

Friends of McNabs Island



20 Years in Review

Good things come from bad situations

John Jenkins, Barry Edwards and Colin Stewart call a public meeting for those who feel putting the sewage plant on McNabs Island is a bad idea. From this initial meeting, the Friends of McNabs Island Society will be born.

Build plant on McNabs—group Harbour island eyed to house sewage treatment facility

By Christine Soucie
DARTMOUTH BUREAU

McNabs Island is the site of least resistance for a sewage treatment plant, a group of Dartmouth residents advised the Halifax Harbour Task Force Monday night.

The task force was charged with the duty last year of finding a location for a proposed \$200 million sewage treatment facility for metro, and the type of treatment it should utilize. The Dartmouth meeting was the fourth in a series of five.

Residents at the meeting discussed the five options for treatment plant locations developed by the task force. Plants located near the narrows or at the outer harbour were dismissed because of environmental

max plan Feb 27/91

'When we first discussed the McNabs Island option we thought we'd get a hue and cry. The response has been underwhelming. We expected a high resistance.'

—Task force chairman Bob Fournier

fects in Bedford Basin and on the fishery, respectively. Also, a multi-plant option suggested for the narrows or transporting raw sewage via tunnels to a plant at the harbour's outer reaches are more costly than other alternatives.

McNabs Island was favored because of the availability of land, its distance from residential areas, and the location of the outfall in deep waters with adequate circulation

away from the harbour's main fishing areas.

Task force chairperson Bob Fournier said the group sent out the McNabs Island test balloon at the first public meeting to measure public reaction. He clarified the site is not the task force's final choice.

"When we (task force) first discussed the McNabs Island option we thought we'd get a hue and cry. The response has been

underwhelming. We expected a high resistance," Dr. Fournier said.

The resulting bridge that would have to be constructed would open up the island enhancing the area's recreational and tourism opportunities, Dr. Fournier added.

The major disadvantage to a plant on the island's northern end would be the likely flow of effluent and eventual sedimentation in Eastern Passage. Some preferred a plant on the south side, while another resident suggested charging Eastern Passage residents less for sewage treatment.

Many attending the meeting preferred secondary over primary, which could have capital costs up to \$290 million, with yearly operating costs between \$4.4 and \$6.8 million.



McNabs ferry owner John Jenkins voices opposition to the idea of a sewage-treatment plant on the island.

McNabs sewage idea blasted

By MARK BLANCHARD
The Daily News

The chairman of the Halifax harbor cleanup task force was scolded for suggesting McNabs Island as a site for metro's proposed sewage treatment plant.

But Bob Fournier told an audience of 70 he was "misrepresented to a large extent" in a *Chronicle-Herald* story yesterday.

"We are not recommending McNabs. We are simply saying that we would like to hear what the community thinks about the possibility," he said, after a shouting argument with

one man.

"That's a fair question when you consider the fact that anywhere, all around the harbor is important to somebody at some point — and that treatment is going to go somewhere."

John Jenkins, who owns the McNabs Island ferry, charged Fournier with putting "misleading" figures and data about sewage outfall before the task force's five public hearings.

"He's telling people he doesn't want it in the Narrows. He's telling people he doesn't want it out in the ocean," Jenkins told reporters.

"He's telling people he wants it on McNabs Island."

Fournier, a Dalhousie scientist who heads the volunteer committee, said the group has got to consider the provincial Lands and Forest Department-owned property to say it's looked at all possible site options.

The task force raised the McNabs suggestion at its initial public hearings, but had an "underwhelming" response from the 200 people who have attended the previous four sessions, he said.

McNabs has historical and archeological significance and has been a designated region-1 recreation area since 1975.

Friends of McNabs Island



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PROVIDED, further, that if for any reason the operations of the Society are terminated or are wound up, or are dissolved and there remains, at that time, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to some other charitable organization in Canada, having objects similar to those of the Society.

3. The activities of the Society are to be carried on in Halifax County and such other areas as appropriate.

4. The registered office of the Society is 15 Parker St. Apt. 13, Dartmouth, N.S., B2Y 4A6.

We, the several persons whose names, addresses, and occupations are subscribed, desire to be formed into a Society, in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association.

