

Heritage and Archives Newsletter

January, 2014

With January nearly at an end, the time has come, once again, for the regular monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

What a busy month it has been with inquiries from people researching their ancestry. Most of the month, I was kept busy compiling research materials to forward these people. Also, had inquiries locally trying to track down a song compilation written by the late Margaret MacRae of North River, Meadow Road and also, a request from owners of an old home on Baddeck Bay Road wanting the history of their house and property. With exception of still trying to locate the whereabouts of Mrs. MacRae's song book, I was able to provide assistance with regard to the other inquiries.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 15th January here in the court room. There were thirteen members in attendance. Various projects were proposed for the society to undertake in 2014. One that was agreed on was the continuance of the recorded interviews with people of the community as it was deemed important to the preservation of our local history. The meeting was informed that the National Heritage Day would be observed on Monday, 17th February. The Victoria Heritage and Archives will be holding its annual open house on **Wednesday, 19th February** between the hours of **2 p.m. and 4 p.m.** This year, there will be two themes – the first will be acknowledging the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, and the second will mark the 125th anniversary of our court house which was constructed in 1889. The Historical Society will be assisting with the afternoon's events. Afternoon tea will be served and everyone is most welcome to attend.

The board of Heritage Cape Breton Connection did not meet, as previously planned, in January. As it turned out, too many board members were not available due to various reasons so, the decision was made to postpone the meeting until February. The board will meet on Monday, 24th February and it will take place at the Bell Museum. The board meetings are usually held at the Court House however, as the 24th is a Monday the court room is not available because of Provincial Court.

The article which appeared in The Victoria Standard newspaper in January featured our own Court House. As previously mentioned, the Victoria County Court House will be one hundred and twenty-five years old in 2014. It was built in 1889 under the direction of local carpenter, Philip MacRae of Big Farm, Big Baddeck. Along with acknowledging this important milestone in the life of the building in February at Heritage Day, there is a celebration planned for the latter part of June when the weather will not be a deterrent to people travelling from around the county. When plans for this event have been finalized within the next month or so, a public invitation will be issued – the hope is to have a really great turn out for this occasion.

That is the news from here for the first month of 2014. Don't forget about the Heritage Day open house - mark on your calendars and plan to attend and bring along a friend.

