

**Heritage/Archives
Newsletter
July, 2008**

Well another month has literally slipped by and the summer is now half over – where does the time go?? Things have been, as usual, quite busy here at the archives. The number of visitors has been steady for July with close to twenty people paying us a visit in person – the main inquiries being of a genealogical nature. Along with the people who just dropped by, there were a number of inquiries via e-mail and the telephone. I managed to provide assistance whenever I could as well as referring people to other sources of information.

Deadlines for the upcoming election in October have to be met and as I am involved assisting the returning officer, my time is spent between seeing to archival duties and also preparing for the election. The Municipal election will be held on Saturday, 18th October. There will be two advance polls which will be held on Saturday, 11th and Tuesday, 14th October in all districts of the county. The nomination day is Tuesday, 9th September. A notice for “nominations open” will appear in the next two issues of the “Victoria Standard”. There will be elections for both council and school board.

The featured building in the local newspaper article for July was the old Matheson house which had been located in Glen Tosh. This building which would have been ninety-seven years old has all but collapsed. The story was not only about the house but, also the community of Glen Tosh and its first inhabitants and the origin of its name. There were three McGregor families along with a Stewart family who were the first settlers to the Glen. They arrived in 1820 along with Rev. Norman MacLeod. The McGregor's were known for their ship building skills and it was members of these families who were in charge of building “The Margaret” the ship that took the Rev. MacLeod, his family, and many of his followers to Australia in 1851. Glen Tosh was named in honour of the Rev. Abraham McIntosh who was the next permanent Presbyterian minister in St. Ann's following the departure of Rev. Norman MacLeod.

On July 1st, I attended the ceremonies in conjunction with the unveiling of the bronze statue of Dr. and Mrs. Bell. This event took place on Water St. in Baddeck and was part of the Canada Day festivities. For those who have not had the opportunity of seeing this object of art, it is worth a drive or walk along the waterfront of the village. The Bell's are depicted sitting on a bench with a view of Beinn Bhreagh across the lake.

I have been asked, once again, to be part of the walking tour of the village for the Communities in Bloom competition. This will take place on August 11th. There are two judges coming – one from Alberta and the one from Ontario. I will be providing the historical aspect with commentary concerning the origins of the village and pointing out and describing the built heritage along the main street. Last year, Baddeck was awarded five out of five blooms – hopefully this year will be just as successful!

Well, that is the news from the Heritage and Archives for July. I will report back at the end of August.