

## **Heritage/Archives Newsletter** **July, 2006**

The month of July has come to an end before I realized it and as a result the newsletter is just a bit tardy by two days. There was so much happening in the Archives the past few days, that the Heritage/Archives Clerk was not able to even get a few spare minutes in order to do the newsletter. Please accept an apology for the lateness.

As usual, the Archives, had several visitors who dropped by during the month with queries especially with regard to genealogy matters. For the most part, they were provided with information contained in the Archives or else directed to another source for answers.

One lady, in particular, who came by was from California and the purpose of her visit to Cape Breton was to attend the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which were held in Middle River in July.

She came to meet long lost relatives as she was a direct descendent of one of the first families to settle in Middle River 200 years ago. She also had a Baddeck connection as her grandfather, Philip "Blue" MacDonald lived in Baddeck on Chebucto Street in what once was the building known as "The Thistledown Restaurant" During the time he owned the dwelling, he ran a tea room and also operated a store in a separate building on the property. Unfortunately, that building was destroyed by fire in the mid 1970's. I was able to locate a photo of a streetscape taken in the early 1900's which has a partial view of the house which I scanned and gave to her.

The featured building in the July issue of The Victoria Standard was the Hamm house located on Grant Street in Baddeck. This house was built in Murray, North River and then moved in sections to its present location in March, 1942. It was moved over the frozen St. Ann's harbour to South Haven and then via the road to Baddeck. It was moved by a three ton truck owned by Gordon S. Harvey and driven by Jimmie Morrison of Englishtown. It has been unoccupied for the past twenty years but has recently been taken over by a family member and a restoration/renovation is now underway. It is heartening to know that it will once again be a viable part of the built heritage in the village.

The picture display in the lobby of Court House continues to be of great interest to both the local residents and travellers alike. It is hard to believe that August is already here and that the summer is now half over. No doubt the visitors will continue to arrive. The local tourist information centre directs a lot of people to the Archives. It is so fortunate that the county has undertaken the establishment of the Archives & Heritage Department. All of the people who come by are most appreciative of the services which are offered by the Archives.

That's it for July – I will be back again at the end of August with a further update on our activities.

