

The Heritage Gazette is a 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 read this newsletter for contact information.

Winter

OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

2008

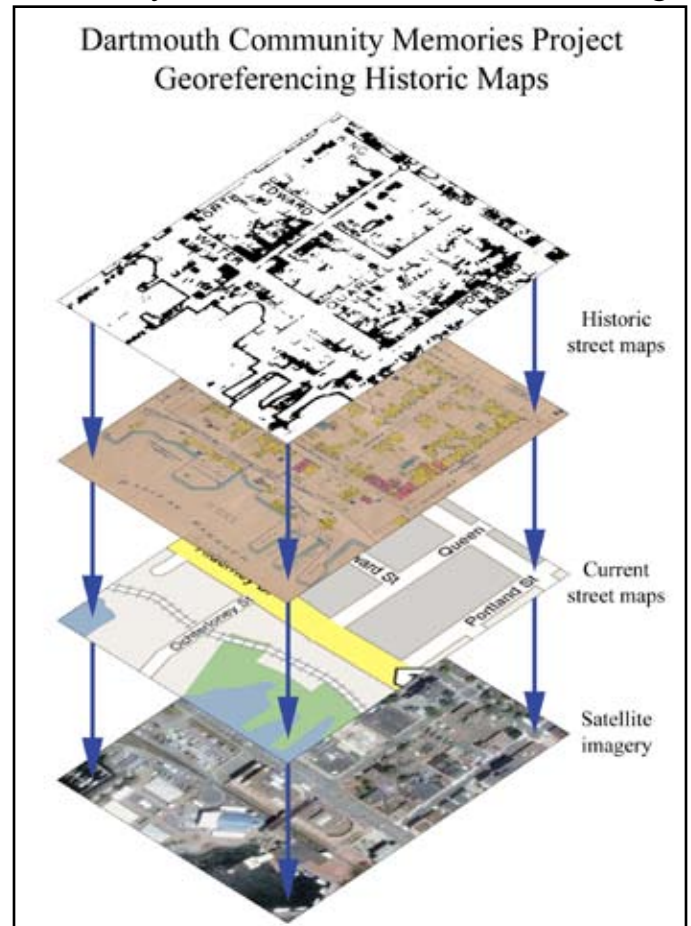
## Many Hands, Light Work and a Mighty Contribution to our Community!

- Lisa O'Neill, Director

As many of you might know, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum began digitization of the archival collection almost two years ago. I am happy to say that the process is almost finished and we are now gearing up for Stage 2 of the Dartmouth Community Memories Project, linking them to the database and offering it to the community via a new computer purchased through Democracy 250 funding. You might already be familiar with some of the products recently showcasing these incredible images; our annual calendar, enhanced exhibits, and improved research capability.

As stage 2 approaches, we are rounding up keen and knowledgeable volunteers to confirm current data, identify unknown people and places, and to tell the stories behind the pictures. These sessions will be recorded and held within the archives for future generations to access. Stages 3-5 will add a further search capability through inclusion of many georeferenced historic map layers (lining up the streets and locations) that will show changes to Dartmouth over time and geography. Artifacts within the

collection will be photographed and added to the database. Digitized audio archives will be incorporated for easy access, and eventually this incredible mosaic of heritage



will be available online. The final piece (and probably my personal favourite) will be the inclusion of stories, histories, and folklore from the community at large. This will be a database for the community and from the community.

I would like to sincerely thank all staff and volunteers who have taken this project to heart and have helped to make its genesis a reality, most notably Hal Oare and Matthew Chapman.

I find it appropriate that Democracy 250 funded the largest piece to date, as this project celebrates our community, our heritage and our nation. People who have visited my office know that on the top of my bulletin board, I proudly display one of Joseph Howe's quotes...

*A wise nation preserves its records, gathers up its muniments, decorates the tombs of its illustrious dead, repairs its great public structure, and fosters national pride and love of country by perpetual references to the sacrifices and glories of the past.*

- Joseph Howe, August 31, 1871



**Benefactor (\$500 +)**

- Homburg Charitable Foundation
- Conrad's
- Michael Napier
- Urchin Holdings
- Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission
- Democracy 250
- Marilyn More, MLA

**Friend (\$100-499)**

- Innovative Real Estate
- Neighbourhood Pubs
- Renovator's Resource
- WHW Architects
- Heritage House Law Office
- Heritage Gas
- Lois Drummond Graphics
- Vance Crowe
- Credit Union Atlantic
- Sushi Nami Royale
- Sandra Saunders
- Attica Furnishings Ltd.
- John Hartley



Reginald J.J. Jones  
(in memory of J.J. (Jean) Jones,  
May 24, 1943 - Nov. 10, 1999)

**Donor (\$50-99)**

- Dorothy Meyerhof
- Anne Muecke
- Brian Vandervaart
- Harold Colquhoun

& all the wonderful people who have enjoyed their visit to the museum and put a little something in the donation box!





