

Heritage & Archives  
Newsletter  
December, 2011 & January, 2012

Welcome back to the newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department. As the Archives was closed from mid-December until the new year, this newsletter will be a combination of both months.

The first two weeks of December were busy with attempting to finish some tasks before the holidays. We had a few visitors who required certain information with regard to research. Also, there were requests via phone and e-mail. January has been quite busy with drop in visitors.

The Heritage Cape Breton Connection Board met on 1<sup>st</sup> December in Iona at the Highland Village. The application made to the Province under the SDI (Strategic Development Initiatives) was approved which means the second phase of recorded interviews with people from the island who have devoted themselves to the preservation of the history and culture will be able to proceed. The Board met on 20<sup>th</sup> January in Baddeck at the Court House. A selection process has been undertaken for an individual to carry out the interviews sponsored by the SDI. It is the goal to hire someone in mid-February and have the project completed by the end of June. On a distressing note, it was brought to the Board's attention, that the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board has decided to cancel the annual history fair held each year in May. Their rationale for this decision was staff configuration and budgetary problems. Needless to say, the HCBC Board was quite taken aback with this sudden decision. The Board felt that this fair is very important to preserving the culture of the island. It was decided to write to their board and also to send a copy of the letter to the Cape Breton Post. To date, the Strait Regional School Board has not indicated that they are cancelling their fair. The Heritage Cape Breton Connection has established an Engaging in Youth award, which in the past, was awarded to one of its member museums or archives for their endeavours in involving young people in Cape Breton heritage. At the annual meeting back in May of 2011, the decision was made that this monetary award would be handed out to two students – one from each district school board. As it stands now, a deserving student attending school in the CBVRSB will not have the opportunity to receive this award.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January here in the Court House. There was a presentation made by BABTA representatives, Dick Grubb and Glen MacDonald outlining a few projects the association has in mind for the upcoming season. They hope to put up interpretative plaques depicting the age and history of some of Baddeck's oldest buildings. Their goal for this year would be to identify and complete approximately five or six of these plaques. They will be seeking historical information on these buildings from the Heritage and Archives. A decision was made at the meeting to change the time of the monthly meeting. Presently, the society meets in the court room at 4:00 p.m. A motion was made to change the time for future meetings to 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March –

there won't be a meeting next month as the Heritage and Archives will be hosting its annual Heritage Day Open House on Wednesday, 22<sup>rd</sup> February between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

The monthly newspaper article in January featured a story along with photographs about the bell from the corvette navy ship "The Baddeck" The bell from the ship was presented to the Victoria County in August of 1947. It was presented to our longest serving clerk/treasurer, Mr. Charles W.K. McCurdy by a naval commander. Also, in attendance at that time was the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Hon. J.A.D. McCurdy. According to Mr. McCurdy's report to council, the court room was literally packed while a guard of one hundred naval marines stood attention in the court yard along with hundreds of other people who were unable to access the building. This bell which was given to the county just over sixty-four years ago is still proudly displayed in the court room.

That is the news from here for the past month and a half. Just a further reminder that the Heritage and Archives will, once again, be holding an open house to recognize National Heritage Day on **Wednesday, 22<sup>rd</sup> February, 2012 between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.** in the Court House, Baddeck. Everyone is most welcome to attend. As is the custom, there will be tea and refreshments served throughout the afternoon.