



# ANNAPOLIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL • NOVA SCOTIA • CANADA

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## Newsletter - Spring 2005

ANNAPOLIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

### In This Issue

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| A Letter from the President        | Pg 2 |
| New AHS Logo                       | Pg 2 |
| Bake sale donations                | Pg 2 |
| In Memoriam                        | Pg 3 |
| Memorial Donations                 | Pg 3 |
| 2005 Volunteer of the Year         | Pg 3 |
| Stroll Through the Centuries House |      |
| Tour                               | Pg 3 |
| New Admission fees                 | Pg 4 |
| Farmers Market Volunteers          | Pg 4 |
| Include Your Name in History       | Pg 4 |
| O'Dell 2005 Summer Exhibits        | Pg 4 |
| 2005 Heritage Conference           | Pg 5 |
| Archival Postcard                  | Pg 5 |
| AHS Request for Volunteers         | Pg 5 |
| Victoria Day 2005                  | Pg 6 |

### AHS Goes On-line

Our communal past jumped into cyberspace last month with the April launch of the Annapolis Heritage Society website -

**[www.annapolisheritagesociety.com!](http://www.annapolisheritagesociety.com!)**

Almost a year in the planning and execution, our user-friendly site lets us take a more sophisticated approach to communicating with our members, prospective visitors and researchers.

The site has ten distinct sections: About Us, O'Dell House Museum, Sinclair Inn Museum, North Hills Museum, Genealogy Centre, Events and Exhibits, Archives, Artifacts, Community History and Heritage Buildings. The site will be updated monthly and we've designed it so we can expand sections as we have more material to add.

We certainly all learned a lot in the creation of this website. Personally, I was especially struck by the sheer wealth of information that makes up our Society holdings...information that represents forty years of work by countless volunteers. It is an astonishing resource and I'm glad we can now make it more widely available.

Special thanks go to my colleagues on the website committee...Carole Martin, instrumental in the early planning stages; Ian Lawrence, who pulled together the Genealogy Centre information and whose book, *Historic Annapolis Royal*, provided much of the history and Heritage Buildings content; Bob Dunfield, who presided over Artifacts; Wayne Morgan, who developed the Sinclair Inn section; Karen Allen, who read countless draft paragraphs; and Ryan Scranton, always there to answer a question, scribble a cut line or take "just one more" photograph. Jim Todd of Todd Graphic designed our logo and website masthead, and Herbert Eisengruber at DesignFort was our ever-patient web designer and ongoing webmaster.

By Jane Nicholson,

AHS Website Committee Chair



Archaeologist and AHS Board Member Dr. Niki Clark screening earth removed from archaeological test pits behind the O'Dell House Museum in May 2005.

## A Letter from the President

Much of this first newsletter of 2005 is devoted to the recent launch of the Society's website ([annapolisheritagesociety.com](http://annapolisheritagesociety.com)). For a number of years board members have realized the need to "get with the times", and the value such a webpage would hold for the organization. That value became increasingly obvious with the growing number of members from "away".

As part of the grant funding received by the Annapolis Heritage Society to further develop the Sinclair Inn, the Sinclair Committee over the past year or so developed a webpage relating to the extensive and ongoing interpretation of this important building. Consequently, the board approved moving ahead with a website (including the nearly-completed Sinclair site) that would represent the entire organization with all its facets. With the arrival on our board of newly-minted communications director, the highly-energized Jane Nicholson, the project took on new life. A name change and the development of a logo were carefully considered and eventually approved. Working with our Executive Director Ryan Scranton and local web designer Herbert Eisengruber, (and often linked by phone or e-mail from Ottawa), Jane steered the project to its completion.

The resulting website is attractive and user-friendly. The title page will be seasonally adjusted to feature current exhibits and events and elements of the website will expand with time, with additional historical articles, biographies and material on heritage buildings. It is hoped that [annapolisheritagesociety.com](http://annapolisheritagesociety.com) will become the standard for the on-line history of the Annapolis area, a role the organization has played within the community for over 35 years.