## Volunteer Spotlight!



Joan  
Payzant

Joan was born in her parents' home in Dartmouth, finished her education at Dalhousie and although she and her husband, L.J. "Pete" Payzant lived for two years in Montreal they were both happy to return to Dartmouth to bring up their children.

Her association with the Museum dated back to the time when the displays were held at the schools (before the Museum had its first home). At that time she had just gone back to teaching with five children at home and was not able to be heavily involved but does remember making lots of large cookies to be sold at the museum exhibitions, and sewing an old-fashioned costume for her older daughter to wear while taking part in one of the displays.

Her interest in Dartmouth history started at her mother's knee listening to the many stories about the community. She was hooked when she taught the subject in school and used some of the local history texts as well as teaching tools provided by the museum in the early 70's.

Some of the happiest times in her life were doing the research with her husband for *Like a Weaver's Shuttle - A History of the Halifax-Dartmouth Ferries*. Later, she worked on the history of education in Dartmouth with a great team of Dartmouthians: Laughie Fredericks, a long time Dartmouth School Board member, suggested the subject. Then Superintendent Reid Harrison, former-Superintendent Carmen Moir, School Board Chairman Marilyn Worth,

graphic designer Nancy Roberts and the staff of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum all worked together to produce *Second to None*. Joan says since Dartmouth no longer has its own school system, it is satisfying to refer back to the book at the way schools used to be.

She looks forward to her days volunteering at Evergreen helping to keep the traditions of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum alive.

## Street Names of Dartmouth

### King Street

On the early town plan, King Street was the most important, therefore, the widest. It was also called King William Street to commemorate King William IV, the Duke of Clarence, who reigned from 1830 - 1836. On an 1831 plan, there was another King William Street between Canal and Maitland.

## Recipes from the Archives

### Scotch Marmalade

To every pound of oranges put one lemon and two quarts of water, and boil them for two hours; then change the water and boil them till quite soft. Cut them in half, take out the pulp carefully and remove the seeds; cut the peel into very thin slices, and return it to the pulp. To every pound of fruit allow 2 lb of sugar. Mix the whole together and boil 20 minutes or until the marmalade is clear.

### 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](mailto:dhmuseum@ednet.ns.ca)

Web: [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)



## Can You Help?

### Snow Shovelling

We are looking for someone to help us with snow removal this winter at Evergreen House. We have a 3 car parking lot, and a set of stairs to shovel.

### Front Desk Volunteers

Do you have half a day a month to help us answer phones and greet visitors to Evergreen?

### Garden Maintenance

Both Evergreen House and Quaker House could use some help with pruning and maintainance of the gardens.

Anyone have a screwdriver set, cordless drill or a glue gun they don't want anymore? We could really use them here at the Museum.

## Stories of Dartmouth's Past

- Kimberlee Williams

Skating today can be tricky enough as is, but imagine how difficult it could be if you had to strap the blades to your shoes with leather thongs. Until 1863, if you wanted to go skating that is exactly what you would have to do. The blade of skates up to this time was often made of wood with a metal runner, and was fastened to the boot by a screw in the heel, as well as leather thongs. Not only would the leather stretch when wet or occasionally break, but the wooden blades were notoriously unreliable, and would often split when the wearer turned too quickly. Accidents were all too common because of the skate's fragile construction. To top it all off, the screw which attached the blade to the heel of the boot would often dig into the wearer's foot and be quite uncomfortable.

In 1863, John Forbes, the foreman of the Starr Manufacturing Company, patented the ACME Spring Skate, a skate which would simply snap onto your boot by means of a spring loaded mechanism. This was not only a hit in Dartmouth where the Starr Manufacturing company was located, but world wide, selling skates throughout Canada, the United States,

**A HOCKEY PLAYER knows Good SKATES**

You can rely on a Hockey player's judgment.

Watch him with his STARR skates swing off down the ice.

See him swoop down on the puck, stop with a jerk—he's off with it, running down on his toes—he swerves, he dips, he flashes in front of the goal. Zip!—he's scored. STARR skates deserve part of the credit.

He has perfect confidence in STARR SKATES; he chose them because they are exceptionally light, made of finely tempered and tested steel and need very little sharpening.

He knows that no matter to what strain he puts them, STARR skates won't break.

His STARR hockey skates are extra strong because of the STARR secret process of tempering and quality of steel used in the runners, which consequently hold their cutting edge longer.

It does not matter whether it's natural or artificial ice, STARR SKATES are best.