DATED at Dartmouth this 2nd of March

A.D. 1990.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESSES AND OCCUPATIONS</u>
<i>John Jenkins</i>	6310 Allan St. Hxw, B3L 1G9 business man/student
<i>Barry C. Edwards</i>	15 Parker St. Dartmouth, N.S.
<i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	<i>Robert Henderson</i>
<u>WALT VANDEKIEFT</u>	39 BELVEDERE DRIVE, DARTMOUTH
<i>Go. Wolbe</i>	<u>TEACHER</u>
<u>RAYNE WOLBE</u>	21 WILLOWDALE DR. DART. N.S.
<i>Paul [Signature]</i>	<u>INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC</u>
<i>David [Signature]</i>	1294 Church St. #2 PS
<i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	<u>Pr. School Teacher</u>
<i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	23 FAIRBANK AVE
<i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	<u>STATIONARY ENGINEER</u>
<i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	73 Chebucto St, Dartmouth NS B2Y 2M2
<i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	Biologist

Witness to the above signatures:

Clara G. [Signature]

W. J. [Signature]

of HALIFAX, in the County of

HALIFAX, Province of Nova Scotia.

Occupation. MEMBER, CND ARMED FORCES



The Friends begin the public debate to protect McNabs Island as parkland

Members of the new society work to understand the sewage plant proposal and public process. We engage in public discussion to hold the proponent accountable, and educate politicians and the public in how special and valuable McNabs Island is as parkland.

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THE DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1991 METRO McNabs Island PAGE 5

'Photo' shows sewage plant not on McNabs

'Doesn't look bad,' cleanup head says

By PETER HAYS
The Daily News

Metro's new McNabs Island sewage treatment plant won't really be on McNabs at all, and there's an "artist's conception" to prove it.

Halifax Harbour Cleanup Inc. released an enhanced photo yesterday showing a 12-hectare, round, man-made island — complete with sewage treatment plant — nestled 30 metres off McNabs Island, in what is now Ives Cove.

The point is to show people what the sewage plant will look like, and where will go, says corporation president Paul Calda.

"It shows that it's not on the bloody (McNabs) island," Calda said yesterday. "If this is going to be final outcome of it, we don't need to set foot on McNabs."

An environmental assessment of the Ives Cove location is being carried out now, and is expected to be complete in March 1993. Six months of design planning later, the first construction work will start, Calda said.

The enhanced photo released yesterday shows a nicely treed island, fitting well with the rolling terrain of McNabs. Calda said he hopes the photo allays the worries of people opposed to using McNabs for the sewage plant.

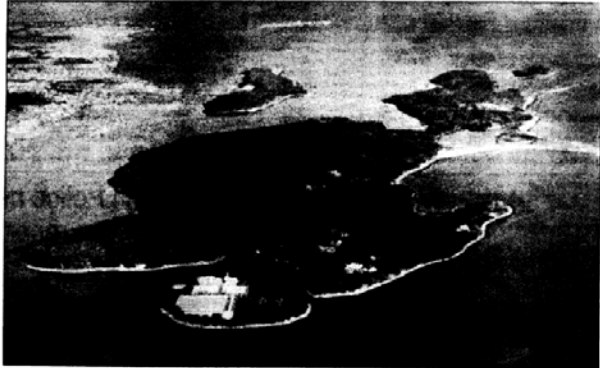
"It doesn't look bad, does it?" said Calda. But it may be some time before the little sewage treatment island looks as nice as the "conceptual" photograph.

"Obviously, planting mature trees is a fairly expensive proposition, so it will depend on the available funding at the time," said Calda.

