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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.

Something Wicked This Way Comes

R.B. Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada, Dartmouth NS

Just after Post-tropical Storm Noel struck Nova Scotia on November 3rd and 4th, 2007, *Friends* member Gordon Prince, who many of you know, alerted us to the shore damages at Crescent Beach and encouraged us to come and resurvey it. By November 9th we completed surveys across Crescent Beach at three locations: lines L3, LM and L38B (Fig. 1). What did our observations show? In this article we only illustrate changes at LM (Fig. 2, 3). More information is available from our web site at http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/coast/storms/index_e.php.



Figure 1. Aerial view of Crescent Beach in August 1992 showing the location of survey lines used to document the impacts of Noel (airphoto 92365-82, Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs).

Beach conditions were fairly similar before both Hurricane Juan and Post-tropical Storm Noel. Sand was accumulating across the upper beach and against the seaward side of the wood fence, and the dunes looked healthy. In fact, we initially attributed the build-up of sediment as the reason the dunes showed little change during Juan (Fig 2a,b). However if conditions were the same, why was the fence more damaged and the dunes cut back farther (Fig. 2) during Noel (see explanation by D. Mercer, next page)? Waves from both storms washed through and over low dunes at similar locations along the mid-to-western part of Crescent Beach.

During Post-tropical Storm Noel, the volume of sand dumped across the road and tidal flats was small compared with the volume removed from the dunes. Where did all the sand go? Our surveys were extended into waist-deep water in Dublin Bay and Green Bay. They indicated no new deposition across the tidal flats of Dublin Bay and no sediment build-up across Crescent Beach. The beach was lowered most in the west at L3, which was at its lowest level since 1981. Sediment losses across the beach decreased eastward, and there was a slight net increase in sand at L38B compared to our last survey in 2000. The net increase in sediment at L38b is attributed to a longer-term build-up of sediment in that vicinity rather than a build-up during Noel, particularly since we know dunes on L38b were eroded back by nearly 3m and the upper beach was lowered. It is concluded that although some sand from the eroded dunes may have moved eastward along the

