

## **Heritage/Archives Newsletter**

**July, 2007**

Here I am back again with the news from the Heritage and Archives Department of the Municipality for the month of July.

The number of visitors who came to the Archives was steady throughout the month with eighteen people stopping by with a myriad of questions and requests. Also, a number of the “regular” summer visitors who visit yearly came in to say hello and get updates on the events and happenings over the past year. Along with the personal visits there were a number of phone and e-mail inquiries from individuals seeking information especially of a genealogical nature. I helped out whenever possible and when I did not have the answers, I passed them along to others who would be able to provide assistance.

The way the month worked out, there were two newspaper articles featuring heritage properties in the “Victoria Standard” in July – one at the beginning and the other at the end of the month. The first article was about the former Judge Barclay E. Tremaine house which had been located on the Margaree Road and is now the site of the hospital. In fact that house was torn down to make way for the construction of the new facility. It was built in the same year as confederation one hundred and forty years ago in 1867. Judge Tremaine was among many professional people who came to Baddeck when it was beginning to grow and become a flourishing community in the 1860's. He was a lawyer and also dabbled in politics for a short time and eventually was appointed a Judge of the County Court which encompassed the three counties of Victoria, Cape Breton and Richmond.

The second article at the end of the month was written about St. Columba Catholic Church in the community of Iona. The first church on the site was a wooden structure which was destroyed by fire in 1902. In the same year the present church was erected and it is now in its one hundredth and fifth year. The parish decided to build the new church using brick instead of wood. Unfortunately, the wrong type of brick was used in the initial construction and as a result five years later in 1907 the exterior had to be replaced. In order to help defray the cost of the new re-construction, a two day church picnic was organized and a special train was arranged to transport people from the Sydney area. It was a huge success in that over \$2000.00 was raised which went a long way toward the re-construction.

The Communities Bloom judging took place on the morning of Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July. This year's judge was Brian Hicks. I was asked to go on the tour of the village in order to comment on the historical aspect which is part of the criteria of the judging. It was unfortunate that it was raining (and quite heavily at times) throughout the morning. However everyone made the best of things and persevered despite the down pour – taking shelter in doorways and under awnings, until the tour of the main street was completed. For the past two years since the village has been participating in this project, it has been awarded 4 out of a possible 5 blooms which is excellent. Time will tell how things went this year later on in the Fall when the results of the judging are released – keep your fingers crossed for 5 blooms. The village is looking very nice this year and in particular

due to the improvements which have taken place over the past two months under the façade program where the businesses were able to access monies on a cost sharing basis to carry out improvements with regard to their properties. The main street project has also enhanced the look around the village with the new sidewalks, light standards, and benches, etc. It seems that everyone is getting involved and taking pride in the appearance of their properties – whether they be commercial or private.

I have been quite busy as well this month with the upcoming by-election which will be held on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> August in District 1. There are three declared candidates vying for this seat on Municipal Council. Those running are: Ann Marie MacNeil, Paul M. MacNeil, and Pat Rose. I will let you know who wins in the August newsletter.

That is the news from here for July – I hope everyone is having a good summer so far – it is hard to believe, but, it is half over!