



2017 Annual Report

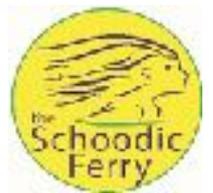


Photo by Julie Goodblood Clark

Dear Community Members,

It is our pleasure and honor to share Frenchman Bay Research Boating's 2017 Annual Report with you. We thank you for your generous support. Without such dedicated members of our community, a project of this size would not be possible.

2017 was a year in which you provided each of us the opportunity to witness the power of community, and the loving change people working together towards a common goal can realize. While the 2016 season left many challenges for Frenchman Bay Research Boating and our Schoodic Ferry service, we were able to overcome those challenges thanks entirely to the outpouring of support from the communities we serve. We held our first community fundraiser, the "Float the Boat Silent Auction" in February, raising enough funding to support spring repairs. As the snow melted in March, volunteers arrived in the boatyard, giving of their time, expertise, and significant skill sets to fix damage caused by 2016 vandalism events. Both the Schoodic Ferry's transmissions were replaced or rebuilt, both propellers were reconditioned, an entire strut was repaired, tested and re-bedded, and several electrical repairs were undertaken to replace the damage of slashed wires. By June, the Schoodic Ferry was able to launch again, starting our second season transporting passengers across Frenchman Bay while simultaneously conducting environmental baseline monitoring research.

This report will highlight how each of you helped Frenchman Bay Research Boating continue to offer affordable, sustainable, environmentally friendly public ferry services across Frenchman Bay. By transporting 8,182 one-way passengers, their 2,142 bicycles and their numerous pets between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor in 2017, the Schoodic Ferry positively impacts the economy on both sides of Frenchman Bay. In addition, by keeping fares affordable, we encourage visitors to utilize affordable public transit, bicycles, and their feet as they explore Acadia National Park and its surrounding communities. Finally, by integrating public transit services with long-term marine environmental monitoring studies, we are able reduce the cost of transit to each passenger, reduce the cost of maintaining environmental monitoring studies to local research institutions, and simultaneously provide a unique and engaging experience aboard our ferries that opens the hearts and minds of each passenger to the wonder and inherent value of our marine environment.

In this report you can read about the Schoodic Ferry's offseason preparations, its second season of service, and the immense strides made in its environmental baseline monitoring programs and onboard passenger education programs during 2017. Because of the incredible commitment of community volunteers, community partners and community support, the Schoodic Ferry not only operated during its second season, it thrived.

Thanks to your generous support, Frenchman Bay Research Boating is poised to change the very definition of what a ferry is, and how much value a ferry can offer, to its port communities. Thank you so much for teaching each of us the incredible power of a community during this past year,

Kaitlyn Mullen, Executive Director

Whitey Carpenter, Chairman

Mission

Frenchman Bay Research Boating is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to providing affordable, sustainable, reliable ferry services that simultaneously add value to the communities we serve by helping local researchers monitor the health and well being of Frenchman Bay and its inhabitants en route.

Perhaps most importantly, Frenchman Bay Research Boating endeavors for our ferry services to act as invisible “bridges across the Bay,” creating the kind of passenger experience that connects people and communities in new and different ways. Fostering economic growth, increasing access to affordable housing, increasing access to essential public services, developing sustainable environmental monitoring programs, encouraging visitors to explore Acadia National Park via bike or foot, and fostering curiosity and awareness of our marine environment, particularly in younger passengers, are all organizational priorities.

Staff

Many of our staff were among the first individuals to step in, voluntarily to cutting their own wages to offset the financial burden of recovering from 2016 vandalism. Thanks to Executive Director Kaitlyn Mullen, Logistics Coordinator Sarah Jackson, and returning seasonal staff members Patricia Allen and Sarah Markwood, and new staff members Esther Shinn, and Ite Sullivan for volunteering all of their time in the boatyard and during offseason preparations to help ensure the Schoodic Ferry continued operating in 2017.

In addition, Frenchman Bay Research Boating welcomed Delanie Jones, Lilian MacNeish, Hannah Miller, James Ross, and Grady Wellman-Webster as new seasonal staff members in 2017. Lilian, Hannah, Esther and Ite added life to the Schoodic Ferry service, acting as both ticket sales staff and maritime crew. All four young women earned qualifying small vessel sea service time, aiding them in their pursuit of captain’s licenses. Delanie and Grady worked as ticket sales staff, with Delanie also contributing to the Schoodic Ferry’s social media and advertising campaigns. Finally, James became the Schoodic Ferry’s second captain late this fall.