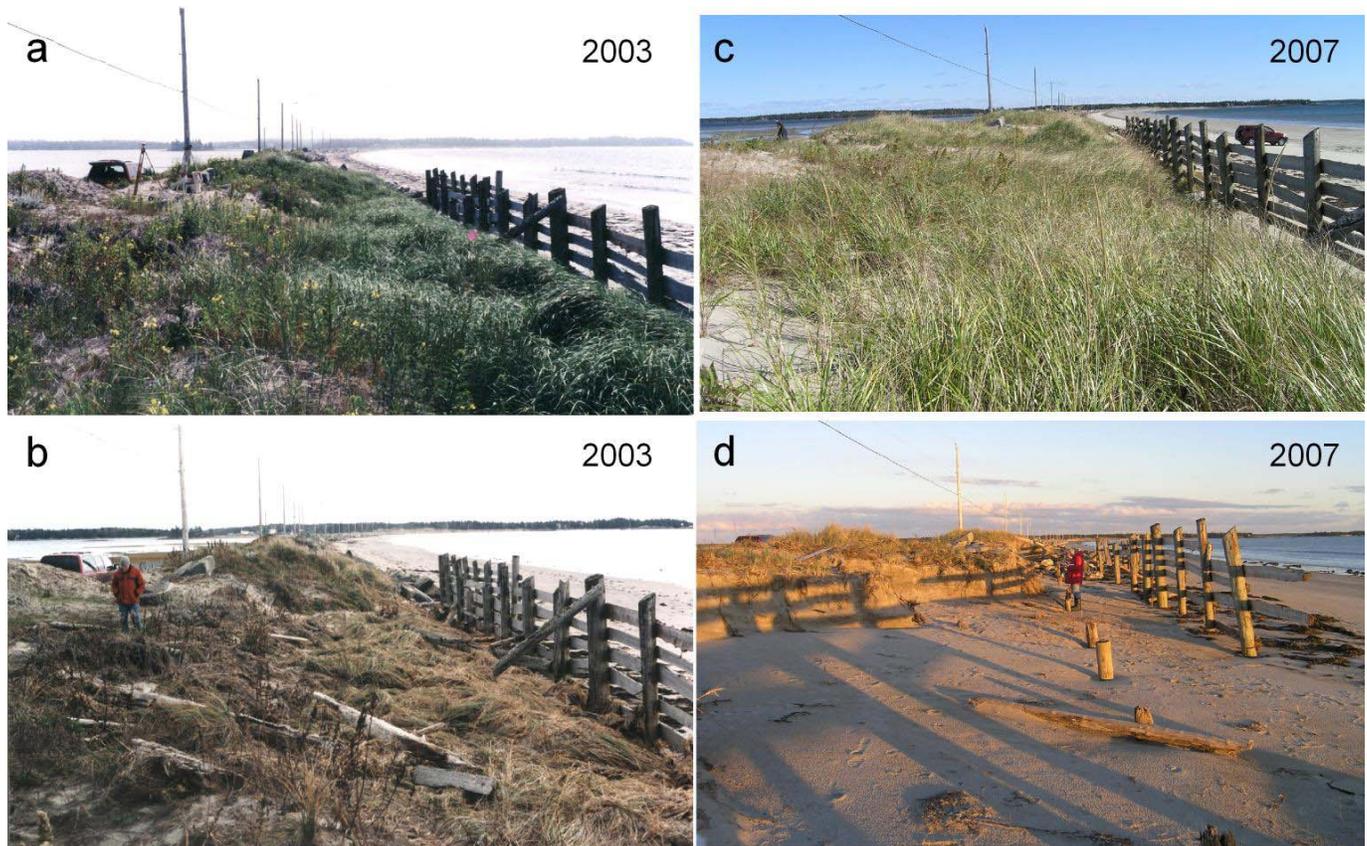


Figure 2. Views of dunes at line LM looking east (a) before and (b) after Hurricane Juan in 2003 (photos July 18 and Oct. 24) and (c) before and (d) after Post-tropical Storm Noel in 2007 (photos Oct. 7 and Nov. 8). During Noel the dunes were cut back by a distance of 3 to 8 m and a metal marker established in 1978 (where the person is standing in photo d) was re-exposed (see Fig. 3a).

beach, most was carried just offshore during Noel. We know from past surveys dating back to 1978 that the dunes of Crescent Beach were in their worst condition in 1978 (Fig. 3a) and 1998 and also have experienced cycles of growth. For example, the dunes were built to their widest and highest extent in 1986, 1991-2 (Fig. 3b) and in 2003.

