

**MICA MISSION:**

**To protect and conserve the natural environment of the islands and shoreline of Mahone Bay and the traditional, social and recreational opportunities valued by its various communities.**

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# **MAHONE CONSERVATION AREA GUIDE**

## **1. MICA ISLANDS USE GUIDELINES**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**MICA** and our partners (the Province of Nova Scotia, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Municipality of Chester) have invested very significant financial resources to bring 18 Mahone Bay islands and island properties into public ownership for conservation and for traditional public use. In addition **MICA** has financially supported the acquisition of Quaker, Lynch and Snake Islands by the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The **Mahone Islands Conservation Area** has become a very significant recreational resource. This would not have been possible without the financial support of our government partners and particularly without the very substantial financial support of our members, our friends, our Gala Dinner and Auction supporters and our corporate supporters since the beginnings of **MICA** in 2002.

We are very fortunate to have these prime islands and island properties. **MICA** has the stewardship responsibility for this wonderful resource. We collectively must ensure that they are respected and conserved.

We require your help in this stewardship responsibility and ask that you follow these basic guidelines as you enjoy the **MICA** islands:

### **1. Garbage:**

- Pack out what you pack in.
- If you find trash please remove it.
- If you see any broken glass please remove it.
- ***'Leave only your footprints'.***

### **2. Campsites:**

- Use existing campsites.
- Do not build structures, furniture or trenches.
- Keep campsites small.
- Bury human waste.

### **3. Trails:**

- Use only established trails. Do not make new ones.



#### 4. Firepits:

- Use existing firepits.
- Do not try to burn your garbage – remove it.
- Before leaving your campsite ensure all fires are extinguished. Do not fill in the firepit with sand.
- Burn only dead wood debris from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Observe all fire bans and the Provincial Burn Map. <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>.

#### 5. Wildlife:

- Be respectful of and try to minimize the stress on all wildlife.
- Note that there are osprey nests near some popular landing sites.

#### 6. Pets:

- Control and clean up after your pets at all times.
- Be aware that there are often nesting birds in the grass and on the shoreline.

#### 7. Anchoring:

- Do not set moorings – learn to anchor instead.
- Moorings restrict access and are contrary to everything **MICA** has worked for in acquiring these islands for all public use.
- Unattended or abandoned moorings are a hazard.

#### 8. Harmful Plants:

- There is evidence of Cow's Parsnip on some **MICA** islands which can be harmful to people or animals who come in contact with it. Please take adequate precautions.

#### 9. Neighbours:

- Be respectful and considerate of your neighbours, both on land and on water.

We thank you for your help and support in ensuring good stewardship of these islands. Please communicate these guidelines to your friends who use our islands and also encourage them to join **MICA** if they haven't already.

Please help us steward this magnificent resource by completing our [online MICA survey](#).

Thank you again for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

**MAHONE ISLANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 427 | Mahone Bay | Nova Scotia | B0J 2E0 | [www.mahoneislands.ns.ca](http://www.mahoneislands.ns.ca)**

*These guidelines are subject to change without notice.*

*June 2019*

## 2. MICA POSITION ON PRIVATE MOORINGS:

We wish to remind everyone of our position on private moorings around the **MICA** islands.

There have been a significant number of additional private moorings set around the **MICA** islands.

The **MICA** Board of Directors does not support these private moorings as communicated in our Islands Use Guidelines for the following reasons:

- a. Private moorings can restrict access to the shore.
- b. Unattended or abandoned moorings are a hazard.
- c. Private moorings 'stake a private claim' by the owner.
- d. Private moorings can and have led to confrontation on the water regarding their use.
- e. Most private moorings are set in preferred popular locations.
- f. Private moorings reduce space available for anchoring.
- g. Our islands have been used and enjoyed over many years without the need for private moorings.
- h. When soliciting for financial support to acquire these islands, **MICA** states that the islands will be left in their natural state.
- i. All **MICA** islands have Stewardship Agreements signed with the owner (either PNS or MODL) stating that the islands will be left in their natural state which includes the surrounding waters.
- j. Private moorings are contrary to everything **MICA** has worked for in acquiring these islands for all public use.
- k. If we do not address this now the number of private moorings will likely increase to the detriment of island users.
- l. Private moorings can be looked through the lens of being against the public good.

**MICA** would be pleased to put on an anchoring seminar.

Please help us keep our islands in their natural state.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ISSUE.**

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

1. Follow the **MICA** Islands Use Guidelines.
2. Help us steward this wonderful resource. Our desire is that all those who use our islands are island stewards.
3. Join **MICA**. Our desire is all those that enjoy our islands in any way are **MICA** members.

