

June, 2014



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**Evergreen House hosts Helen Creighton Folklore Society**



The Board of Directors of the Helen Creighton Folklore Society held their Annual General Meeting at Evergreen House on Saturday, March 29.

Museums, libraries, schools and churches are not only one-purpose settings; each one serves the community in a variety of ways. Besides their main mission, each provides a meeting place for community groups and activities. A community core is typically made up of such public-service institutions.

Evergreen House Museum is one of these settings. Evergreen hosts a variety of community groups. One

of these groups is the **Helen Creighton Folklore Society.**

The Helen Creighton Folklore Society held its Annual General Meeting at Evergreen House on Friday, March 29th, 2014. The Society's mandate is to encourage and promote work that reflects the diverse folk culture of the Maritimes as exemplified by the work begun by Dr. Helen Creighton.

A pioneer collector of

folklore, Helen travelled Nova Scotia recording songs and writing down folklore from singers and story-tellers in rural locations. She collected and preserved for posterity over 4000 songs and ballads, as well as folk tales, dances, games, proverbs and tales of the supernatural. Her collections, including recordings, photographs and texts, are held at the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, the Library of Congress, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and Mt. Allison University.

The Helen Creighton Folklore Society, made up of musicians, song-writers, story tellers and those who appreciate the wealth of Maritime folk culture, supports a strong Maritime folk tradition with a variety of activities. Twice monthly folk music sessions hosted by the Society at the Chebucto Coffee house, 6430 Chebucto Road in Halifax, have proved a great draw for

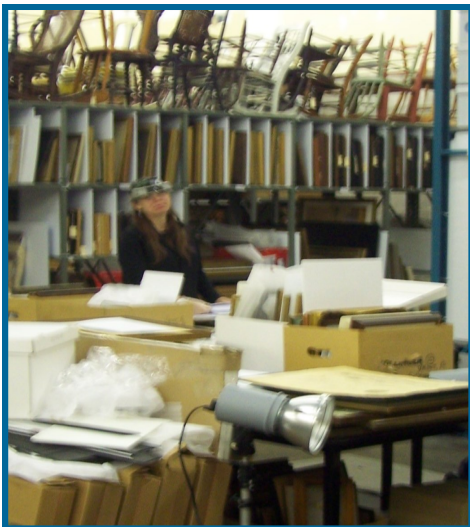
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## The Director's Desk

*Bonnie Elliott*

Going for my early morning walk along the trail around Dartmouth Cove is a real treat these days. The weather is mild and my clothing is a lot less bulky. Summer is finally here and all the good things that come with it. At the Museum the summer students are with us again and giving fabulous tours, our visitors are finding us and benefiting from the tours, Quaker House is open and the Garden Committee is working diligently to bring it back on track. The warehouse project is moving ahead at a very productive pace. There is much to be content about.

We received 3 grants this year that have enabled us to hire 5 students. Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs and the Student Skills Development Program are all important funding opportunities



Art Conservator Michelle Gallagher is working on the storage of the art work at the warehouse.

that allow us operate both museums and provide important summer experience for the students.

An old leak to a section of the roof at Evergreen was fixed recently and with it the ceiling in the 'Old Dining' room. But as they say, especially when it comes to repairs and renovations, "one thing leads to another." In order to do the repair work, we had to remove all the artifacts. The carpet was ripped up to reveal some original spruce boards that were worth refinishing. The wallpaper was removed and the room is being repainted. This left us with a 'clean slate' to re-think the interpretation of that room in particular as well as the downstairs.

We've decided that since there is international recognition of Helen Creighton and all the folklore she was able to amass, she deserves more prominence in the house where we can offer visitors a more complete exhibit that deals with her life as well as a focus on the folklore that she collected. The Helen Creighton Society agrees with us and when we met they had many good ideas about what it is we could offer.



Annamarie Million prepares a mock-up for a period 'shortgown' that will be worn at Quaker House. See Page 5.

The plan to re-interpret the front parlour and dining room will be a phased plan that will take place over the next couple of years. Although our regular bi-weekly teas have been put on hold until we can re-open the rooms, we are planning a tea for late July. In the meantime, I hope you have a chance to visit.