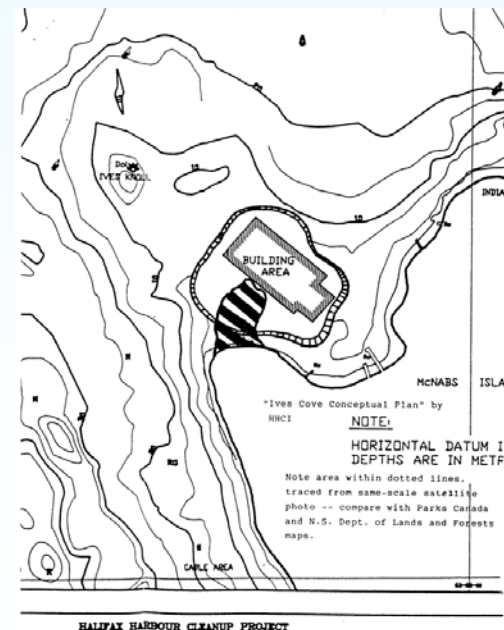
"The point is that, if you look at some of the detailed sketches we have here, there's going to be a kind of berm around the island, with grass and trees."

When the island is built, Ives Cove will no longer be a cove. Calda said the new island will be large enough to eventually house a sewage treatment facility for close to 30,000 people.

"We are planning to build an island twice the size we need now," he said.



Enhanced photo of McNabs Island shows artist's conception of planned Ives Cove sewage treatment plant.



Friends of McNabs Island



Friends quickly begin on island activities and public education.

Picnics begin in 1991 and run for 4 years, Fall Foliage begin in 1991 and continue today



Beach Sweeps begin in 1991, and have become a trademark 'on island' activity

Beach Sweeps have been held annually, usually in Environment Week. This event has been a great way to introduce new people to the island



Friends represent the Island Park at the sewage plant Environmental Assessment Public Hearings, 1993

- Many of the Society members prepare and present statements to the 'quasi-judicial' hearings.
- Concerns range: value of the park to tourism and education, cost of the project, breaking of existing land use by-laws, public process, and more



1993 - the island sewage plant proposal fails due to huge increase in cost.

- The cost of the project more than doubles to >\$400M. The funding agreements collapse and the project stops
- Shallow victory for the Society, who support responsible harbour cleanup. We celebrate none-the-less.
- Ironically the design eventually built, several smaller plants in the communities they serve, was the design advocated by our members
- Out of the sewage plant debate, a new constituency for the island has emerged to protect the island from indiscriminate development, and to advocate for thoughtful park development



1994 – the Friends continue to grow

In 1994 the Friends on McNabs Island receive ‘charitable society’ status, and begin on island improvement projects such as trail clearing, bridge building and providing outhouse facilities.



Friends of McNabs Island



Focus on park development, public awareness and education

Friends board member Carolyn Mont leads a group of teachers on an island tour, and a Discovery Center day camp discovers the magic of McNabs



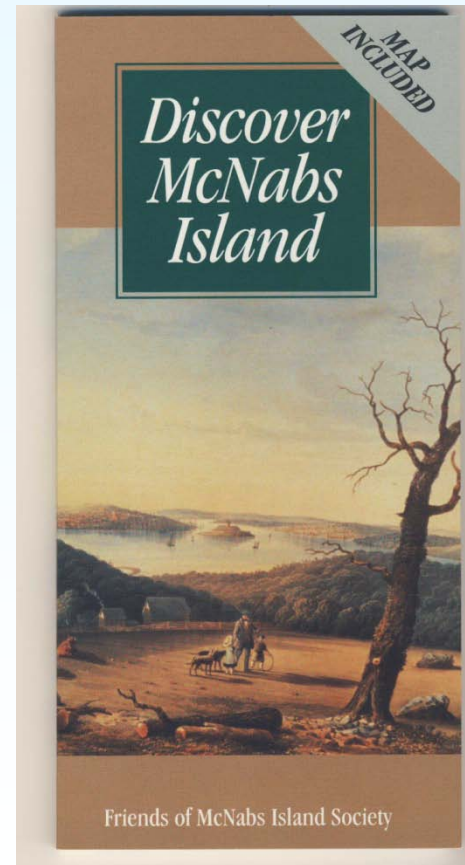
Focus on park development, public awareness and education

- creation of the 'McNabs Island Kit' available through the Museum of Natural History
- Publication of brochure & map in 1995
- Variety of speaking stops and slide show presentations



1995 -The Friends get published

Through the effort of several members and other interested ‘authors’, the society publishes a very popular field guide to the island, which makes the ‘best seller list’