## 3. MICA ISLAND CHAMPION PROGRAM:

**MICA** has initiated an Island Champion program whereby each **MICA** island will have a Stewardship 'Champion'. The main responsibility is to conduct regular inspections on the islands relative to our Island Use Guidelines and to communicate back to the **MICA** Stewardship Committee. We plan to publicize the names of our Island Champions in the near future.

#### 4. MICA FACT SHEET:

##### **MICA MISSION:**

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**MICA WEB SITE:**                    [www.mahoneislands.ns.ca](http://www.mahoneislands.ns.ca)

##### **MICA FORMATION:**

- Formed by local residents in the fall of 2002 in response to the accelerated private development of many of the Mahone Bay islands.
- Registered non profit society with charitable status.
- Volunteer Board of Directors and volunteer work efforts.

##### **MICA PARTNERED ISLAND ACQUISITIONS and DONATIONS:** *(Reference photos on back)*

- **Andrews Island** - fall 2005
- **Backmans Island** - spring 2007
- **Covey Island** - spring 2007
- **Masons Island** (northern end) - fall 2007.
- **Long, Dry, Snipe and Centre Islands**- fall 2007 (donation by the Long Island Preservation Society)
- **Sacrifice Island** - spring 2009
- **Shag Island** - spring 2012
- **Bella Island** – fall 2013
- **Masons Island** (big cove and center) – fall 2014
- **Little Duck Island** – fall 2014
- **Squid Island** – spring 2015
- **Goat Island** – spring 2015 (donation by John McLennan family)
- **Zwicker Island property** – fall 2016 (donation by the Cluett family)
- **Zwicker Island property** – fall of 2016 (donation by the Court family)
- **Ernst Island property** – fall of 2016 (donation by the Reynolds family)
- **Snake, Lynch, Quaker Islands** – spring 2017, **MICA** financially supported NCC’s acquisition of these islands
- **Moland Point** lots - fall of 2017, donated to Municipality of Chester by the late Rudy Haase through **MICA**.
- **Sheep Island** – spring 2018. **MICA** has Stewardship responsibility of this NCC owned island

##### **MICA FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS ACQUISITIONS:**

- **MICA** has contributed over \$1,400,000 towards the acquisition of the above properties.

##### **MICA MEMBERSHIP:**

- **MICA**’s membership goal is that all who enjoy our islands are members. \$10 per person. \$200 life.

##### **MICA FUNDRAISING:**

- Annual Gala Fall Dinner and Auction. (GDA). This is our major annual fundraiser.
- Corporate Support program.
- Donations and financial campaigns for specific projects.

##### **ISLAND OWNERSHIP:**

- Ownership of acquired islands resides with our major funding partner, the Province of Nova Scotia for all properties with the exception of Mason’s northern end which is with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg; Little Duck Island for which **MICA** expects Marketable Title in Dec 2022; Snake, Lynch, Quaker and Sheep Islands with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC); and the Moland Point lots with the Municipality of Chester.

##### **ISLAND STEWARDSHIP:**

- **MICA** stewards the islands in partnership with the title holder to ensure their usage is monitored and respected.
- **MICA**’s stewardship goal is that the island users are the island stewards.

**OUR ISLANDS:**



*Andrews I*



*Masons I Northern end*



*Backmans I*



*Covey Island*



*Sacrifice Island*



*Long, Dry, Centre, Snipe*



*Shag Island*



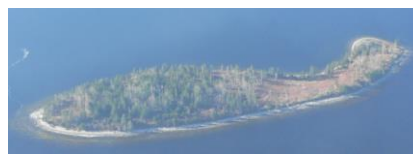
*Bella Island*



*Masons Island (big cove)*



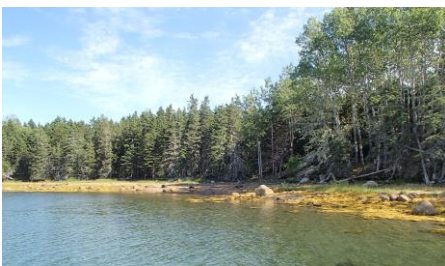
*Little Duck Island*



*Squid Island*



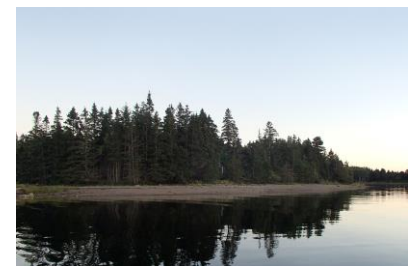
*Goat Island*



*Zwicker Island lot*



*Zwicker Island lot*



*Ernst Island lot*

*\*Not shown: Snake, Lynch, Quaker and Sheep Islands owned by NCC and Moland Point lots owned by Municipality of Chester.*

Thank you for your support,

**MAHONE ISLANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

[www.mahoneislands.ns.ca](http://www.mahoneislands.ns.ca)