

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

# CHANGING TIDES



[www.crescentbeach.ca](http://www.crescentbeach.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](mailto:wordbyword@eastlink.ca).



*Crescent Beach, before the road*

Welcome to *Changing Tides*, the newly merged newsletter of the Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society and the LaHave Islands Marine Museum. The two local groups have decided to pool resources in order to produce one bigger (and we hope better) publication. As you can see, it is certainly larger than either group's previous newsletter. It also has more photos, more reports, and more information about our local beaches and islands. As always, we would welcome your feedback and contributions. Happy reading!

### The Editors



*Crescent Beach and Model T's*

Photos courtesy of Nellie Snyder



## Chair Chat

Another summer season is drawing to a close and the beach is in good condition. The roses and the grasses previously planted by *Friends* are thriving, doing the job of both holding sand and attracting more. Over the summer, a significant amount of sand has accumulated on the ocean side of the crib-work, a factor that will assist in the wind deposition of sand onto the dune. Improved signs have been provided to better identify the location of the walkways through the dunes and to identify the various recycling bins. The crib-work has been repaired by *Friends* volunteers, ready to face winter's blasts.

The beach has been well used over the season: even into late September, there were a number of swimmers. This all helps to compensate for the grey periods in early summer! And more recently Crescent Beach has been a migratory stopping-off point for a large number of smaller shorebirds.

The Annual General Meeting received the usual committee reports and saw the re-election of the Board. All officers have since agreed to serve another term in their respective positions. A representative of the newly formed *Sperry's Beach Preservation Society* reported on their actions regarding the Sperry's Beach issue. At the meeting, Gordon Prince was awarded the Order of the Starfish, in grateful recognition of his ongoing and important work in maintaining the Crescent Beach website ([www.crescentbeach.ca](http://www.crescentbeach.ca)). He is the third person to be so honoured.

The meeting concluded with an illustrated talk by Dr. Chris Miller, who has degrees in geography and biology. Chris is proud to be a member of a family who has lived in Nova Scotia for many generations. He discussed the importance of wetlands using his research work at nearby Thomas Raddall Park, which is particularly suitable for study since it is a long-term undisturbed area. He described what has happened there over the millennia and warned about the possible effect of global warming.

My thanks go to all who contribute to the success of *Friends*. We wish you a happy holiday season!

Bruce Raymond  
Chair

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## Bogus Beach Buggy

On Monday, October 1st, a small red car got stuck on Crescent Beach. Apparently the owners briefly abandoned it on the sand, although there is evidence that someone tried unsuccessfully to get it "un-stuck" around 5 a.m. on Tuesday, October 2nd. A couple of the logs from the crib-work were evidently removed and used to help in rescuing the car. At 8 a.m. a truck arrived and was able to extricate the vehicle from the sand, leaving behind the broken logs.

In light of the fact that *Friends* volunteers had earlier in the summer replaced broken logs along the crib-work, it is very disappointing to see that someone would remove them without thinking of the consequences. If anyone has further information about this incident, perhaps they could forward it to the editors.

Jean McHarg

## Oh Dear! Dear Deer

The other day, well, about a month ago, I started out to walk on Rissers Beach to gather material for this article. On the way, I sauntered – even less energetic than strolling, eh? – past the cemetery near our place. We have really quiet neighbours. Anyway, I was halfway past, when, as usual, I paused to look down the driveway. Don't ask me why. I mean, what would one expect to see there anyway? I just started to turn away when she appeared.

The young doe walked out of the alder bushes midway down the drive. Well, as you probably guessed, knowing my penchant for talking to birds and stuff, I stopped to chat.

“Hello,” not really expecting a reply, “where do you think you're going, Doe?” (Hard to remember that name, eh?) I thought I should ask, because she was facing east. East is where the missus and I live. That means trouble for a young doe; any deer in fact.

You see, the love-of-my-life has a thing about deer. They get into her gardens and eat her flowers; even the daisies she was told deer don't like. Then they savour the “no-chance-to-bloom hosta” for dessert. No matter what she grows – even if the garden centre person swears that it's deer-proof – they at least take a taste. If they don't like a flower, they nip it off and leave it on the ground. I tell you, folks, at times it can get downright ugly around our place.

