



The Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society

July 2007 Edition

www.crescentbeach.ca

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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.

AGM Alert

Mark this in big letters on your calendar. **The 2007 *Friends* Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 15th, at 7:30 at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall.** We are expecting a big turnout this year, particularly in light of our special guest speaker.

Chris Miller has a Ph.D. in geography and biology from the Wetlands Research Centre at the University of Waterloo. He also studied earth sciences at Dalhousie University. Chris has been an active member of the environmental community in Nova Scotia for many years, beginning with the fight to restore the Jim Campbell's Barren in Cape Breton as a protected wilderness area.

Chris is currently working on a contract with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Nova Scotia Chapter. His task is to identify and prioritize significant ecosystems and roadless areas in the province and to recommend them for the creation of new protected areas. He also does research work for the Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Society and is a scientific advisor for the Nova Scotia Coastal Coalition.

Chris has a particular interest in global warming, which he believes will have a serious impact on Nova Scotia's coastal ecology. Many people in our community have seen the popular film narrated by Al Gore entitled "An Inconvenient Truth." Chris Miller's presentation at the *Friends* AGM will bring all those "truths" home to our community. Please join us on August 15th as we discuss ways to save our planet, and especially the unique beaches and wetlands of our South Shore.

Don Sedgwick

Membership Momentum

We recently received a wonderful note from a renewing South Shore member: "My lovely wife passed away last year at 90. We spent many happy hours at Crescent Beach in summertime. She loved the fish & chips from the *Yum Yum II* bus. Whenever family visited us we always brought them down to the beach for a picnic. Keep up the good work, and thank you."

Our thanks to everyone who continues to provide invaluable support for *Friends* through their membership. Your collective contributions allow us to continue our good efforts to keep the beaches and surrounding area preserved for years to come.

Winter Walking Wonders

The other day I walked Crescent Beach. I think it was about mid-March, but as I get older, my sense of time sometimes eludes me. It could have been yesterday—or last year for that matter. I do remember that it was a particularly cold, windy, foggy day; not fit for a man of my tender years. The wind was whipping the foam from the breakers, like blowing the suds off a beer, and the fog was soaking my track-pants. What brain I still have was slowly, but surely, turning to frozen mush—not unlike partially frozen yogurt. You know what I mean.

Anyway, I was past the crib-work, and well along the long armour-rock stretch, before I figured that it was time I acted my age and headed for home, fireplace, and a good book. Just as my head registered this rare bit of common sense, a movement caught the corner of my eye.

Wiping my glasses with my sleeve—and you know that did a lot of good—I turned toward the surf to see what had caught my attention. There, about ten feet away, was a lone Semipalmated Sandpiper giving me the once-over. He/she looked as cold as I felt. I'm going with "he" because my better half later said that no female would be dumb enough to be out in that weather.

"Hi there, little fellow," I said, as I took a few steps toward him. "Lousy day, isn't it?"

He ran a short distance but didn't fly away. I thought he might be hurt, but he seemed to be in better shape than me. Anyway, I stepped closer and he again ran but stopped about six feet away. We repeated the process for a third time. This was getting us nowhere, so we both stopped at the same time. Coincidence, or am I really a bird-brain?

I was a bit surprised to see him. My books say that this sandpiper nests elsewhere, and it is common to this area only from late April to mid-June, and from early July to early November.

Well, to continue my tale, the two of us stood there for a minute or two. I talked; he listened. After a bit I decided to leave, while I was still able to move, and started back down the beach. I glanced back and my little friend was dashing to and fro on his little black legs, looking for food, I guessed. We were just two guys going about our business.

When I got home I told my wife about my experience. She, being the sensible one, told me that Piper (Yeah, I named him—stop laughing!) was either too frozen to fly, or lacked as much sense as I do. Me, I like to think that we were just two birds of different feathers, taking a break, and enjoying each other's company for a spell.

See you next time.

David Weagle

Super Sweeps

The Annual Sweep of Crescent Beach took place on Saturday, June 9th. To help promote the event, notices were posted in local stores and at the Beach. Messages also appeared in the *Lighthouse Log*, *Bridgewater Bulletin* and on CKBW.

The Petite Riviere Sparks, Brownies and Girl Guides – with their leaders Nancy Stabenow, Tracey Rafuse, Jane Naugler and Catherine Bell – were enthusiastic participants who scoured the dunes behind the crib-work. Our adult volunteers included Annie Stockdale, Jeff Doran, Olga Maxwell, Bob Eflin, Jim Sewell, Bob and Mary Fulleman, Bruce Raymond, and Eric Rafuse. They were joined by Chris Ridout and Sarah Creaser from the Municipality Recreation Department.

Together they worked very hard to haul many treasures and debris off the Dublin Bay side of the Beach Road. We collected 23 bags of garbage, 1 bag of cashable recyclables, and 54 cubic feet of debris, including lobster traps, stove-pipe, a child's wheelbarrow and some scrap wood. The Department of Natural Resources picked up and disposed of all the garbage early in the afternoon. Following the cleanup, refreshments were served at the Fraser McHarg cottage. The Guides, Brownies, and Sparks were all presented with Community Service Badges.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Watch for notices about our next big clean-up of Cape LaHave Island, which is slated to take place on Wednesday, August 1.

