

DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S
THE GAZETTE
 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



DHM 95.65.7

GOODBYES AND HELLOS

BY ARIES CASTEEL

Recently, on May 26th, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society held its annual general meeting over a new but increasingly familiar format – the internet. Fittingly, this change in format occurred in a year of big changes for the Society – namely, an entirely new roster of executive directors for the board. Of course, while we are excited for this new team, we also had to say goodbye to the outgoing executives, all of whom have been long-time members of the board. With gratitude, we say goodbye to Philip Rogers, Mickie Zinick, and Mark Chin-Yee. Our previous chair, Debra Barlow, will continue on the board

as past chair, and we welcome her in her new role. All four of this executive worked hard to maintain and grow the museum, and we hope the community will join us in saying

Thank you!

We also hope the community will help us in congratulating and welcoming our new executive:

- Chair Miranda Romkey
- Vice Chair Emma MacIntosh
- Treasurer Vanessa Quinn
- and
- Secretary Lauren Collyer

We look forward to their service and to what the future holds with this new team!

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DARTMOUTH PARK MINES

BY ELIZABETH CARBONNEAU

The area known as the Dartmouth Commons was established in the late 18th century for shared use (particularly as livestock pasture) by local settlers. The formation of the Dartmouth Park Commission in 1888 was the formal beginning of the park as we know it today, and resulted in many fundraising, beautification, and infrastructure initiatives for the area. The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw the addition of a covered ice rink, summer house, playing field, horse trough, lawns, new trees, flower beds, fences, fountains, benches, and decorative landscaping. The park saw a decline in its upkeep and popularity through parts of the 20th century. Leighton Dillman, for whom a portion of the park is now named, became interested in its wellbeing in the 1950s and spent many years voluntarily building, repairing, landscaping, and tending to many portions of the park. Many Dartmouthians are already familiar with this history; however, few know of or remember the brief period when the Dartmouth Park was thought to be the location of the next successful mine.

“The Mines” once referred to the area at the base of Fairy Hill across from the Edward Street park entrance. A miner named John Cleverdon, with help from the General Mining Association and their agent, Samuel Cunard, apparently opened a mine in that area in the 1840s.

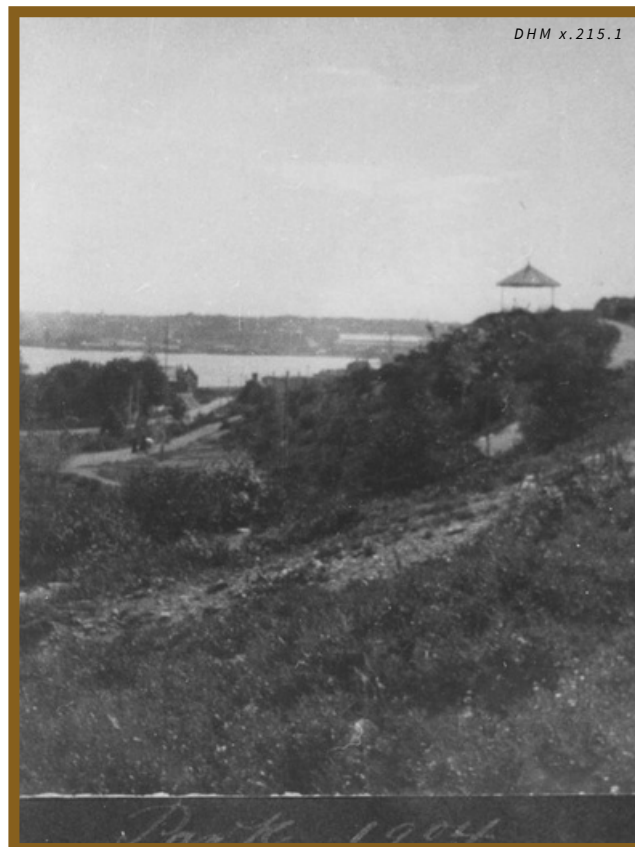


DHM 73.2.1.11

DARTMOUTH PARK: SUMMERHOUSE ON FAIRY HILL

Mr. Cleverdon hoped to find deposits of iron or copper ore, but was forced to close the mine when his funding evaporated. The General Mining Association monopolized Nova Scotian mines and their profits. It would not allow Mr. Cleverdon to continue leasing the mine without demanding more than was reasonable in return. However, the mine was reopened in 1881 after pieces of gold were found in the excavated rock that had since been used to bed swampy areas in the park.

Prominent men of the city, excited by the potential of a local gold rush, staked claims in the commons and fenced off the area from the rest of the park.



DHM x.215.1

DARTMOUTH PARK: SUMMERHOUSE, 1904

Town councillor John Markle was among them. The men mined the old Cleverdon shaft to a depth of 100 feet, but found nothing that might warrant further investment. The mine was refilled and converted into a public well.

