

**Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
August, 2008**

Well here it is, the end of August and as some people view it, the end of the summer. It is hard to believe that a new school term will be starting in a week, The weather was quite unlike a typical summer in Victoria County and lately, I have been referring to it as the “non-summer”.

Despite the inclement weather, the Heritage and Archives was still kept busy with visitors and other activities. There was a steady flow of visitors throughout August and in most cases, people were trying to search out their family connections. This is the time of year for the “genealogical visitor”.

One annual event which I participated in was the “Communities in Bloom” contest which took place on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> of August. Fortunately, for the organizers of the judging segment of this event, the weather actually co-operated and it did not rain! This is the fourth year for the village to participate in the contest. Last year, Baddeck was awarded five out of five blooms at the Provincial level. This year the village decided to compete at the National level. The judges were Donna McIlmoyle from Ontario and Lucy Chang from Alberta. These two ladies were given the tour of the village as well as the Municipal Transfer Station and the Village Waste Water Treatment facility. As in the past, I was along to provide commentary on the historical aspect of Baddeck with regard to its beginnings and also, the built heritage which still exists within the village. The results of the judging will be made known toward the end of September.

The 2008 Municipal Election is fast approaching and deadlines are looming with regard to filing nomination papers. A great deal of time of late has been spent on finalizing voters lists, etc. The deadline to file nomination papers for both council and school board is Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September before 5 p.m. After that, we will know what districts will be contested in the election which will be held on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October.

The building featured in the latest issue of the “The Victoria Standard” was the former MacRae house which had been located on the Bentinck Farm across the Baddeck River from Big Farm. The property was once occupied for a short time by Capt. William Bentinck who arrived around the same time as Jonathan Jones in the late 1700’s. He returned to England in order to find a wife and did not return. The name “Bentinck”, however still exists to this day as a branch of the MacRae’s in and around the area are still referred to as the Bentincks. This house which originally belonged to the MacRae’s is no longer standing.

The Iona Connection Board took a summer break and did not have any meetings. The semi-annual Fall meeting for the entire membership will be held toward the end of October – location not yet finalized, however, the board will be meeting September and I will be able to provide the details for the Fall meeting next month. Anyone with an

interest in the heritage and culture of Cape Breton is most welcome to attend and new members are always being sought. The Iona Connection provides a network which is available to assist either associations or individuals in their historic endeavours.

That is the news from the Heritage and Archives for the month of August. Lets all hope that September will be more summer-like than the past month.