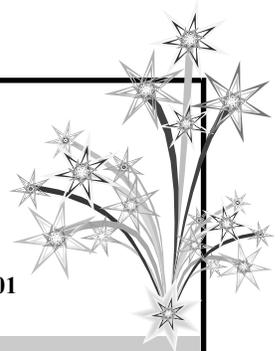




The Rucksack

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



Volume Twenty Three Issue 1 & 2

Celebrating 25 Years

Fall 2014/Winter 2015



Friends of McNabs Island 25th Anniversary Dinner & Auction



Our dinner & auction is back by popular demand!

Celebrating 25 years of commitment to McNabs Island, the Jewel in the Harbour!

Saturday February 21, 2015

Murphy's Cable Wharf Restaurant
1751 Lower Water Street, Halifax Waterfront

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

Full Service Meal
(Choice between Salmon, Chicken or Vegetarian plates)

Live music with Celtic folk band, the Worry Birds!

Silent Auction! Door Prizes!

Special recognition of our members who have supported us for 10 or more years!



**Get your tickets early!
Tickets \$50**



Tickets are available through Ticket Atlantic at (902) 451-1221, the Scotiabank (Metro Centre) Box Office, **Atlantic Superstore** customer service counters, or online at www.ticketatlantic.com. Tickets on sale until Monday February 16 - only 100 available!

If you have auction items or door prizes to donate, contact Faye at 902-443-1749 or info@mcnabsisland.ca.

Friends of McNabs Island Society The Rucksack

MEMBERSHIPS: Individual Membership or Newsletter Only is \$20 per year, Family Membership is \$25 per year, Supporting Membership is \$75 per year and Sustaining Membership is \$150 per year. We are a registered charity and accept donations.

Web address: <http://www.mcnabsisland.ca>

Contact address: **The Friends of McNabs Island**
PO Box 31240, Gladstone RPO
Halifax, NS B3K 5Y1

We welcome contributions, ideas and feedback.

DISCLAIMER: The articles contained in this newsletter are the property of the authors. No portion of the publication may be duplicated without permission from the author/editor. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Society. We cannot vouch for groups, businesses or activities described in this newsletter. Information is provided for members' interest and readers are to use their own discretion.

Friends of McNabs Island Executive 2014

President

≈ Cathy McCarthy

Vice President

≈ Royce Walker

Secretary

≈ Denyse Contrasty

Treasurer

≈ Cathy Phelan

Membership Secretary

≈ Cathy McKenzie

Newsletter Editor

≈ Mary Avery

Trails Committee Chair

≈ Brent King

Board Members

≈ Greg Noddin

≈ Brian Phelan

≈ Faye Power

≈ Alex Tamo

≈ Dan McKenzie

Don and Nancy Ross – McNabs Island Genealogists

By Catherine McCarthy

Don and Nancy Ross were long-time members of the Friends of McNabs Island. Nancy was a descendant of Peter McNab and proud of her McNab family heritage. Don was a life-long amateur genealogist, who painstakingly pieced together Nancy's McNab family tree.

Sadly, Nancy passed away last March at age 98. Don had passed away in 2008.

After a long career that took Don and Nancy all over the US, Canada and England, they returned home to Nova Scotia in 1982. Upon retirement, Don and Nancy got involved with protecting the Bedford Mi'kmaq petroglyphs and researching their family's genealogy.



Don & Nancy Ross 2004

Nancy was a great granddaughter of James Burrows Davis McNab. He was the son of Captain John McNab, who in turn was the son of Peter McNab I and Susanna Kuhn, the original McNabs, who bought the island from the Cornwallis family in 1782. Nancy and Don presented their McNab genealogy research at our McNabs annual dinner and auction many years ago.

Nancy and Don assembled many historical family journals and documents. One of these was the account of Nancy's great grandfather James B D McNab's adventures aboard a whaling ship. This document, edited by Nancy, entitled "Journal of a Voyage from Halifax to the Coast of Japan, Sailing Ship 'Pacific' February 4. 1827- September 13, 1830," resides with the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

Nancy also edited and published "The Diary of a Maritimer: 1816-1901, the Life and Times of Joseph Salter." Salter was Don and Nancy's shared great-grandfather. The Friends of McNabs Island have a copy of the family tree that Don and Nancy put together. We refer to it often when other McNab descendants contact us.

Thank you Nancy and Don for your excellent research. We will miss you!