Friends of McNabs Island




1996 to 1998 – the Friends continue to grow

- 1996 a web page is launched which continues. Chris Poulen has been long-time web master.
- 1998 –first Annual Silent Auction & Dinner. Only missed this year to focus on '20th Picnic'
- On island activities continue, trail maintenance, Beach Sweep & Fall Foliage

The Rucksack
Newsletter of the Friends of McNabs Island Society
The society is a registered charity: CCRA number 88847 4194 RR 0001



Volume Sixteen, Issue 2Winter 2008



**10th Annual Friends of McNabs Island
Dinner and Silent Auction**

Enjoy the ambiance of the Officers Mess at Royal
Artillery Park, Halifax on
Saturday, March 29, 2008

Doors open at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30

 Full Service Meal
(for vegetarian plate, specify when
you purchase your ticket) 

Get your tickets now!
Early Bird price \$40 until March 10, 2008
\$45 Regular Price after March 10, 2008

Tickets on sale until March 20th - only 80 spaces available!

For details call Faye Power at 443-1749 or email fayepower@hotmail.com.

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Friends invited to assist with Park Planning

2000 – the Minister of DNR establishes a Public Advisory Committee to help draft a Park Management Plan for McNabs Island Park. Friends of McNabs is viewed as a key stakeholder, and invited to participate.



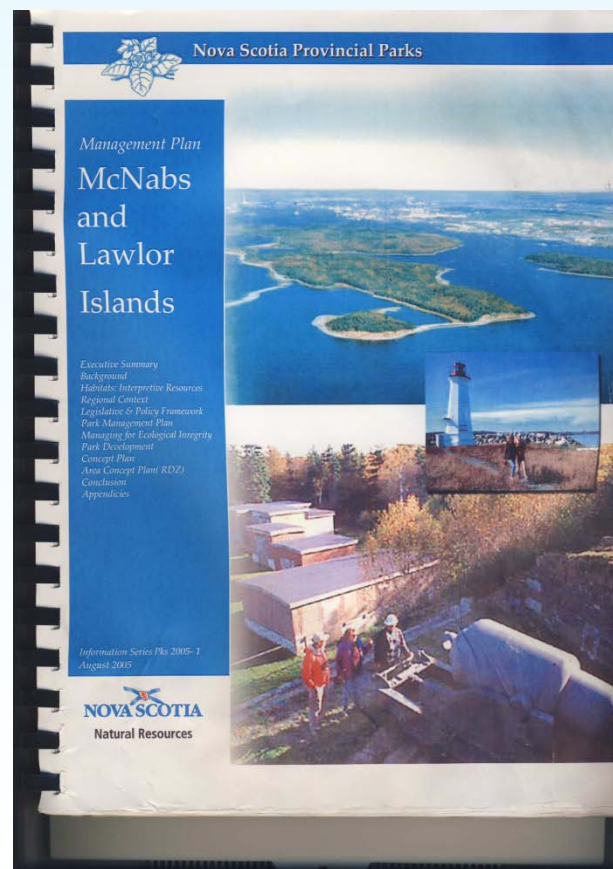
2002 – the goal ‘McNabs and Lawlor Islands Park’

- November 2002 – the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources declares ‘McNabs and Lawlor Island Provincial Park’
- The dream of the society has come true ... but much is needed to done, and the work does not stop.



Park Management Plan endorsed by the Minister

Aug. 2005 – following 5 years of effort by volunteers and Government advisors (and endless discussion about camping), the Park Management Plan is endorsed, including implementation steps. However, funding and timelines remain elusive and a challenge.



