

**Heritage & Archives**  
**Newsletter**  
**May, 2011**

The month of May is nearing an end and so once again, it is time for another newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

The number of visitors was in keeping with those in April. Along with locals and people from other areas visiting in person there were also e-mail and telephone inquiries. Luckily, I was able to provide assistance from information contained here in the archives as well as farming out a few of the inquiries to local genealogists.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting here in the Court Room on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May at 4:00 p.m. The interviewing project was discussed – to date, two members have completed interviews. Simon Aucoin was able to interview Dr. Monty MacMillan and Katrina MacKenzie has completed her interview with Baddeck resident, Mrs. Ruth MacLeod. The old time picnic was discussed briefly and was put on the agenda for the June meeting. As it was such a great success last summer, it was definitely the feeling of the membership to make the picnic an annual affair. It is expected that the location will be the same – the former grounds of the original Baddeck Academy on the Shore Road. The meeting next month will be held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June at 4:00 p.m. in the Court Room, Court House, Baddeck. New members are always welcome to attend.

The buildings featured in the May editions of the **Victoria Standard** newspaper were the Noel/MacRae House in Baddeck and St. Andrew's United church in Bay St. Lawrence.

The Noel/MacRae house was built in the early 1930's. What is distinctive about this dwelling is that it is believed to be the first prefabricated structure built in the village of Baddeck. What a prefabricate or kit house means is that all the lumbers has been precut along with some prior assembly, such as roof trusses, etc., and transported to a prepared foundation and then assembled. The main advantage of a prefab house over a "scratch" house would be the length of time it took to complete the building. The first owners of this house were Captain Norman Noel and his wife, Katie. They purchased the lot of land on Queen Street in 1930. In 1943, Mrs. Noel sold the house and property to Murdock and Gladys MacRae. It remained in the MacRae family until seventeen years ago when it was purchased by the Telegraph House and presently it is rented out seasonally to tourists.

St. Andrew's United church is located in the community of Bay St. Lawrence in northern Victoria County. It was believed built in 1877. Initially, it was a Presbyterian church, however, following the church union vote of 1925 it became part of the United Church of Canada. It is located on the main roadway in Bay St. Lawrence and it was built on one half acre of land which came out of a two hundred crown land grant to Norman MacPherson. It was the heirs of the late Mr. MacPherson who deeded the property to the

trustees in 1882. In 2005, the trustees of the North Highland Pastoral Charge sold the church to a local resident of Bay St. Lawrence. For the past six years, it has been privately owned and has not served as a place of worship. My thanks to Mrs. Annie Florence Bonnar who generously provided information on its history.

The annual and springs meetings of the Heritage Cape Breton Connection were held on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May beginning at 10:00 a.m. They took place in Baddeck Knox Presbyterian hall on Grant Street. There were twenty plus members in attendance as well a new member in the person of Hamilton Carter representing the St. Paul's Island Lighthouse Society. The lunch ( which was delicious) was catered to by the Knox Ladies Guild. The following people have been nominated to serve a term on the board: Catherine Arseneau, Beaton Institute; Rodney Chaison, N.S. Highland Village; Cathy Gillies, Chestico Museum; Margaret Herdman, Arichat Historical Society; Fred James, Sydney Steel Society; Eddie Kennedy, AGB National Historic Site; Aynsley MacFarlane, Individual member; Joan MacInnes, Victoria County Heritage and Archives; and Christie McNeil, Beaton Institute. The first meeting of the new board will take place in Baddeck on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June.

That is the news from here for May. I look forward to reporting back at the end of June.