Poor Doe obviously had no idea what she was in for if she continued on her chosen path. Maybe she didn't know that Old Thing was home (I call her that sometimes – well, most of the time.) She can wield a wicked broom, let me tell you – from all that curling and paddling, I suppose. Anyway, I feel it is my solemn duty to warn unsuspecting deer of the danger lurking at the Weagle's.

“Doe,” I said, as she stood there and looked at me with her big brown eyes, “I think that you might think about heading the other way. Turn around, girl, and get the heck out of Dodge, as they say.” She just stood there, staring (I think she liked me), her body still facing the direction of the forbidden fruit, er, gardens.

Well, sir, I could see that intelligent conversation wouldn't make her change her mind. Just like a woman, a one-track mind; thinking only about shopping before getting home to feed the kids – fawns in this case – and not giving a fig what this old guy was telling her. So I did the only thing I could do. I shooed her.

Whoa, Nelly, could she ever move! She whipped around into the bush, heading west and was gone in two leaps. I hated to scare her, but she'd thank me later I like to think.

See you next time.

David Weagle

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## Catch As Catch Can

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> I spoke with members of a crew who were working on the road at Crescent Beach. One of the men explained that nine catch-basins are being installed to take the rainwater off the road and into the marsh. He expected the work to be done within ten days, weather permitting. The crew will also be installing “a lot of rock” along the roadside to protect the bank into the marsh. Now if we could just do something about those car-swallowing potholes on the main highway!

Jim Sewell

## Proper Playground Planning

With a slogan like “*Canada’s Ocean Playground*,” one would naturally assume that Nova Scotia has a comprehensive management plan for our coast. Well, guess again. Nova Scotia is one of the only coastal jurisdictions in North America that currently lacks a coastal zone management strategy. We have no overall plan to protect sensitive coastal ecosystems; no plan to control development in coastal areas; and no plan to avoid damage from catastrophic, yet predictable, storm surges.

Right now, coastal planning is done mostly on an *ad hoc* basis, piecemeal without an underlying guiding plan for sustainable development on our coasts. Real concrete action seems to only occur where interested community groups or other stakeholders come forward to demand action in their corner of the province. If you think this sounds inefficient, you are correct. Much time and much effort are spent responding to situations after they arise rather than preparing for them before they happen. This is a situation that will become even more problematic with the onset of human-induced global warming and the expected rise of sea-level that will result.

The absence of a comprehensive coastal zone management strategy for Nova Scotia has resulted in serious consequences for our coastline, and these consequences are mounting as the coastline becomes ever more crowded with infrastructure. There are no shortages of examples up and down the South Shore of wetlands being infilled, houses being built on top of dune systems, and beaches being unnecessarily encroached upon by development. The consequences of allowing this type of inappropriate development are very real, and can result in major expenses for the landowner and the public taxpayers.

In places prone to hurricanes and storm surges, many insurance companies are no longer offering insurance to landowners who choose to build on beaches and dunes. The risks of building in such places is simply too high. As the old saying goes, “*Only a fool builds a house on sand.*” Well, what does this say about a government who knowingly allows these houses to be built?

In many other parts of North America, governments are starting to catch-on, developing land-use plans that keep development back from the edge of the coast. This has the added benefit of facilitating the protection of some of the most significant coastal ecosystems as well.

The time has come for Nova Scotia to get serious about developing a coastal management strategy for the province; a plan that is truly deserving of the title, *Canada’s Ocean Playground*. Let’s hope the government is listening.

Christopher Miller, Ph.D.  
Ecologist and Wilderness Conservation Coordinator,  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

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## Neat Nita

Over the course of the year, Nita Eisenhower has collected, cleaned and recycled so many cashable bottles from her daily walk on the beach that she has been able to add \$55.25 to the *Friends* bank account. We are indebted to her for this neighbourly act, and thank her for her continued commitment to the cleanliness of the beach.