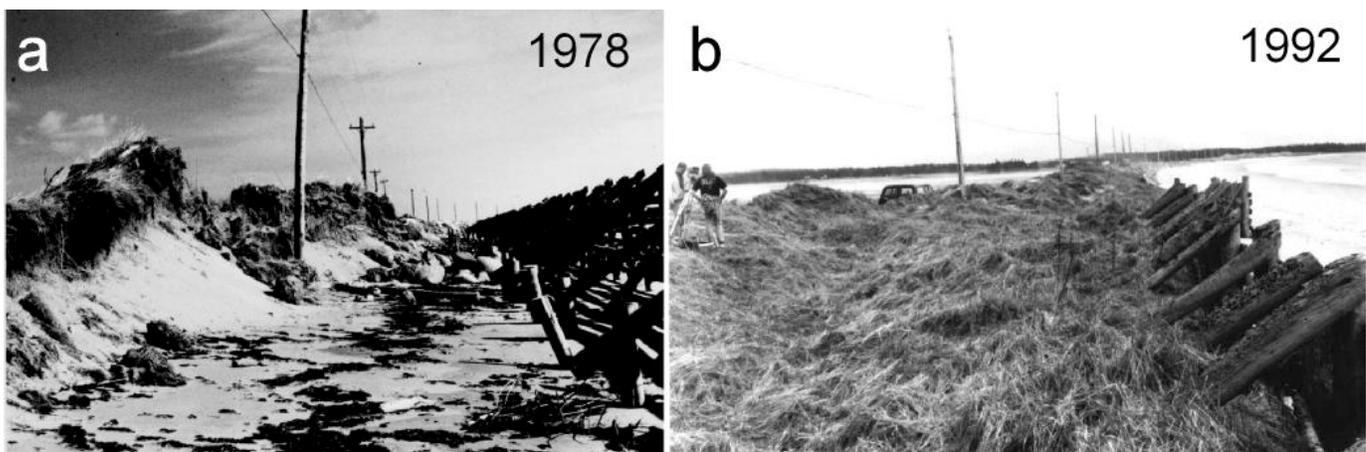


Figure 3. Views of Crescent Beach at Line M showing severely eroded dunes in 1978 (photo by H. Munroe) and dunes rebuilt to the fence in 1992 illustrating that the dunes have been able to naturally rebuild themselves after storms.

These observations confirm what many of you already know, that the dunes have the potential to recover from storms whenever sand accumulates along the upper beach and is blown into the dunes. Since Crescent Beach has not dramatically changed (between

high and low tide) as a result of these storms, the potential for sand to return to the upper beach, given the right wave conditions, remains high. Remember it only takes a few hours for waves to erode coastal dunes, but it takes 5 to 10 years to rebuild them!

During 2001 to 2003 "Friends of Crescent Beach" conducted a study to monitor differences in sand accumulation along the wood fence and armour rock of Crescent Beach. Results of that study and other related studies will be submitted for a future newsletter with the purpose of encouraging discussions about the impact of fences and rock on beach dynamics.

Blow, Winds, and Crack Your Cheeks

D. Mercer, Environment Canada, Dartmouth NS

Many of you have described the impact to Crescent Beach by Post-tropical Storm Noel as much greater than those during Hurricane Juan in 2003. If water levels were roughly 0.5 m lower and sustained wind speeds offshore were less during Noel than in Juan, why was the wooden fence so badly damaged and the dunes cut back so much farther during Noel?

The most significant differences between the two storms was the duration and the directionality of the largest waves. During Noel the area of gale-to-storm-force southerly and southwesterly winds was at least an order of magnitude larger than Juan, and it extended along most of the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia. For Juan, which made landfall just west of Halifax, the area of very strong winds was more localized, and they extended east of the storm for about 100 km.

During Noel, waves in excess of 8 m impacted most of Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, while peak waves in excess of 10 m hit the central part. For Juan, the area of waves in excess of 8 m extended from just west of Lunenburg to less than 100 km east of Halifax. The direction of the largest waves from Noel was just west of south (190-220 degrees), and the duration of waves higher than 8 m was near 6 hours. For Juan, the wave direction of the highest waves was east of south (160 degrees true), and the duration of waves above 8 m was at most a couple of hours. Also, wave activity from Noel was more significant, because of the increased length of the waves. For a given wave height, longer waves tend to move more rapidly towards shore, transport more water onshore when they break, and often increase the wave set-up, which in turn increases the total storm surge.

It is important to note that if Post-tropical Storm Noel had occurred one week earlier, it is probable that total water levels from Noel would have been comparable to Hurricane Juan, and combined with the exceptionally high waves this would have extended the area of severe coastal damage to most of the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia.

The Winter of Our Discontent

*Bruce Raymond
Chair*



Summer is on the way – something we can look forward to after the long winter. This year it started with disastrous Post-tropical Storm Noel and was followed by frequent snowstorms and wildly fluctuating temperatures.

Noel devastated a number of South Shore shorelines, including Crescent Beach. As happened during Hurricane Juan a few years ago, the sea washed over the dune and left a heavy deposit of sand on the roadway. This time, conditions were such that the power-line serving the islands was also damaged. Further, the cribwork on which *Friends* had worked so hard has been seriously damaged to the extent that it will not be restored.

Another effect has been observed: the remaining posts seem to have become taller, the result of the major loss of sand (almost 18 inches in some places.) Last summer's significant accumulation of sand was washed away, now allowing the sea regularly to lap at the base of the dune. In the days following the storm, *Friends* contacted both provincial and federal authorities requesting action.