BARRY EDWARDS ENTRUSTS HIS 10,000-HOUR ARCHIVAL COLLECTION TO THE SOCIETY

BY ROYCE WALKER

At Barry Edwards' request, board members Royce Walker and Brent King paid Barry a visit March 25, 2014, to accept his very large collection of information relating to McNabs Island. The personalized archives represent Barry's passion and ongoing interest in the island's history and its more recent developments.

The collection's content fills nine cardboard boxes of binders and albums. It includes Barry's hand-notated map of the many features he located or identified over the four decades he has spent researching and studying the island.



Royce Walker and Barry Edwards

Barry is a founding member of the Friends of McNabs Island, who in **March 1990** along with John Jenkins and Colin Stewart, organized the public meeting of residents concerned with the proposal to site the regional sewage treatment on McNabs Island. Our society has grown from that meeting.

For many years, Barry could be found walking McNabs, in all seasons. He would often share his knowledge of the island with others during informal meetings on the trails, or through organized walks and talks. Barry's knowledge of the island and its history has been well known in the region, and he has been cited as a resource in a number of publications.

A while ago, Barry casually mentioned to me that he estimated he had spent over 10,000 hours researching McNabs Island.

In recent years, Barry has found it increasingly difficult to enjoy his pastime of researching and studying McNabs. However, he understood the value of the collection he had assembled, and made the generous offer to the *Friends* to take ownership of his collection, in order to make the information available for future projects.

I am very pleased to have the responsibility to house the 'Barry Edwards Collection.' I have made a commitment to Barry to share the information he has collected in the pursuit of telling the story of McNabs Island.

At the April 2014 Annual General Meeting, a motion was passed to make Barry a 'Lifetime Member' of the society.

The Lens of a Child
**Joan (Cleveland) McGregor's Memories of McNabs
Island**

By Sharon Rundle (edited by Cathy McCarthy)



Joan McGregor 2012

It was a glorious fall day when Faye (Cleveland) Power and I set out on a lovely country drive to Ostrea Lake where Faye's sister Joan lived for many years. We were greeted with a big smile at the front door, as Joan welcomed us.

Joan is the daughter of Colin and Glennie Cleveland, who were lighthouse keepers on McNabs for 26 years. The Clevelands moved to McNabs with their five children in the winter of 1932 when Joan was just three; later two more children (Reg and Faye) were born. Joan let me know that living on McNabs was the most wonderful childhood a girl could imagine.

The Cleveland house used oil lamps for light, coal and wood stoves for heat, an outside toilet, and a 2000-gallon cistern for water that was pumped into the kitchen daily. The Clevelands kept horses, cows, pigs and a flock of hens. Other food and necessities were obtained during weekly trips to Halifax. Joan wanted me to know that her mother was very "resourceful" and everyone pitched in. One of Joan's chores was to bring in the cows each night.

Joan attended school on the island at Fort Hugonin, which served as the local school between the wars. When Joan was growing up on the island, there were many families living there, including Bill Lynch, the "Midway King," and his family. "What a wonderful place to be a child, an entire Island to make your own," said Joan. During the war years, the Cleveland's lighthouse home was a busy place. There were frequent visits from the soldiers and officers, stationed on the island. In fact, Joan's three older sisters married service men that they met on McNabs.

As she talked, you could see that Joan was back on the island with her parents and siblings. Joan loved living on McNabs Island and loved telling stories about her childhood there.

Cont'd Page 5



The Cleveland Family 1940 – Joan, 3rd from left



Skaters on Ives Pond 1944

Cont'd - The Lens of a Child

One such story was about the “Thunder Jug,” an indoor potty used during the wintertime. Joan’s older brother Lester often played tricks with the Thunder Jug, tying a string to the handle so that when someone was about to use it, it would mysteriously move. Stories about the Thunder Jug drew great giggles from the three of us.

Joan recalled how her father frequently removed the reflector for the lighthouse lamp, brought it into the living area and polished it. This large chrome reflector was carefully polished with jewellers rouge to make it sparkle.



*Cleveland Lighthouse on McNabs
watercolour by Reg Cleveland painted
when Reg was 79*

Something that stood out for me was that all the photographs that Joan showed me, illustrated plenty of childhood spirit, giggles and smiles. It was so easy to see from the photos of swimming, skating and school that living on McNabs was a good life. Worries of transportation, food, warmth and schooling weren’t issues for this family.

