

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
September, 2007

I must begin this newsletter by way of an apology having not written this earlier – no excuse, I simply forgot!

September was another busy month here in the Heritage and Archives. The number of visitors was consistent with the previous month. The people who dropped by had various inquiries with the majority of them looking for genealogical information on their families who once lived in the area. Along with the folks from away, a number of local people accessed the Archives searching out information as well. A student attending Baddeck Academy came by seeking information regarding the “big” fire of 1926 which destroyed twenty-six buildings on the main street east of the Court House. She had an assigned project to write an essay on this event. It heartening to see that our students are being encouraged to learn and write about the local history of the area.

The newspaper article for “The Victoria Standard” for September featured a house located just east of the village on the Baddeck Bay Road. This charming old one hundred and nine year old dwelling was built in 1898. Two years ago the present owners undertook a substantial addition to the original structure. It is certainly to their credit that the addition was thoughtfully carried out in that the architectural integrity was maintained as closely as possible.

I hosted the Iona Connection Co-Operative Board meeting on Wednesday, 19th September. The annual Fall meeting will be held on Saturday, 20th October at the Celtic Music Interpretative Centre in Judique beginning at 10:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. for a tour. Everyone is looking forward to visiting the new centre. Anyone with an interest the heritage and cultural aspect of the island is most welcome to attend. The Iona Connection is an umbrella organization representing museums, archives, and historic sites all around the island.

On 27th and 28th of September, I attended an archival preservation workshop which was sponsored by the Council of Nova Scotia Archives and held at the Highland Village in Iona. It is great when these workshops are close at hand. The workshop was conducted by professional conservator, Paula French. This was a most informative and helpful workshop. There were eighteen participants representing archives from Cape Breton, the Mainland, and even one person from Prince Edward Island. Pauline MacLean, the president of CNSA hosted the workshop.

The leaves are beginning to turn colours and soon will be dropping off – ideal time for built heritage field work. Let’s hope for lots of nice sunny days in October.

That’s the news from here for September. I will endeavour to be more punctual for the October newsletter.