

MICA Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

May 2007

Island Status:

Andrews – Conserved
Backmans – Conserved
Coveys – Conserved
Spectacle – Posted Crown
Bella – Posted Crown
Sheep – NCC

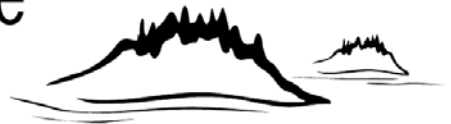
**Annual General
Meeting June 12
7 pm Lunenburg
Yacht Club
All Welcome!**

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

Mahone
Islands
Conservation
Association



Chairman's Report

At our Dinner Art Auction in November 2006, David Morse, Minister for Natural Resources, announced that his Department would partner with MICA to purchase both Backmans and Coveys Islands. This exciting announcement was totally unexpected, but certainly well received by the 260 people in attendance.

The acquisition of Backmans and Coveys islands was completed on March 31st of this year. Along with Andrews, this makes three islands that have been purchased through a MICA/DNR partnership.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired Sheep Island in 2003, so we now have four protected islands in our area of Mahone Bay.

Visitors to Andrews Island last summer may have noticed the signs placed by DNR. These give the guidelines for public use of Crown Lands and state:

No Littering - Follow the principles of Pack it in - Pack it out

Keep your pets on a leash - do not disturb the wildlife

Do not leave campfires unattended - keep fires small

Observe all fire bans

Bury Human waste - or remove for placement in your boats storage system

The same regulations will also apply to Backmans and Coveys Islands.

Natural Resources has the power to enforce these guidelines and welcomes any calls from the public at 1-800-565 2224.

These islands now belong to Nova Scotians, but MICA will take on a stewardship role to help ensure that a balance is maintained between environmental protection and recreational access. It is now our task to ensure that the islands are used in a responsible manner.

Other successes that we can report at this time include our Dinner Art Auction that raised over \$22,000 and our expanding membership that is getting close to 900 members.

Finally, thanks must be extended to the many individuals and organizations that have supported MICA since we called our first public meeting 4 years ago. We have made great strides in conserving and protecting a valuable resource for all to enjoy and this is due to the tremendous support given by so many. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

Michael Ernst
MICA Chairman

FAA Committee Report

1) Many meetings, presentations, telecons and emails have culminated in the recent purchase of Backmans and Coveys Islands by the Province of Nova Scotia through the Partnership Agreement with MICA.

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the MICA fundraising campaign for these islands. The generous contributions through donations, honored pledges and fund raising events have enabled us to meet our substantial financial commitment of \$175,000 towards these purchases.

We would like to thank the Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia; the Honorable David Morse, Minister of Natural Resources; the Honourable Michael Baker, local MLA and Minister of Finance and the provincial cabinet for their demonstrated support of MICA's objectives by providing significant funding for the purchase of Backmans and Coveys Islands.

Again, we offer sincere thanks to all of you who are members and friends of MICA and who have supported this acquisition. You can be very proud of your contribution towards this accomplishment.

- 2) The Committee is currently working on several other very exciting projects which will be announced at the appropriate time in the near future.
- 3) The Committee has been dealing with internal issues including by-law review and internal procedures.
- 4) We will be sponsoring Happy Hour at Lunenburg Yacht Club on Friday, July 27.

Member Guest Reception

Friday, July 27, Lunenburg Yacht Club

Please join us for Happy Hour at 7 pm, to celebrate the acquisition of Backmans and Coveys Islands. Entertainment TBA. Please bring a guest.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

April 1 marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for MICA and our membership fees of \$10 per person are now due for 2007-08. Fees may be paid at the AGM, at the July Reception, at the Wooden Boat Festival, by mailed cheque to MICA, PO Box 189, RR 2 Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0 or online at our website www.mahoneislands.ns.ca.

Settlers' Museum Exhibit

This summer the Mahone Bay Settlers' Museum will have a feature exhibit to celebrate the acquisition and rich history of Coveys and Backmans Islands. If you have stories to recount, or photos you would like to loan, please contact the Museum.

Shoreline Cleanup

This summer, we are asking our membership to participate in a season long, island and shoreline cleanup. In the past, we have organized cleanup days, but those don't always fit into everyone's schedule. We would like everyone to pick up litter everywhere you go.

We are also asking you to record the details of each cleanup. Please visit our web site www.mahoneislands.ns.ca to down-load a Cleanup Data Card. This can be emailed back to MICA. We will compile this data as our contribution to The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. Every bit helps!

MICA Art Auction & Dinner

November 9, 2007, 6:00 pm
Save the Date!

Lunenburg Yacht Club 60th Anniversary Open House

June 16, 2007, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Everyone Welcome.

Complimentary sailing and power cruises offered by club members during the afternoon. Beverages, refreshments and snacks. Historical background about LYC and information about membership. Chicken BBQ to follow at 5:00 – 7:00 pm, \$7.95 /person and \$5.95/child (under 12). For more information, visit www.lyc.ns.ca or phone 634-3745.

Calling All Members....

MICA needs you! MICA needs new volunteers for several committees. These include Finance, Acquisition and Administration, Stewardship, Membership, Public Relations, Resource Documentation, Education, and Art Auction.

Any interested members can contact MICA through the web site, or by calling any director. Also, we will be available for questions at the Annual General Meeting on June 12.

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 | 531- 2179 | Anne Bailly | 634- 9429 |
| Brom Hart | 634- 3749 | Bryan Palfreyman | 627- 1091 |