



# ANNAPOLIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL • NOVA SCOTIA • CANADA

## Newsletter – November 2005

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### *President's Message*

The province of Nova Scotia's Heritage Strategy Task Force was in Annapolis Royal on the night of November 9. In the spring this Task Force will make recommendations to the provincial government that will influence heritage policy for decades to come. The following submission was presented by AHS President, Ian Lawrence, on behalf of the Society.

### *On the Importance of Heritage to Tourism*

If we ask ourselves why visitors come to the Maritimes in droves, well certainly fresh air, blue sky and water, and scenery in spades are part of the attraction. But people are also charmed by our towns and villages, virtually all of them small tightly-knit communities of neatly kept buildings, most dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> but many from the 18<sup>th</sup> century as well. So our built heritage is an integral part of the attraction for visitors. I think that no one would dispute that Lunenburg's appeal would be substantially reduced if one removed its characteristic architecture, developed by its early German settlers; or picture Shelburne without its terrific Loyalist-era buildings; or Pictou without the stone cottages of its early Scottish settlers. Therefore it is our assertion that regardless of the hard statistical numbers for visitors and locals who cross museum

thresholds, the "aura" created in our towns by an appreciation of heritage is beneficial to all, resident and tourist alike. The role of heritage is not a drain on a community's resources, but rather an economic generator (witness the number of festivals in this area this year). It is an economic generator that is a value-added multiplier, to use a little "government-speak". Heritage has a role in public service – heritage groups are the "memory of these towns". Museums also act unofficially as forums within these communities for those interested in history and the past. Spend an afternoon at the O'Dell House Museum and check out the variety of local people who use the resource. Someone may bring in a photograph for identification, or a sheaf of documents to donate, or spend the afternoon researching their family history.

In the case of Annapolis Royal we have been a tourist destination for well over one hundred years and heritage is the obvious drawing card here. In terms of museums the public increasingly expects a more sophisticated product. It is no longer enough to throw open the doors to a random collection of unrelated artifacts. In our organization, we increasingly try to offer innovation together with thoughtful interpretation. The popular "Ghosts of the Sinclair Inn" exhibit offers a novel approach to the telling of history through the use of modern digital technology. The displays at the O'Dell House Museum offer themes that resonate with the modern visitor (such as the recent exhibit of dolls and toys of yesteryear) or tie into a larger event in the community, such as the wrought iron display in conjunction with the international CanIron conference held in Annapolis Royal in August. But we could do more. Dedicated heritage groups province wide are preoccupied with fundraising, and the pool of talented volunteers whose energies could be better spent bringing history to the people are reduced to having bake sales and raffles to support their aims. This is not good enough. If heritage can be recognized for the important economic generator that it is, then surely investing in that infrastructure (museums, festivals, etc.) to maintain and improve what we have is sound common sense.

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I would also like to comment on the need for provincial heritage legislation with teeth. My understanding is that town councils province wide can currently freeze demolition of heritage structures within their jurisdiction for the period of one year. Following that, the owner can proceed with his original plan. That is simply not good enough. Despite the fact that more and more people have an appreciation for the heritage buildings around them, these buildings are a finite resource – there are only so many of them. The potential value resuscitated buildings offer our towns is incalculable, and town councils should be given more power to ensure their survival.

Linked to this issue is that of archaeology and the province's role in recognizing and either protecting or documenting sensitive sites, whether aboriginal or European. This issue is of special significance to this area with its four hundred year history, and is I suspect of interest to other very early communities in the province, such as Canso and LaHave. Annapolis Royal's four hundred years of history include that period until 1750 when it was the province's major centre. At the top of the street where St Anthony Street or Rue St. Antoine meets St. George Street or Rue Dauphin (as they were known in the French period), is perhaps the oldest intersection in Canada. The south east quadrant of that intersection forms the original settlement of old Port Royal, and despite the subsequent years of construction and ploughing, potentially holds valuable information on this early settlement. The government should have a forward thinking policy on this issue, and Nova Scotia would benefit from a provincial map identifying sensitive sites and a

protocol on how to proceed in the face of potential development.

Pared to its essentials, history teaches all of us how mankind has reached this point in time. Without an appreciation of heritage how do we know who we are culturally, let alone convey that to visitors?

Ian Lawrence, AHS President

### ***Victorian Christmas 2005***

The O'Dell House Museum's annual Victorian Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. As always, this event features the simple pleasures of Christmas 140 years ago. The traditional decorations and good cheer of Victorian Christmas always set the proper mood for the festive season in Annapolis Royal. Please join us for homemade cookies, hot mulled cider and carols around the 1885 pump organ.

