

Heritage/Archives Newsletter
July, 2009

The Heritage and Archives Department has been extremely busy throughout the month of July. There were over twenty visitors who dropped by with inquiries as well as several via e-mail. For the most part, people had inquiries of a genealogical nature. These visitors came from as far away as Germany and as close by as the Village of Baddeck.

So far this summer, a lot of people have visited the Court House. On several occasions to date, I have conducted tours of the building explaining its history, and significance to the community and county, etc.

The way the month worked out, I actually wrote two articles for the "Victoria Standard". The one in early July was about Dominion Day sixty-one years ago in Baddeck. The streetscape photograph depicted a crowd of people walking westward on the main street of the village and it would appear that they had been participating in Dominion Day events. The photo was taken by Alton Langille, hotelier, post master, photographer and long time resident of Baddeck. The second article featured a one hundred year old home located in Breton Cove on the North Shore. It was built in 1909 by Norman R. MacLeod and this year marks its 100th anniversary. Along with being a private residence, it also served the community of Breton Cove for a period of eighteen years as the local post office between 1935 to 1953. Of interest to note is that it has been in possession of the same family since its initial construction.

On July 6th, the Iona Connection Board met at the Bell Museum to work on the project for "Heritage as a Sustainable Entity on Cape Breton". This project was sponsored by the Strategic Initiatives Development program through Department of Tourism and Culture for the Province. The facilitator for our project, Wayne Marsh, was on hand to go through the proposal step by step. The final report will be presented to the membership of the Iona Connection at its fall meeting in October.

Looking into next month, the Communities in Bloom judging will take place in Baddeck between the 11th and 13th. The historical walking tour along the main street of the village with the judges is scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, 12th August. Hopefully the weather will co-operate over those three days. Last year, the village competed on the national level and achieved top honours having attained five blooms.

On July 27th the re-naming of Sydney airport took place – its new name is: The J.A. Douglas McCurdy/Sydney Airport. I am quite sure all the readers are well aware that Mr. McCurdy flew the Silver Dart back in 1909. In going through old Municipal files in the Archives, I came across correspondence dating back to our centennial year, 1967 from a Mr. Wm. MacRitchie of Glace Bay who was proposing a name change for Sydney airport to the McCurdy Airport in honour of J.A.D. McCurdy. That proposal did not come about in 1967, but, forty-two years later Mr. Ritchie's recommendation did actually happen. For those who are interested in viewing this file, please drop by the Archives and get the whole story.

That is all the news from the Heritage and Archives for the month of July. Please watch for the next newsletter at the end of August.