

## **Heritage/Archives Newsletter February and March, 2007**

As I missed out on writing a newsletter for February, I will just combine the news for both February and March together.

February was an extremely busy month for the Archives. As usual, the Archives hosted an open house in celebration of National Heritage Day which this year took place on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February ( not able to hold it on Monday as Court took precedence on that day).

There were forty people who attended throughout the afternoon with around twenty people staying right through. We broke a record with the attendance being the largest as forty people signed the guest book. The theme of this year's heritage day was "Places for People – Our Heritage of the Everyday". A display of photographs depicting the simple vernacular architecture was available in the Court Room and attracted a lot of attention by those who attended. Throughout the rest of the month, the Archives was very busy with visitors with people dropping by almost every day in that a further twenty people paid a visit.

The featured dwelling for the article in the local newspaper in February was in keeping with the Heritage Day theme as I wrote about an old house in New Harris which was indicative of the style of a simple frame building which would have been typical of the local architecture of its time.

March proved to be still busy here with nineteen visitors who came by for research or to drop off different materials. There was a lady and her husband from New Zealand in on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March – Noelene Almond is a descendent of John "Smuggler" MacKenzie an early settler to the Middle River area. Along with being here, they visited his gravesite in Middle River and a local resident with the Historical Society and also paid a visit to the St. Ann-Waipu Twining Society in St. Ann's.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, I had a visit from Richard McCurdy who came with portraits of his great, great, grandparents in the persons of Hon. David McCurdy and his wife, Mary (Archibald) McCurdy. These he donated to the Archives on behalf of his sister Dana McCurdy Dietl who owned the portraits. This was very exciting indeed as they are exquisite paintings. The McCurdy family from the mid 1860's when they arrived in Baddeck contributed greatly to the economic growth and development of the Village of Baddeck and beyond. As a result of this wonderful gift, I chose to write the March article for the local newspaper about the McCurdy's. I hope everyone will get a chance to read it and also, to drop by here and see first hand these portraits.

Well that is the news for the past two months. Hoping everyone has a wonderful Easter. I will be back in touch at the end of April with a further update on the happenings here at the Heritage and Archives.

## **Appeal for Photographs**

**I am seeking photographs of the two former outdoor ice rinks which preceded the present one. The first was located up on Queen Street behind the Ferguson property – the second one was located on the Legion property on Ross Street. If anyone possesses a photo(s) of either of these two rinks, I would appreciate it if he or she would contact me at 295-1843 or drop by the Archives in the Court House. Many thanks.**

**Joan MacInnes  
Heritage/Archives Clerk**