

Heritage/Archives
Newsletter
August, 2011

With August nearing an end, it is once again, time for the monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

This month has been very busy with visitors dropping by along with the usual number of e-mail inquiries. I had a visit from a long time correspondent from Massachusetts who came to the archives for a morning's visit and returned the following day to carry out family research in the Registry of Deeds. This gentleman has been in telephone and e-mail contact for several years and this year he managed to come to the archives in person.

The building(s) featured in the "Victoria Standard" in August were the two former J.P. MacLeod stores which had once been situated on Chebucto Street in the Village of Baddeck (just across the street from the little strip mall in which the coffee shop is located). J.P. MacLeod, Sr. was born and raised in Plaister Mines just a few kilometers east the village. He erected his first store in 1874. To begin with it was quite small but later on it was remodeled and enlarged and ended up gaining the reputation of being one of the finest businesses in Baddeck. Over the years, J.P. Sr. was joined by his sons in the business and the store operated under the name of J.P. MacLeod & Sons. Sadly, it was a victim of the devastating fire which occurred in September of 1926 when it and twenty-five other buildings east of the Court House were lost in a matter of hours. Within a few months, the MacLeod's re-built their business on the same site as the original store. Unfortunately, the second structure succumbed to the fate of its predecessor as it too was destroyed by fire in December of 1964 which ended ninety years of entrepreneurship for the MacLeod family. I was very fortunate to have received photographs of both MacLeod stores from Catherine Crawford, a grand-daughter of Philip MacLeod who was one of J.P. Sr.'s sons.

The Baddeck & Area Historical Society's second annual Old Time Picnic was held on Saturday, 27th August. The day was another success for the society and the weather was absolutely perfect for the event. There were approximately one hundred people who attended which included both locals from Baddeck and surrounding communities along with tourists. Members of the society put together a very interesting display which honoured people from the past and present who contributed significantly to our local communities. There was live entertainment and lemonade, tea, oatcakes and sweets were available throughout the afternoon. Congratulations to the society for its efforts in keeping alive the history and heritage in this area.

That is the news for August – check back for the next newsletter at the end of September.

