

Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
December, 2010

The regular monthly newsletter is a bit early this month as I will be taking vacation days over the Christmas and New Year holidays and won't be returning to the archives until January.

The number of visitors to the archives was steady throughout the month. Not as many as in November, however, that is the norm for December – people put their research on hold as they get involved in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Still, it was busy enough and especially with phone calls and e-mails.

One call was from a lady who is trying to track down all the bells which were on the corvette navy boats from the Second World War. The bell from the Corvette, **Baddeck** is here in the Court House and is on display in the court room. Also, the archives has a photo of the **Baddeck** off the coast of France in June of 1944 along with the picture taken on the occasion of the ceremony when the bell was presented to the county in late August of 1947. Mr. Charles W.K. McCurdy, Municipal Clerk and Treasurer accepted the bell and in attendance was the newly appointed Lt. Gov. of the Province in the person of J.A.D. McCurdy along with his wife and daughter. Fortunately, as this information has been preserved, I was able to provide her with quite a bit of documentation of which she was very pleased.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November in the Court House. There were sixteen members present. A committee was formed with regard to interviewing our senior citizens in order to collect an oral history of life in and around the area several decades ago. This also was the first annual meeting of the society. An election of officers took place and for the most part the executive remained the same with Don Morrison still in the position of president of the society. The executive were extended a sincere thank you from the membership for their hard work over the past year which was followed by a hearty round of applause.

The heritage property which was featured in the Victoria Standard in December was Greenwood United Church Manse. A dying breed of dwellings these days. In fact, it is the last of its kind in the village of Baddeck and in the surrounding communities. The other dwellings built over the years in the village for the use of the respective clergy have been sold to the private sector. They include, both the Anglican rectories, the Presbyterian manse, and just recently, St. Michael's glebe house has been put up for sale, and no longer is home to a resident priest. There was a time, granted several years ago, when every small community boasted both a church and a manse. These days, the church congregations all over the county are struggling just to maintain their churches. The unfortunate reality is that the extra financial burden of the upkeep of a manse is prohibitive and the congregations have been forced to sell the manses and in some cases, the churches as well. Whatever, the outcome for this charming old house, whether it

remains a manse or is sold privately, I sincerely hope that it will remain as part of the built heritage of Baddeck.

That is the news from the Heritage and Archives Department for the last month of 2010. Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and all the best in the new year.