

December 2014



GAZETTE

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The Director's Desk

Bonnie Elliott

Looking out my window onto the calm water of Dartmouth Cove and the harbour beyond, I notice a few flakes of snow starting to fall. This is the shape of things to come and clear evidence that winter is beginning. It's this change of seasons heading towards the New Year that brings about a mood of reflection for what the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has accomplished over the past year.

Beginning in January the approval of Counselor Gloria McCluskey's motion to have 90 Alderney Drive declared surplus and have the proceeds from its sale put towards a new regional museum located in Dartmouth started the year on a very good note. The HRM staff report which recommended the "ongoing work on the inventory and restoration of cultural artifacts" has meant that HRM and the DHM have combined considerable resources towards improving the storage and housing of the collection. As we become reacquainted with the vast array of wonderful items in the collection excitement is building amongst staff



and volunteers. By inventorying the collection we have a much clearer idea of the space requirements for our new home. In the meantime the Board of Directors is working towards a plan for the new museum and more news on that will follow in the new year.

This spring the Fundraising Committee worked hard to bring about the **Comedy & Cake fundraiser featuring Lorne Elliott** held at Alderney Landing Theatre which turned out to be a wonderful evening of laughter and good cheer not to mention the mouth watering

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Evergreen Writing Group meets the *first Wednesday of each month*

10:00 – 12:00 a.m.

Evergreen Writers' Group welcomes newcomers to our meetings at Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street in Dartmouth. For more information, call 463-5612 or email evergreen_writers@yahoo.ca

Christmas Cards

by

CHAMBERS



\$15.00/set of 6

\$3.00/ card

Available at Evergreen House, Alderney Landing Market
and online at www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca

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cakes that were donated.

This fall Evergreen provided one of the locations for the filming of the Lizzie Borden TV series with the Carriage Room being turned into a morgue and Helen Creighton's parlour being used for another scene. As well, the Fundraising Committee partnered with the Wolfville Historical Society who owns the original Chambers cartoons. I hope that those who were saddened by not



This decorative mail holder with painted image of a full-rigged ship and rope work is one of the gems unpacked from the collection.



The Carriage room at Evergreen turned into a makeshift morgue for the filming of 'Lizzie Borden'.

seeing the calendar for next year are cheered by the antics of Chambers' 'Little Men' found in the cards.

The brightest stars this year are the volunteers who give their energy, expertise and countless hours (actually more than 2,000 calculated) to the many ongoing projects and smooth running of the Museum. Besides their generosity of time and skills, they make the museum a pleasant place to work and visit. At the risk of leaving a name out, I would like to thank each person who gave so generously of their time to the museum. Volunteer Coordinator Marilyn Purchase ensures that the front desk is always manned. This very important post is filled continually by

Molly Butters, Gloria MacNeil, Cathy Landry, Cathie Ingram Maida Follini, Vivien Blamire, Betty Freeman, Josephine Ellis, Mary Liz Greene, Jennifer Weagle, Stephanie Slaunwhite, June Young, Linda Forbes, Mary Hughes, Eric Jordan, Kathleen Richardson-Prager, Joyce Foote, Sally King, and Russ Barton. Dalhousie students Emily Murphy, Courtney Mrazek and Liam Caswell continue to dedicate a few hours in their busy schedules. NSCC Library and Information Technology student Andrew Wood has been re-cataloguing the library books while Katie LeBlanc has acted as the Membership Secretary. Karen Colter has been devoting much of her time in archival work at Evergreen and the warehouse along with recent recruits Debra Barlow, Philip Rogers, Paul Bonang. We are fortunate to have the skills of Angie McLellan and her perceptive eye in photography. The success of our teas is due to the dedication of Stefanie Clay, Gloria MacNeil, Cathy Landry, Bonie Conrad and Micheline Banville. Newsletter editor Maida Follini and proof reader Joanne Ritchie keep the newsletter on track and

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The Curator's Corner

Crystal Martin

For this edition of Curator's Corner, I asked one of the museum's regular volunteers, Angie McLellan, to choose an artifact of interest to her and to do some research on it. She chose a trophy from our current "Hidden Gems: Secrets from the Warehouse Revealed" exhibit. This trophy is "The Owl's Cup, Handicap Quoit Competition" and contains the names of the winners between 1903 and 1922. Curious to learn more about quoits, Angie decided to dig a little deeper. Here she shares with us what she discovered.

