

Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
April, 2010

Another month of 2010 is at an end. How quickly the time passes. Again, it time for the regular monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

As usual, there were several visitors to the archives throughout the month. Two young ladies from Grade XI at Baddeck Academy paid three visits in order to search out information on the original Baddeck Academy, Baddeck Consolidated and the High School. They were preparing a display to enter into the Historical Fair which is held annually in the schools in Cape Breton. I was able to give them quite a bit of information along with old photographs. I hope they will get on well. Also, twelve guides from the A.G.B. Museum visited the archives for a tour and to find out what information can be accessed here.

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, I attended an archival workshop put on by the Council of Nova Scotia Archives. This two day workshop was hosted by Highland Village in Iona. The topic was Arrangement and Description of Archival materials. It is one of four workshops which will be taking place on Cape Breton this year. The other venues will be: the Beaton Institute in May, the Chestico Museum in Port Hood in September and here in Baddeck at the Victoria County Archives in November. These are certificate programs and the majority of people participating are signed up for that program – myself included. The instructor was Karen White from the CNSA.

Earlier in the month, the archives was presented with a self-published history pertaining to forest fires in Cape Breton. It was compiled by Richard McCurdy and is entitled “Fire History of Cape Breton – 1920 to 1969” Two major fires to occur in Victoria County happened in Neil’s Harbour in July, 1921 and Wreck Cove in the summer of 1968. I would like to thank Richard for documenting these events and presenting a copy to the archives.

I managed to get away on a couple of occasions in order to work on documenting the built heritage site forms. A follow up in Little Narrows and also seeking out an old house in Jersey Cove which had not been inventoried before.

The heritage house which was depicted in the Victoria Times in April was about the former MacKenzie house which had been located in Big Bras d’Or. At the beginning of April, it, unfortunately, was totally destroyed by fire. It had been constructed in 1880 (circa) and was originally owned by Murdoch (Miller) MacKenzie. It is always sad to learn that an old building is no longer in existence, however, it was fortunate that it had been included in the inventory and at least, we have a photographic memory to share with the public.

Well, that is the news from the archives for this month. I look forward to May and the anticipated field trips to discover new “old” buildings in the County.