Best for hockey—Best for fun.

Ask your dealer to show you STARR SKATES.

Write to-day for our 1919 Illustrated Catalogue.

**STARR MFG. CO. LIMITED**  
DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA  
Toronto Branch: 122 Wellington St. West

**STARR SKATES**  
MADE IN CANADA - USED ALL OVER THE WORLD

**REGAL FEATHERWEIGHT**

STARR SKATES STAY HARD

Europe, even as far away as China. The ACME skate was constructed of steel which made it not only strong but light weight. The skates did not require any alteration to an individual's boots, and came in different styles for men, women, children, leisure and hockey.

Other imitation brands soon became available however they were not able to match the quality of the Forbes Acme Skate. Starr skates were advertised as 'The genuine "ACME" self fastening skates,' and the ads stated 'Don't take a poor, cheap imitation, when you can get the "real thing."' In 1885 a cheaper German imitation skate was introduced into the United States, and the Starr Manufacturing Company let its American patent expire because they were no longer able to undercut the cost of the competition. Their Canadian patent expired during the great depression and they stopped manufacturing skates by the end of the 1930's. Starr Manufacturing is still to this day known as one of the great innovators in ice skating, especially in relation to the sport of Hockey, which became much safer once the old wooden skates were replaced.



# New Exhibit!

**Skyline of a Community**  
**Imperial Oil: 1918-2008**

January 20 - March 21, 2009  
 Tuesdays - Fridays (10-5), Saturdays (10-1 & 2-5)  
 Dartmouth Heritage Museum  
 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth  
 Information: 464-2300 / [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)

**DH M**  
 DARTMOUTH  
 HERITAGE MUSEUM

IMPEROYAL VILLAGE  
 AVENUE B. →  
 ONE WAY TRAFFIC

An exhibit of the Dartmouth  
 Heritage Museum with thanks to  
 the Dartmouth Refinery 90th  
 Anniversary Committee

## What Is It?

(check your answer on bottom of page 6)



## Ads from the Past

**FALSE TEETH**  
**and don't they look fine**

You can laugh, chat and enjoy life free from dental plate worry. That's the assurance you get if you sprinkle your plate in the morning with Dr. Wernet's Powder.

Dr. Wernet's forms a soft, antacid cushion which keeps your mouth healthy and prevents gum soreness.

**Dr. Wernet's Powder**

Get a tin of Dr. Wernet's Powder from your Chemist to-day.  
 60,000 dentists recommend it the world over.



by Crystal Martin  
- Curator

## Donation of Dartmouth's "Mr. Gardener" Memorabilia

In this edition of Curator's Corner, I thought I would share with you an interesting donation that was just recently accessioned into the collection. Donated in 2003, it had been sitting in an unassuming flower pot box just waiting to be discovered. Hal Oare, one of dedicated volunteers working to accession the donation backlog, made the discovery. Donated by the estate of Mary Alma Dillman, it included Leighton Dillman's Governor General's Conservation Award, a framed photo of him receiving it and a lovely little scrapbook featuring Mr. Dillman's hard work.

Awarded in 1981, it was only the second year of the Governor General's Conservation Awards Program. Mr. Dillman's award was presented under the category of Administration, Development and Effective Utilization, for his outstanding contribution to managing the resources of the Canadian environment. The award is very beautiful and extremely heavy, featuring a wooden base and frame, with a carved lady holding a starfish. A report put out about the winners had this to say about Mr. Dillman:

Leighton Dillman was nominated for his volunteer work in creating Dartmouth Park, through the long crusade he has pursued over two decades. Working six days a week, often from dawn to dusk, without pay and with a substantial contribution of his own money, he has created more than a kilometer of stone walls, three kilometers of walkways, over 50 flower beds, planted 700 trees and erected a one and a half meter high wrought iron fence around the park. Reader's Digest, in April 1981, summarized his activity as having "turned a city eyesore into a beauty spot."

What Is It? Answer - Bullet Mold

However, my favourite part of the donation is probably the scrapbook. It is full of newspaper clippings about Mr. Dillman's efforts to beautify Dartmouth, photos of his progress and many letters of thanks, from both politicians and local people, for his dedication to the community. One such letter passed on to Mr. Dillman was actually a school assignment titled "A Man Whom I Admire." The letter is reprinted below.

