

Heritage/Archives Newsletter October, 2009

With only a couple of days remaining in October, it is time, once again, to write the monthly newsletter from the Heritage and Archives Department.

Visitation, both in person and via e-mail and telephone, was steady throughout the month with approximately twenty people looking for information on several topics.

The second meeting of the Baddeck and Area Historical Society was held on Wednesday, 21st October in the late afternoon at the Court House in Baddeck. At the first meeting, there were twenty-five people present and for the second meeting, a further ten more newcomers joined the ranks. An election of officers for the society took place with the following outcome: President – Don Morrison, Vice-President – Margot Macaulay, Secretary/Treasurer – Jocelyn Bethune, Assistant Secretary – Shaaron Bartlett, and Member At Large – Peter Smith. The newly formed executive will be meeting in early November with the regular monthly meeting of members taking place on Wednesday, 18th November at 4:00 p.m. in the Court Room at the Court House. It was generally agreed that an inventory of materials which have been collected or compiled by the members be undertaken as one of the society's first projects. A motion was put forward and passed which set the regular monthly meetings to take place at 4:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone involved was very pleased with the wonderful turn out of interested people to make this society a reality – it is long overdue for the area.

Former Victoria County councillor, Lawrence Barron has just had his book published. It is entitled “Ingonish Roots” which covers historical notes, families, personal memories and excerpts from the Minutes and Proceedings of Victoria County Municipal from mid-1800's to the present time. Mr. Barron dropped by earlier in the month to present a signed copy to the Heritage and Archives which was greatly appreciated.

The Iona Connection held its regular Fall meeting for members on Saturday, 24th October. Along with the meeting, there was also a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the organization. The event was held in Iona at the Highland Village. There were approximately forty-five people in attendance. Following the business meeting, the membership was treated to a catered luncheon with guest speakers. One of the founding members, Jim St. Clair gave a tremendous talk on the origins of the organization along with the plight of maintaining a profile for heritage over the past twenty-five years. Also, Stephanie Smith from the Nova Scotia Museum gave a presentation highlighting the role of museums in the Province. Following lunch and the speeches, the members were treated to a Gaelic lesson and milling frolic which was led by Mary Jane Lamond. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful and uplifting day and greatly enjoyed by all.

The newspaper article for October on the built heritage of the county featured the former Knox church located in Indian Brook on the North Shore. There were actually two buildings erected on the same property. The first church was built in 1857 and served the congregation for ninety-one years when it was dismantled and a new structure was

erected in 1948. Building materials from the first church were utilized in the construction of the new church. The first service was held in December, 1948 and throughout the winter and spring of 1949, the interior was completed with the official dedication service taking place in July of that year. Originally called Knox, in later years, it received a new name in honour of a long serving and respected minister. Before it was de-consecrated, it was known as the William Reid Presbyterian Church. It is now privately owned. The congregations from both the former two Presbyterian churches located on the North Shore now attend St. Andrew's church in North River. Thanks to Catherine and Roy Kerr who generously made the old photographs of both the old and new church available.

Well, that is the news for October. Happy Hallowe'en to everyone and I look forward to reporting back next month.