

Heritage/Archives Newsletter September and October, 2008

This newsletter will be a combined September and October issue. September was so busy here both with election preparations and visitors that the month just slipped by and the newsletter was totally put on the back burner.

One of the highlights for September was the visit paid to the Archives by Robert and Colleen Elmsly of New Zealand. Robert is a direct descendent of Dr. Joseph Elmsly and his wife, Lydia Caroline Ingraham. Joseph was a brother to Baddeck's long time post master and businessman, Robert Elmsly. In 1859, Joseph and his family left Baddeck and sailed on the "Ellen Lewis" out of St. Ann's bound for New Zealand. I had a very pleasant visit the Elmsly's and I took them to Knox Cemetery on the Bay Road in order for them to photograph Robert Elmsly's gravestone.

The newspaper article which appeared in the **Victoria Standard** in the September 22nd to October 5th issue was written about Joseph Elmsly's house which had been located on the Bay Road and not far away from the cemetery. The house is no longer standing. A copy of a photograph of Dr. Elmsly's house was provided by Robert and Colleen.

Early in October, I co-hosted an Iona Connection Board meeting with Aynsley MacFarlane at the Bell Museum. Aynsley provided the venue and morning coffee and I provided the lunch. This was our first board meeting since early June so, the board had a lot of work to get through. The annual Fall Meeting of the Iona Connection membership will be held on Saturday, 8th November at 10:00 a.m. in Orangedale at the Orangedale Train Station Museum. Lunch will be available and people attending are asked to contribute \$7.00. Having attended a couple of meetings there in the past few years, I can attest to the terrific lunches which were provided. Anyone who has an interest in the culture and heritage of Cape Breton is most welcome to attend and is indeed encouraged to do so.

Most of October has been devoted to running the Municipal Election which was held on Saturday, 18th October. Only four of the eight districts in the county were contested. Districts 1, 2, 6 and 7 had contests for councillor and there was also a school board election for the three districts north of Cape Smokey. Districts 3, 4, 5 and 8 were acclamations. In District 1, Paul MacNeil was the victor with a two hundred vote majority over opponent, Pat Rose. District 2 had a three way race with Keith MacCuspic retaining his seat beating out Norman Matheson and Shane Toms. There were two upsets in District 6 and District 7 as two long time serving councillors were defeated. Lawrence Barron lost to Larry Dauphinee in District 6, and David Donovan managed to get by Warden Wayne Budge by a slim majority of twenty-two votes in District 7. The school board election for north of Smokey was won quite handily by Jackie Organ of Neil's Harbour. She beat out long time board member, Stan MacKinnon of Dingwall.

On Friday, 24th October, I managed to get away to attend a Council of Nova Scotia Archives workshop which was held at CBU. After all the election work, it was so nice to get together with archival people from across the Province and get back to doing “my thing”! The theme of the workshop was the sharing of accessions within the archival communities. In some cases, an archives has material which would better suit another archives, e.g. The problems and circumstances which arise when transferring materials was dealt with at this workshop.

Because of my commitments and deadlines with regard to the election, I did not manage to write an article for the last issue of the Victoria Standard. Hopefully, things will be back to normal in November.

Well that is the news from the Heritage and Archives for the past two months. Happy Hallowe'en everyone.