The site was abandoned and mining in the commons has not been attempted since. However, according to local historian Dr. J.P. Martin, “the site of Cleverdon’s mine should be plaqued, because from this small site, Nova Scotia got the rights to their mines and minerals, without which the profits from the great Cape Breton coil fields, the iron ore mines, and the gold mines would most certainly have gone elsewhere.”

DETAILS FROM "THE STORY OF THE DARTMOUTH PARK" BY G.S. GOSLEY

COLLECTIONS CORNER: ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHTS

Delicate Blooms: Mi'kmaq Wooden Splint Flowers made by Annie Paul

BY SHANNON BAXTER

Wooden flowers are a craft unique to Indian Brook, Nova Scotia. They were initially created by Madeline Knockwood, a Mi'kmaq craftswoman, best known for her wooden roses, which were commonly made of ash splints. Madeline Knockwood was also known to create baskets. Starting in 1968, Madeline Knockwood trained Annie Paul, another Mi'kmaq craftswoman how to create wooden flowers, however the manner of creating the wooden roses was kept secret by Madeline Knockwood. It was through practice and watching how Madeline developed the other flowers that Annie Paul eventually created wooden roses of her own.



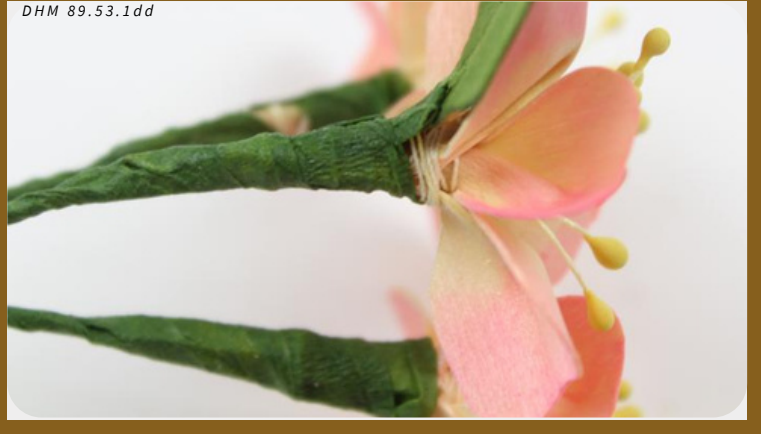
All of the wooden flowers in the collection of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum were made by Annie Paul. Rather than using ash splints, however, she used poplar splints. The splints were created and shaped to form petals and leaves. The rest of the flowers are constructed in wire, floral tape, and wax. There are three beautiful types of flowers in our collection: Apple blossoms, of varying shades of white and pink, roses, varying from yellow, red, and pink, and finally two gladiolas, which are believed to be the only examples in Atlantic Canada.



COLLECTIONS CORNER CONTINUED...

There are a total of 37 artificial flowers in the collection. The majority of which are the apple blossom sprigs. While they are currently not on display, due to needing special display cases to mitigate light damage of the dyes used on the flowers, they are currently viewable on NovaMuse. We encourage anyone wishing to see more of these beautiful works to view them there, either by going to the contributor "Halifax Regional Municipality / Dartmouth Heritage Museum Collection" or by entering "Wooden flowers" into the search bar.

DHM 89.53.1dd



DHM 89.53.1kk



A Message From the Volunteer Coordinator:

BY IRENE COOPER

I have been volunteering at Evergreen House for 3 years in the Collections Department, as a Director on the Board for 3 years, and for 1 year as the Volunteer Co-Ordinator. This year I plan to honour our volunteers at a Luncheon, with Certificates presented by the Board of Directors.

I encourage anyone who wants to learn about Dartmouth's past and to be part of the Heritage Museum's future to become a volunteer. We have many areas that may be a fit for you. If interested please visit the Volunteer Section on the Museum's website: <https://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca>

SNEAK PEEK FROM THE SOUND BOOTH...

Blue Lobelia meets Bluenose Ghosts

BY DYLAN JEWERS OF BIG TURNIP RECORDS

This summer, Big Turnip Records is happy to announce yet another release of Creighton related folk music recorded at Evergreen. Blue Lobelia is a special and unique musical presence here in Nova Scotia. Originally from Ontario, Blue Lobelia, (Rachel Bruch) 's music is a beautiful blend of classical, indie folk and Baroque Pop. Under the direction of Dylan Jewers of Big Turnip Records, and recorded and produced by Kurtis Eugene McAllister, this collection of English and Nova



NINA BATLEY FINN



BLUE LOBELIA RECORDING AT EVERGREEN



BLUE LOBELIA (RACHEL BRUCH) (LEFT) AND KURTIS EUGENE MCALLISTER (RIGHT) ON THE STEPS OF EVERGREEN HOUSE

Scotian Ballads is bound to excite. Inspired by the recordings of Nina Bartley Finn, who in the summer of 1943 recorded nearly 15 songs for Helen Creighton at Evergreen, this record will blend the original archival recordings of Nina Bartley Finn with the new arrangements and production. It will be one of the most unique and modern takes on traditional material heard in a while. Stay tuned for an update on the live showcase here at Evergreen at the end of the summer, and follow Big Turnip Records online for the digital release of this album, set to be out in August.