## Homestead Histories

*There are many fascinating old houses and cottages in the Crescent Beach area. We are beginning this series to highlight a number of them, and we welcome all contributions for this ongoing series.*

The West families from Pennsylvania have been coming to Crescent Beach since the 1930s. Over the past seventy years, their family has been holidaying in four cottages situated north of the beach. Today they still own two cottages, one facing the bay and one on the highway. John West was kind enough to provide the following details:

**The Lower Deck**, our brown cottage on the bay (referred to by Frances Romkey as “The Shore Cottage”), was built around 1921 by Judge Paton from Bridgewater. At the time he also owned Crescent Beach. The living room floor is beautiful birch, since it is said that the Judge loved to dance. John's parents, George and Jean West, first rented the cottage in 1934, along with their sons, George Jr. and John. Sometime later Victor Romkey bought that cottage and also purchased Crescent Beach. It was Victor who later gave Crescent Beach to the province of Nova Scotia. In the meantime, Victor moved a second cottage from the area across from the entrance to Crescent Beach (near Burpee and Rita Meisner's current home) and placed it adjacent to the brown cottage. In 1960, John West and George West Jr. jointly purchased those two cottages, and John took possession of the brown one while George took the other.



*The White Cottage,  
formerly The Blue Ledge Tea Room*



*The Lower Deck,  
formerly The Shore Cottage*

**The Adams' cottage**, on the bay beside the brown cottage, was moved to its location by Victor Romkey, and sold to George West Jr. in 1960. In 1983 it was purchased by Harold and Frances Adams.

**The Upper Deck**, the red cottage along the highway, was owned by Mrs. Jesse Patillo and later by the Foys (whose son William was an expert salmon fisherman). We are told that the cottage was originally one large room containing a fireplace and two wooden bunks (which are still being used). The owners at that time used it strictly as overnight lodging when hunting or fishing. The Adams purchased it from the Patillo estate and sold it in 1983 to Debbie Murray. She and husband Jimmy Murray did extensive remodeling. In 1991 John and Vernie West purchased it from Debbie Murray.

**The White Cottage** is located along the highway between the red cottage and the Bents' place. It was once owned by Amy Rafuse, who had a tea room called the Blue Ledge Inn which served very good food. It eventually went bankrupt and was sold in a sheriff's sale in 1938. At auction it was purchased for \$985 by Jean West (Mrs. George) and her friend Margaret Hare Smith, with a cash loan from Dr. Rafuse (husband of Pauline, and father of Margaret Barnaby). Later Jean and George West purchased Margaret Smith's shares in the cottage. They called it Starboard Light and owned it until 1983 when it was purchased by Jim and Nita Eisenhauer. They sold it in 1989 to Benjamin and Christine Lee from Massachusetts.

Jean McHarg

**Pentz Painting Promotion**

Famous local artist Don Pentz, RCA, has donated three beautiful paintings of Crescent Beach. They are entitled "Dunes," "Marsh," and "Ocean." He has given us permission to reproduce these and sell them as a fundraiser for *Friends*. To maintain their 'exclusiveness,' only limited quantities will be produced. Previously Friends was offering two of the pictures for sale: "Dunes" and "Marsh." In addition, we are now offering the third painting "Ocean," and also, in response to requests from *Friends*, we now have a new, smaller size for all paintings as well. These three pictures are used for the Informational Panels erected on Crescent Beach. Another excellent way to view all of the pictures is on our website at: [www.crescentbeach.ca](http://www.crescentbeach.ca).

Prices	<u>Order Qty</u>
1. Museum Quality Print, rag paper, archival UV resistant inks:	
a) Dunes, finished size 28" x 22.5"	\$150.00      _____
b) Marsh, or Ocean, finished size 28" x 16.5"	\$125.00      _____
c) Dunes, finished size 15" x 11.5", each	\$ 80.00      _____
d) Marsh, or Ocean, finished size 15" x 9", each	\$ 80.00      _____
e) Special package deal: all three of the new smaller prints:	\$225.00      _____
2. High Quality Poster, printed on high quality paper with protective matte laminate:	
a) Dunes, finished size 28" x 22.5"	\$ 85.00      _____
b) Marsh, or Ocean finished size 28" x 16.5", each	\$ 70.00      _____

