

# THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST



(I01)



No.104

September to November 2001

**HFN** is incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act and holds Registered Charity status with Revenue Canada. Tax-creditable receipts will be issued for individual and corporate gifts. It is an affiliate of the Canadian Nature Federation and an organisational member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, the provincial umbrella association for naturalist groups in Nova Scotia.

**OBJECTIVES** are to encourage a greater appreciation and understanding of Nova Scotia's natural history, both within the membership of HFN and in the public at large. To represent the interests of naturalists by encouraging the conservation of Nova Scotia's natural resources.

**MEETINGS** are held, except for July and August, on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Meetings are open to the public.

**FIELD TRIPS** are held at least once a month, and it is appreciated if those travelling in someone else's car share the cost of the gas. All participants in HFN activities are responsible for their own safety. Everyone, member or not, is welcome to take part in field trips.

**HFN POST** Halifax Field Naturalists  
c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6  
**EMAIL** hfnexec@chebucto.ns.ca  
**WEBSITE** <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/FieldNaturalists/fieldnat.html>

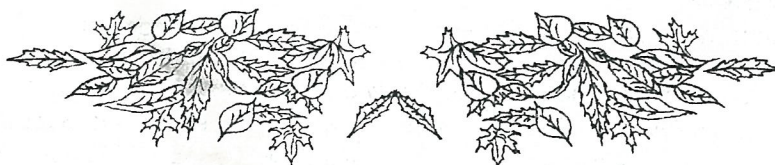
**FNSN POST** Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists  
c/o Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6  
**EMAIL** doug@fundymud.com (Doug Linzey, FNSN Newsletter Editor)  
**WEBSITE** <http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/hp-fnsn.html>

**MEMBERSHIP** is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Memberships are available at any meeting of the society, or by writing to: Membership Secretary, Halifax Field Naturalists, c/o NS Museum of Natural History. New memberships starting from 1 September will be valid until the end of the following membership year. The regular membership year is from 1 January to 31 December. Members receive the HFN Newsletter and notices of all meetings, field trips, and special programmes. The fees are as follows:

Individual	\$15.00 per year
Family	\$20.00 per year
Supporting	\$25.00 per year
FNSN (opt.)	\$ 5.00 per year

<b>EXECUTIVE</b> President .....	Bob MacDonald .....	443-5051
<b>2000-2001</b> Vice-President .....	Stephanie Robertson .....	422-6326
Treasurer .....	Janet Dalton .....	443-7617
Secretary .....	Harry Beach .....	469-4166
Past President .....	Ursula Grigg .....	455-8160

**DIRECTORS** Elliott Hayes, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Bernice Moores, Clarence Stevens, Colin Stewart



**Return address: HFN, c/o NS Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3A6**

# ALMANAC



This almanac is for the dates of events which are not found in our programme: for field trips or lectures which members might like to attend, or natural happenings to watch for, such as eclipses, comets, average migration dates, expected blooming seasons etc. Please suggest other suitable items.

## NATURAL EVENTS

- 2 Sept.** Full Moon – this is the 'Harvest Moon'.
  - 16 Sept.** Moon at perigee: expect large tides.
  - 22 Sept.** Autumnal Equinox at 20:04 ADT: Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere.
  - 30 Sept.** Average date for first frost in Halifax (i.e. Environment Canada says that there is only a 1:10 chance for frost before this date). Look forward to 210 days of frosty weather.
  - late Sept.-Nov.** Annual movement of Atlantic Saury (aka needlefish, *Scomberesox* sp.) through the Strait of Canso. Die-offs at the Causeway attract many birds.
  - 2 Oct.** Full Moon – this is the 'Hunter's Moon'.
  - 28 Oct.** Daylight savings time ends (clocks are set back one hour to standard time) at 2:00 a.m.
  - 1 Nov.** Full Moon.
  - early Nov.** Mercury is visible in the eastern pre-dawn sky; the best morning view of it this year.
  - 17-18 Nov.** Leonid Meteor Shower; best between midnight and dawn.
  - 22 Nov.** Daily minimum temperature goes below zero.
  - 30 Nov.** Full Moon.
  - 7 Dec.** Daily average temperature goes below zero.
  - 4-14 Dec.** Earliest sunset of the year at 4:34 :00 a.m.
  - 13-14 Dec.** Geminid Meteor Shower.
  - 21 Dec.** Winter Solstice at 15:19 AST: Winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere. But though the temperature drops, the days begin to lengthen.
  - 30 Dec.** Full Moon.
- Sources: Atmospheric Environment Service, Climate Normals 1951-80 Halifax (Shearwater A) N.S.; Blomidon Naturalists Society's 2001 Calendar; and Colombo's Canadian Global Almanac, 2001.

