

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

Spring 2009 Edition:

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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.

... A Thousand Words

Over the last few years, we have included a number of fantastic photographs – both historic and contemporary - in our newsletter. We would encourage everyone residing or visiting our community to celebrate this wonderful region by sharing their favourite local photos, postcards, and other visual memorabilia. Whether you have a particularly poignant picture tucked away in a box, or caught the perfect shot just last week, we'd be happy to feature them in future issues of *Changing Tides*. Here are some of our recent favourites:



Historic postcard, Crescent Beach, 1910



"Marsh" by local artist Don Pentz



1933 Girl Guide Camp, Crescent Beach



Crescent Beach before the road



The mighty Petite



Trotting along the shore

Nellie Snyder & Early Life in Crousetown

[Ed. Note: This interview started as a story about Nellie Snyder's involvement in Girl Guides in Crousetown, but Jean McHarg found her so interesting that a portion of the interview has been reproduced here.]

Nellie Snyder: I was born in 1917 in a lovely old house which was built for my grandfather to be born in. I was part of an extended family: grandparents and three great grandparents as well as an older sister. My parents were very busy in the family business, which was manufacturing oars and axe handles. At that time oars were in great demand because the fishing fleets had dories and those dories had to be rowed. Most fishermen had a spare set of oars in their boat. My grandfather took an old shingle mill and converted it to an oar handle factory. We also had demands for axe handles as there were no power saws at that time. All the trees had to be sawed down or axed down. My grandfather also invented the turning blades so that they could make all different sizes of handles. The mill was run by a water-wheel that supplied the power to make the oars and handles. My grandfather used to repair that every couple of years. I remember being "looked after" at the mill because my grandmother and mother would be at a quilting party. I would be put on the top floor of the mill, and the "hack" would be shut down so that I could not get outside or in amongst the wheels and pulleys that were running the mill.

Jean McHarg: What kind of wood was used for the oars and handles?

Nellie: Only spruce for the oars and it had to be clear of knots because of the great pull on the handle. The wood was especially picked out and it is practically impossible to get that kind of wood today. An oar was constructed from one two-inch plank. First the handle would be turned and then with another machine the blade would be made. The axe and dutch-hoe handles were made of ash. Again that wood was very difficult to get.

Besides the mill we had a small farm, raised many of our vegetables, and in the fall a wagon would come up to the basement door and roll in turnips, carrots, and barrels of apples. Then we would "cut in" our sauerkraut which was done each fall and something we looked forward to. We also had two cows, raised pigs and of course had hens. We were a mixed farm and very self-sufficient.

Jean: Where did you go to school?

Nellie: I went to school in my own community. I had a mile to walk to school. I was pretty miserable the first few years, but then I had my appendix out and after that I was much better. My appendix was removed by Dr. Davis in my own living-room. The doctor brought his operating table to our living-room and I remember my father carrying me down to the operating room. I remember standing in the corner of the room listening to my mother and her friend talking about me. Her friend said, "You know that child is never going to live." I looked very thin and sickly at the time and I have never forgotten it. I am now going on 91 and I have managed through all these years.

Jean: What was the school like?

Nellie: It was a little red school house in the center of the community next to the churches. It was very old and the wind used to blow up through the cracks in the floor. We used to try and plug them with paper, and sometimes the wind would blow so hard that the paper would fly out of the cracks. We had a stove on the center of the room and one of the boys had to look after the fire. The school had grades 1-11. We went each day and got a bucket of water from one of the near neighbours and there was a cup to drink from. I remember I had my own cup, one of those collapsible ones. At noontime the teacher would go home while we would look after ourselves and eat our lunch brought from home. We didn't need any supervision. In the afternoon we would have recess and school ended at four o'clock. We didn't have snow plows, so we did have difficulty walking to and from school, but there were very few cancellation days.

Jean: Have you any special stories about school life?

Nellie: Well, one day when my older sister was not present I took the opportunity to play a little prank. We had slates, slate pencils, little cloths and bottles of water to clean our slates. The teacher was with one of the classes and when the student in front of me went up to the front of the class to read I saw my chance to pour some water on his seat. I was patiently waiting for the student to come back to sit down when, lo and behold, the teacher came along and sat down. She jumped up quickly and got the surprise like I did, but I never tried it again.

