

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
January, 2009

The first month of the new year has gone by already and it is time, once again, to write the newsletter from the heritage and archives department.

A few people braved the weather and came out and visited the archives throughout the month of January. Most of the inquiries, however, came via e-mail and telephone calls. It would appear that a lot of people are making the best of the winter and deciding to carry out family research, etc.

Excitement is building for the 100th anniversary of the flight of the “Silver Dart” which is just a few weeks away. I can recall the 50th anniversary which was re-enacted in February of 1959. My neighbour from Big Harbour, Roddie MacMillan portrayed Dr. Bell. The replica of the “Silver Dart” which was built for that occasion was flown by a pilot from the Canadian Air Force. My childhood recollections of that day on the 23rd of February in 1959 was that it was so very cold – bone chilling cold in fact, and that I was glad to return home and to warmth!

The article which I wrote about in January for the “Victoria Standard” featured the St. Ann’s Bay United Church. This church which was formerly known as Bethel United Church was moved from the community of Skir Dhu in 2000 and re-located on its present site on the Cabot Trail just north of the Barachois Bridge. A tea room was built on to the existing church which is open on a seasonal basis and serves breakfast and lunch to both the travelling public and the local residents. In the summer, a weekly ceilidh is held in the tea room with entertainment provided by Cape Breton musicians. The congregation of this church is quite an industrious group of people who are utilizing this facility to assist with the costs of maintenance, heating and general upkeep of the building. I dedicated this article to the memory of John Graham MacInnes, former councillor for District 4 who died on Nov. 3rd, 08. John was a member of this congregation and was very active in all aspects of the activities which took place at SABUC. John worked diligently and lovingly for the church and I know that it held a very special place in his heart.

On January 31st a by-election to elect a councillor was held in district 4. Three candidates were in the running. They were: Clyde Briand, Port Bevis; Kerr MacAskill, Englishtown; and Merrill MacInnis, Breton Cove. The victorious candidate was Merrill MacInnis winning very handily with a total of 285 votes. The voter turn-out was excellent with nearly 75 per cent of eligible voters participating in this by-election. Congratulations to Merrill MacInnis on becoming the councillor for district 4.

Plans are now underway for an Open House in recognition of National Heritage Day in February. The Heritage and Archives will be welcoming visitors on Wednesday, February 18th between 2 and 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by the Court House and get acquainted or re-acquainted with the Municipal Archives and of course, enjoy a cup

of tea and light refreshments. We look forward to seeing old and new friends on that afternoon.

That is all our news for the month of January.