The Game of Quoits – By Angie McLellan

The sport of quoits dates back to at least the Middle Ages in

England, where it became so popular that it was one of the games banned by King Edward III in an effort to encourage archery. Despite the ban, the game lived on, and in the 1700s, English and Scottish immigrants brought the game to Nova Scotia, where it gained popularity as a gentlemen's sport.

In the early 1760s, land was cleared for a fortification on McNab's island, but the fortification didn't end up being built at that time, and the land was instead used as a place for playing quoits. Quoits matches continued at this site for close to a hundred years, and in 1873 when Charles Woolnough built his pleasure grounds on the island, quoiting grounds were one of the attractions.

Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, many notable local men made up the membership of the various

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St. George's Quoit Club 1907. Names of the members written on the back of the photograph

Front Row: Percy Austen (standing), C.E. Creighton, Prescott Johnston, Donald Fergusson, J. Howe Austen, James Harrison, Judge W.R. Foster

Second Row: Harry Creighton, W. Gore Foster, A.C. Pyke, Walter Creighton, J. Roland Simmonds, Kenneth Forbe, J.P.L. Stewart, Mr. Prigh (raising the cup) J.G. Burchell, Col. J. W. Vidito (holding a trophy)

Third Row: Dickson Romans, A.C. Johnston, W.C. Bishop, Dr. Alan Cunningham

Shown between M. Prigh and Mr. Burchell is part of head & face of Col. R. Humphreys. Unknown shadowy figure back of Col. Vidito

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Nova Scotia quaiting clubs, which were social as well as sporting in nature. Two of the most prominent clubs in the area were the Studley Quoit Club in Halifax and St. George's Tennis and Quoit Club in Dartmouth. The Studley Quoit Club was formed in 1858 by 14 members who have been described as "leading citizens". By the turn of the century the club had 100 members and entertained famous guests such as the Marquis of Dufferin, the Earl of Aberdeen, and Prince George of Wales.

St. George's Tennis and Quoit Club opened on St. George's Day in 1885 in its first location near present day Canal Street, and in 1900 it moved to St. George's (Tennis) Lane. Little evidence survives of the earliest days of quoits

at St. George's, but there is evidence that in 1901 St. George's competed in a quoits match against the Halifax Curling Club. It appears as though quoits was a common summer pastime for curlers.

The object of the game of quoits is not distance but accuracy. Similar to horseshoes, the object is to pitch the quoit, a metal ring typically made of brass or steel and have it land around an iron pin protruding from the ground, called a hob. "Ringing the hob" garnered the pitcher multiple points, but a point was also given for a quoit which leaned up against the hob or which was nearer to the hob than that of their opponent. The quoit beds at St. George's were made of clay, allowing indentations to be made which aided the judges in determining scores. Games were played up to a set number

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Costume Committee

By Anita Campbell

The DHM has some very exciting news. It has a new committee devoted entirely to historic costume. There are already several projects in the works: the reorganization of the large costume and textile collection in the warehouse and preparation for the N.S. Wedding Gown Registry weekend to take place in the spring. If you have a love of period fashion and textiles and would like to be involved please contact Anita Campbell at museum@bellaliant.com.



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newsworthy. On behalf of the Chair, Rick Sanderson and the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the Committees of the Board for their dedication and hard work this past year.

On a festive note we are very fortunate to have Gail Fulop & Wayne Slaunwhite the dynamic duo of



'Acacia' performing vocals & guitar as they share familiar Christmas melodies and dressed in their finest Victorian attire. Personally this is my favourite event of the year and I hope to see you all there.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and all the best for a bright and Happy New Year.

EVENTS & EXHIBITS



UPCOMING... December 19th Evergreen House

Christmas Tea & Song

Featuring the popular duet 'Acacia'. Gail Fulop & Wayne Slaunwhite on vocals and guitar will entertain us throughout the afternoon while you sip tea and enjoy the Christmas fare.

To learn more about 'Acacia' visit them at www.spoonstudio.org

Sittings at 1:30 and 3pm. As this is a popular event bookings are advised. Call 902-464-2300

NOW ON ...