As in previous years, admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated.

### ***Victorian Christmas Dates and Times***

Friday November 25, 7pm - 9pm  
Saturday November 26, 7pm– 9pm  
Sunday November 27, 2pm – 4pm  
Friday December 2, 7pm - 9pm  
Saturday December 3, 7pm - 9pm  
Sunday December 4, 2pm - 4pm



A low tide view of the remains of the Acadia Steamship Pier at the end of St George Street with Granville Ferry in the background. This pier once housed a spur of the Windsor and Annapolis rail line and an insulated apple warehouse.  
RGS

# *Annapolis Heritage Society Strategic Plan 2002-2005*

## *Report on Progress*

The HRS/AHS initial strategic plan covering 2002-2005, titled '**A Work in Progress**', has provided the framework for considerable accomplishment over the past three years, including, but definitely not limited to:

- Extensive refurbishing of the O'Dell Museum's interior: parlour, dining room, office, kitchen and first floor hall, and the upstairs exhibit rooms and Executive Director's office on the second floor
- Completion and opening to the public of the first floor of the major Sinclair Inn Museum project with the development and installation of sophisticated visitor interpretation technology
- Increased protection of buildings and artifacts through the installation of fire and security systems at the O'Dell and Sinclair sites
- Completion of a full review of investments and selection of a financial advisor to oversee investment activity. We are positioning ourselves so that we will be gaining a larger portion of our operating revenues from return on investments.
- Completion and launch of the Society web site, covering a full range of Society activities, programming and events with concurrent creation of an AHS logo and related communications tools.
- A review of the collections policy, and significant progress in reducing the backlog of acquisitions and accessioning, and a decision to create additional purpose-built storage for artifacts by renovating the Bricks and Boards building on the back of the property
- Publication of five genealogy studies for Ritchie, Marshall, Hicks, Harris and Starratt, and two CD ROMS - Christian Messenger Vital Statistics, Bear River Telephone and News Vital Statistics
- Mounting of numerous exhibitions, including Rug Hooking, Heritage Quilts, Habitant to Habitat -the Salt Marsh , Playthings 1750-1950, the Croscup Painted Parlour, The Garden Party costume exhibit, Hand Wrought; Historic Nova Scotia Iron, Rebuilding the Port Royal Habitation, Champlain Maps of Nova Scotia, Sieur De Monts, Countertop Exhibit Series, Masonic History of the Sinclair Inn.
- Recording of oral history sessions covering: Victoria Beach, Port Royal, Karsdale, Granville Ferry, St George St., Clementsvale, Clementsport, Tupperville
- Naming of Volunteers of the Year - 2004 Frank Taylor, 2005 Lois Jenkins
- Introduction of Victoria Day programming, and support for Annapolis Royal's Victoria Day weekend special events
- Successful operation of 2005 Heritage Day's "Archaeological Roadshow".
- Action to increase revenues through establishment of admission fees, increasing investment revenue, testing a retail operation, adding as fund raisers a dessert party and Victoria Day tea, raffles and sales, revised genealogy fees
- Amalgamation of the AHS and North Hills operating accounts to improve financial administration
- Securing of AHS representation on the Annapolis Royal Town Council's Heritage Advisory committee and the Annapolis Royal Wharf Society
- Increasing our Provincial Community Museums Assistance Plan (CMAP) operational assessment from 73 per cent to 82.9 per cent
- Development and completion of the first strategic plan covering 2003-05
- Advocacy on behalf of heritage in Nova Scotia with the Southwest NS Curators Group
- Creation of and support for the Digby Annapolis Museums Committee (DAM), production of the joint Living History Brochure. Initiation, with the DAM group, of joint training sessions for summer guides.
- Participation in and representation on the Steering Committee for the Passage Project. This project is designed as a cooperative effort between museums in Nova Scotia to develop collections management, membership and other relevant databases.
- Hosting of Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage and Nova Scotia Archives 2005 annual conferences, with open houses, and other activities to coincide with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Annapolis Royal
- Active representation on and participation in the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and the landing re-enactment committee
- Successful partnership with the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens in the creation and execution of the Four Century House Tour
- Active participation in the Annapolis Royal Community Appreciation Days program
- Sale of two properties owned by AHS
- Transfer of archival and artifact collections from storage at Bonnet house to the O'Dell House Museum and Annapolis Royal Courthouse.

