

Heritage/Archives Newsletter - August, 2010

As August is fast drawing to a close, it is, once again, time for the monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

To say that August was busy with visitors would be an understatement. There was a steady stream of visitors, mainly from away, who dropped by the archives with queries of a genealogical nature. I helped to the best of my ability and sent them to other sources to look for the information they required. Each year, there seems to be more and more people returning to Victoria County to trace their ancestors.

The Baddeck & Area Historical Society held an old time picnic on the site of the original Baddeck Academy. I, unfortunately, was not able to attend, however, I have received an account that it was a wonderful success and was well attended by members of the community and visitors of all ages. Congratulations go out to the members of the Picnic Committee along with the entire membership for helping to make this event so successful. Hopefully, it will become an annual event for the society.

I am still in the process of cleaning, indexing, and re-housing the materials from the former archives. This, I have decided, will take a few months to completely finish, however, I have made a small start.

The newspaper article for August which appeared in the **Victoria Standard** featured the former Charles R. Hart house (now Lynwood Inn & Restaurant) located on the Shore Road in the village. It was built by merchant, Charles Rueben Hart one hundred and thirty-one years ago in 1879. Charles was the son of Joseph & Maria Hart and brother of Albert Hart. The Hart family re-located to Baddeck from Margaree in the early 1860's. They became one of the prominent entrepreneurial families who settled in Baddeck at a time when it beginning to grow and develop into a bustling shire town. The style was Gothic Revival as indicated by the three large pointed dormer on the front elevation. This was a very popular style in the latter part of the 1800's. Initially it was a private family residence, however, for the past fifty-eight years, it has been operated as a commercial venture and is a part of the tourist industry in the area. The first business to operate in the house was an art gallery/gift shop and more recently, it houses an inn and restaurant.

The Board of the Heritage Cape Breton Connection (formerly Iona Connection) will meet in Baddeck on Friday, 7th September. Among other items on the agenda, the annual Fall meeting of the Connection will be discussed which, at the moment, is planned to take place on Saturday, 30th October in Grand Etang at the Mi-Careme Centre. It will be our first time to have a meeting at this venue so that will be exciting for the members. Any historical, cultural group or interested individual on Cape Breton is very welcome to attend and join our dynamic organization.

That's the news from here for August. I look forward to reporting back at the end of September. Enjoy the Labour Day holiday.