

ANNAPOLIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL • NOVA SCOTIA • CANADA

ANNAPOLIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Newsletter - Autumn 2005

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archival collections, exhibits and displays, and a venue in which to preserve our unique Nova Scotian history. These activities instil community pride, act as community economic generators and preserve and promote our community memories. Most heritage organizations continue to stretch their resources and provide these services while community museums across the province have had their funding frozen since 1998. During the same time we have seen sites like the South Rawdon Museum close permanently due to lack of financial support. When a museum closes a large part of the community's memory is lost forever.

Provincial Heritage Strategy

This fall Nova Scotians will have the opportunity to influence heritage policy in the province. The provincial government, in conjunction with the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, has hired the Voluntary Planning organization to form a heritage task force. The 12 members of the task force will consult with heritage stakeholders, people with an interest in heritage and experts in the field before making recommendations.

A schedule of community hall meetings will be announced in the fall. One of these sessions is tentatively scheduled for Annapolis Royal, although a date has not been confirmed. We encourage all members of the Annapolis Heritage Society to attend one of the public meetings. This is a chance to provide a voice for heritage. An interim report that captures issues gathered in the public consultations is expected in February with the final strategy due in the spring of 2006.

This forum is the time to put forward a strong case about the importance of heritage in Nova Scotia. Organizations like the Annapolis Heritage Society provide important services to our communities, including educational programming, genealogical resources, artifact and



The Granville to Annapolis ferry landing at the Annapolis Royal ferry slip circa 1910.

A Letter from the President

This year the Annapolis Royal region has been celebrating 400 years of European settlement. Throughout the summer, events including pageants, plays and military drills have highlighted the rich heritage of our community. The Port Royal 400th Anniversary Society, the Town and County are to be congratulated for their effort; the human scale of the "party" and the large volunteer effort reflect well on the area. I recall in particular the Saturday celebrating both the Charter of Nova Scotia and the rededication of the Society for Colonial Wars monument. Annapolis Royal had atmosphere in spades that day. The heavy fog and wet leafy canopy of Saint George St. added considerably to the military parade downtown to Fort Anne, with drumbeat and periodic volleys of gunfire marking the parade's progress. Many of the spectators lining the street were also dressed in costume.

Other popular events have rounded out the summer calendar. The Four Century House Tour, a fundraiser sponsored by AHS and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, was a great success (with our thanks going to the house owners and countless volunteers). The CanIron V blacksmithing conference (brought to town through the efforts of local artisan Brad Hall) gave Annapolis Royal additional international exposure.

Looking to the future, the AHS board of directors plans to develop a strategy for Annapolis Royal, to guide our stated role as advocates for heritage. The pace of development in town requires the organization to have some sort of vision on how heritage preservation will move forward with development.

Of immediate interest is the area surrounding the O'Dell House Museum on Lower Saint George St. Property owners there complain of the poor state of the sidewalks and business owners of the low volume of traffic, surely related issues. To that end, AHS and the Town of Annapolis Royal have applied for provincial funding to develop a walking tour featuring the historic points of interest in this once bustling part of town. The AHS contribution would be "in kind" research for a dozen or more panels on historic facts and features of the Lower Town. These panels will be placed at relevant points to encourage more pedestrian traffic.

AGM October 4

The Annapolis Heritage Society annual general meeting will be held at 7pm on October 4, 2005, at St. Luke's Anglican Church hall in Annapolis Royal. As in previous years, there will be a series of brief committee reports as well as a guest speaker. The speaker for this year's meeting is AHS board member Dr. Niki Clark, who will present the results of her archaeological excavations at the Sinclair Inn Museum.

Over the past two years Dr. Clark has had the opportunity to do archaeological testing both inside and outside the Sinclair Inn Museum. A sample of the artifacts she found was presented at the O'Dell House Museum during the Heritage Day Archaeological Artifacts Roadshow last February. This presentation will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the intriguing history of the Sinclair Inn Museum.



A group of workers rebuilding a section of the Port Royal Habitation in 1939. The original Port Royal Habitation was established by a French expedition under the leadership of Sieur de Monts in 1605.

Maritimers

"They are not very social in their habits, and their manners are unpolished; but if a friend or stranger put himself in the way of their hospitality, he will find good fare and a hearty welcome: indeed, any person of respectable address and appearance, who can tell a good story, sing a good song, and play the fiddle, may travel through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick free of expense; nor will he always lack the means of a comfortable conveyance from place to place, or hose or mittens when the weather is cold; and the farther he keeps from the towns, he more successful will he be in his economical tour... ." Araham Gesner, 1847

As quoted in *The Best of Abraham Gesner*, Allison Mitcham, ed., Lancelot Press, 1995, p. 99.