Skating with her siblings helped pass the time during the long winters. In fact, Joan and her sisters learned to ice dance while skating with the soldiers on the pond at Ives Point.

Another of Joan’s memories were the trips that the family made to Mrs. Logan’s Candy Store near the sugar refinery in Woodside. “I looked forward to the candy store, there were so many choices and it was an outing the entire family loved,” recalled Joan.

Joan had many fond memories; I could not help but notice the sparkle in her eyes the entire time we chatted. Perhaps her greatest story was about the Dockyard’s duty boat that transported island residents back and forth from Halifax.

By the time Joan was 20, her mother had decided that it was time for Joan to find a husband, so Mrs Cleveland set out to see if Doug McGregor, the nice captain of the duty boat, was married. To find out, she gave Doug a Christmas card addressed to Mr. & Mrs. McGregor. When Doug reported that there was no Mrs. McGregor, the matchmaking was set in motion. Joan and Doug started dating and were married in 1951. They had many happy years together until Doug’s death in 1996.

Our afternoon visit was soon over and Faye and I headed back to Halifax. My most vivid memory of my time with Joan McGregor was her eyes; they were captivating as she shared many a fond story of her childhood days. The eyes always tell a story and the eyes of Joan are filled with wondrous love, childhood frolic and love for the island she was so happy to call home. Thanks Joan for a memorable afternoon!

Kiosk Update

By: Catherine McCarthy

McNabs Island Garrison Road Kiosk Opens Waterfront Development Lends their Support

Thanks to the generous support from **Halifax's Trails Program**, **Nova Scotia Health and Wellness** and the **Nova Scotia Dental Association**, an orientation map and interpretive panels were installed at the Garrison Road kiosk. Marcel Morin of **Lost Art Cartography** created the map and **Sperry Design Inc.** designed the five interpretive panels. **Atlantex Creative Works** fabricated and installed them just in time to welcome visitors to the island for our Fall Foliage Tours October 19th. Then in early December, volunteers finished off the kiosk by spreading gravel donated by **Natural Resources**. In the spring, we will install several park benches there.



If we can raise additional funding, we will build a second kiosk near Wreck Cove and a smaller trailhead kiosk near Fort Ives. In the meantime, **Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd.** is helping with island improvements for visitors. Next year, an additional floating dock will be added to Garrison Pier. WDCL also plans to install another composting toilet, as well as directional signage to mark the hiking trail routes. All this is good news, making it possible for more visitors to **Discover McNabs Island**.

FRIENDS OF McNABS ISLAND - 25TH ANNIVERSARY 2015 EVENTS

Friends of McNabs Island — 25th Anniversary Dinner & Auction

Saturday, February 21 – 5:30 pm

Murphy's Cable Wharf Restaurant - 1751 Lower Water St, Halifax (details on front page)

Friends of McNabs Island Society's - 25th Annual General Meeting

Come help us celebrate this quarter of a century milestone!

Wednesday April 22, 2015 – 6:30 pm

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic - 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax Waterfront

Guest speaker – Bryan Elson, author of *Canada's Bastions of Empire* – learn more about the British Royal Navy's powerful presence in Halifax from 1749 to 1918

McNabs Island Beach Cleanup — Sunday, June 7 (rain date June 14) 10 am – 5:00 pm

Departure from Murphy's Cable Wharf, Halifax Waterfront and A&M Sea Charters, Eastern Passage. Bring your work gloves, lunch, drinking water and enthusiasm! Since 1991 we have collected over 11,600 bags of garbage from the island's beaches. This is a very popular event and fills up quickly – everyone must pre-register!

McNabs Island 25th Anniversary Picnic— Saturday, July 18, 2015, 9:30 am- 5:30 pm

Guided hikes - entertainment and games for all ages. Departure from Murphy's Cable Wharf, Halifax Waterfront and A&M Sea Charters, Eastern Passage. Tickets \$15 members & children: \$20 non-members, available via Ticket Atlantic or at Superstore customer service counters. Watch for more details in the spring!

Fall Foliage Tours of McNabs Island — Sunday October 18 (rain date October 25)

10 am – 5:00 pm Enjoy the Fall Colours on a guided history or nature tour. Departure from Murphy's Cable Wharf, Halifax Waterfront and A&M Sea Charters, Eastern Passage. Tickets \$15 members & children: \$20 non-members, available via Ticket Atlantic or at Superstore customer service counters.

