

Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
June, 2010

Once again, the time has arrived for another newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department. It is hard to believe that we have reached the half way point of 2010 already.

With the advent of another tourist season, the archives has been busy with visitors from away seeking out family information. For the most part, I was able to offer assistance in their genealogical endeavours.

During the first week of June, I took receipt of the textual materials which were in possession of the Baddeck Public Library Society. With the able help of the men from the transfer station, two filing cabinets, and a multitude of boxes were moved from the Library to the Court House. Presently, I am in the process of re-housing and indexing these materials.

The first board meeting of the newly formed Heritage Cape Breton Connection ( formerly known as the Iona Connection) was held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the Library, Bell Museum.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June here in the Court House. It had been decided at the May meeting to hold an old fashioned style picnic on Kidston Island on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July. However, those plans have been put on hold until August. As this was the last meeting until October, the picnic committee will be making all the arrangements for this event. When a new date has been decided on, the committee will arrange for advertising.

There were two newspaper articles in the Victoria Standard for the month of June. The first one featured the Baddeck Rural High School which built in the early 1950's and opened for students in September of 1953. It had been designed to accommodate approximately two hundred students and incorporated facilities for a broad and inclusive high school curriculum. Originally a structure on its own, over the years, it has been integrated into a single school complex for students from primary to grade 12 and it now known as Baddeck Academy. The second article, at the end of June, was about Cabot Landing located in Sugar Loaf at Aspy Bay. It has been five hundred and thirteen years since John Cabot made landfall on 24<sup>th</sup> of June in 1497 at the northern extremity of Cape Breton Island. Back in the early 1950's, a group of interested people in the area established the Cape Breton Historical Society with the objective of securing recognition of Cabot's landing in northern Cape Breton by having the location designated as a National Historic Site. The Society began by having an annual Cabot Day celebration which began in June of 1952. This is an event which has taken place each year since then. Along with musical entertainment, games and a picnic, the highlight of each year's celebration is the re-enactment of Cabot's landing which is performed by members of the

historical group in period costumes. In 1956, the Victoria County officially proclaimed June 24<sup>th</sup> as a county holiday. In 1960, a bust of John Cabot was unveiled at the site. This year marks the fifty-eighth Cabot Day Celebrations. On a personal note, I have fond memories of attending this annual event for several years – I was a member of the Gaelic College pipeband and our group of pipers, drummers, dancers, and Gaelic singers were always asked to perform at the site on Cabot Day.

Well, that is our news for June – Have a very happy Canada Day.