

A joint newsletter from
The Friends of Crescent Beach,
Green Bay and Area Society &
the LaHave Islands Marine
Museum Society

CHANGING TIDES



www.crescentbeach.ca

www.lahaveislandsmarinemuseum.ca

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Got something to say?
Everyone is encouraged to
voice their opinions and share
their stories, book reviews
and observations. Simply
send your submissions to the
editor at
wordbyword@eastlink.ca.

The New Chair Report



[Editor's note: *At the most recent FOCB board meeting, Sharri Bush was elected as the new Chair, replacing Bruce Raymond who has retired from that position. Bruce continues his good works with the board as a non-executive member.*]

I'd like to introduce myself for those who do not already know me. I am proud to be a descendent of a family who settled the Town of Lunenburg circa 1753. I've spent weekends and extended vacations at Crescent Beach since I was a "twinkle in my dad's eye," circa 1961. One of my most cherished childhood memories is the routine visits we made to the area wharves to purchase some of the fresh, abundant, netted and hand-lined fish from the inshore fishermen and hearing their words of wisdom and stories.

During my formative years, our family lived mainly in the Annapolis Valley and Halifax. After graduating from Mount Saint Vincent University, I remained in Halifax to work in the computer and human resource service industries. But in 1993, I accepted a government agency position in Bridgewater and left Halifax to make the Crescent Beach area my permanent home. Today, I am married to Milton Bush, a descendent of the family for which Bush Island is named. We have one child, Simon, who is in junior high. As some of you know, he helps his father with lobster harvesting and sales off the wharf as well as boating services. When I'm not attending to immediate and extended family needs, I'm busy with my property management business. I am also a member of the Herbalist Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Food Policy Council. And I get great enjoyment from growing, harvesting, and eating herbs and other edible plants.

I am honoured to accept the nomination to Chair the Society and look forward to working with the selfless team of board members and members at large who so willingly give of their time to protect the gems we cherish. In fact, just this morning, September 16, as I enjoyed a walk on the beach, I met Treasurer Jean McHarg and friend Nita Eisenhauer doing their morning beach sweep. Then, just further along, I saw our Secretary, Bob Fulleman, with his handyman gear hard at work removing graffiti in response to a concern from a local resident

that was mentioned at the AGM on August 25.

Special thanks to our past Chair, Bruce Raymond, for his dedication and hard work; to the board members who continue to serve; and a big welcome to new board members Steve Welsh, David Hughes, and David Romkey.

What an extraordinary summer of weather we've had! Water temperatures were inviting for swimming day after day. The crowds at Crescent Beach were evidence that the area was a retreat for many who enjoyed the abundance of sea, sand, and sun. The natural air-conditioning that many expected to experience once they ventured down-river beyond Pentz was not found this year, as is typically so.

At the Annual General Meeting, Friends enjoyed an informative presentation and beautiful photographs from Paul Illsley's account of time spent on Sable Island, Canada's newest National Park. Paul is now one of Friends' life members.

We are fortunate that the area escaped extensive damage from the recent hurricane largely due to the fact that the tide was not high when Earl made landfall. Sadly, the age of disposable everything seems to have enabled more litter to be left behind, and the Friends' volunteer efforts to keep the beach clean continues.

On a positive note, the rose bush planting will continue in the coming year. Their presence offers so much as they help to trap and hold the sand while offering nutrition for the birds, bees, and animals that need it.

The Friends' organization and newsletter are always open to input from members and the community at large. I can be reached at 902-688-1157, or lupinlady@gmail.com, if you have concerns within our mission you would like to discuss with me.

Best wishes for a glorious fall, and a safe and a joyous winter and Christmas holiday season to all.

Sharri Bush
Chair

FOCB 2010/11 Executive Committee

Chair	Sharri Bush
Vice Chair	Stephen Welsh
Treasurer	Jean McHarg
Secretary	Bob Fulleman

FOCB 2010/2011 Board of Directors

Lisë Bell
Shaun Bradley
Sharri Bush
Brenda Chance
Bob Fulleman
David Hughes
Jean McHarg
John Nichols
Eric Rafuse
Bruce Raymond
David Romkey
Don Sedgwick
Jim Sewell
Steven Welsh

The Voice of History



Image of Crescent Beach from an old postcard

As part of a continuing series, Jean McHarg recently interviewed local resident Gordon Whynacht. The first and second parts of this interview ran in recent newsletters (available online at the FOCB website). This is the third installment of the story.

What is the origin of the Reiser Beach Property? [Note the different spellings of the name Risser.]

It was originally part of the Sloan Grant. It came through John Reiser who, in 1838, purchased the land from the estate of George Oxner, a businessman in Lunenburg. When Mr. Oxner died, the land had to be sold to cover the debts he had incurred. The Romkeys bought part of his land, and John Reiser purchased the remainder that was 500 acres. It comprised the lands from what is today the Provincial Park boundary next to Ian Kimball's property all the way to the Wentzell farm on both sides of the road, and having water frontage not only on the ocean but up the Petite River.