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

Sarah Jackson steering the rebuilt starboard transmission into the engine room.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the beating heart of any non-profit organization, but in 2017 we believe our volunteers became an inseparable part of Frenchman Bay Research Boating's organizational soul as well. Volunteers contributed to all aspects of planning for, preparing, and operating our Schoodic Ferry service in 2017.



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

Lee Transmission moving the starboard transmission in their shop.



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

Benton Shattenberg prepping the Katie Grace for bottom paint..



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

Ite Sullivan and Esther Shinn prepping for launch.

Maritime Volunteers

In 2017, Frenchman Bay Research Boating welcomed our first maritime volunteers, Vicki Hall and Benton Shattenberg. Both volunteered their time, maritime expertise, and local knowledge as deckhands one day a week, all season long.

In addition, several local marine mechanics, electricians and companies gave of their time, services, and spare parts to assist us as we rebuilt the Schoodic Ferry's transmissions, reconditioned propellers, repaired and rebuilt struts, and performed the proper USCG certification tests in order to help the Schoodic Ferry float again in 2017. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Acadian Boat Tours, Jonathan Barnes, Levi Carpenter, Downeast Diesel, John Williams Boat Company, Lee Transmission, Will Morey, Jonathan Mullen, Nautilus Marine Fabrication, Thomas Palenchas, and David Spear for cold weekends spent in the boatyard with us, instead of home with their families.



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

Levi Carpenter and Jon Mullen taking the starboard transmission apart.

Operational Volunteers

To build a great organization, you need great people. At Frenchman Bay Research Boating, we are fortunate to celebrate every major event with an influx of enthusiastic volunteers. Special thanks to Russell Allen, Jonathan Barnes, Maxine Benson, Diana Crosson, Jimmy Dugan, Roger Hendricks, Jonathan Mullen, Suzie Seavey, Rosemary Seton, Angelina Sharpe and the Tricia Mason Band for helping to make the Schoodic Ferry a success in 2017.



Photo by Rosemary Seton

The Tricia Mason Band performing at the Float the Boat Silent Auction.



Photo by Rosemary Seton

Silent Auction items arranged by Diana Crosson, Jonathan Mullen, and Suzie Seavey.



Photo by Jonathan Barnes

Kaitlyn Mullen, Sarah Jackson and Whitey Carpenter loading the port transmission into truck for transport to New Jersey.



Photo by Rosemary Seton

Maxine Benson and Angelina Sharpe working the door for the Float the Boat Silent Auction.

Scientific Volunteers

In 2017, Frenchman Bay Research Boating also welcomed our first international volunteer, as well as an all-volunteer science core. International Protected Species Observer Clare Echlin volunteered her time between offshore rotations in June and July to help standardize our marine mammal surveys. Her work continued as volunteers Sarah Markwood and Maggie Stack, and Schoodic Ferry Intern Ite Sullivan utilized her techniques to collect data August and September. In addition, volunteer Gemma Venuti helped post-process Schoodic Ferry data, creating beautiful GIS visualizations of recorded sightings.



Photo by Clare Echlin

Harbor porpoise recorded off Ned Island, July 2017.



Photo by Clare Echlin

Harbor seal recorded off Turtle Island, June 2017.



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

Returning 2016 Schoodic Ferry intern Sarah Markwood recording data during a pelagic bird surveys.



Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen

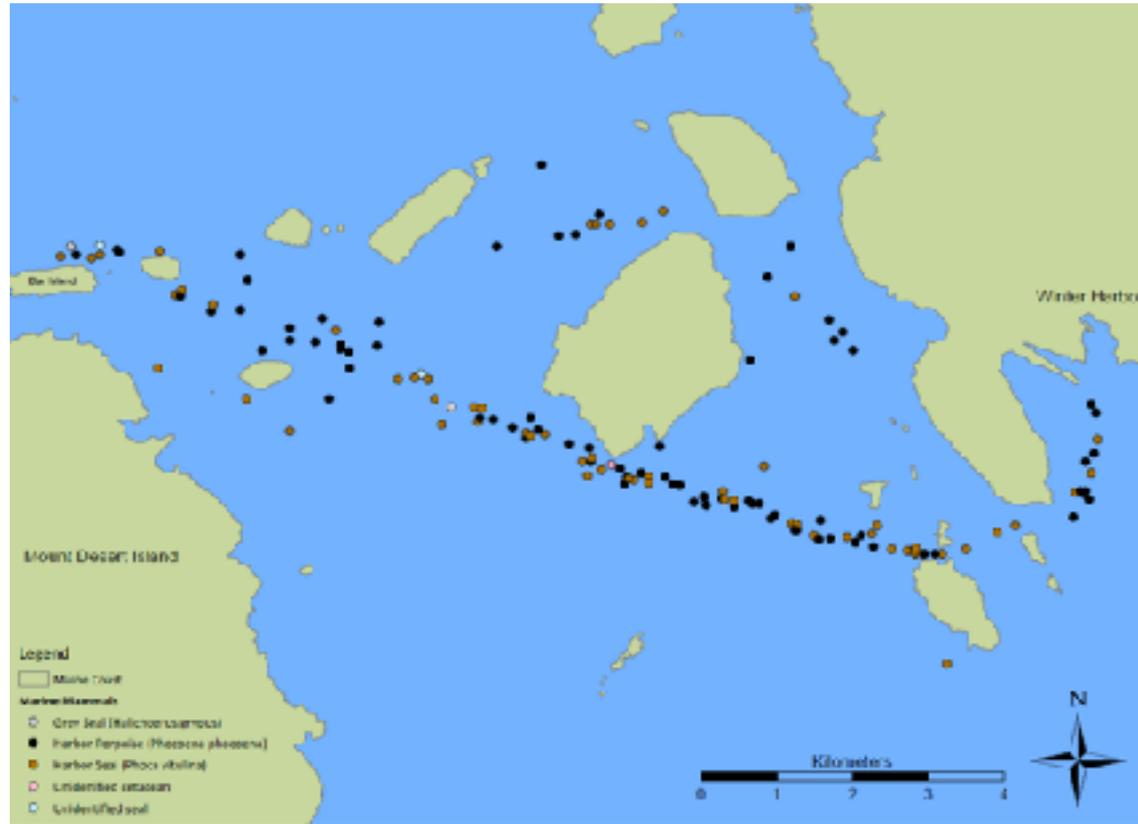
Programs: Schoodic Ferry Service

The Schoodic Ferry is an innovative new idea on how much a ferry can offer its customers. Integrating environmental baseline monitoring research into passenger ferry service not only helps keep cross-Bay transit and long-term monitoring research affordable, it also provides unique passenger experiences, helping foster awareness of the Gulf of Maine environment.

Science & Monitoring

During 2017, International Protected Species Observer Clare Echlin donated her time in June and July to train volunteer observers, local students, and Schoodic Ferry staff in Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Guidelines, enabling data collected for the Schoodic Ferry's visual marine mammal surveys to be integrated in global databases, making this data useful to a large portion of the scientific community.

Clare, along with a host of other volunteer observers, conducted visual marine mammal surveys 5-10 times daily and conducted visual pelagic bird surveys 2 times daily aboard the Schoodic Ferry in 2017. Returning 2016 Schoodic Ferry intern Sarah Markwood also refined her zooplankton survey data collection protocol, collected test data in September 2017. Finally, 2017 Schoodic Ferry intern Ite Sullivan and volunteer observer Maggie Stack continued seasonal surveys through September, maximizing the amount of data collected aboard the Schoodic Ferry in 2017.



Raw map of preliminary sightings data collected during marine mammal visual surveys June – July 2017.

Science Education

In addition to expanding the Schoodic Ferry's scientific monitoring programs, in 2017 Frenchman Bay Research Boating had the opportunity to host a variety of marine science education programs onboard. Sixth grade students from Bangor, ME and the Houlton Arms Girls School, middle school students from Torah Camps, high school students participating in Studio 365, adult students in John Hopkins University summer programs, and undergraduate students from the University of Maine's marine mammals class all had the opportunity to participate in dedicated onboard marine science education and survey data collection. Finally, in 2017 the Schoodic Ferry experienced another first; that of hosting researcher training sessions for new staff members of the Maine Environmental Research Institute as they came to learn JNCC data collection techniques from Clare Echlin.