## SUNRISE AND SUNSET ON EARLY FALL AND WINTER SATURDAYS

1 Sept.	6:37	19:51	6 Oct.	7:18	18:46
8 Sept.	6:45	19:38	13 Oct.	7:27	18:33
15 Sept.	6:53	19:25	20 Oct.	7:36	18:21
22 Sept.	7:02	19:12	27 Oct.	7:46	18:10
29 Sept.	7:10	18:58			
3 Nov.	6:55	17:00	1 Dec.	7:31	16:35
10 Nov.	7:05	16:52	8 Dec.	7:39	16:34
17 Nov.	7:14	16:44	15 Dec.	7:45	16:35
24 Nov.	7:23	16:39	22 Dec.	7:49	16:37
			29 Dec.	7:51	16:42

– courtesy of David Lane, Burke-Gaffney Observatory, Saint Mary's University

## ORGANISATIONAL EVENTS

**Blomidon Naturalists Society:** Indoor meetings take place on the third Monday of the month at Room 241 in the Beveridge Arts Centre, Acadia University, 7:30 p.m. Field trips usually depart from the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front St., Wolfville. For more information, go to: <<http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm>>.

- 17 Sep.** "Nova Scotian Rivers at Risk – Cry Me a River", with speaker Bob Bancroft.
- 15 Oct.** "Thousand Eyes: Watching Nova Scotia Nature", with speaker Elizabeth Kilvert.

**Burke-Gaffney Observatory:** Public shows at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory at Saint Mary's University are held, weather permitting, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, except from June through September when they are held every Saturday. Tours begin at 7:00 p.m. between November 1 and March 30 and at either 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. (depending upon when it gets dark) between April 1 and October 31. For more information, phone 496-8257; or go to: <<http://apwww.stmarys.ca/bgo/>>.

**Friends of McNabs Island:** for more information call Cathy McCarthy, 434-2254; or Mike Tilley, 465-4563; or go to: <<http://chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FOMIS/>>.

**9 Sept.** "McNabs and Lawlor Islands Paddle and Cleanup".

**14 Oct.** "McNabs Island Fall Foliage Tours".

**Nova Scotia Bird Society:** Indoor meetings take place on the fourth Thursday of the month, October to April, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 8:00 p.m. For more information phone Peter Richard 463-5612 or 852-2428 (recording); or go to: <<http://chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc/>>.

**29 Sept.** "Eastern Shore", with leader Peter Richard, 463-5612.

**6-8 Oct.** "Brier Island", with leader Fulton Lavender, 455-4966.

**7 Oct.** "Cape Sable Island", with Murray Newell, 745-3340; or go to: <[murcar@klis.com](mailto:murcar@klis.com)>.

**25 Oct.** Annual General Meeting.

**3 Nov.** "The Pubnicos", with leader Gisele d'Entremont, 422-7739.

**23 Nov.** "Out-of Metro", meeting in Antigonish, with speaker Tony Erskine.

**24 Nov.** "Antigonish Area", with leader Randy Lauff, 867-2471; or go to: <[rlauff@stfx.ca](mailto:rlauff@stfx.ca)>.

**1 Dec.** "Cape Sable Island", with leader Murray Newell, 745-334; or go to: <[murcar@klis.com](mailto:murcar@klis.com)>.

**Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History:** For more information phone 424-6099, or 424-7353; or go to: <<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/>>.

**12 Sep.-6 Dec.** "Plants for People: A Historical and Contemporary Review of Economic Botany", a course offered by MSVU and the NSMNH. To register, contact the Registrar, MSVU, at 457-6117.

**30 Sept.** "Discover Nova Scotia – the Ultimate Nature Guide". This new book by Gary Saunders will be launched at Word on the Street, Pier 20.

