

Heritage and Archives

Newsletter

August, 2013

Once again, we find ourselves in the final days of August which means that it is time for the monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department of Victoria County.

The archives was kept quite busy with visitors throughout the month. The majority of the inquiries are focused on family history. It would seem that people make their vacation plans to coincide with genealogical research.

The Baddeck & Area Historical Society is having its annual summer break. There were no meetings scheduled for July and August. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18th September at 2:00 p.m. in the Court House.

The Heritage Cape Breton Connection board meeting was held on Friday, 2nd August. As usual, I was the host for the meeting. The SDI project has been completed. Samantha MacKinnon who was the project co-ordinator for this year's project will be asked to make a presentation at the Fall members meeting. An Educational Heritage Experience was the theme of the project undertaken. It was to facilitate a programme whereby Cape Breton heritage sites can be a venue for educational field trips in keeping with the educational requirements of the existing school curriculum. The board decided to wait a year before applying for a further SDI grant. The membership of our organization now stands at thirty-one members which is an increase since last year. Our next board will be Friday, 27th September. At that meeting a decision will be made as to the date and location for the annual Fall Members meeting.

Sadly, Baddeck, and indeed, all of Victoria County suffered a great loss overnight on Saturday, 10th August when a one hundred and sixty year old dwelling was lost to fire. Loughrae House, which had been situated on Water Street in Baddeck was destroyed as a result of a fire. It was fortunate that the owner was not at home at the time and therefore, was not put in danger. The house was built in 1853 by a Ewan (Hugh) Campbell who was originally from Whycomagh. It was restored in the 1960's by then Retired Superintendent of the R.C.M.P, Bill Fraser who purchased the house and property in 1956. It was among one of Baddeck's oldest buildings.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Labour Day holiday weekend.