

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
January, 2004

The first month of 2004 is just about at an end, so it is time to update everyone on the happenings and activities taking place in the Heritage and Archives Department of Victoria County.

Work still progresses with regard to the completion of site forms for the built heritage in District 5 – Boularderie Island. This district was intended to be completed by the end of 2003, however, some photographing remains to be done. Unfortunately, the windy, rainy weather which predominated most of last fall was not conducive to taking pictures and time just ran out. As soon as the weather permits in the early spring, the remainder of the buildings will be photographed, and the site forms completed.

In the new fiscal year beginning on April 1st, the inventory of built heritage will resume with the completion of the Boularderie area, as already noted, and a start will be made in the areas north of Cape Smokey. Work on that inventory will begin in District 6 – Ingonish. It will be interesting and quite exciting to seek out and identify the old dwellings and other buildings which are still in existence in the northern part of our county.

On the archives scene, there is always work to be done as it is perpetually being generated. To date, all the old minute books dating back to 1875 have been cleaned, and re-housed in proper archival storage containers. The Municipal reports and correspondence dating back to 1941 and through to the 1970's have been cleaned, de-stapled, and re-housed as per archival procedures.

Each day brings a letter, phone call, or a visitor to the archives with questions regarding research being carried out pertaining to history, genealogy, etc. In most cases, the archives has been of assistance to these people with their inquiries, however, if the information was not available here, then they were directed to other sources for help.

The archives is looking forward to receiving the collection of the original Victoria County Archives. This collection is now in possession of the Baddeck Library Board. The members of that board are carrying out an inventory of all the materials. Following the completion of the inventory, we will be the recipient of their collection. Apparently, they have a great many photographs which will be most welcome here as presently, we have very few in our collection.

On February 16th, the Municipal Archives will be hosting “A Visit to the Archives” by way of celebrating Heritage Day. We will be welcoming visitors between 1:00 p.m and 4:00 p.m. on that afternoon. The Heritage Canada Foundation promotes the third Monday in February each year as Heritage Day, and has long advocated adopting this date as a national holiday. Our archives encourages everyone to attend and become acquainted our activities, and also join us for a cup of tea and oatcakes.

Well, that's our news for January - Please check our website at the end of February for another newsletter.