Immediately after the storm subsided, NS Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) cleared the roadway and started to protect access to the islands by placing large quantities of armour rock (nearly ten thousand tons) along the length of the dune. This filled in between areas where *Friends* had already placed rock. Inadvertently, some of the largest rocks were placed in one of our walkways through the dunes, so it has now been abandoned.. The remaining walkway will be repaired once weather conditions

permit.

There is no question that the armour rock “wall” provides major interference to beach access over the dune from the road. With the rock in place, TPW decided that what was left of the cribwork is no longer effective in protecting the dune and so will be removed. *Friends* volunteers are now considering ways to encourage the depositing of sand.

In late winter, our Crescent Beach website (www.crescentbeach.ca) was out of service for a few days with technical problems, but it was promptly corrected by our webmaster, Gordon Prince. It is now up and running again with photos of storm damage and, soon to be started, a forum where views can be expressed by the community.

With the arrival of spring, visits to the beach and to the Marine Museum become ever more inviting. This year, please consider helping at the annual Beach Sweep on June 7, and for an update on our activities please come to the Society’s Annual General Meeting in August. Take home a souvenir in the form of an attractive *Friends* T-shirt or a reproduction of a Don Pentz painting. You’ll find further information on all this and more elsewhere in this newsletter.

Above all, enjoy the summer on our wonderful beaches!

A Plague Upon This Howling!

David Weagle

The other day, just after that big blowhard Noel howled ashore and blew our beaches to heck and gone, the missus and I finally got to walk on Rissers Beach. It was something to see: heartbreaking, and that’s a fact.

Man, that storm sure did a number on the beach, eh? Boy, he had a barrel of fun! From the old breakwater to the service area, it looks as though the devil himself took a knife and sliced him a chunk of sand. Why, Old Thing and I didn’t cut our wedding cake any neater than Noel cut those dunes. It will be interesting to see what nature will do to fix it. I bet she does, but it’ll take a while. At least the boardwalk came through the storm in good shape.

My hat is off to the park folk. They’ve already started to get the camping and visitor areas cleaned. Their work is cut out for them. They sure won’t have to search for firewood for the campers this year.

I won’t even mention what Noel did to Crescent. The government (ugh!) wasted no time in getting the road repaired and protected. They haven’t moved that fast since they once, long ago, came after me for more taxes. It remains to be seen what will happen to the dunes after all that rock is there for a while. Personally, I think that they did a darn fine job, but don’t tell them.

The title of this poor effort does not only refer to the fun that Noel had with us. No sirree, Bob! It seems that Noel also had a howling good time with one of our unnamed board members (her initials are Jean McHarg [Fraser]). You see, there were two nice big rain barrels out back of her summer home. The two of them, I understand, were filled to their brims with water. Now, that would make them darned heavy, what? At least our friend did not believe that they were in danger.

Well, me son, she was wrong; they weren’t heavy enough. That little old blow washed the two of them clean off of the property, and, as far as we know, right out to sea, out of sight, ‘round the bend, heading somewhere toward England. You’d think that would be the end of the story, but no, bear with me.

Days later, one of our regular beach walkers, and our best cleaner-upper, found one of them, intact, on Crescent Beach. Now, that’s downright amazin’, don’t you think? Makes me wonder though, what happened to the other one? Was it ever found? Is it packed with sauerkraut, salt herring, or such like—or is it stove in and lying on various shores along the coast? There are lots of possibilities, but no answers. Anyway, if anyone finds it—doubtful after all this time—let Jean know.

See you later.

This Precious Stone Set in the Silver Sea

Jean McHarg



The Girl Guide Camp photo taken in 1933 shows two cottages, both of which were at one time owned by the Dr. Rehffuss family. The large one is now the year-round home of Sylvia Gunnery and Jim Bell. Note how few trees there were at this time, and the fenced tennis court below the Rehffuss cottage. The Girl Guides in the photo are from Bridgewater, and they camped there under the direction of their leaders Margaret Rehffuss on the left and Edith Barnaby on the right. For at least three years they actually set up their tents on what is now Bud Kimball's property adjacent to Rissers Provincial Park.