## Curator's Corner

*Crystal Martin*



The House Reveals More Secrets!! Photograph found under the grate by workmen in the old dining room at Evergreen House

For this issue of Curator's Corner, I would like to share with you a special find. Evergreen House is currently undergoing renovations, and this photo was found in a floor grate in what was most recently known and interpreted as the "Breakfast Room." We do not believe the photo was taken at Evergreen, and it is a bit of a mystery as to how it ended up in the grate. Perhaps it was the perfect size to block the air flow? On the back is written "For Aunt Alice & family - This is a picture of my sixteenth birthday party — Kennetha."

While we have yet to correctly identify Aunt Alice or Kennetha, one guess is that Aunt

Alice may be Alice Creighton, Helen's mother. It is somewhat fitting if this is true, as museum staff and volunteers are currently working on new interpretation for this space, which will soon focus on the story of Helen Creighton and folklore. Stay tuned for more details! If you have any knowledge of who the girls are in the photo, please contact the Museum.



Painter putting the last coat of paint on newly repaired ceiling and walls.

*(Continued from page 1)*

folksong lovers.

The Society provides grants of up to \$750 to scholars, researchers, museums and archives to assist in research, collection and publication of Atlantic Canada folklore. One of the projects which received a grant-in-aid is that of composer Glenn Walton, who is writing a new work for musical theatre about the life of Helen Creighton. For youth, there is an annual Ghost Story writing contest giving awards to children ages 7 to 15. And a Helen Creighton award is given to winners in the folk music categories at the Kiwanis and New Glasgow Music Festivals.

With all this activity, the Helen Creighton Folklore Society is helping to assure us that folklore will continue to be alive and well in Nova Scotia.

## The Evergreen Writers' Group

*Janet Doleman*



Evergreen Writers' Group. Seated, left to right: Tom Robson, Diane Losier, Janet Doleman, Russell Barton. Standing, L - R: Phil Yeats, Janet McGinity, Maida Follini. Missing from photo: Shirley Godfrey, Manon Boudreau, Art White.

The windowpanes frame contrasting views of history and progress. The preserved battlements of George's Island and Citadel Hill vie for importance with the sleek glass towers of Purdy's Wharf and the re-sculpting of the Dartmouth Cove shoreline to fit the brand spanking new King's Wharf development. Evergreen House sits on its hilltop, slightly above and apart, blue-painted chin tilted in disdain.

The museum director keeps watch above, descending to the cellar to keep the group abreast of the latest ghostly rumours, which shift and evaporate like vapours. Someone (or something) appears to live here when the staff departs at closing time. The dining-room waits patiently for the party to begin, table perpetually set for twelve with 1810 Coalport fine china, silverware laid out precisely, knife rests at the ready. Soup tureens placed next to fanciful footed fruit bowls and matching cream and sugar sets are offset by a polished silver cruet and vinegar caddy, wine glasses, butter dishes, water glasses, sherry glasses, and folded linen napkins, all perfectly placed. The curator pulls on white gloves before moving a plate or errant fork.

Around the corner in the parlour, a music stand holds sheet music in the shelter of lace

curtains and a velvet-covered settee. In an adjacent room, a life-size figure of Joseph Howe is seated studiously near his desk, presenting his profile as he perhaps contemplates the complexities of governing this port city. At the end of the writers' group meetings, when the members reverse their original actions, donning coats and gloves, gathering up notebooks and tote bags, struggling up the steep narrow staircase to emerge in the study, they are still slightly startled by Joe's presence, even after months of passing through this very room. He doesn't seem to mind them tromping through his study in winter boots, tossing rhetorical comments his way. He is stalwart.

This small writers' group encompasses a wealth of talent and experience, reigned in like so many characters in a book. A retired psychologist has also published historical articles, short stories and poems, written a short history on the Quakers and currently edits the Museum's newsletter. Soft-spoken, mild-mannered and fiercely devoted to her craft, she injects touches of emotion and humour into her stories. Two male members of the group hail originally from Great Britain but have lived most of their adult lives in Canada.