**14 Oct.** "Landscaping with Native Plants", with Gary Schneider of the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project in Orwell, PEI. Co-sponsored by Clean Nova Scotia Foundation.

**17 Oct.** "The Making of The Last Billion Years", with speakers Rob Fensome and Graham Williams of the Geological Survey of Canada.

**20 Oct.** "Fall Colours Walk: Hike the Wetlands Trail at Mount Uniacke".

**20 Oct.** "Fall Colours Walk: Hike the Red Spruce Trail at Mount Uniacke", with museum botanist Alex Wilson.

**21 Oct.** "Mushroom Meander at Kentville Ravine", with Museum botanist Marian Munro.

**21 Oct.** "Mastodon Anniversary". Celebrate the 10th anniversary of this N.S. discovery with Bob Grantham, Exec. Director, Johnson Geo Centre in St. John's, Nfld, and former curator of geology at the Museum.

**3-4 Nov.** "Orchid Society Fall Show & Sale".

**3 Nov.-17 Feb.** "Belugas – the Next Wave", a scientific exhibit on the beluga whales of the St. Lawrence.

**21 Nov.** "The Maritimes Mosaic", with geologist Sandra Barr from Acadia University.

#### **Nova Scotia Nature Trust**

**20 Oct.** "Fourth Annual Dinner and Silent Auction", at Halifax's Lord Nelson Hotel. Guest speaker will be **Robert Bateman**.

**Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society:** Meets fourth Monday of the month, September to May, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 7:30 p.m. For more information phone Heather Drope, 423-7032; or go to: <<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~nswfs/programme.htm>>.

**24 Sept.** "West Coast and Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland", with speaker Heather Drope.

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Halifax Chapter):** Meets third Friday of each month at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 8:00 p.m. For more information, go to: <<http://halifax.rasc.ca/>>.