Hand Wrought

The O'Dell House Museum recently opened an exhibit on historic Nova Scotian blacksmithing. This exhibit, entitled "Hand Wrought; Historic Nova Scotia Iron", was opened in conjunction with the CanIron V conference, a biennial gathering of Canadian blacksmiths held in Annapolis Royal. It was an excellent opportunity for the museum to showcase iron artifacts and the blacksmithing trade. This exhibit is also a chance to mention early blacksmiths in the Annapolis Royal region. Both Francois Guitard, who arrived at the Port Royal Habitation in 1606, and Francis LeCain, who arrived in Annapolis Royal from the Channel Islands in the early 1740s, are featured in the exhibit text. Artifacts for this display were gathered from the Annapolis Heritage Society's collection, the Yarmouth County Museum and various private collections.

The importance of Nova Scotia blacksmiths in both domestic and industrial applications is the focus of the exhibit. The chosen artifacts show the range of essential everyday products that were created by blacksmiths. This includes cooking utensils, agricultural and logging equipment as well as decorative items. In this exhibit special significance is given to products produced for the shipping and shipbuilding trades. These industries, which were staples of the nineteenth century Nova Scotia economy, would not have been possible without the work of blacksmiths.

One of the most interesting pieces on display is a chunk of iron from the ship *Mont Blanc*. This vessel was one of the two involved in the 1917 Halifax explosion. While this piece does to meet the true criteria of being hand wrought, it was included since it is one of the more evocative and historic pieces of Nova Scotian iron. This artifact was graciously loaned to the exhibit by the Yarmouth County Museum. "Hand Wrought: Historic Nova Scotia Iron" will be on display at the O'Dell House Museum until October 21, 2005.

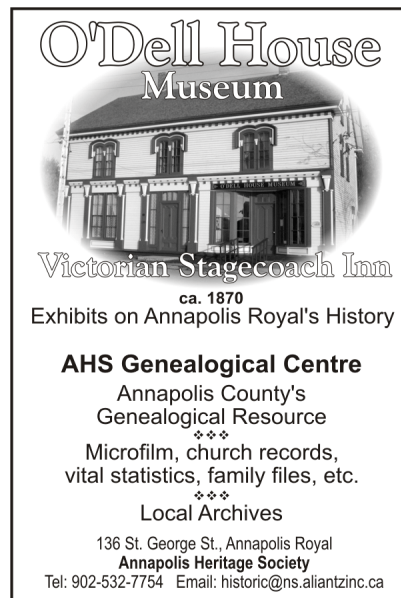
Signature Quilt

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 400th 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, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson 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 squares is becoming limited, there is still a supply available at both the O'Dell House Museum and at the Society's table at the Annapolis Royal Farmer's and Trader's Market. 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.



Sinclair Inn Museum Official Opening

On Saturday July 16 a crowd of over 100 people gathered in the parking lot beside the Sinclair Inn Museum for the official opening of the site's first floor interpretive project. Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage, presided over the ribbon cutting. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the innovative interpretive techniques employed at the Sinclair Inn Museum to the most influential decision maker in the heritage field. Other dignitaries who made speeches at the event were Robert Thibault, Member of

Parliament for West Nova, John Kinsella, Mayor of Annapolis Royal, Peter Newton, Warden of Annapolis County, and Dr. Barry Moody of the Sinclair Inn Museum committee and the Acadia University Department of History. The Master of Ceremonies for the opening was Annapolis Heritage Society President, Ian Lawrence. After the ceremony, Dr. Moody took Minister Frulla on a personal tour of the site. The Minister expressed her admiration for the quality of the interpretation and the overall story that the museum tells.

We would like to thank the Town of Annapolis Royal and Town Marketing Manager Sharon McAuley for their assistance with organizing parts of this event. It was greatly appreciated.



This image is of Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage, speaking at the official opening of the first floor interpretation project at the Sinclair Inn Museum.

400th Anniversary

We are now more than halfway through the 400th anniversary of Port Royal/Annapolis Royal. This has been a busy year, filled with special events such as the landing of the French at Port Royal, the Four Centuries House Tour, Charter Day, The Annapolis Birthday Party, The Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage conference and CanIron V. The Annapolis Heritage Society would like to thank all of the individuals and groups who have worked so hard to celebrate our 400th anniversary. This is a year for the community to celebrate what makes this region so special.