*A Man Whom I Admire*

*Have you ever tried to describe someone whom you admire? I am now going to try to describe a person whom I greatly admire. His name is Leighton Dillman. He is a gardener and he lives at 223 Windmill Road.*

*Mr. Dillman is a short, plump man with twinkling eyes. He wears glasses and is bald on the top of his head. If you were with someone who knew him and you met him on the street, you would hear them call him by his nickname "Joe."*

*His outside appearance is very pleasant. Since he and his wife have no children, they are very fond of any child whom they might just meet while walking down the street. You might have heard of his wife, Mary Alma Dillman, who wrote the book "The Wee Folk." Mr Dillman's character is well known by all his friends. He is very kind and he likes to tease the kids in my neighbourhood.*

- Margaret Parks - 12 years of age

(A school assignment. The subject - write on some man whom you admire.)

Teacher's Comment - "Wouldn't Mr. Dillman be pleased to read this!"

Margaret's mother passed this on to me. I think it Leighton's greatest tribute - don't you?



## Upcoming Exhibits:

### Once Upon a Time:

An exhibition of paintings by Beth Curlett

April 2 - 30, 2009

*'Once Upon A Time' is a delightful exhibit of watercolour narratives reflecting landmarks and landscapes, as well as the lifestyle of the Dartmouth in which Beth grew up in the 1950's and 60's. The paintings are stories. Some reveal childhood memories and some simply come from Beth's imagination, which to her great joy remains child-like. Some of the works are a combination of both memory and imagination. Beth uses colour to express the joy she feels in painting and to be playful with realism. The collection is colourful and active.*

*Beth began painting in watercolour in 1995 when a physical restriction prevented her from quilting which had been her creative enjoyment. Over the next ten years she explored techniques and styles with a number of instructors and participated in various workshops. In 2005 Beth was exposed to the idea of memory painting in combination with meditation and since then has concentrated on this technique to produce this body of work for her first solo show. To create this collection, Beth revisited familiar places of her youth in person, in photos and in memory. As you view and enjoy this exhibit, you will be taken on your own journey ... and guaranteed... you will be smiling!*

- Sheila Taylor

---



---

### A Tale of a Chocolate City: Dartmouth and the Chocolate Factories May 20 - August 20, 2009

Motts, Moirs, Candyman & Sweet Women are all boiled into this exhibit of delectable decadance.

(hungry for knowledge yet!)

## A New Way to Donate

1. Go to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)
2. Search for Dartmouth Heritage Museum
3. Follow the instructions
4. They provide immediate tax receipts.




---



---

## March Break!

Woohoo, a week off! Looking for a place to have some fun? Come to Evergreen House at 26 Newcastle for some great workshops!

March 17 - 21, 3-4 p.m.

**Weird and Wacky, but What Are They?**

Every day from 3:00-4:30 p.m., come and join us for our Treasure Trunk of Artifacts. Try and guess what these artifacts were used for and learn a little of what life might have been like using them.

Ages 10 to adult. Children to be accompanied by an adult. Cost - \$2, free for members. Price also includes a tour of the museum.

March 17, 10:30 & 1:00

**St. Patrick's Day Cookie Decorating**

She makes the cookies, you have fun decorating them! With our own cookie-goddess Karyn Ellis, get the sprinkles and icing ready, here we go! Cost - \$2

(includes cookies and gift wrapping).

Ages 5 to adult (because no-one is too old to play).




---



---

## Museum Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 10 - 5

Saturday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5

Sunday, 10-1 & 2-5 (June - August only)

## Upcoming Presentation!

### A Little of Dartmouth's Past Imperoyal Village - "The Wonder-Town" (1918 - 1962)



*Last fall (2008), the Imperial Oil Esso Dartmouth Refinery 90th Anniversary Committee invited me to make a presentation, an oral and visual history of Imperoyal Village, a community founded by the company and which played a significant part in the growth of Dartmouth and environs. I am delighted that the staff of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has also invited me to be part of the Museum's celebration of the Esso Dartmouth Refinery and its history.*

*In the process of introducing the Village to the people of Halifax, A Halifax Herald journalist, Dorothy Shaw, wrote a column about its beginnings and its daily life, suggesting it was "growing like a wonder-town across the harbour from the city of Halifax." In fact, the founding of Imperoyal Village gave birth to a 40+ year story that spanned times of war, peace, prosperity, depression, a second war, and the post-war boom. It is a story of families who discovered and embraced community in unforgettable ways, ways that need to be shared.*

*I want to share with you a brief visit to the past through the eyes of the present. I owe much to the experience of having been what the earliest villagers called an "Imperoyalite", having been born and raised there for 17 years.*

*- Dr. John Hartley, Toronto, January 28, 2009*

**February 27, 2009**

2-3 p.m.

Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, Dartmouth

Questions, reminiscing and refreshments to follow

Cost - donation

**February 28, 2009**

2-3 p.m.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

Questions and reminiscing to follow

Cost - donation

464-2300 for more information

(due to limited space at Evergreen House, please R.S.V.P. for Saturday's talk)