Reflecting the breadth of heritage activities the Historic Restoration Society was engaged in, a motion was adopted at the September 2004 Annual General Meeting to change the name of the Historic Restoration Society to the Annapolis Heritage Society.

## ***Building on the Move***

Approximately 25 years ago a wooden storage building was built on the O'Dell House Museum property. This building was partially built using recycled timbers from the frame of an old barn in Karsdale, Nova Scotia. In recent years the building has come to be known as the Bricks and boards building for the architectural recycling business that the Society has operated from this location. Unfortunately, the brick platforms that supported the building were beginning to significantly deteriorate. A decision was made by the Board to move the building to a new foundation so that we could extend its life.

In October, Curtis Orde Construction arrived and began to prepare the ground to move the building approximately twenty feet forward to a new concrete foundation. After the soil was removed and a new underlay of sand put down and compacted the concrete was poured. Once the concrete had cured, the building was jacked-up and put on rollers to move it to its new home. The actual moving was done using a backhoe to pull the building forward and took the better part of a day.

The decision to move the building coincides with another decision of the Board. After a recent internal audit of Society's artifact collection and our current storage facilities, the AHS Board decided that we needed expand our storage capacity. The proper care of our artifact collections is a primary concern for the organization. We are now undertaking the transformation of this storage building into an archivally sound storage facility.



## ***Sweater Raffle***

The AHS Genealogy Centre is holding a fundraising draw featuring a men's Arran knit sweater. The sweater itself is approximately size 44. Denise Rice, a long-time volunteer with the Genealogy Centre, knit the sweater.

Tickets are available for \$2.00 from members of the Genealogy Centre, at the O'Dell House Museum during open hours and at the Annapolis Royal Fire Hall Christmas Craft Market on December 3. Proceeds from this raffle will be used to support the ongoing work of the Genealogy Centre.

**O'Dell House  
Museum**



**Victorian Stagecoach Inn**  
ca. 1870  
Exhibits on Annapolis Royal's History

**AHS Genealogical Centre**  
Annapolis County's  
Genealogical Resource  
\*\*\*  
Microfilm, church records,  
vital statistics, family files, etc.  
\*\*\*  
Local Archives

136 St. George St., Annapolis Royal  
**Annapolis Heritage Society**  
Tel: 902-532-7754 Email: [historic@ns.alliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.alliantzinc.ca)

## ***Words of Wisdom***

“A wise nation preserves its records, gathers up its monuments, decorates the tombs’ of its illustrious dead, repairs its great structures, and fosters national pride and love of country, by perpetual references to the sacrifices and glories of the past.”  
Joseph Howe

## ***Signature Quilt***

There is still time to include your name in history. All summer, members of the O'Dell House Museum committee have been working hard to sell squares for an Annapolis Royal 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative signature quilt. The committee has been selling squares to both residents and visitors to collect a picture of who was in Annapolis in 2005. Among the signatures that have been collected are Prime Minister Paul Martin, Governors General Adrienne Clarkson and Michaele Jean, and Leader of the Official Opposition Stephen Harper.

The pattern for the quilt is based on one that is in the Annapolis Heritage Society collection. The original quilt was made in 1884 and bears the signatures of residents and visitors to Annapolis Royal at that time. Included among the signatures on the original quilt are King George V, Governor General Landsdowne and Lieutenant Governor Ritchie. The pattern itself is called churn dash.

While the number of available squares is currently limited to about 70 they are still available at the O'Dell House Museum. There will also be an opportunity to purchase squares at the Society's table at the Annapolis Royal Farmer's and Trader's Market Christmas market at the Annapolis Royal Legion on December 3. Squares are available for \$5.00 each. The proceeds from this project will be used to support the ongoing activities of the Annapolis Heritage Society.

## ***Historic Personality Profile William Winniett (1685-1741)***

Some writers have stated that the Winniett family has been in longer continuous occupation of property in the present Maritime Provinces than any other family. Regardless of this claim, the progenitor of the Winniett surname in Nova Scotia was William Winniett who arrived in Annapolis Royal in 1710.

William was born in France to Huguenot parents in 1685, but to escape religious persecution bought about by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in that year, the family moved to London. William received his early education in England, but by the age of 25 he was in the colony of Massachusetts where he volunteered as an officer in Francis Nicholson's army in the attack on Port Royal in 1710. After the capture of the fort, he remained as an officer in the garrison there, but resigned his post in 1711 to marry Marie Maissonat (1695-1799), a Catholic Acadian from a positioned family, who was reputed to have been *the undisputed Belle of French Port Royal*.

