

Heritage/Archives
Newsletter
August, 2009

Well, August 2009 is just about at an end – just a few days to go. Fortunately, for the residents of Victoria County, it wasn't a repeat of the weather we experienced in August, '08. The good weather this year meant that festivals and events which occur outdoors were able to go ahead successfully and the tourists visiting the area stayed around longer.

As usual, during the summer months the Heritage and Archives is kept busy and August was no exception to that trend. There were many visitors who came from off island. These people were trying to trace their ancestral roots. Fortunately, I was able to help with information and also to put them in touch with local genealogists. Each year, we see an increase in the number of visitors who are searching for their family connections in Victoria County.

The Communities in Bloom judging took place on Wednesday, 12th August. Following lunch at the Telegraph House, the two judges – Diane Clasen from Cincinnati, Ohio and Ted Zarudny from Orangedale, Ontario, Richard Roberts, Eddie Keeling, Lynn Duchesney and April Timmons and myself set out on an historical walking tour of the village which included the whole of Chebucto Street and all along Water Street. The day was perfect as the weather cooperated most satisfactorily. Both judges were very interested in the history of the village and appeared to enjoy the tour. This is the second year that Baddeck has competed at the national level. Last year it received the top score achieving five blooms. The results of this year's competition will be made known in early October. Let us hope for a repeat score in 2009.

The newspaper article which appeared in August in the **Victoria Standard** featured the lighthouses of Baddeck. The first lighthouse was built in 1875 on the eastern tip of Kidston Island. It operated for forty years when a new and much larger building was built alongside the original structure in 1915. For the past ninety-four years, this new lighthouse has been in operation. The old building was removed and transported by barge across the lake to the community Shunacadie. The present lighthouse can be considered as Baddeck's trademark.

The Iona Connection will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2009. Plans are underway to recognize this important milestone in the history of the organization. I have been asked to co-chair the anniversary committee along with Cathy Gillies from Port Hood. It is intended to celebrate the occasion during our regular Fall meeting to be held in October at the Highland Village in Iona. I will keep everyone posted as to the final plans in September.

That is the news from the Heritage and Archives Department for this month. It is hard to believe that the summer has gone by so quickly. When the next newsletter is written, it will be autumn.