– compiled by Patricia L. Chalmers

# HALIFAX TIDE TABLE

## October-octobre

## November-novembre

## December-décembre

October-octobre			November-novembre			December-décembre												
Day	Time	Feet Metres	jour	heure	pieds metres	Day	Time	Feet Metres	jour	heure	pieds metres	Day	Time	Feet Metres	jour	heure	pieds metres	
<b>1</b>	0120	1.0	<b>16</b>	0125	0.3	<b>1</b>	0150	1.3	<b>16</b>	0240	1.0	<b>1</b>	0200	1.6	<b>16</b>	0305	1.6	0.5
MO	0725	5.6	TU	0715	6.6	TH	0755	5.9	FR	0820	6.6	SA	0755	6.2	SU	0840	6.2	1.9
LU	1340	1.3	MA	1355	0.3	JE	1420	1.0	VE	1510	0.3	SA	1440	0.7	SU	1530	0.7	0.2
	1940	5.6	MA	1940	6.2	JE	2020	5.6	VE	2055	5.9	SA	2035	5.9	DI	2125	5.6	1.7
<b>2</b>	0155	1.0	<b>17</b>	0210	0.3	<b>2</b>	0225	1.3	<b>17</b>	0325	1.3	<b>2</b>	0245	1.6	<b>17</b>	0345	2.0	0.6
TU	0800	5.6	TU	0800	6.6	FR	0825	6.2	SA	0900	6.2	SU	0835	6.2	MO	0925	6.2	1.9
MA	1415	1.3	WE	1445	0.3	FR	1500	0.7	SA	1555	0.7	SU	1520	0.7	MO	1610	1.0	0.3
	2015	5.6	ME	2030	6.2	VE	2100	5.6	SA	2140	5.9	DI	2120	5.9	LU	2205	5.6	1.7
<b>3</b>	0225	1.0	<b>18</b>	0300	0.7	<b>3</b>	0305	1.6	<b>18</b>	0410	1.6	<b>3</b>	0330	1.6	<b>18</b>	0425	2.3	0.7
WE	0830	5.9	TH	0845	6.6	SA	0905	6.2	SU	0945	6.2	MO	0920	6.2	TU	1010	5.9	1.8
ME	1445	1.0	TH	1530	0.3	SA	1540	0.7	SU	1640	1.0	MO	1610	0.7	TU	1650	1.3	0.4
	2050	5.6	JE	2115	6.2	SA	2140	5.6	DI	2225	5.6	LU	2205	5.9	MA	2250	5.6	1.7
<b>4</b>	0255	1.3	<b>19</b>	0350	1.0	<b>4</b>	0345	1.6	<b>19</b>	0500	2.0	<b>4</b>	0420	2.0	<b>19</b>	0510	2.3	0.7
TH	0905	5.9	FR	0930	6.6	TH	0940	5.9	MO	1030	5.9	TU	1005	6.2	WE	1050	5.6	1.7
JE	1520	1.0	FR	1620	0.3	SU	1625	1.0	MO	1725	1.3	TU	1700	0.7	WE	1730	1.3	0.4
	2125	5.6	VE	2205	5.9	DI	2220	5.6	LU	2310	5.6	MA	2250	5.9	ME	2330	5.2	1.6
<b>5</b>	0330	1.3	<b>20</b>	0440	1.3	<b>5</b>	0430	2.0	<b>20</b>	0555	2.3	<b>5</b>	0525	2.0	<b>20</b>	0600	2.6	0.8
FR	0935	5.9	SA	1010	6.2	MO	1025	5.9	TU	1115	5.6	WE	1055	5.9	TH	1135	5.6	1.7
VE	1600	1.0	SA	1710	0.7	LU	1715	1.0	MA	1820	1.3	ME	1800	1.0	TH	1820	1.6	0.5
	2200	5.6	SA	2250	5.6	LU	2305	5.6	MA			ME	2340	5.6	JE			
<b>6</b>	0405	1.6	<b>21</b>	0535	1.6	<b>6</b>	0535	2.0	<b>21</b>	0000	5.2	<b>6</b>	0635	2.0	<b>21</b>	0015	5.2	1.6
SA	1010	5.9	SU	1055	5.9	TU	1110	5.9	WE	0650	2.6	TH	1150	5.9	FR	0655	2.6	0.8
SA	1640	1.3	SU	1805	1.0	MA	1815	1.3	WE	1205	5.2	TH	1900	1.0	FR	1220	5.2	1.6
	2240	5.2	DI	2335	5.2	MA	2350	5.2	ME	1910	1.6	JE			VE	1905	1.6	0.5
<b>7</b>	0450	1.6	<b>22</b>	0630	2.0	<b>7</b>	0645	2.3	<b>22</b>	0050	4.9	<b>7</b>	0035	5.6	<b>22</b>	0105	5.2	1.6
SU	1045	5.6	MO	1145	5.6	WE	1200	5.6	TH	0750	2.6	FR	0740	2.0	SA	0745	2.6	0.8
DI	1735	1.3	MO	1900	1.3	ME	1920	1.3	TH	1255	4.9	VE	1245	5.6	SA	1310	4.9	1.5
	2320	5.2	LU			ME			JE	2000	1.6	VE	2000	1.0	SA	1950	2.0	0.6
<b>8</b>	0540	2.0	<b>23</b>	0025	4.9	<b>8</b>	0050	5.2	<b>23</b>	0150	4.9	<b>8</b>	0140	5.6	<b>23</b>	0155	4.9	1.5