*These pictures are tax-free! Prices do not include shipping and handling.*

If you wish to place an order, or to make a contribution to *Friends*:

Mail to: Friends of Crescent Beach  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Any questions? Please contact Jim Sewell, (902) 688-1739 or email: [jimsewell@eastlink.ca](mailto:jimsewell@eastlink.ca)*



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## Museum Musings

We had 3326 visitors to the Museum this summer, representing 36 different countries. To help handle this traffic, we got adventurous and hired Emma Bell of Petite Riviere and Johnson Romkey of Lower LaHave through Young Canada Works. These two young people did a fantastic job of reviewing and correcting our museum records, as well as looking after the Museum and our visitors. Our display for the summer was created by a group of fantastic ladies called the "Square Zebras." Not only did they produce the hooked rugs, but they also put together a picture calendar about these wonderful images. Thank you, Ladies, for creating such a wonderful display!

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## Home Sweet Home

The work on the "Vera Mae" retirement home is still a work-in-progress. At the moment, the side boards have been put up, and the roof shingles were being professionally done in October. The three front main doors have been ordered and should arrive soon. All of the basic construction has been done by tireless volunteers. Part One of this project should be completed before winter arrives. The next step will focus on "Vera Mae" herself and the restoration she needs in order to get her back to her original condition.

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## Winning Work

Thank you, Joyce Richards, for making and donating a beautiful hand-crocheted afghan, which was a very successful raffle item for the Museum. The winner was Eleanor Rhinehart of Bridgewater, NS.

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## Membership Memo

Membership is the foundation of our Museum society. We must expand our base to insure we have sufficient resources to fill our various positions, work on committees, etc. Dues are only \$5.00 per person, which covers the period from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> each year. New members should include their address, telephone number, and email address (if available). Please let us know if you are willing to support our Museum by volunteering to work on one or more committees, help out with Museum activities, or simply make your favourite dish for a variety supper. Dues can be given to the membership coordinator, Edith Berrigan (688-2170), or mailed to: LaHave Islands Marine Museum, P.O. Box 69, LaHave, NS, B0R 1C0.

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## Mark My Message!

***The Annual General Meeting of the LaHave Islands Marine Museum Society will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the LaHave Islands Hall.*** Following the business meeting, we will have an early Christmas Party featuring an auction of wrapped Christmas gifts, followed by great food and refreshments. Everyone is welcome!

Become a tourist in your own area. More than 3300 people can't be wrong! Visit your local Museum! We'll be open again in May, 2008.

## Calling Kris Kringle!

Don't forget to order your beautiful Friends t-shirts in time to give them as seasonal gifts. We have short-sleeved versions, and tank-tops as well. There are many colours, styles and sizes for women, men, and children. To place your order, just contact Andra White at: whitewood@eastlink.ca or 688-1505. Order by November 15<sup>th</sup>!

Andra White

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## Rock Revival

We continue to collect donations for our ongoing Rock Fund project. We thank the following people for their recent donations:

Max Corkum  
Margaret Crickard  
M.R. Green  
Larry Murphy (in memory of Dan Irwin)  
Barbara Shaw  
David and Allison Weagle

Bob and Ellen Crain  
David Flewelling  
Heather and Hugh Millar  
John Oyler  
Patricia Tanner  
Stephen Weimer (in memory of Dan Irwin)

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## Dapper Dates

**Friday, November 2nd:** Little River Folk presents Cara Luft and Hugh MacMillan, Kim Beggs and Krystelle Levesque at the Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10.

**Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>:** The Annual General Meeting of the LaHave Islands Marine Museum Society will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the LaHave Islands Hall. An early Christmas Party, featuring an auction of wrapped Christmas gifts, great food, and refreshments, will follow.

**Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Lunenburg County Historical Society will host a wine-tasting at the Fort Point Museum, presented by John Stuart of The Wine Cellar at Bishop's Landing. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For further information, contact Donna Malone at 688-1970.

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

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