Friends of McNabs Island



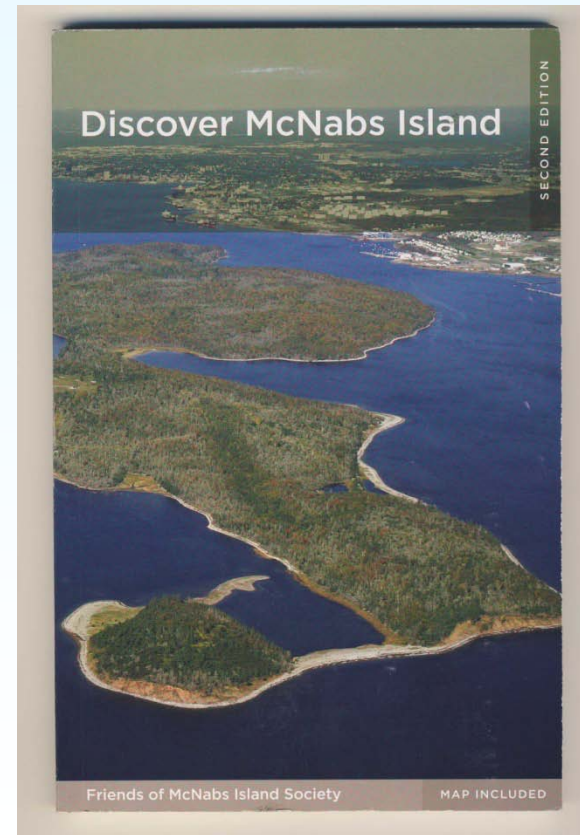
Achievement, recognition & more to do

- 2006 - Friends of McNabs Island Society awarded Canadian Council on Ecological Areas Gold Leaf Award
- 2007 - Facebook page launched
- Friends members continue to organize events, stay engaged in the Public Advisory Committee,
- And...



Discover McNabs Island 2nd edition

2008 – following the success of the 1st edition, the Friends update and publish a 2nd edition of the popular field guide to the island, including updated and new chapters.



Friends of McNabs Island



Beach sweeps continue to be a popular annual event, this year is June 7

Cleaning the beaches and shorelines is a never ending task, but things have improved over the years. The Friends have removed over 9000 bags of litter from the beaches.



Friends become political negotiators

Friends consider the saving of Fort Hugonin a real success story. Once learning of the impending demolition of the fort, Cathy inspired a groundswell of support to save the important features of the fort, clean up the hazardous materials as intended, and save money.



Public response inspires positive Government response

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WEEKLY News Friday, February, 29, 2008 The Dartmouth - Cole Harbour Weekly News



A section of the historic fort on McNabs Island.



Some of the original fence surrounding the fort.



In 1940, Hugonin Battery was essentially taken out of action and the guns were then mounted at the nearby Strawberry Battery.

McNabs Island fort saved, but what next?

By Joanne Oostveen - The Weekly News

A successful battle was waged last week to save an historic fort on McNabs Island.

Fort Hugonin, located on the north-west part of the island was built in 1899. Earlier this month, Defence Construction Canada issued a tender for the demolition of the fort, a plan that didn't sit well with supporters and friends of this significant part of Halifax's military history.

Woodside-Eastern Passage Coun. Jackie Barkhouse said she couldn't believe Fort Hugonin was set to be demolished and received unanimous support from council when she requested a letter be sent to the Defence Department asking them to stop their plans to destroy the fort, at an estimated cost of nearly \$250,000.

"With such a rich history it seemed incomprehensible that it could be demolished and forgotten, despite the role it played in protecting Halifax and indeed Canada during the war," said Barkhouse.

"How different is it, really, from Citadel Hill or Louisbourg? The possibility of making McNabs Island a destination is tremendous. But it is the residents of my district who need to visit McNabs and experience its peace and natural beauty to appreciate what a gem they have."

Fort Hugonin is not in great shape today, but on a recent trip to McNabs it wasn't hard to envision the fort in its heyday.

It was originally used as barracks and had emplacements for four quick firing guns and subterranean magazines.

In 1940, Hugonin Battery was essentially taken out of action and the guns were then mounted at the nearby Strawberry Battery. Interestingly enough, the barracks at Hugo-



Mike Tilley, owner of McNabs Island Ferry, talks about a section of the fort on McNabs Island that was in danger of being torn down.

