

March, 2014



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**The Way Ahead**

*By Rick Sanderson , Chair, Board of Directors, Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society*

The year 2014 started off with a bang. Early in January, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Staff and Board members learned that Halifax Regional Municipality staff were about to recommend to Councillors that 90 Alderney Street be put up for sale. As you are aware, the building, former Dartmouth City Hall, was to have been the new home of the Museum. Council had voted its approval in Fall 2009. Suddenly, it seemed that the 13-year roller coaster ride of meetings, inspections, reports, recommendations, votes, strategic planning consultations, letter-writing, more meetings and, of course, more reports, was for naught. At times, it has felt as if we were alone in our quest for a place to hang our hats.

Building inspections by engineers and museum specialists convinced staff that

the plan to convert 90 Alderney from an office building to a museum would be extremely costly and ultimately, ineffective. The building had not been well maintained for a number of years and alterations to incorporate the required museum-level environmental systems would be extremely difficult and compromise the required amount of display and storage space. DHM Staff and Board Members agreed with this assessment but, we were concerned that while far from ideal, 90 Alderney was better than what we had. We held strategy meetings, wrote letters, sent documents and contacted the media in an effort to make our voice heard and to make it clear that we are people with whom staff and Council can work. Members of our community wrote letters as well. Media interviewed our area Councillor, Gloria McCluskey and me prior to the vote.

We are looking forward to seeing current members and meeting new ones at the DHMS AGM at 7pm Wednesday, May 7th, 2014 at Christ Church Parish Hall.

The Former Dartmouth City Hall declared inadequate



*(continued from p. 1)*

Early on the afternoon of 28 January, HRM Council held its regular meeting. I am very proud of our civic representatives. Mayor Mike Savage stepped down from the Mayor's chair to speak of his fond memories of the old Dartmouth Heritage Museum with the Council and the HRM citizens present. He recounted how his father would take him there to explore the exhibits while he went off on house calls.

Councillor McCluskey amended the motion to include the proviso that the monies from the sale be set aside for a new Municipal Museum on the Dartmouth side of Halifax Harbour. Council voted in favour of the motion.

So, here is where we are. **We have HRM support for a new Municipal Museum.** Here is where we need to be: **in that building.** Here is how we will get there.

***Step One. Develop a vision for the future of Dartmouth Heritage Museum by creating a new Strategic Plan that will involve all members of the HRM community.***

***Step Two. Become the centre of HRM cultural heritage activity that we can be proud of.***

***Step Three. Everything else.***



**Former Dartmouth Heritage Museum & Library** located on Wyse Road (now demolished).  
Photographer: Unknown, Source: Found in Collection, Artifact #: 2011.037.001, Photo #: A10849

I call on all Members of DHMS to contact your friends and neighbours, reach out to all communities in HRM and tell them we need their ideas and dreams about what this cultural centre will be.

*Rick Sanderson, Chair*

Send your ideas to  
[museum@bellaliant.com](mailto:museum@bellaliant.com)

Like us on Facebook

## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Evergreen Writing Group meets the first Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. The group gets together for readings of writing in progress, discussion and feedback, to listen to guest speakers and hold workshops. For more information, call 463-5612 or email <evergreen\_writers@yahoo.ca>

# Events

## Current Exhibit

### Models, Miniatures & More!

The Spirit of old Dartmouth is captured in form and photographs. Many of the models from the old Museum at 100 Wyse Road have been brought to Evergreen House for the exhibit, including Farquarson Farm, Crathorne's Grist Mill, and the 1871 Octagon House ("Ink Bottle House").

\$2.00 admission.



Model of the Farquarson Farmhouse



**Storytellers Circle of Halifax presents:**

**World Storytelling Day 2014**

*Monsters and Dragons:*

*The good, the bad, and the ugly!*

*Engaging monsters and dragons -*

*Tea & Tales  
at  
Evergreen House*



*served up with tea & sweets*

"The monsters of our childhood do not fade away,  
neither are they ever wholly monstrous".

John le Carre

Sat, Mar 22, 2014 - 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

26 Newcastle Street

\$10.00 Seating is limited - Reserve ahead

Phone 464-2300 or Email [museum@bellaliant.com](mailto:museum@bellaliant.com)

More information on the stories. Elinor Benjamin 469-8572



## Know Your Dartmouth!

Who is portrayed in the picture below?

Where is the statue located?