Jean: And after completing Grade 11 where did you go?

Nellie: I went to take Grade 12 in Halifax, where I never did get used to changing classrooms for each subject. To this day I have nightmares about not being able to find the correct room.

[To be continued in our next issue.]

Jean McHarg

Bric a Brac:

* As always, *Friends* will begin the beach season with a little "spring cleaning." Please plan to join us on the morning of Thursday, Jun 18th as we troll the beach for garbage and recyclables that have swept ashore in the off-season. This is a great way to get a little fresh air and exercise, and *green* your local environment. A plethora of snack and refreshments await you as a reward for your efforts. What better way to celebrate Mother Earth?

* *Friends* continues its fundraising efforts this season with its fantastic T-shirts, sporting sketches of local birds by artist Don Pentz. Contact Andra White at whitewood@eastlink.ca regarding T-shirt sales and special orders. They're a perfect "uniform" for local family gatherings!

* A reminder to all *Friends* that Dennison's Custom Framing and Needlework in Bridgewater has agreed to sell copies of its three fundraising Don Pentz reproduction prints. If you choose to have your prints framed at Dennison's, they will offer a 20% discount on the framing charge.

Dennison's is located at 626 King Street in Bridgewater, (902) 543-0486. These spectacular works are a welcomed addition to any home or cottage, and make a fantastic gift. And best of all, a portion of the proceeds from each sale will help to continue the local environmental work of *Friends*.

* Memberships are due in May for the 2009/10 season. We have included your membership form with this newsletter and thank you for your support!

* We publish *Changing Tides* three times per year, and are attempting to 'go green'. By providing us with your email address (*see membership form*) we can send your newsletter electronically and in full colour!

South to North: How We Got From There to Here

How Mary Fulleman wound up living at Crescent Beach is fairly straightforward. She was born in Bridgewater to Ruth and Dr. Hugh Fraser. After eight years in Montreal she moved to Whittier, California, with her former husband in 1967. Like most Maritimers, she always dreamed of coming "home."

Bob's story is a bit more complicated. He was born in New Jersey and lived there until 1968, when he moved to Whittier, California. He had met a California family in New Jersey who told him of the wonders of Southern California.

In 1975, both divorced and lonely, they were matched up on a blind date by Mary's cousin, who worked at the same place as Bob. They hit it off well at the Carbon Canyon Volunteer Fire Department's First Annual Country Western Dinner Dance. Mary invited Bob to her house for dinner the next night, and the rest, as they say, is history. They were married in 1978.

Bob first visited Nova Scotia in 1981. For the next 20 plus years they never vacationed anywhere else. Mary's mother was one of ten children so there was always lots of family to visit, as well as the Fraser family cottage at Crescent Beach.

Then, in 1990, Bob saw this dream property for sale at Crescent Beach. At least, that's what he thought it was. Everybody else, including Mary, thought this dream was a nightmare. The property, often referred to as the "gravel quarry," had been used to supply fill for the rebuilding and paving of Hwy 331 from LaHave to Petite in the early '50's. It was overgrown with alder and included a fair bit of trash.

Bob had always wanted to build a house in the side of a hill and, after (literally) dragging Mary up the hill to see what the view could be, he convinced her that they should buy the property. It took until 1994 to finally acquire the land and until 2000 to actually build their dream house at 4930 Highway 331. In the meantime, Mary thinks all of the fill taken out to build the road has probably been returned. However, the view is spectacular!

After 35 years in California the Fullemans are enjoying retirement in Lunenburg County – "God's Country."

Mary & Bob Fulleman



Chair Report

As you may know, this past winter *Friends* and the community at large lost a great friend and valued member in the person of Peter Bell. Peter served actively on the Society's board for many years providing sound advice and was the contact with the Islands community. He will be sorely missed. The board has gratefully accepted the offer of Lisë Bell, his wife, to fill his position.

The 2009 summer season is opening at the beach. The winter, although punctuated by a dozen storms, did not affect the beach as much as winters have done in recent years.

Friends' beach restoration efforts seem to be producing modest results. The sand-fence project is attracting some sand and the roses planted on the dune are thriving. When the roses thicken further, they will continue to attract sand but will also serve to dissuade damaging pedestrian traffic on the dune. Another walkway through the dune has now been provided to replace the one filled in error during the repairs after tropical storm Noel. Note also that much of the old cribwork has been removed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, the government's response to a *Friends* request to eliminate the hazards of broken cribwork.

