

Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
May, 2009

The month of May is nearing an end with just two more days left – it seems that the months have a tendency to slip by very quickly.

Visitors to the archives was quite steady and it is now apparent that there are tourists on the move especially toward the end of the month. Of course, there are the local residents who come by on quite a regular basis. Inquiries via e-mail arrive almost daily which keeps me busy doing research to assist everyone.

On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, Jocelyn Bethune's new book "Historic Baddeck" was officially launched at the Baddeck Public Library. There was a terrific turn out with well over one hundred people in attendance. Congratulations to Jocelyn for her excellent endeavour in writing this long awaited book. I am so pleased that in my own small way I was able to be of some assistance with her research. The book is available at the Blue Heron Gift Shop in Baddeck.

The monthly newspaper article which appeared in the "Victoria Standard" for May featured an old building which is no longer standing. Initially, it was built by Joseph Hart, a leading merchant in Baddeck and later operated by his sons, Charles and Albert. In 1902, it was sold to the Union Bank of Halifax and a branch was opened in the former Hart Store. Eight years later, the Royal Bank of Canada took possession and it operated a banking business until 1964 when it was torn down to make way for a new structure on the same site. For the one hundred years that it was in existence, it was a busy place. Firstly, as a general store and secondly, as the only banking institution in the area. It was sacrificed to make way for a modern structure, however, it is still part of the photographic history of the Village which is now housed in the archives at the Court House.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> May, I conducted an historic walking tour of the main street in Baddeck for the workers who will be employed at the Visitor Information Centres on Cape Breton. There were approximately twenty-five people in total. They were an enthusiastic group and interested in the history of the heritage buildings along the main street. The VIC's open on 1<sup>st</sup> June and as part of the training for the workers they provide a tour around the island in order to familiarize the employees with the communities and attractions available in each area.

Well that is the news from the Heritage and Archives for May. I look forward to reporting back again at the end of June.