

Habitat Conservation Fund, Final Report, 30th December 2010.

Organization Name: St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association

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1. PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 1) Document the observed history of Micou's Island wetland habitat;
- 2) Consult with expert naturalists, scientists and volunteers to develop and implement specific remediation work plans for wetlands and habitat areas of Micou's Island;
- 3) Provide volunteer training for habitat remediation and restoration efforts as part of an ongoing stewardship program;
- 4) Develop and offer educational material, site visits and workshops for a) youth b) island stewards c) local landowners that highlight the importance of wetlands and coastal areas and how to be good stewards.

2. SUCCESSES/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5 volunteer training events, 95 participants total, 14 Island Stewards - agreed to monitor and record public usage and help with work parties (see attached names in appendix)

65 individual public questionnaires completed

+1500 island visitors recorded

2 aboriginal, 1 church, 1 cub-scout and 2 youth group workshops

2 elementary school field trips

1 in-class presentation to high school

1-acre meadow mowed

95m of wetland protected by brush barrier

250kg (25 bags) of garbage removed

5-year Stewardship plan, Stewardship Handbook and Student Handbook developed and published.

(See attached program calendar for details)

3. CHALLENGES

Removal of Codium seaweed originally proposed was impractical as most of the seaweed lay beneath the low water mark.

Planting native grasses was unnecessary because the seaweed that collected in the brush barrier and along the dunes contained enough native seeds to establish new plants.

4. UNANTICIPATED RESULTS

Creation of half a dozen new partnerships and collection of expert volunteers who are willing to continue to lend their experience to the stewardship of Micou's Island (see attached names in appendix).

5. LESSONS LEARNED

A lesson learned that we have talked about is that nature will create its own re-generative qualities and that the major impact we can have is to better understand the natural rhythms of the habitats as well as minimize the disturbance from humans as we enjoy the island promoting low impact recreation. Also, modeling of good behavior is a key element to good stewardship in the community. It's less about teaching and more about inviting people to join in on the doing.

6. SHARING EXPERIENCES

From Party Island to Precious Island. In 2007, just before the Province of Nova Scotia purchased it, Micou's Island in St. Margaret's Bay was known to local teenagers as "Party Island". Accessible by foot at low tide the Island is a refuge for society and nature. Protected by the tide and with the help of 14 volunteer Island Stewards the Island is becoming "a place of natural beauty and a model for how humans and nature can co-exist". This summer fifteen local high school students agreed to spend a morning rehabilitating the Island wetland as a consequence of their early Grad Party there. At the end both students and stewards left the Island with smiles. Seven other youth groups have been involved with stewardship and heritage projects. The 5-year stewardship plan, written this summer, identifies Mi-kmaq, and European heritage resources, as well as forest wetland and coastal habitats on the Island. Guidelines for volunteer activities are described in an Island Stewardship and a Student handbooks, which are both available on the Island. The Island Stewards can be seen in their green vests as they make their regular Island rounds and observations on social and natural uses of the Island. Slowly but surely a local culture of caring is being created on this precious island.

Appendix

List of current Island Stewards and expert resources:

Island Stewards

Rebecca	Babcock
Lucille & Stuart	Carson
Edie & Mike	Ewald
Phil	Foster
Shawna	Henderson
Mike	Lancaster
Gabriela	Larranaga
Esme	Malanchuk
Phil	Moscovitch
Petra	Mudie
Richard & Heidi	Norman
Sherry	Ryer
Ella & Lorne	McQuinn-Vaasjo
Phil	Varey

Expert Resources

Christine Krochak	Mountain Equipment Co-op Product Donation (5 vests)
Gwen Colman	GPI Youth Camp coordinatorProgram Director
Ellen Hunt	Mi'kmaq Elder (Lunenburg)
Tim Miller	Issues DNR Letter of Local Authority
Roger Lewis	Expert Mi'Kmaq Herritage, NS Museums
Mike Kew	Issues DNR Travel Permits
Roger Young	Hammond's Plains Scout Troop
Bob Guscott	Forestry Expert, NS DNR (retired)
Lisa Wolfe	European Heritage Expert, Director Ross Farm Museum
Rene Lavoie	Coastal Expert, DFO (retired)
ArtLynds	Forestry Expert, NS DNR
KatieCautreau-Robbins	Issues Archeology Research Permits
John Brazesner	Wetlands Expert, NS DoE

SMBSA Partnerships focused on Micou's Island

Group	Date	Result
NS Museums	2005-present	Protection of Mi'kmaq heritage resources
GPI Youth	2005-present	1-2 youth camps per year and volunteer labour
Indian Point Young Naturalists	2005- 2009	2-3 field trips per year and educational program
DNR	2007-present	Permitting/authority for projects. Funding (2010)
Mi'kmaq Burial Association	2007-present	Blessing ceremonies and educational grant
Dalhousie University	2007 - present	Various student/faculty projects
Sage Environmental fund	2008, 2009	Funding
Boutiler's Lawn and Garden	2008	Donation of welcome sign
Sir John A. McDonald High School	2009, 2010	Shore line cleanup and restorative justice event
Halifax Independent School	2009, 2010	Annual field trip and educational program
Environment Canada	2010	Funding
Sea Sun Kayak tours	2010	Donation of kayak rental and letter of support.
Shatford Memorial School	2010	Field trip and educational grant
Aspotogan Consolidated Elem. Sch.	2010	Field trip and educational grant
Hammonds Plains Scout Troop	2010	Camp out and volunteer labour
St Luke's/Shambhala Inter-faith	2010	Field trip and volunteer labour

