

Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
December, 2009

The newsletter for December is a bit early as the Heritage and Archives Department will be closed from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December until the new year as I will be taking vacation days to spend time with family over the holiday season.

Throughout the month, there were several visitors including a few new faces. Also, there were the usual number of e-mails and telephone calls from people seeking out information, in particular, with regard to genealogy.

The fourth meeting of the newly formed Baddeck and Area Historical Society was held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at the Court House. Despite it being the “busy” time of the year for people and with so many other events taking place, there was a good turnout with sixteen members in attendance. At the beginning of the meeting, the president, Don Morrison circulated a card of sympathy for the MacFarlane family. Isabel MacFarlane who was nearly ninety-five years old died at Alderwood Rest Home on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. She was an historian and genealogist in her own right and as was pointed out at the meeting, at a different time and under different circumstances, Isabel would have been among the first to belong to this Historical Society.

The article which appeared in the “Victoria Standard” in the December 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> edition was written about St. Peter-St. John Anglican church in Baddeck. It was built one hundred and twenty-six years ago in 1883 between May and August of that year. The driving force behind its construction was the Reverend Simon Gibbons, known throughout the diocese as “the champion church builder”. This distinction was bestowed upon him as he was responsible for having built several churches both here in Cape Breton and also on the Mainland. Originally it bore the name St. Peter’s, however, when the parish of St. John’s closed their church in Big Baddeck, the two congregations came together as one and the two names were incorporated. This building is still standing and conducts services on a seasonal basis. The other building shown in the photograph is the Anglican rectory which was built in 1889 and it too is also a part of the built heritage in Baddeck.

It is difficult to come to the realization that yet another year is almost at an end and that a decade has gone by since 2000 ( which just seems like yesterday). Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year from the Municipal Heritage and Archives Department.