

## **Heritage/Archives Newsletter December, 2004**

With the new year having been ushered in only three days ago, it is time to update everyone on the activities in the Heritage and Archives Department for the final month of 2004.

Most of the month of December was devoted to trying to tidy up loose ends with regard to long over due research for several properties. A few old site forms needed to be updated and in some cases, corrections were in order with regard to registry references.

One of the regular visitors to the Archives, Donnell Beaton, paid a call early in the month. To date, Mr. Beaton has made an inventory of the old cemetery on the Baddeck Bay Road and the Greenwood Cemetery and St. Michael's Cemetery on the Big Baddeck Road. Presently, he is working on making a listing of all the headstones in St. Michael's Cemetery here in the village. As an added feature to this cemetery map, he has asked the Archives Clerk to write a history of St. Michael's church. This history will be included along with the other information. These mappings of the cemeteries are an invaluable tool for people doing research. Our archives is extremely pleased that Mr. Beaton has provided us with a copy of this work which has been completed to date. Please be advised that the public is welcome to visit the archives and view these documents. Also, many thanks to Mr. Beaton for his generosity.

The last newspaper article for the "The Victoria Standard" for 2004 was about the former Ross/MacLeod house situated in the community of North Gut. This ninety year old house served its community as the post office for fifty-six consecutive years from 1896 to 1952 when the rural route system was introduced for local mail delivery.

December was quite a steady with regard to visitors. We were very pleased to have been visited twice by Wilson MacKenzie and his wife, Nonna and his daughter, Katrina MacKenzie. Mr. MacKenzie was brought up in Baddeck having moved here from rear of Baddeck Bay in 1920 at the age of eight years old. He is a wealth of knowledge about the early days of the village and both visits were very enlightening. He and his wife were here to spend the Christmas holidays with their daughter and granddaughter who are living in his old family home on Campbell Street. I hope to be able to spend more time with him in the summer, when, hopefully, he and his wife will be returning for another visit.

The third Monday in February is National Heritage Day. The Archives, as usual, will be planning on hosting an event. Watch for posters and newspaper advertisements nearer to that time.

That is the news for December, 2004. Happy New Year everyone, and all the best in 2005