Which brings me to the passing on Boxing Day last of Marguerite Wagner, the founding spirit of Historic Restoration Enterprises. A love of local history prompted the purchase of the threatened O'Dell House in the late 1960s by Marguerite and her devoted husband Ralph. A small group coalesced around them to help in the stripping of wallpaper and repainting and papering that included then-student Barry Moody, now chair of the History Department at Acadia University. Others would follow, such as Robert Patterson, a retired banker from Toronto with a great interest in the history of the area. Their common interest led to the creation of the organization that we are stewards of today. It was Marguerite's personality, totally unpretentious and easily approached by young and old alike, that I think has contributed to the current success of the Annapolis Heritage Society. It was her interest

in the people of the past, their families, their documents, their clothing and utensils, that was the genesis of the society's now substantial holdings of artifacts and archival material, textiles and family histories. We owe her a great deal.

By Ian Lawrence



## New AHS Logo

The Annapolis Heritage Society is pleased to introduce our new logo. The logo, which was designed by Jim Todd from Perotte, Nova Scotia, provides our organization with a much needed visual identity. This identity calls upon the built heritage roots of this society while also representing the current diversity of this organization.

The logo itself features the image of a fan light over the name Annapolis Heritage Society. The fan light is based on a similar light found at the Sinclair Inn Museum. This type of window is also found in numerous other buildings in our community. It was felt that since the Society was founded on the concept of preserving built heritage in the Annapolis Royal region that using an historically relevant architectural image was fitting.

The fanlight is also an appropriate image since it is a single unit made of many parts. With its various museums, a genealogy research centre, archives and artifact collections the AHS is also a single unit made of many parts.

Due to the limitations of our printing budget we are only able to include a black and white version of the logo. The proper colours for the logo are burgundy and pale yellow which are the same colours as the O'Dell House Museum. The fanlight and lettering are burgundy while the bar at the bottom of the logo is pale yellow. We have both a stacked version of the logo which appears in this article and a linear version which appears at the top of the newsletter.

## Bake Sale Donations

In conjunction with the Victoria Day events the AHS Genealogy Centre will be holding a bake sale beginning at 10:00am on May 21. If you are interested in making a donation please drop items off at the O'Dell House Museum by 5:00pm on Friday, May 20.

## In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter the Annapolis Heritage Society has lost two very prominent members. Both Marguerite Wagner and David Armstrong have generously given their time, knowledge and passion to the betterment of this Society. Both of these individuals will be missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to both families.

Marguerite Wagner was one of the founding members of what was originally called Historic Restoration Enterprises. Under her leadership the O'Dell House Museum and numerous other buildings on Lower St. George Street were saved from a very uncertain fate. For many years Marguerite was the driving force behind this organization. Her vision and determination allowed the Society to grow and prosper.

David Armstrong was a former executive member of the Society's Board of Directors as well as acting as the Society's legal counsel for many years. David's sage advice and gentlemanly demeanour were hallmarks of both his time with the Society and generally within the community. David's many contributions to the Society are truly appreciated.

### Memorial Donations

In Memory of

Marguerite Wagner

Given by

Dr. Barry Moody

## Volunteer of the Year 2005

Lois Jenkins has been a volunteer with the Annapolis Heritage Society for the last six years. Through her time with the organization, Lois has made countless contributions to the AHS Genealogy Centre, the O'Dell House Museum, AHS Archives, and our Board of Directors. She is easily one of our organization's most reliable and valued volunteers.

Every Friday afternoon Lois arrives for her volunteer shift at the AHS Genealogy Centre. During this time she generously assists researchers who are using our facilities and responds to digital genealogy requests from across the world. Lois has helped innumerable people find lost relatives and solve missing pieces in their family trees. Her professionalism, knowledge and pleasant nature make her an ideal representative for the Genealogy Centre.

Lois' interest in research has also made her a valuable asset for the AHS Archives. Over the past few years the Society has organized a series of oral history evenings. These events take place in community halls around the region. Lois has taken on the role of chief researcher for these evenings. This is a task that has been done

without a great deal of fanfare but without her effort there is no way that this series would have been able to succeed.

Among the many other contributions that Lois has made to the Annapolis Heritage Society are helping with office work, general cleaning and organizing of resources, acting as an animator at Victorian Christmas, assisting in the gift shop and serving on various committees. It is safe to say that there is no task too big or too small for Lois. Thanks to her many contributions the Annapolis Heritage Society is a stronger and more vital organization. We are very pleased to recognize Lois Jenkins as our 2005 Volunteer of the year.



