



The Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society

November 2006 Edition

www.crescentbeach.ca

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Contact Us:

P.O. Box 1A1
Petite Riviere, NS
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Got something to say? All *Friends* are encouraged to voice their opinions and share their stories, book reviews and observations. Simply send your submissions to the editor at wordbyword@eastlink.ca.

Chairman's Message

With the holiday season approaching, it's a good time to look at what *The Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society* has accomplished over the year, much of which is of a maintenance nature. The dune is a vital part of the beach system. Some of the most vulnerable parts of the dune, those damaged by storms, have been reinforced with armour rock. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find information on a fund to permit doing more reinforcement work in some vulnerable areas which still exist. Repairs were made where the wind started to threaten the survival of the dune-protecting grasses planted last year. Let's hope that a benign winter will not stress the beach to the extent of recent winters!

Board members have repaired the storm damage to the sign identifying the beach. Since foot traffic over the dune is a constant concern, discreet signs have been posted to direct pedestrians to the recently repaired walkthroughs. The interpretive signs installed in the past are proving their worth: they are useful in educating the public about the fragility of the dune system.

Friends continues to help in the regular maintenance of the beach. The annual beach sweep removes a winter's accumulation of refuse, and the daily efforts of Nita Eisenhauer and friends help to keep the beach tidy on an ongoing basis. Graffiti was removed from the rocks. The bicycle rack was repainted and generally spruced up. We appreciate the efforts of the Department of Natural Resources which, during the summer months, continues to provide the portable toilets and to collect the waste from the recycling bins.

We continue to express our concern about the condition of the roadway by making representations to the Department of Transportation and Public Works. Road access at the east end of the beach had been almost impassible, but the problem has finally been solved, primarily by natural means. The Department of Natural Resources did post signs warning of the "quagmire" hazard that trapped several users.

Funding is always required to carry out the *Friends* mandate. Please consider the Pentz reproductions and/or the t-shirts (detailed later in this Newsletter) as holiday gifts. For donations, *Friends* happily issues charitable tax receipts.

All Board members were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting in August. I want to thank them on the members' behalf for their hard work. They are the ones who individually and collectively keep this whole organization running for the good of Beach users and the entire community of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area.

A Happy Holiday Season to All!
Bruce Raymond, Chairman

Fundraisers

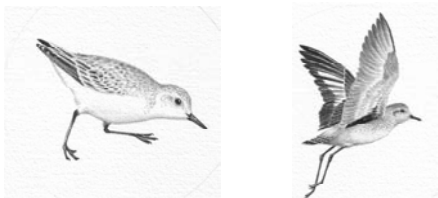
The Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society needs your help to maintain and preserve our unique ecological areas on Nova Scotia's South Shore. Particularly as we approach the holiday season, we invite you to purchase some of the unique items we have created with the help of local artists.

Paintings by Renowned Artist Don Pentz

During the summer, Don Pentz's beautiful paintings were displayed on the information panels mounted at Crescent Beach. *Friends* has been allowed to sell reproductions of Don's work in order to raise funds for the *Society*. You can see his art on display at the LaHave Bakery, or on our website: www.crescentbeach.ca. Jim Sewell also has some of Don's work on display at his home, by appointment.

The reproductions are available in two formats:

- 1) Museum-quality print, rag paper, archival UV- resistant inks: The Dunes, finished size 28" x 22.5" @ \$150.00, or The Marsh, finished size 28" x 16.5" @ \$125.00
- 2) High-quality poster, printed on special quality paper with protective matte laminate: The Dunes, finished size 28" x 22.5" @ \$85.00 or The Marsh, finished size 28" x 16.5" @\$70.00. Taxes are included in all prices.



T-shirts

Our *FOCB* t-shirts have been selling well. Just in time for gift-giving, we have taken delivery of a second batch of the newly designed versions screened by Jesse Watson of Homegrown Skateboards in LaHave. They were terrifically popular at our yard sale in the summer. Now we want to make them available all-year round

This will be the last screening of the plover and sanderling series by Don Pentz. Next year, we're considering having two new birds screened. Please write us and let us know which birds you would like to see on the next series of t-shirts and we will put it to a vote.

Meanwhile, we have youth, men's and women's t-shirts, and more tank tops – all available in lots of colours and sizes. Each shirt has either a black-bellied plover (above left, in its non-breeding plumage) or a sanderling (above right) on the front and "Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area" reproduced on the side or back.

Priced at \$20.00 per t-shirt including tax, they make a great holiday gift. Call Andra at 688-1505, or e-mail her at whitewood@eastlink.ca to order yours now. T-shirts are also available through Jim Sewell. You can reach him at 688-1739 or email him at jimsewell@eastlink.ca.