Program Calendar: June-December 2010

June 1-6	- GPI Youth Camp & Mi'kmaq presentation
4	-Fieldtrip/Eco-tour presentation 1 1 NS Museum, 8 GPI vol., 9-10am, talk on Mi'kmaq heritage
	-Consultation with Mi'Kmaq 1 NS Museum, 8 GPI vol., 10-11am, 1hr haul brush =10m,
5	-Begin wetland rehabilitation
	-Volunteer (vol.) training/workday 1 18 Katimavik & GPI vol., 9am-12pm, haul brush = 30m
7	-Fieldtrip/Eco-tour presentation 2 Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School
10	- Plan fire prevention with M. Lancaster
12	- Island Steward (I.S.) rounds- E. McQuinn
19	-Volunteer training /workday 2 15 SJA High School vol., 9am-12pm, haul brush = 25m
21	-Field trip/ presentations 3 Shatford Memorial Elementary School
25-28	- I.S. rounds - P. Mudie
29	- I.S. rounds - L. Carson
30	-Forest fire prevention completed
July	-IS rounds - L.Carson
2	-Press Release/Web posting/E-newsletter, in Chester Clipper
3-5	-IS rounds - P. Mudie
6-11	-IS rounds - S. Ryer
13	-IS rounds - L. Carson

- 14 -IS rounds - E. Ewald
- 15 -Forestry experts tour island 2-4pm
B.Guscott, A. Lynds, M.Lancaster, E. McQuinn
- IS rounds - M. Lancaster
- 16 -IS rounds - E. McQuinn
- 18 -Choice of Expert Group & Educator
& Editor & Contractor & Proj. Advisor Expert Group meeting
DNR, NS Museum, DoEnv, x2 local Scientists
- Finalize outline for Management Manual
- 15 -IS rounds - L. Carson
- 16 -Community meeting
6 Island Stewards, 6:30-8:30pm, talk/eat
- Volunteer Training /workday 3
6 Island Stewards 5:30-6:30pm, haul brush=10m,
- 17 -IS rounds - E. McQuinn
- 19 -Document natural history of island
- 20 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 21 -IS rounds - E. Ewald
- 22 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 23-25 -IS rounds - P. Moscovitch
- 27 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 31-Aug 2 -IS rounds - P.Mudie

- Aug. 1 -Monitor wetland rehabilitation
-Community Consultation, Individual Public Questionnaires (30 completed)
-Volunteer Training/workday 4
6 Island Stewards 5:30-8:30pm, 1hr haul brush=10m, 2hr talk/eat
- 3 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 7-10 -GPI Youth Camp
- 10 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 11-15 -IS rounds - M. Lancaster
- 17 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 20-22 -IS rounds - S.Baldwin
- 26-27 -IS rounds - E.Ewald

- Sept.1-3 -Community Consultation, Individual Public Questionnaires (35 completed)
- 4-6 -IS rounds - P.Mudie
- 7-8 -IS rounds - A. McKinnon
- 10-14 -Interior painting downstairs
- 11 -Press release/Web posting/E-newsletter, in Coastlines Newsletter.
- 18 -IS rounds - P.Veray
- 24-26 -IS rounds - R.Babcock
- 29 -IS rounds - S.Ryer

- Oct. 6 -IS rounds - L.Carson
- 9-11 -IS rounds - P.Lawson
- 13 -IS rounds - E.Ewald
- 16 -Field trip/presentation 4
St. Luke's & Shambhala inter-faith group 9am-12pm
1hr haul brush=10m, 2hr talk/eat
- 20 -IS rounds - L.Carson

23 -Volunteer Training/workday 5
12 SMBSA and 18 Scout vol., 1-5pm, 1hr haul brush=20m
2hr mow meadow - 0.5 ha, 1hr talk/eat

23-24 - Scout Camp

26 -IS rounds - E.Ewald

Nov. 2 -IS rounds - L.Carson

4 -IS rounds - E.Ewald

10 -IS rounds - P.Veray

13 -IS rounds - M.Lancaster

15 -Final Draft of Management Manual

17 -IS rounds - E.Ewald

18 -IS rounds - L.Carson

25 - Stewardship handbook completed
-IS rounds - P.Veray

Dec.

7 -Management manual completed

8 - IS rounds- P.Veray

Micou's Island is a place of natural beauty and a model for how people and nature can co-exist.

This is the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association vision for Micou's Island. We have also written guiding principles meant to frame positive intentions and inspire. The principles are presented in the first person plural, to reflect the collective intentions and concerted actions of the Association, of its supporters and volunteers.

- **We are part of Nature, not the owners of Nature.** We acknowledge and respect manners of life such as the trees, the birds, the fish, and all our relations with whom we share Micou's Island and St. Margarets Bay.
- **We assist in healing previous damages.** We use traditional ecological knowledge combined with the tools of modern science to assist the Island in healing from former injuries and to work in restoring its ecological balance.
- **We consider the impact of our present actions on future generations.** We, the current stewards of this Island, think and act in a manner that will ensure that seven generations into the future, surrounding communities and visitors will continue to benefit from this Island.
- **We pay attention.** We refrain from decisions and actions that would knowingly harm the Island.
- **We cause no net loss of habitat.** We use the best practices available to ensure that, as we benefit from the use of the Island, we can ensure the restoration or creation of habitats that form its ecological integrity.
- **We work together.** We are patient and work together in a spirit of mutual respect for the social, economic, and spiritual well being of Island's friends and neighbours.
- **We are accountable.** Our actions will be transparent. We will measure our progress; we understand our responsibilities to Micou's Island within the larger St. Margarets Bay ecosystem. As stewards, we are prepared to be judged by our peers and by future generations for our actions.
- **We share.** We share the island with nature and the community. And we share the knowledge of stewardship that we gain from Micou's Island with the residents of St. Margaret's Bay.