

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
October, 2007

Well another month has sped by here at the Archives with just one final day remaining in October.

The number of visitors were fewer than in the past couple of months but, still quite a steady flow of people dropping by looking for information with regard to doing some research.

I attended the fall meeting of the Iona Connection general membership. The venue for this meeting was the new and impressive Celtic Music Interpretative Centre in Judique. Members from all around the island were in attendance. For those of us who got there early prior to the commencement of the meeting we were able to take a tour of the centre. It is a wonderful facility and most informative – it is well worth the drive to Judique. Along with the routine business of the organization, there were two invited guests who made presentations in the persons of Gordon Hammond, President of Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage and Mern O'Brien, a representative from the Federal Museum Assistance Program. Following a delicious lunch, which was provided by the interpretative centre complete with a “welcome” cake, the members of the Iona Connection presented their annual reports outlining the activities, events, number of visitors, etc. for the spring and summer months.

The built heritage which was featured in the local newspaper, “The Victoria Standard” for October was the Provincial building located on the corner of Old Margaree Road and Campbell Street in the village of Baddeck. Although it is not an exceptionally old building – it is just about to go into its 60th year in a couple of months, having been constructed in 1948 – it is the architectural style which makes it noteworthy. It was modeled after Mount Vernon which is located near Alexandria in the state of Virginia on the banks of the Potomac River. Built in the mid-1700's, it was the plantation home of the first president of the United States, George Washington. This building was built to house Provincial government offices and it still being occupied government departments. When it was erected it was unique in being the only of its kind in the Province and it created a great deal of comment as to its appearance, however, was overwhelmingly thought of a decided asset to Victoria County. The contractor was J.W. Stephens Limited of Sydney and the budget for the construction was \$75,000.00. What an edifice for such a mere sum of money, of course, things are all relevant and one cannot compare to today's costs of building materials but, I think one would be hard pressed to build a very small, modest structure for that amount of cash in 2007!!

I managed a couple of trips out and about photographing for the built heritage program. I am still hopeful for a good November to do some more work.

That is the news from here for October – Happy Halloween or All Hallows Eve whichever you prefer. The weather looks like it will be a great night for ghosts and

goblins – at least in the Baddeck area. I look forward to reporting back at the end of November.