A Rocking Good Time

In our spring newsletter we issued an appeal for funds to allow us to add more rocks behind the cribwork on Crescent Beach. The following people have responded thus far and we are very grateful for their support:

Max & Karen Corkum	Bridgewater	Douglas Francis	Petite Riviere
Donald Scruggs	LaHave	Margo Seaman	Westfield NJ
Crescent Beach Cottages	Crescent Beach	Burpee Meisner	Crescent Beach
Arnold Marshall	Barton NS	Basil Martin	Bridgewater
James Marin	Toronto ON	Joseph Thompson	Petite Riviere

Francoise Hubley	St. Catherines ON	Alan Blakney	Saskatoon SK
Arthur Weyhe	Bush Island	Brady & Ramona Himmelman	LaHave
Mike & Alanna Robb	Halifax	Olga Maxwell	Westmount QC
Robert & Sally Carlyle	St. Catherines ON	Nina & Robert Seaman	Bell Island
Hugh & Heather Millar	Oakville ON	Neil & Linda MacDonald	West Dublin
Raymond Kennington	Chester Basin	B. MacLaron	Milton ON
Alan Peel	Pacific Grove CA	John West	Ligonier PA
Durward Dasilva	Petite Riviere	Michael Shepherd	Halifax
Jean Fraser McHarg	Bridgewater	Henry McDaniel	Quincey MA
Mary & Bob Fulleman	Crescent Beach	Anonymous	Halifax, NS

So far \$2,600.00 has been raised through individual contributions, which were suggested at \$50 per family. We hope that more people will make donations so the restoration of the dunes can be an ongoing project. All contributions are recorded in our Book of Donations, which has a permanent home in the LaHave Islands Museum on Bush Island. Donations can be mailed to the *Friends* address on the front page of this newsletter.

Through the efforts of board member Eric Rafuse, we have received \$ 4000.00 from the SAGE Environmental Fund. The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has also granted us a further \$1000.00.

Musings

What's That Funny-Looking Bird Over There?

We often talk about plovers and sanderlings when we discuss our local beaches. You'll also see them featured on our popular *Friends* t-shirts, and on the information panels at Crescent Beach. If you're not a "birder" but want to sound knowledgeable on the subject, here are a few things you might want to know. Bear in mind that shorebirds can be notoriously difficult to identify. They tend to belong to families (sandpipers and plovers, for example); they change their plumage with the seasons; and they are often skitterish and unlikely to stand still long enough for easy identification.

A sanderling is a shore bird about eight inches long, or nearly the size of a robin. In some bird identification books, it's referred to as a "wave chaser." It runs up and down the sandy beaches within inches of the surf. It has a straight black bill as long as its head, and its legs are black as well. The belly and flanks are bright white. When these birds fly, you will probably see a bold white stripe on their wings.

At Crescent Beach you are likely to see sanderlings from the spring through the fall. They will be on their way to the north (where they breed), or on their way south, where they winter on the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts and further south.

A plover is actually a generic name for a family of six birds: the snowy plover, the black-bellied plover (featured on our t-shirts), the semipalmated plover, the lesser golden plover, the wilson's plover, and the piping plover. The black-bellied version is the largest of this family, at about 11 ½ inches. Not surprisingly, it has a black belly. It also has a short, thick, black bill and a white rump with grayish wings and white strip. You'll likely see them at the same time as the sanderlings, as they share the same territories in most seasons.

The piping plover is the little sparrow-sized bird of this family. It likes sandy beaches, but also mudflats and sandbars along rivers (i.e., over by the south edge of Risser's Beach). It's a sandy gray bird, with a black collar and yellow legs, and it gets its name from its frequent "peep" call. The piping plover is considered an endangered species. Its nesting grounds are frequently fenced in for protection by local birding enthusiasts.

Pick up a good bird identification guide and head down to one of our local beaches with these notes in mind. You might also want to check out James Hirtle's excellent birding column in the *Bridgewater Bulletin*. It will alert you to some interesting sightings in our area.

Don Sedgwick

A Round of Applause

We'd like to offer our ongoing thanks to the generous people at Pharmasave, who continue to support our efforts by supplying "doggie-poo" bags, which are available in dispensers at the entrance to the beach. Anyone who has seen dogs run and play on Crescent Beach understands that they enjoy the sand and salt air as much as the rest of us. Being able to clean up after the fun is over is essential to the health and safety of all beach visitors.

Membership

We currently have 186 members whose dues are paid up to 2005. Approximately half of that number (95) are local members from LaHave, Petite, Pleasantville or Bridgewater. The municipality considers our organization a "voice in the community." For that and other reasons, we would love to hear from more voices in our specific area. Please consider becoming a member, or give a gift membership to someone you know. Just complete the membership form below. Please note that, as of the AGM last August, membership dues are now \$10.00 per family/per person.

We will undertake new fundraising efforts in 2007 in order to expand the reach of the *Friends* organization. In the interim, we encourage you to make sure your membership is up-to-date. For the price of only a few "double-doubles," you can make a significant contribution to the health, safety and enjoyment of our beautiful surroundings.

Enclosed is _____ (Canadian) for membership(s)
Family (\$10.00) Single (\$10.00)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone: _____

e-mail: _____

Direct all correspondence to:
Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society
Box 1A1, Petite Riviere
Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 2P0
www.crescentbeach.ca

In accepting membership I/we hereby waive and release the FOCBGB&A Society, its executives, and members from all claims for injury and/or damage suffered at any function by the FOCBGB&A Society. Fiscal year is from 1 June to 31 May each year.

** If you're already a member, and would like to receive your newsletter electronically (as a pdf), please let us know at wordbyword@eastlink.ca. The money we save on mailings will be funneled into other good works.