

**Heritage/Archives
Newsletter
February, 2010**

Winter's shortest month is nearly at an end and once again, it is time for the monthly update from the Heritage and Archives Department.

The big event which took place at the middle of the month was the celebration to recognize National Heritage Day. It was held on Wednesday, February 17th from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Court House, Baddeck. There were over thirty people in attendance and from the comments received, they were quite impressed. The guest speaker, was Mickey Woodford, one of the driving forces behind establishing the present day indoor ice rink in Baddeck.

The weeks prior to the Heritage Day activities kept me extremely busy as I endeavoured to seek out and gather photographs to include in the display. The communities all around the county were very responsive and individuals and organizations either sent or brought in photos depicting numerous sports and sports venues. We had pictures dating back to a 1908 baseball team, a 1947 hockey team as well as photos of various sports and sporting events right up to the present time. In all, there were over eighty photographs on display. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to help with this event.

Apart from Heritage Day, there were a number of visitors throughout the month both in person and via e-mail. Just at the end of the month, I received an e-mail from a Mr. Eddie Jefferies in Crowborough, East Sussex in England. While renovating his house, he stumbled across a multitude of torn and ripped letters and post cards under the floor boards. Apparently, he has learned that his house was a base for Canadian Servicemen during the second world war. One postcard that he found was addressed to one: Mrs. John S. MacRae, Lower Middle River, Vict. Co., N.S. At his request, myself and others are trying to locate relatives of this MacRae family – so far, I am afraid, we aren't having any luck. If readers have any ideas as to their identity, please contact the Archives at 295-1843, or e-mail: Joan.MacInnes@countyvictoria.ns.ca. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

The article which appeared in the "Victoria Standard" depicting our built heritage was written about the former MacDonald/MacAskill home in Breton Cove on the North Shore. This was among one of the oldest buildings on the North Shore before it was destroyed by fire in the late fall of 2002. It was built in 1865 on a property granted to Alexander MacDonald. After Alexander, it was owned by Malcolm MacDonald and John Alex MacDonald. From 1986 to the time of the fire, it was in possession of the late Mrs. Rachel MacAskill. It was very disheartening to have lost a one hundred and thirty-seven year old structure, however, it is fortunate that there still exists a pictorial record and that it is recorded in the inventory of dwellings and buildings which comprise the built heritage in our county.

Well, that is the latest news from the Heritage and Archives. By the time of the next newsletter, spring will have arrived.