2005 AHS Volunteer of the Year, Lois Jenkins receiving a certificate of recognition from John Kinsella the Mayor of Annapolis Royal

## Stroll Through the Centuries House Tour

Celebrate four centuries of built heritage in Canada's oldest town. Four key Annapolis Royal properties are featured – La Maison Acadienne, a reproduction 17th century Acadian house; the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Degannes-Cosby house; the mid-19th century Runciman house and the early 20th century Foster-Nicholson house. Choose the day tour or the candlelit evening tour. Tour tickets also include admission to the O'Dell House Museum (c. 1869), the Sinclair Inn Museum (c.1710), North Hills Museum (c.1760) and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens.

The tours will be held on August 27, 2005. All proceeds to the Annapolis Heritage Society ([www.annapolisheritagesociety.com](http://www.annapolisheritagesociety.com)) and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens ([www.historicgardens.com](http://www.historicgardens.com)). For More information please call (902) 532-7018 or (902) 532-7754.

## New Admission Fees

The Society's Board of Directors have decided that we will be charging admission at our sites in Annapolis Royal this summer. Since our funding from the provincial government has been frozen for numerous years, it was felt that admission fees were needed to help defray some of our rising operating costs. Currently the provincial government pays between 10%-15% of our operating costs. Fees will be the same at both the O'Dell House Museum and Sinclair Inn Museum.

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Adults                | \$3.00 |
| Seniors               | \$2.00 |
| Children (ages 6 -17) | \$2.00 |
| Children under 6      | Free   |
| Family                | \$7.00 |

A special adult rate of \$5.00 is available if someone is interested in visiting both the O'Dell House Museum and Sinclair Inn Museum on the same day.

Society members will be admitted to our sites for free if they show the guide or attendant their membership card. If you are a member and have not received an updated membership card please contact the Society offices at [historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or 902-532-7754.

## Farmers Market Table Volunteers

We are currently looking for individuals who may be interested in tending the Society's table at the Saturday morning Annapolis Royal Farmers and Traders Market. Ideally we would have two people per weekend. The responsibilities of these volunteers would be to set up the table, sell signature quilt squares and other assorted merchandise and to provide information on AHS and its activities. If you are interested in working at the table please contact the Society offices at [historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or 902-532-7752.



**SINCLAIR INN**  
Museum

**Meet the Ghosts  
of the Sinclair Inn**

- ❖ Oldest wood frame building in Canada now open to the public
- ❖ 2 original Acadian structures (built ca. 1708 and 1710) and joined in 1781
- ❖ Rare example of pre-expulsion Acadian construction
- ❖ Home of Canada's first Masonic Lodge in 1738
- ❖ 300 years of architecture, history and living

230 St. George St., Annapolis Royal  
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## Include Your Name in History

The O'Dell House Museum committee has devised an interesting fund raiser for this summer. The committee plan to sell squares for a community signature quilt based on a historic model in the AHS artifact collection. In 1884 a red and white signature quilt was made in Annapolis Royal and Granville Ferry using the churn dash pattern. This quilt bears the signatures of numerous people who lived in the community at the end of the nineteenth century. Additionally, various notable personalities like King George V, Governor General Lansdowne and the Bishop of London signed the quilt.

The idea of the current quilt is to record as many names of the people who are living in, or visiting, Annapolis Royal on the occasion of the town's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There are additional squares that are being sent to Queen Elizabeth, the Governor General, the Prime Minister and Premier of Nova Scotia. When the quilt is completed it will go on display at the O'Dell House Museum.

Squares will be sold for \$5.00 and will be available at the O'Dell House Museum and at the AHS table at the Annapolis Royal Farmers and Traders Market.

## O'Dell House Museum 2005 Summer Exhibits

The O'Dell House Museum will be opening two new exhibits in conjunction with this year's Victoria Day festivities. These exhibits will both be opened at the O'Dell House Museum on Friday May 20 starting at 7:30pm. All Society members are invited to these openings.

