

HERITAGE/ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2006

Well, here it is the first day of May – I am still wondering just what happened to April – I was sure there was another week left!

Needless to say, April was yet another extremely busy four weeks for the Heritage and Archives Department.

There were several visitors throughout the month who visited the Archives looking for historical information. One visitor at the end of the month was a young chap just finishing grade eleven at Baddeck Academy who was interested in acquiring as much history as it pertains to Baddeck and the community of Big Baddeck. Information will be made available to him as soon as possible. It is heartening to see that young people are taking an interest in the history of the area.

The building featured in the “Victoria Standard” for April was Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Washabuck. This mission church was built in 1909 and will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in three years’ time.

The Iona Connection Heritage Co-Operative held its annual meeting on Saturday, 29th April. This meeting was hosted by the Victoria County Municipal Heritage and Archives Department and was held at the A.G.Bell Museum. There were approximately thirty people who attended representing heritage organizations from all over Cape Breton Island. It was at this meeting that our new website was unveiled. The Iona Connection was fortunate in being successful in an application to the Nova Scotia Dept. of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage under the umbrella of the Strategic Development Initiative in securing the funding in order to make this website a reality. Also, a new slate of officers for the board of the Iona Connection was presented at that meeting. Two persons from Victoria County will continue to serve on the board - namely, Rodney Chaisson representing the Nova Scotia Highland Village; and Joan MacInnes, representing the Victoria County Municipal Heritage and Archives.

Of interest and importance to the Archives, is that the first steps have been undertaken by the Baddeck Public Library Society and the Victoria County Municipal Archives in sorting through all the material which presently belong to the BPLS. It is the intent that a great deal of this old material will eventually end up at the Municipal Archives and will be accessible to the general public. Two people from the BPLS along with Heritage and Archives Clerk have met and worked on the files regularly throughout the month of April. So Far, approximately three file drawers have been inventoried. This is slow work, however, the end result will be very rewarding and we look forward to having this information stored in the Archives.

That is the news for April – Hopefully, the showers have ended and the sun will shine during May. I will be reporting via the newsletter once again at the end of May.