William set about to build a trading and shipping empire along the New England and Nova Scotia coasts, and at times both he and Marie were

intensely involved in the political and commercial life of Annapolis Royal - their home and base of operation. By 1729 Governor-in-Chief of the province, Col. Richard Phillipps, said of William that he was *the most considerable Merchant and one of ye first British Merchants of this place... as one eminent in his Zeal for His Majesty's Service*. At one time Winniett served on His Majesty's Council, but his main drive in the 1820s and 1830s was to continue to build his commercial contacts. While on a trip to obtain trading goods in Massachusetts in 1841, William fell overboard in Boston Harbour and was drowned. He left his widow in a deplorable financial situation, but with 13 sons and daughter to carry on the Winniett legacy throughout Nova Scotia and elsewhere.

Throughout their careers, William Winniett and Marie Maissonat were recognized for their bold and adventurous spirits and for the energy and outspokenness with which they pursued their lives and interests. However it was also not uncommon for their biographers to use such words as *insolent, avaricious, contemptuous, undiplomatic, disrespectful, and prejudiced* in describing their dealings with others.

By Robert Dunfield, AHS Genealogy Centre

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## ***Annapolis Heritage Society Annual Giving***

**This is your chance to help the Annapolis Heritage Society preserve, present and promote your history.**

The AHS has always relied on the generosity of its members, whether in donating artefacts, archival material, cash or hours of volunteer effort. Our leadership in developing museums and supporting heritage preservation has much to do with our members. As both the Federal and Provincial governments continue to decrease their support of heritage based activities we are constantly searching for new ways to replace these long time sources of funds.

Donations to Annual Giving help us to meet basic operating needs, expand existing programs and services, and build our collections. It is only through the generosity of our members and friends that we are able to maintain a high level of service.

Your support is essential to our future. Please help us to ensure that **your** history has a secure home. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Annapolis Heritage Society.

*Yes, I would like to make a gift of:*

**\$25** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$250** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my gift to support:

General Operations \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: **Annapolis Heritage Society**. All donations \$25 and above will be issued a Canadian tax receipt.

AHS Annual Giving Fund  
PO Box 503  
Annapolis Royal, NS  
B0S 1A0

## ***AHS 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. In this edition of the newsletter, we will profile a few of the volunteer committees and opportunities that can be found at the AHS. If you are interested in helping out with one of the following positions 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 one of the numbers given below or at 902-532-7754 or [historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

### **Job Title: Accessioning Clerk**

Committee: Collections Management and Archives

Time Required: Approx 4 hours per week

Contact Person: Ryan Scranton 532-7754

Job Description: Document new acquisitions to the AHS artifact and archival collection by:

- Making an identification number on each item
- Recording details and description of item on hard copy forms and in digital database
- Researching items as needed

### **Job Title: Genealogical Research Volunteer**

Committee: AHS Genealogical Centre

Time Required: One afternoon per week

Contact Person: Frank Taylor – 532-7685

Job Description: Genealogical Centre volunteers assist researchers who are using AHS resources.

- Develop knowledge of AHS genealogical reference collection
- Collection of research fees and sales of retail merchandise as needed
- Shelving of genealogical resources

### **Job Title: North Hills Museum Committee Members**

Committee: North Hills Museum

Time Required: Approx 6 hours per month

Contact Person: Ryan Scranton 532-7754

Job Description: Assist the North Hills Museum committee with the planning and presentation of events and interpretive programming.

- Preparing for and attending committee meetings
- Assist with special events as needed.

Do you have something you would like to contribute to the next Annapolis Heritage Society newsletter? We are interested in brief articles on the history of the Annapolis region, family histories, pages from family bibles or ongoing events that would be of interest to our members. Please email submissions to [historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca) Due to space constraints it may not be possible to print all submissions.

## ***Annapolis Heritage Society***

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***B0S 1A0***

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***(902) 532-0700***

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***Email: historic@ns.aliantzinc.ca***

***President***

***Ian Lawrence***

***Executive Director***

***Ryan Scranton***

**Hours of Operation**

O'Dell House Museum October 15 – May 15

11:00am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday

Genealogy Centre

1pm-4pm Monday to Saturday

Sinclair Inn Museum

Open during summer months

North Hills Museum

Open June 1 to October 15



This image features Bill Edwards one of the former owners of the Sinclair Inn (Farmer's Hotel) on St George Street. Of interest is Mr. Edwards pet, Jack the monkey, who is sitting on the hood of the car. Through the summer months, the Sinclair Inn is operated as one of the AHS museums. A plush toy homage to Jack can be seen sitting in the front window.