

**Heritage/Archives
Newsletter
April, 2007**

In glancing at the calendar, I came to the realization that April has just about come to an end. The weather throughout the month was less than desirable for spring, however, the last week has shown a marked improvement in that we are experiencing “sunny days” which have been a rare commodity of late. I was able to get out and about on two occasions in order to do some photography for the built heritage project.

As usual, the Archives had several visitors during the month seeking out information on various topics e.g., the history of the first Alderwood seniors’ home, the early policing of the village and the rural areas, photographs of Baddeck in earlier days, etc. Along with the visitors in person, there were other inquiries which were received by e-mail and telephone.

On Saturday, 21st April, the annual meeting of the Iona Connection Heritage Co-Operative was held at the Old Town Hall in Glace Bay. There were approximately thirty members in attendance for the meeting which took place in the former court room. It was my first visit to the Old Town Hall which has been restored and serves the town with a museum, book store, gift shop and tea room. I was extremely impressed with the wonderful work the Old Town Hall Society has accomplished. For those who have not had the opportunity to visit, I would certainly recommend going there. It is located on McKean Street which is off Main Street.

The two portraits which I mentioned having received last month of David and Mary McCurdy have now been hung in the Court House. They are on the wall at the landing of the stairway in the old part of the building where there is a photograph of their grandson, Charles W.K. McCurdy, the clerk/treasurer of the Victoria County for thirty-three years. I hope that people will drop by to see the portraits when they are in the Court House. The McCurdy family was quite prominent in the village and contributed greatly to its economic development from the 1860’s onward.

Next month I hopefully will be attending both the Council of Nova Scotia Archives annual conference and the Canadian Council of Archives conference both being held in Halifax. The CNSA conference runs from 9th to the 10th May with the CCA taking place on the 11th and 12th of May. I am pleased to announce that the new incoming president of the Council of Nova Scotia Archives is from Cape Breton in the person of Pauline MacLean from Lake Ainslie. She is on the board of the MacDonald House Museum in Lake Ainslie and also works at the Highland Village in Iona in the Roots Cape Breton and Archives Department. Congratulations to Pauline on becoming president and I know she will do an excellent job in that capacity.

I am pleased to report that just as I was winding up this newsletter, that the Court House was paid a surprise visit by the Premier, Rodney MacDonald. He and an entourage consisting of his personal assistant, Robert MacDonald, Councillor, Bruce Morrison,

Councillor, Keith MacCuspic, Chairman of the Village Commissioners, Eddie Keeling, and MLA, Keith Bain stopped by to chat with the Court House staff. Their last stop in the building was in the Heritage and Archives room. It was nice to see the Premier and have him express a genuine interest in what we are doing here to preserve the history of Victoria County.

Well that the news for April. Please note that as I hope to attend the two conferences in May that the Heritage and Archives Department will be closed on 9th, 10th, and 11th of May. Sorry for the inconvenience that this might cause. I look forward to reporting back at the end of May. To all the moms, **Happy Mother's Day** and also **Happy Victoria Day** to everyone.