

The Heritage Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society and is circulated to its members and volunteers as well as other interested members of our community. We provide this complimentary newsletter with pride to promote the history, heritage and culture of Dartmouth.



The Dartmouth Heritage Museum currently resides in “Evergreen” House on Newcastle Street which is open to the public year-round. We welcome your input and suggestions as well as your time! If you wish to become a volunteer or for more information, please see the back of this newsletter for contact information.

Winter/Spring

OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

2007

Collections Under Wrap:

- Don Chard

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum’s Warehouse

When the Dartmouth Museum moved out of its Wyse Road location in 2002, some people assumed that the Museum had closed. This could not be further from the truth. The Museum continues to operate out of its two historic houses - Evergreen and Quaker House - and from a warehouse where most of the collection is temporarily in storage.

“Storage” may suggest to some that nothing is happening at the warehouse. Not so. Museum staff work hard to assess the collection and ensure that items are carefully recorded, maintained, and preserved. There are over 45,000 items in the Museum’s collection, some items are already in permanent exhibits at the museum’s headquarters - Evergreen House. The collection needs constant monitoring to protect it from environmental



problems, and also to ensure that the records are up to date and can be used to field research queries from the public, such as authors, school children and genealogists. The warehouse is also a worksite where staff can pull the pieces of history together into a factual story that will serve in exhibits, publications, and interpretations designed to educate not only the local community and schools, but also to inspire the public at large and invite them to seek out their own stories.

The collection is vast, and contains such an immense array of artifacts: textiles, art, photographs, tools, household items, carriages, trophies, looms, furniture, china, silver, toys... the list goes on... what a delight to have such a treasure trove of our past, each item a chapter of our heritage!



Curator's Corner



Crystal Martin



Wow, as they say, time sure flies! It is hard to believe that I have been at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum for 3 months now. It has been both an exciting and scary time, as I settle in to a new museum, new city and new province. Originally from Bobcaygeon, a small town in Ontario, I spent the past 3 years working for the Welland Historical Museum in Welland (just outside of Niagara Falls). However, I had been coming out here to visit for a few years now, as my boyfriend is from Halifax. We met in Ontario while both enrolled in a museum school program, and of course, he has moved back out here with me.

Since I started here, lots of changes have been happening. My first task upon arrival was to help our Assistant Curator, Robin Cushnie, in the completion of the exhibit "Once Upon a Time: Treasures from the Toybox." I was even interviewed on "CTV Live at 5" for this exhibit, which I must say, was quite the experience! Throughout the month of December, Evergreen was decorated in all her glory for Christmas. During this time the Research Room was moved to the basement, and the room turned back into its original use as the Judge's Office. A few new "people" have begun popping up throughout the house, as we now have several dresses from our wonderful textile collection out on display. Evergreen has also begun to take on more of the "cluttered" look associated with the Victorians, as we continue to pull more knick-knacks out of storage and onto the mantles. In the Warehouse, Robin has begun an inventory of the collection in storage, as we begin to think about re-locating it into a new Museum building. In the meantime, I have started to plan future exhibits, including Weird, Wacky

and... What is It? A Curious Concoction of Collectibles" opening in March. I have also started to develop some new programming, including Reminisce Kits for Seniors and school programs for children, With all the buzz being generated as the Dartmouth Heritage Museum moves into a new phase, I'm excited and looking forward to being a part of it!

Volunteer Spotlight



Erika Wilson

Say hello to Erika, a 4th year history student at Dalhousie University, and one of our newest volunteers.

Erika grew up in Waterdown Ontario amongst a family of history buffs. It must have rubbed off on her much to our benefit for she travelled to the east coast to attend History at Dalhousie and began searching for volunteer opportunities in the field. She discovered us 2 months ago and since then has migrated from digital scanning to cataloguing and most recently, exhibit preparation. Her talents are most welcome and her energy and ready smile is a pleasure! Erika sees herself finishing her university and then taking a Museum Studies course for eventual employment in a museum or archive.

She is excited to be working in a region where most of the immigrants travelled through to reach other regions of Canada and she also wishes to stay for a year or two after her education just to enjoy what Atlantic Canada has to offer. Good luck Erika, we hope you stay in our region a long time!

Contribution Request for New Seniors' Kits (aka What's in Your Attic?)

Local residents will have access to a kit of portable heritage collections developed by the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. These Reminiscence Kits will consist of hands-on artifacts, archival images, sentimental smells, audio recordings or sounds gone by and discussion questions for seniors – and their friends and family – to reflect on their local heritage. The Kits will be packaged conveniently in a suitcase and can be borrowed to review at leisure in a community facility or residential complex. They will be available through the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, and Public Libraries. These sensory items will be handled by seniors, helping them to recall memories, review them, and recapture the accompanying emotions. Reminiscing is important in the elderly, as it allows them to get in touch with things and times that were important to them. This is especially true with Alzheimer's disease, as the memories of the past usually remain much clearer than memories of recent events.

