



St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association

## 2010 Chair Report

A lot happened this year, and these are just the highlights!

**Coastal Planning** - The SMBSA continues to be a leading member of the NS Coastal Coalition, a group of NGOs working alongside the province to develop a coastal strategy. The next step would be to have a Coastal Act that presents clear jurisdictional responsibilities to manage our valuable coast so that major will not fall through the cracks as they do now. A recent milestone was the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the provincial and federal governments to jointly address this issue. While this is a long term goal, with broad implications, we continue to see progress along the way.

**Community Planning: 'Vision to Reality' Village Forum** - The third annual Village Forum took place on April 16-17 last year. This event was the culmination of three years of planning, discussions, and community consultations led by the SMBSA in response to uncontrolled development in the SMB Crossroads area. With close to 100 people providing input to a new village concept plan we are very close to having new bylaws that will provide a foundation for thoughtful growth in the Tantallon area.

Thanks to a partnership between the SMB Stewardship, Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Association, working closely with HRM planners to develop the features of the draft plan we will be able to preserve the kind of scale, look, and integration called for by the community. It will also provide a more definitive game plan for businesses and developers in locating and doing business in the area.

**Island & Coastal Protection** – With 30 islands in the bay and over 200 km of coastline, we are working with residents and government to improve the level of protection and stewardship around the bay. We have mapped out a strategy for private and crown owned islands which include:

- Protection of crown islands – working with the province to secure protected status for 9 provincial owned islands.
- Stewardship of private islands with current owners – encouraging good stewardship practices and conservation status for those interested
- Protection of private islands that are under threat of development – developing a campaign to protect the most threatened islands such as Troop.

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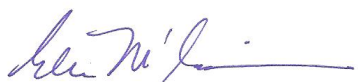
*Core Values – Community Involvement, Responsibility, Transparency*

Troop Island continues to be a concern. We think it is one of the most ecologically diverse islands along the south shore of Nova Scotia. Numerous field trips to the island with expert scientists have revealed many unique features – most unique is the coastal old growth forest, wetlands, and diversity of flora and fauna. We have approached the owner with an offer based on fair market assessment but it was rejected.

**Stewardship & Education** – Thanks to grants from Aspotogen Heritage Trust, ECOAction and the NS Habitat Fund we were able to develop a number of stewardship and educational programs on Micou’s Island this year. We now have a 5 year Stewardship Habitat Plan, a Stewardship handbook and a Youth Activity Guide for Micou’s Island. All are important projects that have deepened our understanding of the island and provided tangible results through habitat rehabilitation and education. We hosted a number of youth programs from scouts to local school groups to Katimavik all benefiting from the magic of an island retreat here in the bay. I know the visits to Micou’s will affect some of these kids forever, spawning a new generation of islands stewards. Our group of day and overnight stewards has grown and we now have an Expert Scientific Advisory Group led by our own Dr. Petra Mudie, a long time island steward herself. Programs will continue to expand with this solid base of knowledge and interest.

**Community Input** – Aside from formal planning processes, we continue to work with a variety of local organizations to provide input and distribute valuable information to the community, be it about transportation issues around the bay, the 200<sup>th</sup> celebrations for Peggy’s Cove, or local artist performances. It all adds to building community.

I look forward to passing the Chair over to the very capable Bob Ziegler, a local resident and active community volunteer. It feels like the Stewardship Association will have a strong and vibrant future with support from so many volunteers, partner organizations, the municipality and residents. Feel free to join in on the action in any way that suits you!



Ella McQuinn  
Chair, SMBSA

### **How To Get Involved:**

- Join the Board of Directors
- Join a working Group of the board / help out on projects
- Become an Island Steward

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- Become a member
- Sign up for the One Minute Bay
- Make a donation / support the *Heart of the Bay* Endowment Fund

**Contact Points:**

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**Other great things that went on this year....**

- 3rd Annual Island Sunset Cruise – sold out and raised \$4000 supported by Scotia Bank
- Monthly Island beach cleanups – started small and will build in 2011
- House renovations at Micou’s – kitchen and dining room look great
- Over 1500 visitors to Micou’s beach – beachgoers, campers and dog walkers..
- About 20 scientific field trips to Troop Island – the scientific community was a great support to our efforts & thanks Scott Pelton for leading most of them.
- NSCC Resources & Environmental Studies work placement – Mike Lancaster was a great help and now a lifetime steward!
- 1200 Hours of volunteer time recorded on Micou’s Island
- 100s of meetings – board meetings, COCO meetings, HRM planning meetings, island steward meetings, Coastal Coalition meetings, Micou’s guide book design meetings....
- Launched Micou’s Facebook – Join the other 115 fans who love the island.
- Geoff LeBoutillier will be receiving the 2011 HRM Volunteer of the Year Award – Congratulations and thank you for your great efforts.

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