While conducting these programs was a first for the Schoodic Ferry in 2017, with funding received from the Schoodic Community Fund and the Morton Kelly Charitable Trust these programs will extend at least in part to all Schoodic Ferry passengers in 2018, increasing our ability to offer experiential marine science learning to passengers of all ages and backgrounds.



Photo by Torah Camps

Returning 2016 Schoodic Ferry intern Sarah Markwood leading an onboard discussion of JNCC marine mammal visual survey data collection techniques with students from Torah Camps.



Photo by University of Maine

University of Maine's fall 2017 undergraduate marine mammals class, with professor Kristina Cammen, visiting the Schoodic Marine Center after learning JNCC data collection techniques aboard the Schoodic Ferry, September 2017.

Community Events

In 2017, the Schoodic Ferry had the pleasure of adding two new community events to our season. In February, Frenchman Bay Research Boating hosted our first community fundraiser, the Float the Boat Silent Auction. Over 50 area merchants and donors supplied items, and 136 community members joined the party. Thanks to all for a lovely and successful night!



Photo by Rosemary Seton

Participants bidding on items at the Float the Boat Silent Auction in Bar Harbor.



Photo by Winter Harbor Lobster Race Committee

A close finish at the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races in August 2017.

July 4th Fireworks Cruise

In July the Schoodic Ferry was able once again to offer a Fireworks Cruise to Bar Harbor, making this our first annually occurring community event. Thanks so much to Bar Harbor harbormaster Charlie Phippen for making sure our passengers had a front row mooring for the show!

Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races

In August the Schoodic Ferry was absolutely thrilled to be offered the opportunity to be the judge boat for the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races. This not only allowed our staff a front row view of all the action, it was a wonderful way to get to know our community better!

Thanks so much to the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Race Committee and the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Race Sponsors for allowing us to participate in this unique Winter Harbor event. We would not have missed it for the world.

Funding the Schoodic Ferry

At Frenchman Bay Research Boating, we are grateful for the immense amount of public support received in 2017. In February, we hosted our first community fundraiser, the “Float the Boat Silent Auction.” In addition, this year saw an incredible outpouring of skills, services, boat parts and goods as community members and local businesses gave what they had to help us overcome the effects of 2016 vandalism. Grants continued to be a source of support, purchasing much needed safety and research equipment for our volunteer scientists. Finally, we were simply overwhelmed by the amount of financial support we received from individuals in 2017. Thank you for your generosity, and for helping us make the Schoodic Ferry’s second season such a success.



Photo by Ite Sullivan

The Schoodic Ferry docked at the Schoodic Marine Center in Winter Harbor.



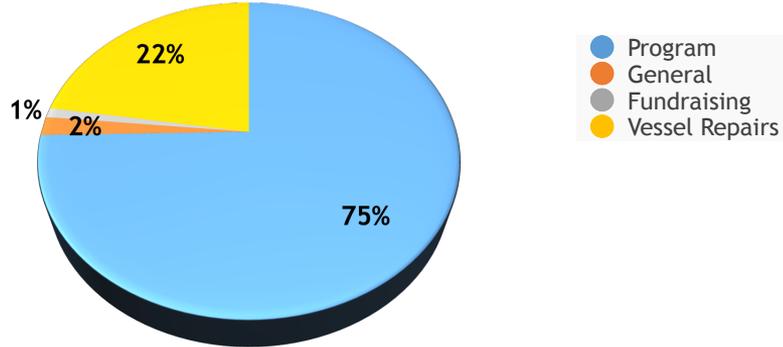
Photo by Clare Echlin

Frenchman Bay scenery featured aboard our sunset cruises.