Jean McHarg

Freeing the Friendly Fry

Over the past six months, Janet Baxter, the principal at Petite Riviere Elementary School, has been faithfully raising salmon fry from eggs in an aquarium donated by the Atlantic Salmon Association. This is part of a school environmental project supported by various community groups, including *Friends*.

On June 21st, forty students helped to carry the young salmon in water-filled plastic bags down to the river. One by one, the children released their fishy friends safely into the water. All of the fish had been named, so the event had real significance. "It's been a tremendous learning experience for the students," says Janet Baxter. And the hard work of the school principal has paid off. At last count, all of the salmon fry seemed to be adapting well to their new surroundings.

This fall, a plaque will be donated to the school in memory of Captain Doug Bell and his efforts to protect salmon and other species in the Petite Riviere. A framed copy of Chris Gill's beautiful river map will also be given to the school. *Friends* has donated both items in memory of Captain Bell.

Don Sedgwick

Pentz Print Portfolio

Famous local artist Don Pentz, RCA, has created three beautiful paintings of Crescent Beach entitled "Dunes," "Marsh," and "Ocean." Earlier he had given us permission to reproduce these works of art and sell them as fundraisers for *Friends*. To maintain their exclusiveness, only limited quantities will be produced. Previously, *Friends* was offering the first two of these pictures for sale. We are now offering the third painting, "Ocean," as well. And in response to requests from the community, we now have a new, smaller size for all paintings, too.

These three pictures have been used for the Informational Panels we erected on Crescent Beach. In addition, a framed version of "Dunes" is on display in the LaHave Bakery. Another good way to view all of the pictures is on our website: www.crescentbeach.ca.

The prices for these beautiful works of art are as follows:

1. Museum-Quality Print, rag paper, archival UV resistant inks:
 - a) "Dunes," finished size 28" x 22.5" \$150.00
 - b) "Dunes," finished size 15" x 11.5" \$80.00
 - c) "Marsh," and "Ocean," finished size 28" x 16.5" \$125.00
 - d) "Marsh," and "Ocean," finished size 15" x 9" \$80.00
 - e) Special package deal: all three of the new smaller prints: \$225.00

2. High-Quality Poster, printed on fine paper with protective matte laminate:
 - a) "Dunes," finished size 28" x 22.5" \$85.00
 - b) "Marsh," and "Ocean" finished size 28" x 16.5" \$70.00

These prices are all-inclusive, but shipping and handling are extra. If you wish to place an order or have any questions, please contact Jim Sewell by phone (902) 688-1739 or email: jimsewell@eastlink.ca

We still have a good supply of our great t-shirts. They come in many colours and styles: Ladies, Mens, Children, and Tank-tops as well. To place an order or receive more details, contact Andra White by email at whitewood@eastlink.ca, or by phone at 688-1505.

Jim Sewell

Chair Chat

Friends' summer activities are now well underway. Identification signs have been returned to their summer locations. New signs on the recycling bins replace the old ones, which were looking worn. The annual Beach Sweep (see article in this issue) was successfully completed in early June as scheduled (in contrast with 2006 when the work was postponed a number of times due to weather!). Thanks to all the young and older folk who made the day a success. And DNR has reinstalled the portapotties for the summer.

In the near future, the crib-work along the beach will be repaired by our volunteers. They will be using planks originally supplied by Bowater and left over from the major professional refits of previous years. Our organization also has an interest in Cape LaHave Island. In 2006, volunteers did a clean-up there, which will be repeated this year on August 1 (August 2 and 3 as rain dates). The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has offered to help with costs and with facilities. We will keep you posted on further details.

Please plan to attend the Annual General Meeting at 7:30 pm on August 15, 2007, at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall when the guest speaker will be Chris Miller, of Dalhousie Coastal Ecology. Hear what our Society has accomplished this year, and help us make future plans and elect a new Board. We will have more Friends T-shirts for sale, as well as artwork by renowned painter Don Pentz.

Once again, thanks to all who have contributed to the success of *Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society* over the past year. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Bruce Raymond
Chairman

Dapper Dates

Tuesday, July 10th: Drew's Hill/Sperry's Beach debate at Municipal Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, 2 p.m.

Saturday, July 21st: Breakfast at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall. 8-11 a.m.

Wednesday, August 15th: *Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society Annual General Meeting, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m. Special guest lecture by Chris Miller (see article enclosed).*

Saturday, August 18th: Breakfast at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall. 8-11 a.m.

Saturday, September 8th: *Little River Folk* presents Amelia Curran with Johnny Eden and Derrick Olive at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10.

Saturday, September 15th: Breakfast at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall. 8-11 a.m.

Sunday, September 30th: *Little River Folk* presents Joel Plaskett with Old Man Luedecke and Little Miss Moffat at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$15.

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

BIRD BLUNDER: An article in our last newsletter may have led some readers to think that the Spotted Sandpiper is found on several beaches in our area. As one of our readers correctly notes, this unique bird is found *only* on the beach at Cherry Hill. *The Editors*