

**Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
January, 2011**

The first month of the new year is nearing an end and once again, it time for the regular monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

Throughout the month, there were several visitors who stopped by the archives in addition to queries both by e-mail and the telephone. There were two inquiries from young students from other counties seeking information on the history of Victoria County for their school projects. I was delighted to have been able to help them by providing the information they needed.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January here in the Court Room. There were eighteen members present which included two new members. The main project to be undertaken this year by the members of the society is the interviewing of senior citizens in the area. Wayne and Catherine Jean Crawford are the co-chairs of the interview committee. They presented a proposed list of people to be interviewed along with suggestions on the types of questions to be included in the interview. This project will be ongoing for the next several months.

The article which appeared in the **Victoria Standard** this month was in regard to a portrait of Mrs. J.A.D. McCurdy. The archives was most fortunate in obtaining this lovely old portrait last summer – it was part of the materials acquired from the Baddeck Public Library Society. There is quite an interesting story about the portrait as it narrowly escaped being destroyed. It was discovered at the local Baddeck dump back in the early 1970's by former Baddeck Bay resident, Eddie Gowda who rescued it from its inevitable fate. He presented to the original archives and museum which was housed in the Old Post Office. Margaret Millicent Ball was born in Woodstock, Ontario in 1898. She married J.A.D. McCurdy in April of 1919. In 1947, she became the “first lady” of our Province for a period of five years when J.A.D was appointed Lieutenant Governor. The person who painted the portrait was Moira Drummond. So far, I have not been able to find out any information on this artist. Currently, this portrait is hanging on the “McCurdy Wall” just outside the archives in the Court House. It is next to portraits of her husband's grandparents, Hon. David and Mary (Archibald) McCurdy.

Plans are already underway for the annual Heritage Day Open House to be held on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This year the National Heritage Foundation is recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Parks Canada as the world's first parks service. In keeping with this theme, we will have representatives from the Cape Breton Highland National Park, the Fortress Louisbourg, and the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in attendance. There will presentations and displays from all three sites. It is shaping up to be a most informative and enjoyable afternoon. The open house will take place between **2:00 and 4:00 p.m. in the Court House in Baddeck**. As always, there will be tea and

refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring along a friend. Keep your fingers crossed for decent weather!

That is the news for January. I look forward to reporting back on the activities of the archives at the end of February.