The cottage was built in 1926 by Grant Romkey, rented that year by the Rehffuss family, purchased by Dr. Rehffuss and deeded to his daughter Margaret in 1927. After Margaret married Dr. Harry Barnaby, it was often referred to as the Barnaby Cottage. The Barnabys and their son John came each summer from Guelph, Ontario. In the early 70s, Margaret and Harry decided to retire to NS and came in May 1973 to begin to winterize the cottage. Unfortunately Margaret passed away in October of the same year. Harry stayed until 1987, when he decided to return to Guelph and sold the house and its contents to Sylvia Gunnery.

Sylvia used it as a summer home before she started major renovations in 1987. By 1990 she was living here full-time, constantly uncovering a new curiosity in the cupboards or rafters. The renovations have progressed and she truly enjoys piecing together parts of the puzzle of this old cottage. She tells us that they have rearranged and built many rock pathways using rocks which originally (she was told by Grant Romkey) had been hauled by oxen from the area of Rissers Beach to build a stone patio near the tennis court.

The second cottage (the smaller one to the right) is the current home of Gaston Comeau and Mike Doyle. We are not sure when it was built, but by the 50s Pauline Rehffuss, mother of Margaret, was occupying it during the summer months. Soon after she died it was sold to the Clark Hills who, after a couple of summers, found Crescent Beach too foggy and moved up the river "beyond the fog line" and sold the cottage to George Gorner and his family. They enjoyed many summers there, and when they grew too old to travel from New Hampshire it was sold to Judy Milne and her family. Later it became the year-round home of Mike and Gaston when they purchased it and began major renovations.

Rumour has it that one cottage was called "The Ledges" and the other "The Breakers," but no one seems quite sure which was which.

Flight of Fowl Scattered by Winds

Bruce Raymond

In the spring and fall, watch for dive-bombers over the ocean – of the avian variety! These are Northern Gannets, which are migrating between wintering sites on the ocean from Virginia southward and their nesting grounds in Newfoundland and Quebec.

The gannet is a goose-sized white bird with a saffron patch on the nape of the neck, a pointed tail and a pointed beak. The gannet's distinctive pointed wing-tips look as though they were dipped in black ink.

Seen in a flock (as in early November 2006), or at other times in ones and twos in company with gulls, they are easily recognized at a distance by their actions when fishing. Typically they glide gracefully at up to 40 metres above the surface. When prey is spotted, they half fold their wings and, in true dive-bomber style, plummet headlong into the water at speeds reaching 100 kph, raising a plume just like a swimmer diving from a high board. (In contrast, eagles dive talons first, grabbing their prey at the surface.) Gannets will then pursue the target fish below the surface down to several metres, using both webbed feet and wings to manoeuvre. Then they swallow their prey while still in the water.

The gannet is especially equipped for this form of foraging. Unlike most birds, its eyes are located to give it binocular vision, essential to judge distance and of great value for plunge-diving. Their bone structure is rugged, and thick layers of muscles protect the neck during diving. Air sacs under the skin even help to cushion the entry into the water. Fortunately, their nostrils are appropriately arranged to keep the water out when diving.

These are certainly interesting visitors to our shores. If you see big white birds with this kind of crazy behaviour, now you'll know what they are!

The Object Of Art Is To Give Life A Shape

Friends is happy to announce that Dennison's Custom Framing and Needlework in Bridgewater has agreed to sell copies of its three fundraising Don Pentz prints. Not only will this make the prints available to a wider potential audience, but Dennison's has agreed to offer 20% off the cost of custom framing with the purchase of every *Friends* print.

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 good local environmental work of *Friends*.

Here is what will be available through Dennison's:

Large Prints: *Dunes* (\$150), *Marsh* (\$125) and *Ocean* (\$125) - each 28 x 16.5 inches, museum quality rag paper, archival UV resistant inks.

Small Prints: *Dunes* (\$80), *Marsh* (\$80) and *Ocean* (\$80) – each 15 x 9 inches (except *Dunes*, which is 15x11.5 inches), museum quality.

* Special package deal: Purchase all three Small Prints for \$225.00

High Quality Posters: *Dunes* (\$85), *Marsh* (\$70) and *Ocean* (\$70) - each 28 x 16.5 inches (except *Dunes*, which is 28 x 22.5 inches), high quality paper with protective matte laminate.