Uncovered Gems: Warehouse Secrets Revealed

This exhibit will take a glimpse at some of the artwork, artifacts and archival material stored at the warehouse. As a result of the progress of the collection many of the treasured items have been uncovered! This exhibit will include an eclectic array of things chosen by the museum staff, the Collections Management Committee and warehouse conservators.

The exhibit runs until March 15th, 2015

Victorian Christmas at Evergreen House - Come and see Victorian decorations, Victorian toys and Evergreen in all her splendor. Learn how many of our present ideas about Christmas developed during the Victorian Era.

UPCOMING IN 2015...

TWO EXHIBITS IN ONE! BEGINNING JANUARY 20

Coastal Lighthouse Rug Hooking



The "Lighthouse Project" features 40 entries of various lighthouses in Atlantic Canada and beyond created by the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia. This show is currently travelling throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to various venues. For further information visit rhgns.com

The Dartmouth Heritage Matters Rug Hookers will feature 30 of their own lighthouse rugs hooked by members from the Dartmouth community. This exhibit runs until March 14, 2015

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

Tuesday - Friday 10am – 5pm & Saturday – 10am -1pm & 2pm – 5pm CLOSED SATURDAYS until Jan 3rd.

\$2.00 Admission. Members and children under 12 are free.

Phone: 902-464-2300

www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca



QUAKERS RETURN TO QUAKER HOUSE

by Maida Follini

Quaker House, built c. 1786, was the home of William Ray, a Quaker from Nantucket and a cooper (barrel-maker) for the whaling industry. He and his family lived at what is now the Quaker House Museum, at 57 Ochterloney Street for five years, until the Quaker community became divided into those who left at the British request to form a whaling colony in Milford Haven, Wales; those who returned to the United States; and those who remained in Dartmouth. William Ray sold his house in 1791 and returned to his native island of Nantucket.

After passing through the hands of many owners, Quaker House became part of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, which opens it for visitors and guided tours every summer.

This summer, over 200 years since the Quaker Ray family lived there, Quakers returned to Quaker House. The Eastern Shore Friends Meeting (Quakers) in cooperation with the Museum, now hold their Meeting for Worship on the 4th Sunday of each month.



Eastern Shore Friends Meeting gathers for worship at Quaker House, 57 Ochterloney Street in Dartmouth on the Fourth Sunday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m. All are welcome. For further information about Friends or Quaker House, contact Anne & Barry Thomas at 902-772-2590 or the Museum at 902-464-2300.



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 !

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Len Atkinson | Alice Hale | Norine Haselton |
| Margaret Hayward | Holly Gunn | Josephine Ellis |
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| John, Valerie, Mark Osborne | Inez Joyce Earle | Peter and Tony Payzant |
| Suzanne & Michael Day | Kenneth Manuel & Family | |





*Protecting, Preserving & Promoting our
Heritage*

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Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

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Halifax Explosion Memorial Service

The Dartmouth Historical Association will hold its annual memorial service for Dartmouth victims of the Halifax Harbour Explosion on Saturday, December 6th at 11 a.m. at the Mont-Blanc Cannon Park at the corner of Albro Lake Road and Pine Crest Drive.

Special speaker for the event will be Richard Sanderson, Director of the Maritime Command Museum.

All welcome to attend.

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of points, typically 21, or after a pre-decided number of tosses. In order to decide which player will toss first, the quoit is thrown in the air, similar to a coin toss, with players calling “hill” for the concave side, or “hole” for the flat side.

Quoits matches at St. George’s were very popular with spectators, drawing crowds nearly as large as those that would come to watch the tennis matches. Several different trophies, medals, and prizes were competed for in these years at St. George’s. One of these was the Owl’s Handicap Cup (currently on display at Evergreen House). It is recorded that the third place winner in this

competition was presented with a cabbage as his prize. Another trophy competed for at St. George’s was the Austen Cup, donated by Joe Howe Austen. The second prize in this competition was a barrel of apples, which was so coveted a prize that players would often attempt to place second in the competition rather than first in order to win the apples.

Quoits remained popular throughout the next few decades, but unfortunately after the Second World War, the sport largely died out.