An ongoing problem has been vandalism. On at least two occasions over the last few months, the dispensing boxes for doggie-poo bags have been stolen or destroyed, and in the autumn the Crescent Beach sign was removed and thrown into the ocean. On other occasions, the recycling bin across the road from the west-end parking area has been intentionally overturned. The RCMP have been notified. Our thanks go to the volunteers who have recovered the sign, replaced the bag dispensers, set the bin upright and cleared out the spilled materials.

The membership committee and the newsletter editors have been busy updating the membership lists. In particular, the postal codes for those living near the beach required changing to comply with new Canada Post mailing arrangements.

The annual FOCB beach sweep will be on Thursday June 18th. All members and others with an interest in the beach are invited to participate: many hands make light work. It's always surprising to see both the amount and the type of trash that accumulates! And look for a repeat of the TD Canada Trust Shore Cleanup later in the year.

The NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is undertaking the production of a *Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy*. In recognition of the importance of beaches and coastal areas, the Ecology Action Centre in association with the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia have offered input to the Department. In turn, *Friends of Crescent Beach*, *Green Bay and Area Society* and many other like organizations have offered to provide local input to the ECA initiative, and this offer has been recognized by the government. Since it is unclear where this will lead, progress will be monitored.

Once again, thanks go to our volunteers who prepare the beach for the summer season and help to keep it a happy and healthy place to be. And now, I invite you to don one of the attractive *Friends* T-shirts and go and enjoy our beach!

Bruce Raymond
Chairman

Books to Inspire

It's not surprising that coastlines, beaches, and shores have inspired some beautiful prose over the centuries. And for us fortunate enough to live in Atlantic Canada, we don't have to look too far to find the best authors writing about natural history. Here are just a few of the gems that inspire *Friends* to commit time and energy to preserving our heritage. If you have other favourites, please send along those recommendations and we'll print them in the next newsletter.

Harry Thurston is one of the literary stars of Atlantic Canada. This award-winning writer was born in Yarmouth and has published an entire shelf of fine works on the environment. Three of his titles that might appeal to *Friends* are: *The Nature of Shorebirds: Nomads of the Wetlands*, *The Sea's Voice: An Anthology of Atlantic Canadian Nature Writing*, and *Tidal Life: A Natural History of the Bay of Fundy*. Readers of the second of those books may find additional writers from our region whose work they will want to explore.

Atlantic Shorelines: Natural History and Ecology by Mark Bertness is a book about coastal ecology rather than a field guide. And although it's published by Princeton University Press, it's quite readable. If you want to know more about the science behind what you see on our shores, this is one of the best resources you'll find on the subject.

Lastly, here are a few of my own favourites, although the writers are not from our region. For those *Friends* readers who haven't dipped into *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, this is arguably the book that started the modern environmental movement. Published in 1962, *Silent Spring* helped North Americans to see the damage to bird populations that was being caused by pesticides. *Friends* might also want to read her lovely book called *The Edge of the Sea*. Environmentalist Al Gore has called it "a book that changed the course of history."

The Outermost House by Henry Beeston is an absolutely glorious diary of the author's entire year spent in a little cabin on Cape Cod. Subtitled *A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod*, this natural history classic was published by Doubleday back in 1928. Here's the opening line: "East and ahead of the coast of North America, some thirty miles and more from the inner shores of the Massachusetts, there stands in the open Atlantic the last fragment of an ancient and vanished land." It's hard to find better prose than the writing of Henry Beeston.

Don Sedgwick

In Memory:

Peter Bell
(1960 - 2008)

*Until we meet again, may God
Hold you in the palm of His hand.*

(Irish Prayer)

On November 30, 2008, long-time *Friends* and *LIMMS* board member Peter Bell was lost at sea in a tragic fishing accident. Peter was a conscientious and well-respected fisherman, devoted husband, and proud father who dedicated himself to his family and the communities where he fished and grew up. He was unfailingly generous with his time and energy, and passionate in his beliefs. His grace and good counsel will be missed by all of us.

