

**Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
August, 2006**

As expected, August proved to be an extremely busy month for the Heritage and Archives Department.

There was a steady stream of visitors from the beginning right through to the end of the month. Most of the people dropping by were “from away”, however they all had connections to area and were looking for information pertaining to their families.

On the first day of August, I was visited by Brian and Margaret Ann Kidston from Plymouth, Missouri. Brian is a descendant of William Kidston who came to Baddeck in 1835 and ended up marrying the widow of James Duffus in 1836. It was William Kidston who was responsible for the early development of what we now know as the Village of Baddeck. Funnily enough, Mrs. Duffus/Kidston was also Margaret Ann.

The next day, I was delighted to have another visitor with early Baddeck connection. Chris Elmsley and his wife, Marie, and three young daughters stopped by having been directed to the Archives by the Visitor Information Centre. Chris is the great, great, grandson of Robert Elmsly who came to Baddeck in 1840 and first worked as a clerk for his uncle, James Anderson. He eventually began his own businesses, and was also the first official postmaster for Baddeck. Robert Elmsly wrote diaries during the years between 1856 and 1889. These diaries are an invaluable source of historical information for the Baddeck and surrounding areas and are consulted in the Archives on a regular basis.

Needless to say, I was most pleased to have met with these descendants of some of the first residents of Baddeck.

As a result of the visit by Chris Elmsley, I decided to write this month’s newspaper article on the Emsly House. The house was located next door to the Court House ( east side) and was close to the street. It was built in the mid 1850’s at the time of Robert Elmsly’s marriage to Mary Ann Plant of North Sydney. It was lost in the “big fire” of 1926 when fire broke in the McKay, MacAskill Co. department store and as a result, 26 buildings on both sides of Chebucto Street were destroyed on that fateful night of 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1926.

I attended a board meeting of the Iona Connection in the middle of the month to work on a response to the interim report of the voluntary planning heritage strategy task force. The next board meeting will be held in Baddeck at the Court House near the end of September.

Along with all of the above, I was also kept busy assisting in the upcoming Special School Board election for South Victoria. Three candidates are in the running to fill the

seat on the Cape Breton Victoria School Board which was once held by Keith Bain. The voting day is Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September with Advance Polls on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. and 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.

The weather is beginning to feel rather like Autumn already. Soon the leaves will be turning colours and falling and I will be heading out once again to continue work on the built heritage inventory which I am very much looking forward to doing.

That is all for August. I will be reporting at the end of September. Have a fun and relaxing Labour Day weekend.