

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
May, 2006

As the month of May comes to a close, it has once again, turned out to be another busy month here in the heritage and archives department.

The work has progressed between our archives and the Baddeck Public Library Society quite regularly throughout May as we are discovering what materials are still being housed in the library which were once part of the original archives begun approximately thirty-five years ago. A great deal of time has been put in by the archives clerk and two members of the library society. More than half of the materials have been inventoried and it is hoped to complete this task in the first weeks of June. Following the completion of the inventory, then decisions will be made as to what materials will end up at the Municipal Archives. This, of course, will depend on the library board and also, the amount of space available at the archives. It has been quite exciting to unearth this material, which for many years now, has not been accessible to the general public.

A Grade 11 student from Baddeck Academy has been spending considerable time at the archives during the past few weeks doing research for a school project which will be about the very early beginnings of Baddeck and continuing up to include A.G. Bell's arrival in 1885. He has been able to have access to several histories, and other pertinent information housed here along with providing him with a copy of a photo of a portrait of the founder of the village, James Duffus.

As usual, there were several visitors who dropped by the archives throughout the month seeking information of an historical and or genealogical nature – assistance was provided to all these individuals.

The featured heritage property which appeared in the "Victoria Standard" for the month of May was the former Ewen G. MacAskill in Baddeck. This building was built in the early 1890's and is in the vicinity of one hundred and fifteen years old. Originally, a private dwelling owned by one of Baddeck's prominent merchants, E.G. MacAskill, it was converted into apartments and is known locally as "The Florence Apts."

The realization that summer is near at hand will mean increased visitors to the archives. As people visit from away, they will be looking for information on families and properties in the local area. Each year, we look forward to meeting these people and trying to assist them with their inquiries.

That is the news for May. Don't forget to check out our newsletter for June. For all those Dads out there in Heritage Land – Happy Fathers Day!