***Dennison's Custom Framing & Needlework
626 King St.
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
B4V 1B4***

***Phone: (902) 543-0486
www.dennisonscustomframing.com***

From the LaHave Islands Marine Museum



June 2 to Sept 1, 2008 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

President's Message

Last year was a very successful one for our Museum with the number of visitors remaining stable and work progressing well on a number of projects. In particular the construction of a retirement home for our Bush Island Boat, the "Vera Mae". This year, thanks to a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, restoration work on the boat will get under way. Those (seniors and others, whether a member or non-member) interested in working on this project should contact me @ 688-2170, or Neil Chambers @ 688-3192.

Improvements are now being made to our walkway and more picnic tables will be added. Also major maintenance projects have been scheduled.

I am sure many who read this newsletter have never visited our Museum. Why not make a point to do so this year? We have a picnic area and there is no admission fee charged. However, any donations placed in our Rum Barrel for supporting the Museum's operations are greatly appreciated.

Doug Berrigan



Museum and Community Hall Repairs update:

Given the age of our buildings ongoing costly repairs are inevitable. Last fall new rails and spindles were installed in the bell-tower of the museum. This spring a rotten section at the base of the tower will be repaired and some corner boards have to be replaced due to rot and the work of persistent woodpeckers! And ditto for the Hall. It has taken us eight years to accumulate sufficient funds to have both buildings painted. This is the year the work will be done.

Quilts From Years Gone By:

Our Museum display this year will be traditional quilts from the LaHave Islands area. We are now in the process of finding who may have one or more quilts with Islands pedigrees! The quilts and/or puffs for our display should have some connection to the LaHave Islands. Families or people may have moved from the Islands and took their quilts with them or they may have received a quilt from a special friend.

Contact: Sheila Chambers: 688-3192, Mona Wentzell: 543-8282 or 688-1564, Joyce Richards: 688-2473

Membership Renewals for 2008 Are Now Due:

Membership is the foundation of our Museum Society. Dues are \$5.00 per person per year. If you have not renewed your membership or if you wish to become a new member your dues can be given to the Membership Co-ordinator, Edith Berrigan (688-2170), or mailed to LaHave Islands Marine Museum, PO Box 69, LaHave, N.S. B0R1C0. New members include your address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if you have one.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

June 14....Coffee Party, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon @ LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall
July 16....Salad Supper, 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm @ LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall
Aug.4.....Fun Day, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm @ LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall
Aug.17....Fisherman's Memorial Service, 2:00 pm @ Anglican Church, Bell Island
Sept 13...Variety Supper 4:00 pm - 6:30 @ LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall

SOCIETY MEETING'S for 2008: 7:00 pm @ LaHave Islands Marine Museum Hall

May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, and November 10 (Annual Meeting). Non-members are welcome to attend.

So Foul and Fair A Day:

Saturday, April 19th: Breakfast, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Friday, April 25th: Little River Folk present Ruth Minnikin & Her Bandwagon, with special guests PorkBelly Futures, featuring award-winning author Paul Quarrington. Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 26th: Flea Market, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 17th: Breakfast, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 24th: Little River Folk present Songwriter's Circle with New Brunswick trio Share, Ottawa's Lynne Hanson, and Valley singer-songwriter Heather Kelday (Band of Owls). Petite Riviere Fire Hall, time TBA.

Saturday, June 7th: *Friends* annual BEACH SWEEP. Many bodies will be required to clean up, post Noel. Volunteers should meet at the Crescent Beach parking lot. Refreshments to follow. , 9:00.a.m – noon.

Saturday, June 21st: Fundraising breakfast, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 21st: Little River Folk present the Annual Solstice Party, details to come. Petite Riviere Fire Hall., time TBA.

Saturday, July 19th: Breakfast, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 13th: *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.)

Card parties: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, monthly, Petite Riviere Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.

See LaHave Islands Marine Museum events on previous page.

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

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Editor's Note:

We felt we had to give our faithful readers a break from the incessant alliteration, so we have used a new trick for our article titles in this newsletter. The first reader to tell us the source of each of these literary devices will win a book prize. Good luck!