**HELEN-CREIGHTON
FOLKLORE
SOCIETY**

Special thanks to the Helen Creighton Folklore Society, who funded this project.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

BY MIRANDA ROMKEY, CHAIR

As we move into the latter half of 2021 the board of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society has undergone a substantial change as well. We have brought on a brand new executive which consists of myself (Miranda Romkey) as Chair, Emma MacIntosh as Vice-Chair, Vanessa Quinn as Treasurer and lastly Lauren Collyer as our new Secretary. We've also seen long time volunteer and committee member Michael Craven and passionate Dartmouthian Emilie O'Brien join the board as directors.

Much like 2020, 2021 has been full of uncertainty however we're thrilled to finish off the year with a strong board and exciting new ideas. We look forward to what the rest of 2021 will bring!



MILKWEED AND MONARCHS

Gardening in a time of Covid

BY PATRICIA LANE

Quaker House is moving from a second spring lock-down to a second summer without visitors. More optimistically, many of us are looking forward to our second dose of vaccine and in Quaker House Garden, I am watching a second year's growth of milkweed push up from the earth. Human visitors may be temporarily absent, but we hold to the hope that Monarch butterflies will find our milkweed and take rest from their long journey.

Quaker Garden in a time of pandemic has certainly given hope; it has been a haven of tranquility, calm and fragrance. Amid isolation and uncertainty, the garden has offered safety, solitude and growth. Volunteers have found a

focus for individual energies or the opportunity to meet in a garden large enough to socially distance, but small enough to encourage friendship. Evelyn planted sunflowers, Barbara nurtured herbs, Michael pruned, I planted corn, and Chris, bless him, mowed. A wonderful aspect of this garden is its breadth of possibilities. There are lots of empty patches just waiting for an idea. Want to try organic? Heritage vegetables? Medicinal plants? Showy perennials for bee and butterfly? Composting? Create a traditional cottage garden? Or, like me, simply cherish the Zen of Weeding? Please join us, if only for a brief moment amid the buzzing bees; but, if you want to make an idea bloom, we will happily share our rakes and trowels. Come add some of your time to the 200-year history of Quaker Garden.



MILKWEED DONATED BY VANESSA BURCHILL

EVENT AND EXHIBIT NEWS

Alderney Library Display

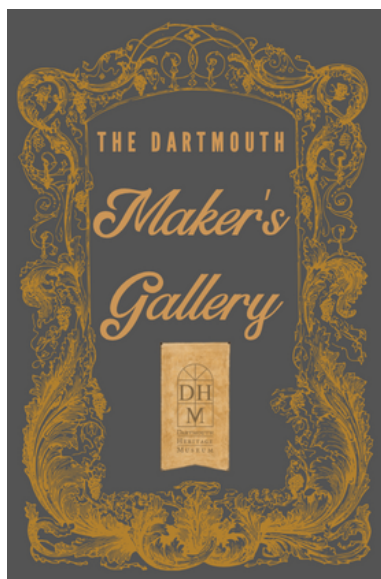
The DHM Spring display on Early Dartmouth Medical and Dental Equipment will be on display at the Alderney Gate Library from March through June. The display case is located near the elevators on the main floor.

Dartmouth Makers' Gallery

The name "Maker's Gallery" came from the intended purpose of the Gallery: to showcase the large number of objects and artworks in our collection which were made either in or for Dartmouth, and either by or for Dartmouth residents.

We know and love the great community spirit in Dartmouth, and we want to allow visitors to experience as much as possible from our vast and interesting collection.

Thus, we bring you the Dartmouth Maker's Gallery: a space of seasonally rotating artwork and artifacts aimed at highlighting artisans and objects with strong Dartmouth connections.



There is also a small souvenir booklet for the current display, including photos and the history behind all the pieces chosen! It is available in our gift shop for only \$3!

