

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
November, 2008

With only a few days left in November, it is time, once again to write the monthly newsletter.

It was quite a busy month with a lot of things happening.

The death of John Graham MacInnes, Councillor for District 4, Deputy Warden and Chairman of the Heritage Advisory Committee saddened everyone who knew and loved John Graham. He will be greatly missed in the Municipality, his community and by his close friends and family. The Heritage and Archives Department has lost a great friend and ally as he was stalwart proponent of heritage and culture in our county.

The new council was sworn in on Friday afternoon, the 14th of November. Prior to the swearing-in proceedings, there was a meet and greet with the councillors and county staff.

District 4 has now officially been declared vacant which will result in a by-election to be held on Saturday, 31st January, 2009. The nomination by-election day will be 6th January. So, once again, I will be back in “election mode”, however, it will be for a shorter period this time.

On Wednesday, 12th November, the Archives was paid an after school visit by twenty-two Cubs and five of their leaders. These girls and boys whose ages ranged from eight to ten years old came to have a tour of the Court House and learn about its history. They were an enthusiastic group, inquisitive and well behaved. Young people are always welcome to visit the Archives and it is heartening to see that teachers and leaders of youth clubs consider it worthwhile to expose these young students to the culture and history of Victoria County.

The fall meeting of the membership of the Iona Connection was held on Saturday, 8th November at the Train Station Museum in Orangedale. There was an excellent turn out of members and as usual, a delicious lunch was served. From the membership reports, the numbers of visitors to our museums and archives have not seriously dropped over last year. Everyone seems to be on par or just slightly below. There will an Iona Connection board meeting on Friday, 5th December and it will be hosted by the Judique Music Interpretative Centre – that will be the final board meeting for 2008.

The built heritage which was featured in the “Victoria Standard” for November was the former Barrington/MacAskill house located on Chebucto Street in the Village of Baddeck. It was built in 1897 for John Barrington, a marine engineer who resided in Baddeck until 1902. It changed owners twice from 1902 to 1925, when it was purchased by Charles MacAskill, a merchant doing business in Baddeck. From that time to the present, it has been in possession of MacAskill family members. It is now being operated on a season basis as a bed and breakfast establishment and is known as The Dunlop Inn.

Over the past two years and in conjunction with the façade program for the village it has totally undergone an exterior restoration. The aluminum siding was removed and the original clapboards were replaced with wooden shingles. Great detail was adhered to in moldings, scalloped shingles, etc. The end result is very pleasing indeed. It is hoped that this stately one hundred and eleven year old building will be part the built heritage in the Village of Baddeck for many years.

That would appear to be all the news from Heritage and Archives for November. Please check back in December for the final newsletter of 2008.