*(answer on page 9)*



## The Director's Desk

Bonnie Elliott

### *This Year is for the Collection*

After a long stint, a decade in fact, the DHM Collection stored since 2002 in a warehouse in Burnside is going to receive the attention it so deserves. And not just any attention! Thanks to HRM, Kellie McIvor and her team of conservators will be sorting, re-shelving, rehousing, unpacking, and inventorying the collection. Her team consists of Judith Landry, Craig Dix and Michelle Gallinger. They each have extensive experience working on a variety of important collections using their own specialized skills. For example, Michelle Gallinger is an art restorer. The artwork which comprises approx. 500 items is top priority for this project. It is one of the most significant categories within the collection



One of the artifacts that will be conserved is this *Ram's Head Snuff Mull* that was given to Joseph Howe on 26th January, 1842 "as a tribute of friendship and esteem by a few friends".

and also one of the most fragile. Gallinger will be giving the artwork her expert attention. This project is going to last most of the year. Apart from the obvious

benefits of having the collection properly organized, restored, and inventoried, the collection will be in a more prepared state for when we do move into our new home.

As well as assessing and attending to the needs of the collection, some of the immediate problems of the building will be addressed and the whole space cleaned and organized. Mouldy artifacts will be removed so they can be examined and assessed.

While all this is going on, temporary exhibits at Evergreen House will be scaled back to allow the Curator, Crystal Martin time to devote to upgrading the database records and giving a hand to the Conservators. We will also be conducting an inventory at Evergreen and Quaker House.

Kellie McIvor, pictured centre and her team of conservators. Left of Kellie is Craig Dix and right of Kellie is Judith Landry. Michelle Gallinger is missing from the photograph.



## The Curator's Corner

*Crystal Martin*

### ***Family Photo Workshop Presented by Jenny Milligan***

On Saturday, November 2, 2013, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum hosted a Family Photo Workshop. It was facilitated by Jenny Milligan, M.ED., Dress Historian, who is with the Bear River Historical Society. A small group of keen participants learned how to date old photos, place people in a family tree and help identify faces from the past. The workshop included many resources and worksheets which could be taken away for further use at home.

The group started by looking at a checklist for women in photographs. Clues included the style of hair, as well as caps and jewelry. The dress was looked at for elements of style in the fabric, cut and trimmings; sleeves, buttons, collars etc. were all taken into account. Then the group studied details of men's clothing and fashion in hair and facial hair.

Next Jenny talked about the type of photo – what was it made of, what type of photo was it, what size was it, what shape was it? Jenny also talked about the setting and furniture used in the background, and whether it was a studio photograph or a more casual setting.

The last part of the workshop then focused on pinning the photo on the family tree. Jenny discussed a simple formula, using the person's age (oldest/youngest) and the photo's age (oldest/youngest) to help give an approximate birth year (earliest/latest). She also discussed a formula to help determine when the mother would have been born. This could help identify family members in a photograph.

Finally, Jenny provided additional questions to help pinpoint the 'mystery' person. She handed out a list of books and websites to be used for personal research.

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum would like to thank both Jenny for facilitating the workshop and those who attended. Hopefully, people were able to take away some informative clues and perhaps a few mysteries were solved.

Do you know who this is and when it could have been taken?

*Answer found on page 9*



## Evergreen House – Home of Helen Creighton, Collector of Nova Scotia’s Folklore and Songs

*Maida Follini*

Evergreen House is a three-story home built in 1867 in what was originally a park-like setting, high above Halifax harbour, shaded by a grove of evergreen trees. The land on which it was built had been purchased by James Creighton in the 1780s as the site for his inn and ferry service at the bottom of Old Ferry Road in Dartmouth. James’s son, James Creighton Jr., later sold part of the land to Judge Alexander James, who had the house built. Dartmouth Architect, Henry Elliot who designed Evergreen House, was the designer of many prominent buildings in Nova Scotia, including the Alexander Keith Brewery on Lower Water Street, the North Baptist Church on Gottingen Street, and the Provincial Normal School in Truro. Evergreen House is described in the Canadian Registry as an “elaborately designed, twenty room house and a good example of Picturesque architecture mixed with traditional Nova Scotian vernacular elements.” Judge James maintained his office and a waiting room on the first floor of the house with its own entrance.



*Joseph Howe Statue at Provincial Legislature*

One of Judge James’s distinguished friends was Joseph Howe, son of John Howe, a Loyalist who came to Nova Scotia from Boston during the

American Revolution. John ran a printing business. He also belonged to an odd religious sect, the Sandemanians who came with the Loyalists from Boston. Son Joseph Howe worked first in his father’s printing business and later publishing a newspaper, the “*Nova Scotian*”. In a famous court case, Joseph Howe defended freedom of the press by successfully arguing that the Province should not muzzle criticism of the government. Joseph Howe went on to become Premier of Nova Scotia. On display at Evergreen House are portraits of John Howe, the Loyalist printer, and Joseph Howe, the journalist and Premier. The ownership of Evergreen House changed hands many times since Judge Alexander’s family resided there. In 1920, Charles and Alice Creighton bought the house and moved in with their family.