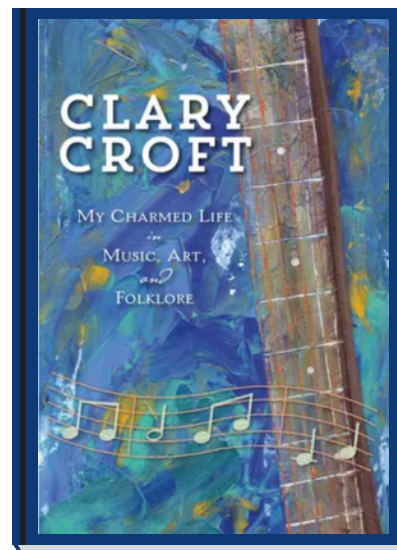
We hope to see you soon!*

**Please see back page for details on how to visit*

GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Clary Croft: My Life in Music, Art and Folklore by Clary Croft

Beloved folklorist, storyteller, and performer spins the tale of his fifty-year career in the arts in Nova Scotia, featuring The Privateers, Helen Creighton, and more. Featuring a foreword by writer, broadcaster, and former co-host of CBC's Singalong Jubilee Jim Bennet, and with dozens of images in both colour and black and white,



Cover of Clary Croft's memoir

Clary Croft: My Charmed Life in Music, Art, and Folklore is an inspiring and entertaining chronicle of a creative life well lived.

***"I have led a charmed life. I know that, and I am grateful every day."* – Clary Croft**

Soon to be available in our gift shop, currently available through publisher, Nimbus' website, Nimbus.ca

Songs of the Sea, 2 CD set

A selection of traditional folk songs from the Helen Creighton collection. Features any original recordings from the 1950's.



Songs of the Sea, \$20

Songs include:

My Bully Boys Blow, The Ghostly Sailors, Quays of Belfast, The Mermaid, the classic, The Nova Scotia Song, and more!

DHMS MEMBERSHIP

DHM has 3 categories of membership for purchase:

- **"Individual Membership"** is one (1) person
- **"Family membership"** is for a family unit, consisting of at least one (1) adult and one child under the age of eighteen (18)
- **"Group membership"** is for societies, museums, universities, libraries, corporations, firms, partnerships, foundations and governmental departments.

Why become a member?

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society operates the Dartmouth Heritage Museum on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, which owns both historic houses and the collection. This allows interested community members to have a real and impactful voice in what happens with the DHM. One of the easiest ways to use your voice is by attending and voting at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Society members have the right to vote for Board Director nominees and on changes to the Bylaws, both of which have incredible influence on the Society and the museum itself.

Membership Opportunities and Benefits:

- Voting! Society members have the right to vote on important issues at each Annual General Meeting.
- A 10% discount from the gift shop. This discount is applied by our staff in-person with a valid membership card, or online by using your unique discount code. Please contact museum staff for any help needed with this process.
- Early-bird access to event tickets. This includes popular events such as our Murder Mystery Nights, exhibit openings, and more!
- Discounts on events and activities. In addition to the ability to purchase tickets early, we often have deals and discounts for members.



DHMS Membership Form

Individual Membership - \$20

Individual membership entitles you to invitations and early-bird ticket sales for exhibit openings and functions, a \$10 tax receipt, our newsletter, and a vote at our Annual General Meeting.

Family Membership - \$30

Family membership entitles you and your family invitations and early-bird ticket sales for exhibit openings and function, a \$15 tax receipt, our newsletter and a vote at our AGM. Family membership includes two parents and children under 18.

Group Membership - Please contact the museum for more information.

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Select Membership Type	Annual Fee	# Years	Total
Individual Member (tax receipt for \$10.00)	\$20.00		\$
Family Member (tax receipt for \$15.00) Includes parents and children under 18	\$30.00		\$
Total Membership Fee			\$
Donations are helpful and appreciated with tax receipts issued for the full amount. Would you like to make a donation at this time? If yes, please indicate amount in the box to the right.			\$
Total Payable (Membership + Donation)			\$

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

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth NS, B2Y 3M5

Check the box if you would like to receive the E-bulletin Yes No If yes, by ___ email or ___ post mail?

Would you like to receive our Newsletters? Yes No If yes, by ___ email or ___ post mail?

From time to time, we recognize our members and donors publicly. We respect your privacy so are asking that you expressly indicate whether we can publish your name, or not: Yes No

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum

"Protecting, preserving, and promoting our heritage."



Evergreen House

26 Newcastle St
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Hours*:

Sept-May	June-Aug
Tues-Fri	Tues-Sun
10am-5pm	10am-5pm

*see below for more details on opening hours



CONTACT US

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902-464-2300

info@dartmouthmuseum.ca



Quaker House

57 Ochterloney St
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Hours:



Visiting the Museum:

Due to Covid-19 related restrictions, the museum hours at Evergreen House may not match those in this newsletter. For the most up-to-date information on our opening hours, please visit our website at www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca or check any of our social media accounts.

Appointments can always be booked by contacting the museum. Please note that face masks are still required when visiting the museum. Visits and tours remain free of charge for all. Donations welcome.