The land was advertised in the Nova Scotia Gazette and the price paid was 180 pounds lawful Nova Scotia money. It was noted in the Royal Gazette that the Romkeys would allow the new owners of the remaining lands "free access to Long Beach (now known as Crescent Beach) for the harvesting of sea manure." This was probably due to the fact that there was no direct access to what we today call Risser's Beach. John Reiser was the fourth generation of Reisers. His first descendant, Johannes, a farmer, came to the Lunenburg area at age 26 from Palatinate, Germany, on the ship *Gale*, first to Halifax and on to Lunenburg in 1753. His son, Johannes Junior, lived in Rose Bay at the time his will was written in 1813, which mentions his son, John Reysor. At least eight of his children were born there. The Reiser family Bible (still in my possession) records births in this family in both Rose Bay and Petite Riviere, and son John is recorded as being born in Petite Riviere. This John, born in 1810 and married in 1833, purchased the land noted above in 1838. He had 10 children: Isaac, Susanna, Jonas, Solomon, Daniel, John, James, Thomas, Mary and Samuel. At the time of his death in 1885, the oldest son, Isaac, had passed away and the land was divided into nine parcels for each of the children. Of these parcels, that belonging to Jonas Reiser and later his descendants seem to be what now comprises the Provincial Park. Samuel inherited the "family land" of his father. Samuel was the father of Russell, who was the father of Arthur, Miriam, Margaret (my wife), and Glenwood.

Samuel's land was about 90 acres. His family was very self-sustaining. Most likely they bartered butter and eggs for other things they needed.

Russell continued the family tradition of farming, fishing, and boat-building. There were cattle in the barns and sheep in the fields. The map shows land under cultivation and wilderness close to the Romkey line, the boundary of the property. Over time Miriam and Glenwood, neither of whom married, continued to live in the family home on that land.

As time passed, other parts of the original lands have been sold and, for example, my home here at the corner of the road and the bridge stands on Reiser land. Daniel was a school teacher and a teacher of navigation. James was a carpenter and sold his land to the Oickles, who had a ship-building business on the property. There were wharves all the way down this side of the river. Samuel's land was not sold until after Miriam passed away. It is now being developed as "Atlantic Breezes."

One of the earliest developments was part of Jonah's land, which was sold to Americans early in the 20th century. They ran a private girls' camp, bringing young people up from the United States to vacation here. Miriam Rieser was a very well-known family member, because she was the "Postmaster" in Petite for 41 years. She trained as a school teacher and taught for a couple of years in Broad Cove and Walden, but in September of 1949 she was drawn back to Petite. She began her post office career as assistant to Greta Grey in a small rented building next to Dagley's Store. This building had been moved to its location from Yankee Point. Two years later, Miriam replaced Mrs. Grey as the Postmaster. The mail came by train to Italy Cross and Edgar Johnson would take his team of horses to collect the mail. Orders were sent and arrived from Simpson's and Eaton's. Baby chicks arrived in the spring for farmers. Once, a puppy arrived in a box. The post office was the center of the community. One time, an old woman arrived at the post office to announce that her husband had died and she needed help. Once Rural delivery started, the post offices were phased out, but Petite's remained for quite some time. In the early 60s Miriam bought a small building to house the post office, and moved it onto her family's property across the bridge. In 1965, a new post office was built in "downtown Petite Riviere." Miriam was to remain in that building until she retired in 1991. Soon after, the post office was sold and renovated to become a home.

Now we come to the big question. Where was Yankee Point? If you have an answer please send it to the Editor. We will publish it in Spring 2011.

[It's a Dog's Life, Part II:](#)

As mentioned in Sharri's message, one of our super-strong metal doggy-poo bag dispensers (see below) was stolen from the beach on or around Thursday, September 2nd. Given the way in which the boxes were mounted, this required some considerable effort. A reward is being offered to anyone who might have information that could lead to the return of the box or a theft conviction. Please contact *Friends'* member Bob Fulleman at 688-1838, or send an email to the general Friends address at gordeaux@tekhelps.com.



Early One Morning or It's a Dog's Life, Part III

On the morning of September 9th, shortly after Hurricane Earl visited our shores, the tide was unusually high. It's not often we see exactly what the roadway at the east end of the beach looks like as the tide is rushing in (photo on the left). Two dogs coming onto the beach at one of the walkways (photo on the right) did not like what they saw and turned around immediately after this picture was taken.



Photos: Mary Fulleman

A Handyman's Job Is Never Done

FOCB recently undertook to place “pole numbers” on all of the hydro posts that run across the backside of Crescent Beach. The white numbers are visible from both directions, and it is now easy to identify a particular spot on the beach, whether it be to locate a pile of trash or to let friends know where to meet. There are 42 numbers in total, so our hero handyman, Bob Fulleman, made 84 trips up and down his ladder (not all in one day).



Photo: Mary Fulleman