The Creightons had four sons and two daughters, the youngest child being Helen, born September 5, 1899. By the time the Creightons bought Evergreen House, Helen was a young woman of 20, who had served in Toronto as an ambulance driver during the war. In 1920, Helen was a driver for a Red Cross caravan which toured Nova Scotia bringing public health services to rural communities. She later studied social work for a semester in Toronto and spent some months visiting her brother in Mexico where she taught a class of girls. Returning to her family home at Evergreen House, Helen settled on a serious writing career. She successfully published children’s stories and broadcast a story hour over the radio. In 1928, she embarked on the project for which she is famous: collecting the songs and folklore of Nova Scotia. Over the next 60 years, Helen collected over 15,000 folk songs and variations, as well as ghost tales and rural superstitions. Among the songs Helen collected and preserved were *The Nova Scotia Song* (Farewell to Nova Scotia) and *The Cherry Tree Carol*.

Helen’s work received support from the Rockefeller Foundation and the U.S. Library of Congress. She recorded folk music for the Canadian Museum of Civilization. She travelled in out of the way places in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, collecting songs of English, Scottish, Gaelic, Acadian, German, African, and Mi’kmaq origin.

## The Editor's Eye

*Maida Follini*



*Helen Creighton at her desk at Evergreen House*

Helen Creighton was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1976. After her death, she was recognized with the Frank Davies Legacy Award in 2011 from the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Helen Creighton died on December 12, 1989, at the age of 90.

Artifacts belonging to Helen are on display at Evergreen House, including her harmonium and the typewriter she used to record texts.

Evergreen House has important cultural significance for the Province of Nova Scotia, first as the home of Judge James where he entertained his friend Joseph Howe, and most importantly as the long-time residence of Helen Creighton. Evergreen House is listed in the Canadian Register of Historic Places..

Recently I saw the film “The Monument Men”, which was about a group of art experts who were brought in to the American Army during World War II to form a team to rescue irreplaceable paintings and sculpture at risk of destruction. The Nazis had looted the museums and private collections of Europe, intending to bring the art back to Germany for the benefit of Hitler and his henchmen. Much was hidden in salt mines and copper mines, and some in German castles. Hitler’s orders were that if the Allies were winning, his army should destroy all the works of art. The Monument Men were able to save much of the plundered art, but some was burned by the Nazis.

Cultural objects can be destroyed by natural forces like earthquakes and floods; and by the essential destructiveness of war with its bombs and resulting fires. Seldom has there been such deliberate destruction as occurred during the German Nazi era.

Nova Scotians are lucky to have been far from World War II’s worst effects. Our cultural treasures may also be lost, not through deliberate barbarity, but through unthinking neglect. In the current cry for ‘development’, our cultural heritage must be considered as planning takes place.

In the past, most of the eighteenth century houses of the Quaker Whalers were torn down to make room for new buildings. Only the Quaker Whaler House Museum remains of that settlement of 1785-86. Other architecture of importance must not be allowed to be destroyed in the name of new building projects. Obviously not all our older buildings should be saved! There is room for development. Exemplary buildings with particular cultural and historic meaning should be preserved.

Such culturally significant houses serve to display life as it was lived in the past and as settings important to our history. Evergreen House is one such setting. The residence of pioneer folk-song collector Helen Creighton could become a centre of Nova Scotia’s Folk Culture .



The Dartmouth Heritage  
Museum Presents

# Comedy & Silent Cake Auction

Doors open at 7 pm

Comedy Show

8 pm , Friday, May 2nd

Alderney Landing  
Theatre- Dartmouth  
Waterfront



# Lorne Elliott

Tickets in advance  
\$30.00

At the Door \$34.00

To purchase tickets  
[www.ticketpro.ca](http://www.ticketpro.ca)

1.888.311.9090

MUSIC & COMEDY THEATRE



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

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**Answer to Mystery Object, page 7:**

“To commemorate the courage and determination of those who built it.”  
 opening of the bridge,  
 Commission, at the Dartmouth end of the Macdonald Bridge, December, 2005, the 50th Anniversary of the  
 The Statue of “The Ironworker” by Sculptor Peter Bustin was erected by the Dartmouth-Halifax Bridge

**Answer to Mystery Photograph, page 5:**

Stanley Hawthorn Morrison, age 12 months – son of Sarah (nee. James) & Alexander (aka Sandy) Morrison.  
 Stanley was born in 1897 and therefore the photograph was taken in 1898.

**DHM Society Donors:**

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

Hats off to their ongoing generosity !

- |                      |                                    |                         |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
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Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

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*Protecting,  
 Preserving &  
 Promoting our  
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NOTICE BOARD

The **AGM** of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, May 7th, 2014 at Christ Church Parish Hall. This is an earlier date than usual, so please mark it on your calendars.

Following refreshments a Meet & Greet will be held at the Celtic Corner.

***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.

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

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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*