DHM is asking you for donations to help fill the kits, which will focus on the pre- and post-war period (1940's and 50's). The DHM is looking for items relating to the following themes;

- Special Events and Sports in Dartmouth - Natal Day, ice skating, canoeing, curling (programs, souvenirs)
- Baking and Food (jello molds, cooking utensils, rolling pins, flour sifters, whisks, food rations)
- Entertainment (dance programs, concerts, music, radio, tv, records)



Donation Box

Century 21/ABC Realty - Penhorn
McInnes Cooper

J.J. (Jean) Jones
Fares Real Estate
Heritage Gas



JJ & Burgher

- Grooming and Toiletries (hairwax, curlers)
- Fashion (gloves, hats, shoes)
- Transportation and Technology (ferry tickets, tokens, washing machine and car ads)

Due to size constraints of the kits, items should be able to fit (approximately) onto an 8"x11" piece of paper. The museum has a right to refuse numerous duplicates, as they will only be taking a maximum of 65 items total. (5 cases, 6 per case, 30 total, with 30 backup)

The museum is also looking for a maximum of 10 pre-1960's, good, clean suitcases to put the kits in. They should be no larger than 26" in length.

Please contact Crystal Martin, Curator (464-2300)

Volunteering Opportunities

As our programming grows, so does our need for community volunteers! Over the next quarter year, we are in need of:

Photo Scanners! No experience necessary, we provide the training.

French Translators! We need some literature translated so that we may offer material to our French-speaking visitors.

Wall & floor painters! Some rooms and floors in Evergreen are in need of new coats of paint.

Front desk staff! Help us with reception work.

Curation Assistants! Help the curator by preparing artifacts, exhibits, and programming.

Photographers! We are in the process of photographing all artifacts in our collection.

Computer Gurus! We need some database work done.

Time commitment can be as much as once a week or as little as once a year! Give us a call and let us know if you can help out. We have volunteer packages available at the front desk of Evergreen House, or you can find them on our website.

Join the volunteer family!

WEIRD & WACKY

BUT WHAT IS IT?
A CURIOUS
CONCOCTION
OF
COLLECTABLES



What is it? Check your guess at www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca



Intriguing items from the archives of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum

MARCH 8
TO
JUNE 23
2007

26 Newcastle Street
in Dartmouth
close to Pleasant Street
at Portland.
(902) 464-2300

Admission
Adults \$2; under 12 free

Hours
Tues-Fri 10-5
Sat 10-1 & 2-5

School/Youth Programs

\$2.00 per child - please book in advance

Historical Detectives/Exploring Dartmouth's Past Through the Clues of the Present - This popular and interactive program helps students to understand the evolution of social, commercial and industrial trends through exploration of artifacts to promote the concept of how the future is affected by the past.

Historic House Tours - Students enjoy an interactive guided tour of Quaker House (seasonal) or Evergreen House (year round).

Coming Soon!

Museum Loan Kits - Bring the Museum into your classroom.

Helen Creighton School Program - Examines the life and work of Nova Scotia's beloved folklorist!

Get the Picture? A Photo Mystery at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum - The Museum needs help to find out what's going on in their old photographs. Using the five W's, students use their imagination to unravel what life was like in historic Dartmouth. By finding the clues hidden within each photo, students help to solve the mystery!

Further Information

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

"Evergreen" House
26 Newcastle Street
Dartmouth, N.S.

B2Y 3M5
Phone: (902) 464-2300

Fax: (902) 464-8210

E-Mail: dhmuseum@ednet.ns.ca

Web: www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca



Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10 - 5

Saturday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5

Summer hours also include

Sunday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5





Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

Your \$20.00 annual fee entitles you to special invitations and notices to museum events, a quarterly newsletter and membership voting privileges. A tax receipt will be issued to the address listed below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please check this box if you would like to receive our newsletter by e-mail.

Please return this form with membership dues to Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle St., Dartmouth, N.S., B2Y 3M5. Cheques should be made payable to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society. For more information about our exciting programming, please visit our website at www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca

Our thanks for supporting the Dartmouth Heritage Museum!

MEMBERSHIP
FORM

Membership Drive

Your \$20.00 investment can help us to continue our current programming such as:

- Historic House Tours of Evergreen (year round) and Quaker House (summer)
- Hallowe'en at Helens
- Victorian Christmas at Evergreen
- Historical Detectives: Exploring Dartmouth's Past Through the Clues of the Present!
- Providing research access to archives and artifacts.

As well, your contribution will help us to develop new programming such as:

- Museum Loan Kits - Bring the Museum into your classroom.
- Helen Creighton School Program - Examines the life and work of Nova Scotia's beloved folklorist!
- Get the Picture? A Photo Mystery at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum - The Museum needs help to find out what's going on in their old photographs. Using the five W's, students use their imagination to unravel what life was like in historic Dartmouth. By finding the clues hidden within each photo, students help to solve the mystery!

Membership also includes exclusive invitations to exhibit openings and special events!

Thank you again for your support of local heritage!