

Directors' Report 2016

In this past year, the KCC Board of Directors has spent a good deal of time focusing on organizational aspects of the KCC, considering aspects of West Ironbound Island, looking to develop the next generation of KCC leadership, and fostering greater awareness of the work of the KCC. As with many volunteer organizations, sustaining the organization and its leadership is important to the future, and we've been mindful of that in our work. And, as the KCC enters its 22nd year, we are pleased that we have an expanded board to recommend to you this evening and, happily, a board that includes those who should represent the next generation of board leadership for the KCC.

Over the course of this year . . .

- ***We have worked to develop a safe walking experience on West Ironbound Island for those who might visit there.*** Members of our West Ironbound Committee spent time on the island in the fall working on developing a walking trail on the north part of the island in the wooded area that runs, at times, close to the cliffs. The committee also developed signage for the island and will soon be placing informational signs on the island - either on or very close to the cottage - acknowledging those who played a key role in its eventual protection in 2013, highlighting some key features of the island, such as the quasi-feral sheep and rare lichen, and guiding visitors attention to the paths and reminding them to avoid the edges of cliffs. We will be evaluating the cottage there to ensure that it stays in good repair, to consider its possible uses, and, hopefully, provide it with an operational toilet . . . which visitors to the

island might well appreciate. Many thanks to our West Ironbound Island Committee volunteers for all their on-going work on this!

- ***We have also initiated KCC-sponsored trips to the island this summer, achieving a long-standing goal to get members and the public out to the island.*** We needed to find a vendor who could take us to the island in a safe, timely, and financially reasonable way, and we were fortunate to be able to work with Liz and Tom Drake of Creasers' Boat Tours on this project. We created two trips to the island this summer - one on July 24, the other on Aug. 27 - to gauge member's interest in going out to the island and to simply see how it worked for us to provide such an experience. Our first trip to the island went very well. While weather and sea conditions compelled us to reschedule the July trip to the next day, everyone who visited the island appeared to have a wonderful time and appreciate having the opportunity to be there. Our second trip comes up in a little over a week's time and is fully booked. We are considering offering a post-Labour Day trip to members, and, if you're interested, please add your name to the list provided on the sign-in table, and we'll let you know if it comes about. It's also our intention to offer trips in the late spring and summer of 2017.

- ***Related to the life of the island, we are presently engaged in purchasing a boat - primarily for the use of Jake Wentzell - who, as many of you know, serves as a shepherd for the island, and informally, keeps an eye on the island for us.*** While Jake is not an employee of the KCC, the board was concerned that Jake have a safe means of traveling to and from the island as he cares for the sheep. This boat will also enable members of the board and the West Ironbound Island committee/work-crew to get out to the island with more frequency. This purchase was made possible by a significant donation from a member of the KCC. Jake will use this boat through a formal written agreement with the KCC.

- ***This winter, we were invited by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to apply for a grant under their Capacity Development Funding Program.*** This program is designed to help conservation organizations, such as the KCC, better situate themselves to secure and steward land in perpetuity by encouraging organizations to develop and/or revise policies and practices in keeping with those of Canada Land Trust Standards and Practices. Through this three-year program, organizations are reimbursed for any costs related to developing policies in fifteen key areas. In our first year in this project, we are focusing our work and discussions on the policies and practices dealing with land acquisitions, record keeping, and conflicts of interest. As these policies and practices come together, we will post them on our newly updated website.

- ***We are slowly working on marking our KCC lands and placing small signs where appropriate,*** as a way of making people more aware of where our lands are and the role of the KCC in preserving them. We have designed and had made many of the signs. If you are willing to help install them, please let us know.

- ***We have very recently updated our KCC website*** to streamline information and make information easier to locate, remove redundancies, and make it more user-friendly. Many thanks to board member Tracy Westell for all her work to make this happen. Please take some time to check it out at www.kccns.org!

- ***We are focusing on doing more community outreach to raise the public's awareness of the work of the KCC and to develop investment in preserving coastal lands and maintaining public access.*** In June, we hosted our first KCC Movie Night in the barn at the home of Brian and Marilyn McKay-Lyons for a showing of the film *Temple Grandin*. We had a fine turnout and an excellent evening and hope to repeat the experience again. This summer, we've hosted a KCC table at Lunenburg Farmers' Markets in July and August, and in the fall we will be speaking about the KCC at the Lunenburg Chowder Club. And, recently, we updated the KCC's informational brochure. *If you have other ideas about how we might do community outreach, please let us know.* Our new brochures are on the table at the door; feel free to take a few to pass on to others.

- ***As always, we will continue our strong relationship with NCC through our on-going stewardship of Gaff Point, ensuring that it is well-maintained and safe for those who go there.*** And, as you've probably well-aware, in the last week, due to continuing fire concerns throughout the province, we thought it prudent to shut it down. Hopefully, it can formally reopen very soon.

As we meet today, we have a membership that stays on average over the course of the year at 160. Our bookkeeper, Noreen Channels - and outgoing Treasurer - does an excellent job in reminding us all when our memberships are expiring.

But, it is important that we also invite others to become members, especially those who are new to the area or may not know about the KCC and its mission. If you know of someone who lives in our area or visits it in the summer and is not a member we urge you to make them aware of the KCC and invite them to join.

In every way, our organization thrives only through the volunteers who step forward to help as board members, committee members, stewards to Gaff Point, or just to pitch in every now and then on particular tasks. If you have some time to help, do let us know.

And finally, we're beginning to look at ways to preserve the lands that comprise the Shoubac. As many of you know, it's a lovely, relatively pristine part of our area, along the mouth of the LaHave River, roughly between Gaff Point and Five Houses. At present, the KCC owns eight lots there. and, over time, we would like to see large portions of the Shoubac preserved. This has been a long-standing interest of the Board of Directors. Now, in the coming year, we will "move it to the top of this list" and make it a priority. If you are interested in being part of the Shoubac Committee, please let us know and you will be hearing more about it as we move forward.

With this in mind, our goals for the year ahead and for the next three years are as follows:

2016 – 2017

- Continue to develop opportunities for public access to West Ironbound Island and enhance the safe coastal trail with appropriate signage.
- Through the work of the Shoubac Committee, seek ways to further preserve the lands in The Shoubac
- Through community outreach, raise the public's awareness of and investment in the work of the KCC in preserving coastal lands and maintaining public access.

Three-Year Goals, 2016 - 2019

- Continue to develop our policies and practices as part of the NCC Capacity Development Initiative (2016 - 2018)
- Promote the preservation of and access to the Shoubac
- Document & clearly define, including signage where appropriate, present KCC Properties