Friends of McNabs Island



With Cathy's 'will' there is a way

- Friends of McNabs Island President, Cathy McCarthy spearheads fundraising effort for trail rebuilding, and compiles more than \$270,000. Provides major rehabilitation of Garrison Rd.
- Looking forward to 'Trails phase 2, 2011'

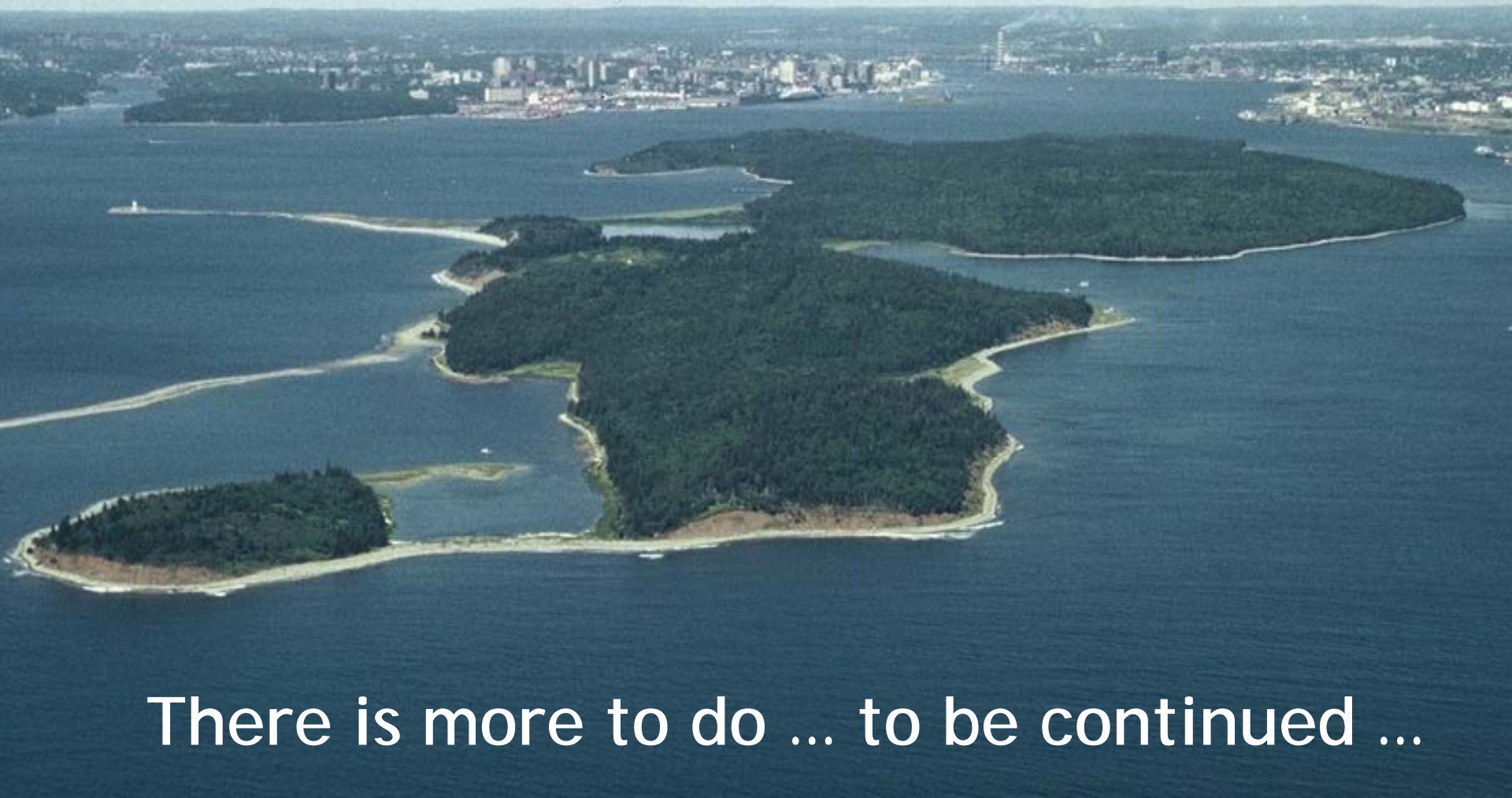


Friends trail project connects to Parks Canada clean up effort

**Winter 2010 – Parks
Canada coordinates a major
contaminated soil clean up
at Garrison Pier / Mauger
Beech area. An old oil pipe
uncovered by Hurricane
Juan causes a reassessment
and clean up of former DND
property.**



Friends of McNabs Island Society



There is more to do ... to be continued ...