

**Heritage and Archives
Newsletter
November, 2011**

November has turned out to be a very busy month here at the Heritage and Archives.

There was a steady flow of drop in visitors throughout the month both from away as well as the local areas along with the usual number of inquiries arriving by e-mail and telephone.

The Heritage Cape Breton Connection's annual Fall meeting was held on Saturday, 5th November at the Highland Village in Iona. There were approximately twenty-five members in attendance. At that meeting the new logo for the H.C.B.C. website was presented and received unanimous approval by the members. An up dated heritage locator map has gone to print as well as rack cards and both will be available to members for the upcoming 2012 season. The above was made possible as part our re-branding project which was sponsored by the Strategic Development Initiatives program. The Board has submitted an application to SDI for 2012 seeking funding to continue with part two of "Voices of Heritage" the recorded interviews of long serving individuals who have greatly contributed to the preservation of heritage on our island. It is hoped that this application will be successful. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, 1st December at 10:00 a.m. at the Highland Village, Iona.

The Baddeck and Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 16th November at the Court House. There were twelve members in attendance. Future projects were discussed for the months ahead. The interviewing process is still underway of our senior residents in the local communities. A main street project for the village of Baddeck was proposed by the president, Don Morrison whereby the insert map of A.F. Church's map of the village (circa 1886) would be used to identify the resident families and businesses situated on the main street at that time. Discussion took place regarding the December meeting. It was pointed out that several members (including the secretary) would either be away or not available for a meeting. A motion was made to defer the December meeting to January. That meeting will take place on Wednesday, 18th January commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the Court Room and it will be the annual meeting for the Society.

The old government wharf located for several decades in the community of Big Harbour was the subject of the built heritage column which appeared in the **The Victoria Standard** in November. The importance of these wharves which were located in communities along the Bras d'Or Lakes and all along the northern coast of Victoria County including the communities north of Cape Smokey was immeasurable as they provided a convenient drop off point in each community for virtually all manner of supplies needed in rural areas. Boats out of Sydney and North Sydney would carry merchandise for stores and individuals and even livestock was transported by these boats. The goods would be unloaded at each wharf for immediate pick-up or kept in the storage building for pick-up at a later time. The wharf in Big Harbour and other wharves like it

were important as well for people travelling to and from the Sydney's as the boats were in most cases, the only form of transportation in the early days – the roads, for the most part, were practically impassable for the greater part of each year.

Please note that there will not be a newsletter for December. Due to family commitments, I will away from the 12th Dec. to the New Year. The next newsletter will be a combined December/January edition.

On behalf of the Heritage and Archives Department, best wishes for a very happy holiday season.