One, a former grade-school teacher, is a stickler for grammar and proper sentence structure, and has recently published a poem in a literary magazine. With him around the tables sit a museum curator and history buff, a retired clergyman with a passion and talent for witty playlets, a former civil servant researching and writing an historical novel, a storyteller and sci-fi/fantasy enthusiast, and a creative-writing teacher about to publish a new novel. A young woman of French-Canadian heritage writes passionately for a young teen audience while raising her own three children, one of whom has special needs. A former bio-chemist is re-labelling himself "short-story writer," having just published a short story.

On a given meeting day, should you be listening in, you might here two voices reading a ten-minute play, acquiring accents, expressive tones or perhaps singing their parts. Another voice reads a solemn poem; someone sniffles quietly into a tissue. The first hour is dedicated to reading from pieces they have written, timer at

*(Continued on page 6)*



## The Fabulous '5'

### *The Summer Students of 2014*

Join us this summer at The Dartmouth Heritage Museum at both the Evergreen House and Quaker House to learn about local Dartmouth history through interesting and interpretive tours given by us, the new summer students. We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. Three of us have returned from last year and we are joined by two new students.

Annamarie Million is continuing her position as Costume Fabricator/Heritage Interpreter and is currently entering her third year in the Costume Studies Program at Dalhousie University. With a passion for both costume design and theatre, she will be introducing a new 'shortgown' for the students to wear at Quaker House.

Liam Caswell is also returning, has a background in theatre and is studying history at Mount Saint Vincent University. Liam has a passion for history and loves to share his knowledge when greeting visitors.

Also returning is Emily Murphy who has been an avid volunteer at the museum since 2011. She is currently entering her third year in Chemistry at Dalhousie University but has a passion for Dartmouth history. She will be planning the Saturday crafts for kids starting in July which will include sock whales, mask making and shell crafts.



Robert Chisolm, MP dropped by to meet the staff at Quaker House. From Left to right: Robert Chisholm, Emily Murphy, Liam Caswell, Annamarie Million, Grace Power. Missing, Courtney Mrazek.

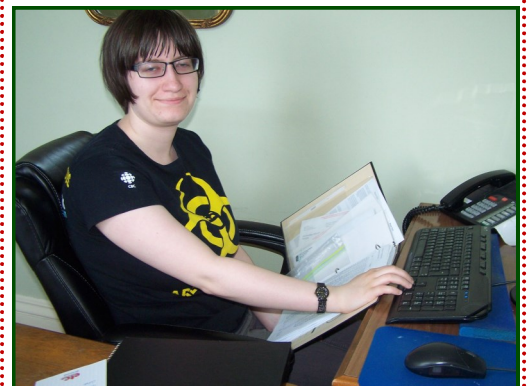
Courtney Mrazek is a new addition and has taken on the extra position of Landscape Technician. Courtney is going into her fourth year of History at the Mount Saint Vincent University. For the summer she is working in the gardens at Quaker House and planting herbs, vegetables and flowers for everyone to come visit and enjoy.

Grace Power is also new but has volunteered on previous occasions at the Museum. Grace is currently entering her third year of mathematics at Mount Allison University and has a great interest in theatre.

So come visit and meet us, while enjoying hearing many fascinating stories drawn from our local history, in a tranquil environment of beautiful period furnishings and lovely gardens.

## New Membership Secretary

Katie LeBlanc is no stranger to the DHM and has been helping us with many research projects over the last couple of years. When we asked if she might be interested in helping out with the membership, she jumped at the chance.



## KNOW YOUR DARTMOUTH



Can you tell where this anchor is resting?  
Do you know where it came from?

See page 7 for answers

## Comedy & Cake Fundraiser

Once again we would like to thank all the people who helped make the evening event of May 7th at Alderney Landing Theatre so successful. We raised over \$4,500!! Thanks to Michael Savage, for introducing Lorne Elliott; Councilor Gloria McCluskey; The cake donors, Layers Cakes, The Sweet Hereafter, The Goodie Girl, Caroline's Bakery and Patisserie, City Girl Cakes, Kelly Neil, Susan Morrison, Gateaux Rose, Super City Cakes, and The French Fix; The Fundraiser Committee, Nancy Hart, Jean Llewellyn, Crystal Ross, Joanne Ritchie, and Bonie Conrad; The staff of Alderney Landing Theatre.



