

## **Heritage and Archives**

### **Newsletter**

**April, 2014**

With April at an end, it is time, once again, for the regular monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

April turned out to be a very busy month here – there were quite a few visitors in person along with the e-mail and telephone inquiries.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April in the court room at the usual time of 2:00 p.m. There were twelve members in attendance. Discussion took place in regard to the proposed project to publish an updated booklet with photos and write-ups of Baddeck and the surrounding communities. Anyone with old pictures is asked to bring them in to the Archives in order to scan them and save for reproducing at a later date. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of May at the Court House.

The Heritage Fair for the grades 4 to 6 took place on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April at the Baddeck Academy. The judges were Donnie Macaulay, Don Morrison, Hugh Muller, Jeanne Muller, Juanita Macaulay, Nancy Harvey and Joan MacInnes. I had not planned to judge the projects as I have in the past assisted some of the students with their research, however, as that was not the case this year, I filled in in the absence of Wayne Crawford who was unable to participate. This year, the projects were all very well done and presented. There would be only one winner from each grade and that student would go on to the Regional Heritage Fair held at CBU for the students in the Cape Breton/Victoria school board on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

The Heritage Cape Breton Connection held its monthly board meeting in Baddeck on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April. Despite the nasty weather that morning, the majority of the board members managed to attend. It was held in the Theatre at the AGB Museum. The date for both the annual and spring members meetings was confirmed for Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. These meetings will be held in the newly renovated former Legion in Whycocomagh. It begins at 10:00 a.m. with the annual meeting which will be followed by the spring meeting. We have arranged to pay a visit to the local forge for a tour and a demonstration prior to the lunch break. Lunch will be available for \$15.00 per person with morning coffee and snacks included. It would appear that it will be a well attended judging by the number of people already registered.

The article in the Victoria Standard newspaper for April featured the former Dr. Joseph Elmsly house which had been located less than a kilometer from the Village of Baddeck east on the Bay Road. It is no longer extant having been razed in 2002 when it was well over one hundred and fifty years old. It was built in the mid- 1850's. The house and property were known as "Sackville". In 1859, Dr. Elmsly and his wife, Lydia Caroline (Ingraham) and their five children sailed on the "Ellen Lewis" out of St. Ann's bound for New Zealand where they made their home permanently and did return to Cape Breton. Dr. Elmsly's

brother, Robert was a prominent citizen of Baddeck who was a long time resident for over six decades between 1840 and 1903. He was a merchant, however, he was probably best known as the genial Post Master of the shire town of Victoria County. In fact, in the mid- 1800's, he and his wife and family took up residence in Dr. Elmsly's house when their house in the village was sold.

Throughout May and into the first part of June, watch out for advertising in conjunction with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victoria County Court House. It will take the form of an open house between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the afternoon of Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. Mark it on your calendars! We are hoping to welcome residents from all around the county to take part in this momentous occasion.

That is the news for April. Hopefully, by the time the Victoria Day weekend is upon us, we will be enjoying a bit warmer weather. In any event hope everyone has a nice holiday weekend.