MO	1130	5.6	TU	0735	2.3	TH	0755	2.3	FR	0845	2.6	SA	0845	1.6	SU	0840	2.3	0.7
LU	1835	1.3	TU	1235	5.2	JE	1300	5.2	VE	1355	4.9	SA	1350	5.2	SU	1405	4.6	1.4
			MA	1955	1.6	JE	2020	1.3	VE	2050	2.0	SA	2055	1.0	DI	2040	2.0	0.6
<b>9</b>	0005	4.9	<b>24</b>	0125	4.9	<b>9</b>	0200	5.2	<b>24</b>	0300	4.9	<b>9</b>	0250	5.6	<b>24</b>	0255	4.9	1.5
TU	0650	2.3	TH	0830	2.3	FR	0900	2.0	SA	0935	2.3	SU	0945	1.6	MO	0930	2.3	0.7
MA	1215	5.6	WE	1335	4.9	VE	1410	5.2	SA	1510	4.6	SU	1510	5.2	MO	1515	4.6	1.4
	1935	1.3	ME	2050	1.6	VE	2120	1.0	SA	2140	2.0	DI	2155	1.0	LU	2130	2.0	0.6
<b>10</b>	0100	4.9	<b>25</b>	0235	4.6	<b>10</b>	0315	5.6	<b>25</b>	0400	4.9	<b>10</b>	0355	5.9	<b>25</b>	0350	5.2	1.6
WE	0800	2.3	TH	0930	2.3	SA	1000	1.6	SU	1025	2.3	MO	1040	1.3	TU	1020	2.0	0.6
ME	1315	5.2	TH	1445	4.9	SA	1530	5.2	SU	1615	4.9	MO	1620	5.2	TU	1620	4.6	1.4
	2040	1.3	JE	2145	1.6	SA	2215	1.0	DI	2225	2.0	LU	2255	1.3	MA	2220	2.0	0.6
<b>11</b>	0210	4.9	<b>26</b>	0355	4.9	<b>11</b>	0420	5.9	<b>26</b>	0450	5.2	<b>11</b>	0450	5.9	<b>26</b>	0435	5.2	1.6
TH	0905	2.0	FR	1020	2.3	SU	1100	1.3	MO	1110	2.0	TU	1140	1.0	WE	1110	1.6	0.5
JE	1425	5.2	FR	1600	4.9	SU	1640	5.6	MO	1710	4.9	TU	1725	5.6	WE	1710	4.9	1.5
	2140	1.0	VE	2235	1.6	DI	2315	1.0	LU	2310	2.0	MA	2350	1.3	ME	2315	2.0	0.6
<b>12</b>	0335	5.2	<b>27</b>	0455	4.9	<b>12</b>	0515	6.2	<b>27</b>	0530	5.6	<b>12</b>	0540	6.2	<b>27</b>	0520	5.6	1.7
FR	1010	1.6	SA	1110	2.0	MO	1155	1.0	TU	1155	1.6	WE	1230	0.7	TH	1200	1.3	0.4
VE	1545	5.2	SA	1700	4.9	LU	1740	5.9	TU	1755	5.2	WE	1815	5.6	TH	1800	5.2	1.6
	2240	1.0	SA	2320	1.6	LU			MA	2355	1.6	ME			JE			
<b>13</b>	0445	5.6	<b>28</b>	0535	5.2	<b>13</b>	0010	0.7	<b>28</b>	0605	5.9	<b>13</b>	0045	1.3	<b>28</b>	0005	2.0	0.6
SA	1110	1.3	SU	1155	2.0	TU	0605	6.6	WE	1235	1.3	TH	0625	6.2	FR	0605	5.9	1.8
SA	1655	5.6	SU	1750	5.2	TU	1250	0.7	WE	1835	5.2	TH	1320	0.7	FR	1250	1.0	0.3
	2335	0.7	DI			MA	1835	5.9	ME			JE	1905	5.9	VE	1845	5.2	1.6
<b>14</b>	0540	5.9	<b>29</b>	0005	1.6	<b>14</b>	0105	0.7	<b>29</b>	0040	1.6	<b>14</b>	0135	1.3	<b>29</b>	0055	1.6	0.5
SU	1210	1.0	MO	0615	5.6	WE	0650	6.6	TH	0640	5.9	FR	0715	6.2	SA	0645	6.2	1.9
DI	1755	5.9	MO	1230	1.6	ME	1340	0.3	TH	1315	1.0	VE	1405	0.3	SA	1335	0.7	0.2
			LU	1830	5.2	ME	1925	6.2	JE	1915	5.6	SA	1955	5.9	SA	1930	5.6	1.7
<b>15</b>	0030	0.3	<b>30</b>	0040	1.3	<b>15</b>	0155	1.0	<b>30</b>	0120	1.6	<b>15</b>	0220	1.6	<b>30</b>	0140	1.6	0.5
MO	0630	6.2	TU	0650	5.6	TH	0735	6.6	FR	0720	6.2	SA	0755	6.2	SU	0730	6.6	2.0
LU	1305	0.7	TU	1310	1.3	TH	1425	0.3	FR	1355	0.7	SA	1450	0.7	SU	1420	0.3	0.1
	1850	6.2	MA	1910	5.6	JE	2010	6.2	VE	1955	5.6	SA	2040	5.9	DI	2015	5.9	1.8
			<b>31</b>	0115	1.3										<b>31</b>	0225	1.6	0.5
				0720	5.9											0820	6.6	2.0
				1345	1.0											1505	0.3	0.1
				1945	5.6											2105	5.9	1.8