Watch for updates on our 25th anniversary events! To join the McNabs 25th Anniversary Committee, contact us at info@mcnabsisland.ca or 902-434-2254 We need more volunteers to make our 25th year a success.

The McNabs Island Beach Sweep Pony Rescue

By Royce Walker

At the end of the June 1, 2014 beach sweep my son Kelsey, who is a NSCAD student, discovered a child's rocking horse pony amidst the garbage pile waiting to be loaded on the boat. Kelsey rescued the pony in order to give it a better future than the landfill. Here is a short update from Kelsey on his 'pony project'.

Q. In your opinion, what is the attraction many of us have with merry-go-round ponies? Do you feel it is a connection back to our childhood, or a 'simpler' time?

Kelsey: I think that many of us find carousel horses attractive because they remind us of wonder. When a person sees a carousel for the first time, they are often young, and in a new and exciting place like a fair ground. There are lights and music and it's all very exciting. I think nostalgia plays a huge part in what we are attracted to as we age.



Carousel Beach Pony
Beach Clean up 2014

Q. Do you have an early memory of a carousel, and if you do, do you think it played a part in your attraction to your 'McNabs Island Pony' that you rescued?

Kelsey: I have no special memories of a carousel. I can't even recall ever riding one. But I've always liked things that have a story to them and have an intimate relationship with a person. This horse could have been well loved by one, or perhaps many children, before it ended up on the island. It's fun to think about who might have owned it.



Kelsey's pony

Q. When you first saw your 'McNabs Island pony' where was it, and what drew your attention to it?

Kelsey: I first saw my pony in the pile of trash at the end of the wharf. I was one of the people helping load the boat to bring garbage back to Fisherman's Cove. I've always collected bits and bobs and like items with a story, and the pony was unusual as well, another thing I liked.

Q. What 'vision' did you first have for the pony? And has your vision changed since you have been working to restore it?

Kelsey: My ideas for the pony haven't changed much. I planned on making it bold colours and eventually, mounting it on a wall.

Q. What else is important for others to know about your experience with your McNabs Island pony?

Kelsey: I think one of the most important things to think about this pony is not what I've done with it, but rather how I got it. This was a piece of trash that washed up on McNabs Island and judging from its condition and the gunk I removed from the inside of it, it was half buried for quite some time. People need to consider where their trash is going and the places it can end up.

ISLAND UPDATES

Discover McNabs Island – makes a great gift

Our self-published popular guidebook is available in local bookshops or from our members for \$20. If you order a book locally directly from us, we will give you an aerial poster too. Contact Dan at 902-404-5999 or danmckenzie@hotmail.com

Island Tour Guides Needed

We get a lot of requests for guided tours and don't always have the volunteers to lead them. Last winter Royce Walker organized a successful training session for new guides and would be willing to do the same again this winter. If you have an interest in the island's history or natural environment, and would like to lead a tour, contact Royce at 902-462-7346 or roycewalker@eastlink.ca.

New McNabs Website - mcnabsisland.ca

We have a new website designed by **Belinda Naugler Adams** of WiNiTh Website Design winith.ca. Belinda has added new features to make our website more functional, and added a PayPal option for renewing your membership, as well as online membership and "contact us" forms. Thanks to Jonathan McCrindle for introducing Belinda to us, and for Jon Cusick for carrying this project to launch.

Rochelle Owen's Island Photos

Rochelle Owen has completed her yearlong photo excursion to McNabs Island. A selection of her photos were featured in Photopolis and displayed in the Halifax Ferry Terminal in October. Rochelle has graciously given us access to ALL her island photos and many of them are featured in our new interpretive panels on the island.

Annual Membership to the Friends of McNabs Island Society runs on the calendar year and includes a year's subscription to the society's quarterly newsletter, *The Rucksack*.

Renew your Membership Now!

We thank you for your continued support and welcome your interest!
Renew your membership directly via our website:

mcnabsisland.ca/membership-application
or send a cheque payable to:

The Friends of McNabs Island Society
PO Box 31240, Gladstone RPO
Halifax, NS B3K 5Y1

The Society is a registered charity:
CCRA Number 888 474 194 RR0001



The Rucksack is published by the Friends of McNabs Island Society.
Contributions, ideas and feedback are welcome.

Visit our website at: www.mcnabsisland.ca

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Phone: Cathy (902) 434-2254 evenings or email info@mcnabsisland.ca



Email

This issue went to print December 16, 2014