(Continued from page 4)

the ready should the reader be too verbose. Concentration is necessary for the listeners, a scribbled note allowed for commentary at the end. Writers are sometimes apologetic for what they've written, self-effacing when in doubt about the validity of their material, as they wrestle words

onto paper.

Writing is pen to paper, or finger to keyboard, thoughts flowing through fingertips. It's a collective exhalation of ideas discussed 'round our modern tables in this old room of a house which has seen history pass by its doorstep. It's a product of books read, childhoods lived, schooldays experiences,

workplace histories, marriages, deaths, divorces, rejections, courtships, consciences, personalities, abilities to express thoughts in words or on paper--- elements of a Nova Scotia writer in a writers' group, meeting in a little room, just up the hill from the harbour, in the company of Helen and Joe.

Our exhibits, The Heritage House Tour and the yearly Calendar are all special fundraising efforts that are due in large part to our Advertisers and Sponsors

Robert Chisholm, M.P.	Downtown Dartmouth DDBC	Dominion Diving
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Innovative Real Estate	Andrew Younger, MLA	Jean & Don Chard
Heritage House Law Office	Halifax Harbour Bridges	Don & Dorothy Sawler
Credit Union Atlantic	Dartmouth Funeral Home	Remax

**Answer to Know Your Dartmouth, p. 6**

The anchor pictured on page 8 is set at the entrance to the Dartmouth Common, at the intersection of Wyse Road and Thistle Street. It was retrieved by the crew of the Coast Guard vessel *Auk* from Mackerel Shoal, off Cranberry Point Light, Liscomb Island, where it lay in 25 feet of water. It is thought the anchor belonged to a sailing vessel of 500 to 700 tons, and was in use between 1845 and 1850, but it is not known what ship lost it. The Canadian Coast Guard brought the anchor back to the Dartmouth Marine Agency of the Department of Transport, which turned it over to the City of Dartmouth. The Anchor weighs approximately 1500 pounds, and measures 6 feet from fluke to fluke. When the old City of Dartmouth Museum opened at the Wyse Road location, the anchor was placed in the grassy area in front of the Museum.

**DHM Society Donors:**

Each year Society Members give over and above the membership fees to help us run our programs at the Museum.

Len Atkinson	Jean Wagener	James Morrison
Margaret Hayward	Dorothy Meyerhof	Lorna Huestis
Barb & John O'Connor	Rodney Simpson & Christina Dadford	Betty Pitt
Karen Munroe	John, Valerie, Mark Osborne	Karen Munroe
Theo Mitchell	Suzanne & Michael Day	Suzanne & Michael Lewis
Catherine Harrison	Alice Hale	Roland Thornhill
Linda Forbes	Holly Gunn	Catherine Harrison
Josephine Harris	Anne Hillis	Inez Joyce Earle
Joyce Earle	Hannah Minzloff & John Hillis	Richard Sanderson
Clyde Teasdale	Barbara MacKenzie	



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& Promoting our Her-  
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Peter Wade	Vice-Chair
Sandra Barss	Past Chair
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Mark Chin-Yee	Treasurer
Anita Campbell	Director
Mickie Zinck	Director
Sam Austin	Director
Don Chard	Director

Please Join us on  
Thursday, July 24th for  
Afternoon Tea at Evergreen House  
from 1:30 until 4 pm. Stay tuned for details!!

***DHMS Membership Form*****Individual Membership - \$20**

A \$10 tax receipt will be issued, you will receive our newsletter by mail, and membership will entitle you to free admission to museums (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card.

**Family Membership - \$30**

A \$15 tax receipt will be issued, you will receive our newsletter by mail, and membership will entitle you to free admission to museums (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card.

**Please also consider the following levels of giving ...**

\$50 Donor - Your name will appear in the newsletter, and a full tax receipt will be issued.

\$100 Friend - You will help sponsor one of our exhibits, your name will appear in the exhibit, the newsletter and a full tax receipt will be issued.

\$500 Benefactor - Your name will appear in our annual calendar , your name will appear in our newsletter, and a full tax receipt will be issued.

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

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**Membership and Donation Level (please check):**

Membership  \$20(individual)  \$30(family)

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Please make cheques payable to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society and send to:

*Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth N.S., B2Y 3M5*