**SINCLAIR INN MUSEUM**

**SITE SUPERVISOR’S REPORT -- 2019 SEASON**

**ATTENDANCE**

2019 was another successful year for attendance at Sinclair Inn. A total of 8,222 people visited in the 111 days we were open. This was up slightly from the 2018 total of 8,020. The 2,326 entries in our Guest Book showed that visitors came from as far away as Southeast Asia and from right around the corner. The pattern of visitor origins – with most from Nova Scotia, the US and Ontario -- stays fairly consistent over the years. As the majority of EU visitors in past years have always appeared to be from Germany, this year I broke out the visitor figures from Germany, to show that they outnumbered all other EU visitors 47 to 39.

**PROGRAMS**

We had 25 young people try out our Heritage Treasure Hunt in 2019. This is a joint project of AHS and the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, which supplies book prizes for participants. Treasure Hunt sheets are available at O’Dell, Sinclair and the Annapolis Royal Library. As AVRL no longer has a large supply of giveaway books, I will probably have to run the Treasure Hunt without prizes in future. I don’t think this will matter too much, as kids just love the thrill of the hunt.

**PAINTED ROOM**

The Painted Room was open for 77 full or partial days from June to August, and our summer staff brought 1,595 visitors upstairs for tours. The response from visitors was very positive; many local residents who had already toured the first-floor portion welcomed having another reason to bring guests to the Sinclair. We weren’t successful in attracting volunteer guides for September and October, so our numbers were lower this year.

I’m assuming the Facilities Committee will report on the damage to the portrait, so I won’t detail that situation here, but after closing the room for a couple of days in early August to secure the broken panel, we continued to offer tours and I encouraged the students to incorporate the damage into the story of the room.

I monitored the damage every day until closing and noted no change in the position of the upper and lower panels. I used a plastic sheet to cover a broken clapboard where it appeared that wind and moisture may have entered the room.

**SALES**

We had a small stock of merchandise in 2019, concentrating on a few local items. Sales of books and puzzles were up considerably, totalling $340. Tool sales were very brisk, as I made an effort to grab broken tools at yard sales whenever I travelled, and local people continued to donate their treasures. In all, we took in $1,110 from the sale of tools and handles. My share of this amount is $308.

**MAINTENANCE**

Twice this year the two bottom steps (concrete) in the “ghost pit” were flooded after heavy rains. I shut down the ghosts until the steps were relatively dry. This will need to be dealt with.

Powder-post Beetles are back and are showing up in new areas on the first floor.

**TOOL SHOW**

“No tool Like an Old Tool” was a great success, judging by the crowds lined up on the sidewalk for our tool show and demo on August 24th. We had our best attendance for the month (192) on that Saturday. Three guest craftsmen and two tool collections were featured. Thanks to Wilfred Allen and David Irvine for serving as monitors, and to Lois Jenkins for documenting the event in photos. We also got excellent coverage from Alan Melanson of Explore Annapolis Royal.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Maher