What Shall We Do Today?:

- May 02:** Dance with Dave Burbine and Traditional Country, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 9:00 p.m.
- May 16:** Little River Folk present Ryan Cook, Bette & Wallet, Don Brownrigg, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 p.m., \$15.
- May 16:** Breakfast, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., Adults \$6.
- May 23:** Dance with the Hupman Brothers, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 9 p.m.
- June 18:** ***Friends* annual BEACH SWEEP. Volunteers should meet at the Crescent Beach parking lot. 9:00 a.m. – noon.**
- June 20:** Breakfast, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., Adults \$6.
- June 20:** Little River Folk present the Summer Solstice Reggae Dance with IDLERS! Petite Riviere Fire Hall., 9 p.m., \$12.
- August 12:** ***Friends* Annual General Meeting, at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall. Guest speaker to be announced, 7:30 p.m. (doors open 7:00 p.m.)**

(Contact for Petite Riviere Fire Hall events: 688-2356)

*If you have a community event you'd like to list, please contact the editors at:
wordbyword@eastlink.ca*



From the LaHave Islands Marine Museum

LaHave Islands Marine Museum, 100 LaHave Islands Road



Open Daily June 1 to September 1 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

As we prepare to open our museum for its 31st season, we have more than the usual challenges facing us. Over recent months we have lost a number of key Museum supporters to death or illness. Also, we have no way to predict accurately what impact the current recession will have on our out-of-province visitors this year, or our various sources of funding. Fortunately our Museum is a popular destination for "local" tourists as well as those from away. We hope you will visit us this year and support our exciting events.

All Volunteers who assist us in many different ways are greatly appreciated. A special thank-you is extended to Sheila Chambers, a driving force at our Museum for many years, who has decided to retire.

Doug Berrigan, President

Trivia (Answers can be found by visiting the Museum)

Fishermen once used dried eel skins for _____
A sea anchor is made of canvas or wood. _____
Name two uses for fish ears. _____ and _____

Volunteer Help Urgently required

If you have an interest in ensuring local history is preserved and displayed, and you have some spare time to devote to help operate our Museum (along with a few basic computer skills), please contact Doug Berrigan @ 688-2170. Many thanks.

Maintaining Old Buildings Is Expensive

Repair and maintenance represents a large portion of our budget. Last year we spent \$15,400 to fix the rotten areas in the Museum's Bell Tower, as well as repaint the Museum and re-shingle the Hall roof. This year some corner boards on the Hall have to be replaced, and the exterior of both the Hall and the St John's Anglican Church have to be repainted. We need your continued support to deal with these (and other) expenses. Any donation made is eligible for an Income Tax Credit to the amount allowed by law.

2009 Scheduled Events

June 20: Bake sale at the Bridgewater Mall
July & August: Photo display at the Museum: "Growing up....Summer on the Islands" by Margo Seaman
July 5, 7:30 p.m.: Variety Concert at St. John's Anglican Church, Bell Island
July 22, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Supper Salad at LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall
August 3, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Fun Day at LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall
August 16, 2:00 p.m.: Fisherman's Memorial Service, St. John's Anglican Church, Bell Island
September 12, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Baked Bean/ Scalloped potatoes/ Ham Supper at LaHave Islands Hall

2009 Membership Dues

Annual Dues are only \$5.00. If you have not renewed your membership, or if you wish to support our organization by becoming a member, your dues can either be given to the membership co-ordinator, Edith Berrigan (688-2170), or your cheque can be mailed to: LaHave Islands Marine Museum, P.O. Box 69 LaHave, B0R 1C0. New members should include their address, phone number, and e-mail (if applicable).

Society Meetings

LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall at 7:00 p.m. on May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6, and November 3 (Annual General Meeting). Non-members are welcome to attend all meetings.



Dear Member,

Friends of Crescent Beach depend heavily on the membership monies for its continued activities. Please renew your 2009/2010 season commitment to *Friends* today!

Annual Single Membership \$10.00; Annual Family Membership \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City or Town: _____

Province or State: _____

Postal or Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in receiving the *Friends* Coastal Tide newsletter (3 annually)

YES _____ NO _____

You can help us to 'go green' by providing us with your email address above. This will allow us to send you your copy of the newsletters electronically and in colour. *Friends* will never sell or loan its lists to any other organization.

Please send this completed form and your cheque payable to:

**Friends of Crescent Beach
Box 148
LaHave, NS
B0R 1C0**

Many thanks for your continued support!