The first exhibit is entitled "**Bringing the Croscup's Painted Parlour Home: Piece by Piece**". This exhibit explores the history and significance of this piece of art, currently on permanent display at the Canadian National Gallery in Ottawa, which was created in Karsdale, Nova Scotia. This exhibit will feature high quality photographic reproductions of the actual walls at 50% scale size. In essence the exhibit brings together copies of the painted images with Croscup family artifacts in the Annapolis Heritage Society and private collections. There will also be a new theory of who the anonymous artist of the Painted Parlour really is. This exhibit is an excellent chance to rediscover a piece of Nova Scotian history and culture that

is no longer in Nova Scotia. Our thanks are extended to the Friends of the Painted Room Society for making this exhibit possible.

Our other summer exhibit is entitled **Playthings: Dolls and toys 1750-1950**. This exhibit draws largely upon private collections of dolls and toys that have been loaned to the museum by AHS Board member Jane Nicholson, her mother and Sister Christine. The exhibit will feature French and German porcelain dolls, games, golliwogs, and stuffed rabbits. Toys in the Society's artifact collection will be used to fill out the exhibit. The O'Dell House Museum Committee would like to thank everyone who made this exhibit possible.

### Archival Postcard

The Society's archives recently purchased a post card on Ebay that was printed in Annapolis Royal in 1910. The postcard gives a view of St George Street that was not previously known to exist. Our Archives collect this sort of material so that it can be preserved and accessed by researchers. If you have historic postcards or photographs our archives are always interested in collecting material that documents the history of our community. Please contact us at 902-532-7754.



### Annapolis Royal

“The town of Annapolis, the head quarters of the county, and the Port Royal of the French, was founded by the latter in 1605. Although it is now 250 years since the first settlement, 122 years since the English became masters of it, and 100 since the Acadians were expelled, still it has not made so rapid a progress as might be expected from the long period that has elapsed, and from the elements of wealth it contains. ... The old French fort is still in existence, but silence is now spread over its dilapidated battlements, and the field, once the scene of war and bloodshed, is now cultivated, and is applied to its legitimate purpose - that of producing food for man and beast.” Alexander Monro, Esq., 1855.

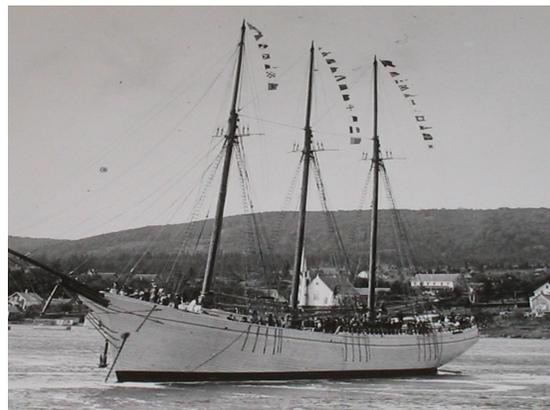
### 2005 Heritage Conference

The Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage and the Council of Nova Scotia Archives held their annual conferences in at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre in Cornwallis Park from April 28 – 30. The decision to host the conference in Cornwallis Park was made after an invitation was extended by the Annapolis Heritage Society. The Society felt the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Annapolis Royal in 2005 was an appropriate opportunity to display our town's assets to the province's Heritage community. The conferences, which were on the theme of marketing and retail, were attended by approximately 125 delegates.

The community of Annapolis Royal and the AHS museums played a large role in these conferences. On the Thursday night of the conference there was a Mayor's Reception for delegates at the Annapolis Royal Fire Hall. When the reception ended delegates were bussed to the O'Dell House Museum and Sinclair Inn Museum for an open houses. This was the first public display of the Ghosts of the Sinclair Inn exhibit. When delegates had visited the AHS museums a daring few braved a downpour to go on the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal's graveyard tour with Alan Melanson.

### Request for Volunteers

The AHS is constantly in need of volunteer labour. It is only through the dedication and generosity of our volunteers that the AHS has been able to play an important role in preserving, promoting and presenting the heritage of Annapolis County. If you are interested in helping out with one of our committees or have other skills you would like to share, we would be thrilled to hear from you. We greatly appreciate the generosity and dedication of the volunteers who allow the AHS to function. Please contact us at 902-532-7754 or [historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca)



The schooner Mapleland being launched in the Annapolis Basin in 1919.