

**Heritage/Archives  
Newsletter  
September & October, 2010**

This is a combined two month newsletter to cover both September and October.

The past two months have been busy ones for the Heritage and Archives Department. Visitors, whether in person or via e-mail and the telephone, were constant throughout September and October.

Along with all the happenings in the archives, there is an added task which I am involved with and that is the by-election for district 8 in the northern part of the county. With the death of councillor Robert MacLellan at the end of the summer, Municipal Council declared a vacancy in the district and set a date of 20<sup>th</sup> November for a by-election. There will be three candidates vying for this position in the persons of: Johnny Buchanan, Kenneth ( Brother) MacKinnon, and Bernie Vassallo.

The two heritage properties which appeared in the **Victoria Standard** featured dwellings in Englishtown and Upper Middle River.

The article in September was written about the former Morrison house located in Englishtown. The original owner was John G. Morrison who was both a local merchant and commissioner of fisheries for Cape Breton. He represented his district on Municipal Council for two years between 1892 and 1894. He then went on to represent Victoria County as MPP for fifteen consecutive years from 1894 to 1909. Following a seven year hiatus, he was re-elected in 1916 and served until his death in 1917. In the vicinity of one hundred and twenty years old, it is situated along the main road on a hill overlooking St. Ann's Harbour and is still in possession of members of the Morrison family.

In October, the former MacRae house in Upper Middle was featured. It is a one hundred and thirty-six year old dwelling having been built in 1874. It is located along the Cabot Trail in Middle River. Originally the property was granted to one Donald MacDonald in 1837. The house was built by his son-in-law, William MacRae. William and Kate MacRae were the first owners and occupants of the house. It is a Municipally registered heritage property and comprises part of the built heritage in the county.

The Heritage Cape Breton Connection board met on two recent occasions. There was a meeting on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> September held at the Court House in Baddeck and a second board meeting took place at the Beaton Institute at CBU on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October. Among the items for discussion at the meetings was the soon to be held annual Fall meeting of the association. It will take place on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> October in Grand Etang at the new Mi-Careme Centre commencing at 10:30 a.m. As this will be the first time the HCBC will be holding a meeting at the centre, everyone is looking forward to attending. Prior to the meeting, there will be an opportunity for a tour of the centre. Lunch will be catered at a cost of \$10.00 per person which includes coffee/tea and snacks on arrival and a lunch

consisting of soup and sandwiches and sweets. The board is hoping that all its members will be able to attend. It is a great time for the members to catch up on the activities which have gone on in the heritage sector over the spring and summer months. New members are always welcome.

The Baddeck & Area Historical Society met on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October in the Court House in Baddeck. It was the first meeting since June. There were sixteen members present with two new members in attendance. A report was presented on the success of the "Old Time Picnic" which was held on the grounds of the former Baddeck Academy, Shore Road in August. Picnic chairperson, Jessie MacLeod informed the meeting that there were over one hundred and fifty people who attended. It was agreed that this should become an annual event for the society and that the location was proven to be ideal.

Well, that covers the news from here over the past two months. Happy Hallowe'en to everyone.