat files. You can sign up to receive e-mail notification of its publication on the site, where you can read it or print your own copy. The subscription option is on the Newsletter page.

Please feel free to send suggestions or submissions to the MICA Newsletter, via our CONTACT FORM on the website. All are welcome! Please include your name and e-mail address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are there other issues or concerns that MICA should be addressing? Are we on the right track? What should we do different? In future issues, we will make available space for your comments and concerns. We would like to hear from you.

Please use our CONTACT FORM on the website.

CALLING ON VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to become more involved in MICA, please contact one of the directors (on page 4) or visit the web site and let us know.

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:

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

ART AUCTION DINNER

MICA held it's 2nd Annual Dinner and Art Auction on November 20, 2004 at the Oak Island Resort and Spa. A sold out room of 260 supporters helped net over \$17,000, through both live and silent auction sales. Many of the works were from local artists and craftspeople. Thank you everyone!

One of the evening's highlights, was "the Lady in Red". Tickets were sold all evening on the flirtatious mannequin, and all proceeds were matched by LIGHTHOUSE PUBLISHING, to the tune of \$1,200.00. We would like to send a special thank you to Lynn Hennigar and Lighthouse Publishing for their generous support!

Plans are underway for our 2005 Auction, please stay tuned!

MICA DIRECTORS

If there are any questions or concerns, please call any of the MICA Directors listed below, or check out our web site at www.mahoneislands.ns.ca.

Michael Ernst	624- 8864	Georg Ernst	527- 1140
Dale Rafuse	624- 1555	Bill Whyte	624- 0987
Sherry Swinamer	624- 8474	Sherrill Harrison	624- 9676
Nicole Ernst	624- 8864	John Meisner	624- 9645
Barbara Wuertz	529- 2479		