The Annapolis Heritage Society's major 400th anniversary project has been the research, stabilization and interpretation of the Sinclair Inn Museum. Through the research phase of this project we have learned many new and

interesting things about the building. Both the archaeology and dendrochronology testing at the site have opened tantalizing new windows into how and when the building came into its present form. The installation of a wooden skeleton inside the building and the tying this skeleton to the original framing has secured the structural integrity of the building. The building has also been made more accessible through the addition of a unique wood and glass flooring system. The interpretation phase of this project has drawn a great deal of attention to the site. The Ghosts of the Sinclair Inn, touchscreen computer stations and exposed architectural elements make this a it appealing museum to visit. The Society has received a great deal of praise for the innovative nature of the Sinclair Inn Museum's interpretation. The Annapolis Heritage Society and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency have both made significant financial contributions to this ongoing project.

As mentioned in another section of this newsletter, the O'Dell House Museum committee is collecting signatures for a 400th anniversary quilt. This quilt will eventually be put on permanent display at the museum. Please contact the museum at 902-532-7754 if you are interested in participating in this project.

Four Century House Tour

The Annapolis Heritage Society and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens hosted an extremely successful house tour on August 27, 2005. The tour was broken into two sections with a self guided tour during the day and an interpreted tour in the evening. There were three private homes, the three Annapolis Heritage Society museums and the Historic Garden's La maison acadienne on the tour. While visiting these sites, participants were able to experience construction style, decoration and furniture representing the last 400 years of Annapolis Royal's history.

The organization of this event would not have been possible without a large number of volunteers. We would like to thank the costumed interpreters and guides, organizers of the refreshments and people on safety patrol. We would especially like to thank Jim and Pauline How, Sefton Squires and Gail Robertson, and Jane and Peter Nicholson for opening their homes for this event. Additional thanks goes to the Heritage Canada

Foundation for allowing the Runciman House to be included in the tour.

The success of this event demonstrates the beneficial partnership that exists between the Annapolis Heritage Society and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. We were very pleased to be able to work cooperatively with the Historic Gardens on the House Tour. While the final numbers are still being tabulated, it appears that both the Annapolis Heritage Society and the Historic Gardens Society will make over \$2500.00 from this event.



Viking re-enactors pumping the bellows during the iron smelting demonstration at the CanIron V blacksmithing conference. This part of the conference took place in the O'Dell House Museum parking lot

Viking Smelt

In conjunction with the recent CanIron V blacksmith conference there was a Viking style smelt held in the parking lot of the O'Dell House Museum. The demonstrators, dressed in appropriate Viking costumes, built a clay furnace and actually smelted iron. Interestingly, the material used to build the furnace was almost identical to the clay mixture used in the wattle and daub walls at the Sinclair Inn Museum.

The range of end products from the smelt could have been anything from steel to cast iron. The desired product was soft iron, which lies in the middle of the two extremes. Unfortunately, the end product of eight hours of pumping the bellows was a bloom of cast iron. While the product was not what they desired, well over 200 people had the chance to watch the smelt. We would like to thank the Viking smelters and the CanIron V organizing committee for including our organization in their events.

Summer Students

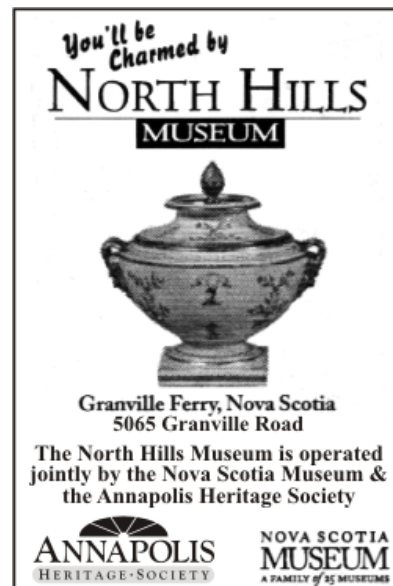
All three of our summer students have now returned to their respective schools. We would like to thank Josh Nash, Allison Turner and Kory Wade for their many contributions this summer. Good luck to all of you in the upcoming school year.

Croscup Parlour and Playthings Exhibit Updates

Both the "Bringing the Croscup Painted Parlour Home" and the "Playthings 1750-1950" exhibits have been very well received by visitors to the O'Dell House Museum this summer. The double opening for these exhibits was very well attended with almost 130 people present. Included among the guests for the opening was Charlie Hill, the Curator of Canadian Art for the National Gallery of Canada. Mr Hill was very pleased to see both the style and content of the painted parlour exhibit. Other guests at the openings included descendants of the Croscup family as well as Jane Nicholson, her mother, Thelma Bliss and sister Christine Igot. Jane and her family have graciously loaned most of the artifacts on display in the "Playthings 1750-1950" exhibit.

An interesting side effect of the Playthings 1750-1950 exhibit is that it actually brought a couple of visitors brought to tears. In both cases the visitors saw artifacts that were similar to toys they had as children.

The O'Dell House Museum Committee would like to thank everyone who was responsible for helping to assemble this summer's exhibits.



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

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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

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.