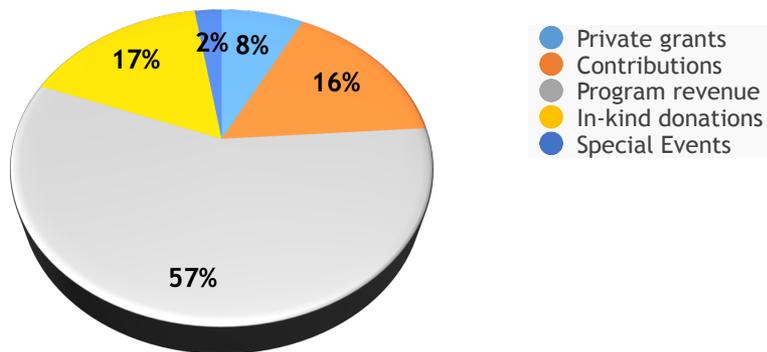
2017 Financial Summary:

Statement of Financial Position: December 31, 2017

2017 Expenses



2017 Revenue



ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,427
Grants and accounts receivable	\$ -
Other current assets	<u>\$ 4,200</u>
Total Current Assets	\$13,627

Property and equipment, net \$ - -

TOTAL ASSETS \$13,627

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 5,000
Deferred revenue	\$ -
Accrued payroll and related expenses	\$ 973
Security Deposits	<u>\$ - -</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,973

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$ 154
Temporary Restricted	<u>\$ 7,500</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 7,654

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$13,627

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	2017 <u>Total</u>	2016 <u>Total</u>	2015 <u>Total</u>
Revenue:			
Federal and state support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Private grants	\$ 11,574	\$ 18,250	\$ -
Contributions	\$ 25,162	\$ 13,295	\$ 20,791
Program revenue	\$ 87,862	\$ 80,225	\$ -
In-kind donations	\$ 25,490	\$ 4,901	\$ -
Interest income	\$ 5	\$ 6	\$ 1
Special events income	\$ 3,800	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 153,893	\$ 116,667	\$20,792
Expenses:			
Program	\$ 107,873	\$ 152,246	\$ 2,020
General and administrative	\$ 2,737	\$ 13,440	\$ 1,230
Fundraising	\$ 1,410	\$ 270	\$ 98
Vessel Acquisition	\$ -	\$ 17,488	\$ 8,000
Vessel repairs	<u>\$ 32,419</u>	<u>\$ 18,018</u>	<u>\$ - -</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 144,439	\$ 201,462	\$ 11,348
Change in net assets	\$ 9,454	\$(84,795)	\$ 9,444
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$ (75,531)</u>	<u>\$ 9,444</u>	<u>\$ - -</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ (65,897)</u>	<u>\$ (75,351)</u>	<u>\$ 9,444</u>

2017 Contributors

\$5,000+

Frenchman Bay Boating
Company
Jonathan & Kaitlyn Mullen
Google
Morton Kelly Charitable Trust
Roxanne Quimby

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Acadian Boat Tours
Fletcher Allen & Kira Tanner
Russell & Patricia Allen
Jonathan Carter
J.M. Gerrish Café' & Ice
Cream Parlor
John Williams Boat Company
Little Anthony's Sports Bar
& Pizzeria
Nautilus Marine Fabrication
Pulse Marketing
Schoodic Community Fund
Seascape Kayak & Bicycle
Rental
Tuesdi Woodworth

\$500 - \$999

Dianna Crosson
Elsa's Inn
Frenchman Bay Partners
Environmental Stewardship
Award
Friends of Acadia
Tom Hitchins
Machias Savings Bank
The Tricia Mason Band
Winter Harbor Lobster Co-op



Photo by Sarah Jackson



Photo by Jonathan Mullen



Photo by Schoodic Ferry Passenger

2017 Board of Directors

Jeremiah Zelina, Treasurer
Gary Fagan, Vice Chairman
Kaitlyn Mullen, Secretary
Whitey Carpenter, Chairman

2017 Year Round Staff

Kaitlyn Mullen, Executive Director
Sarah Jackson, Logistics Coordinator
Ite Sullivan, Intern

*** also pictured, volunteer Protected Species Observer Clare Echlin***



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www.frenchmanbayresearchboating.org
www.schoodicferry.com

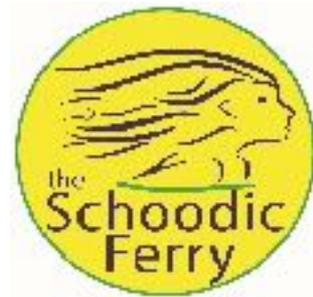


Photo by Kaitlyn Mullen