

Winter/ Spring  
2018



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## Helen Creighton Honoured

### Terry Eyland



Dr. Creighton holding a replica of "The Blue Nose".  
DHM 1990.65.4

Dr. Helen Creighton (1899–1989) was the first lady of folklore in Canada and arguably in North America. On January 12, 2018 the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Catherine McKenna, announced the designation of 17 new national significant persons, places and events that helped define Canada's history. Dr. Helen Creighton was one of the eight persons designated. Other Nova Scotians designated were Rose Fortune and Viola Desmond.

With this honour comes a commemorative bronze plaque supplied by

Parks Canada. The plaque will be installed in front of Evergreen, though the exact location has not been determined. Not to be outdone, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society is in the planning stage to create and install a permanent exhibit at Evergreen. The working title is the 'Dr. Helen Creighton Interactive Folklore Project'.

The bulk of Helen Creighton's work in the folklore field occurred prior to 1975. Since then the capture of oral history recordings of the old residents of the community and new voices, like



Dr. Creighton recording songs with Grace Clergy, Freeman Young and Bernard Young in Petpeswick, 1951. DHM 1974.43.35



Alice and Charles Creighton in the garden at Evergreen.  
DHM 1993.15.1303

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immigrants and others, when done at all, has been sporadic and often on a project to project basis. We plan to change that dynamic! This project will install a sound booth and interactive media theatre meant to provide the infrastructure to allow on-going capture and display of our cultural heritage. This project will improve cultural reach and document relevant stories and songs from more communities.

As part of the interactive exhibit, visitors will be allowed the opportunity to record their own folklore traditions, some of which will be documented for posterity and kept in the museum's archives. This approach will afford new immigrants, among others, an opportunity to contribute their own stories to the fabric of Canadian life, as did the majority of Canadians who are themselves descendants of immigrant peoples. This

is in keeping with Helen's own work, which includes some of the earliest documentation sources, both aural and pictorial, from African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq tradition bearers.

The small theatre will seat six to eight people and be housed in the old dumb-waiter room where visitors will be able to access diverse multi-media presentations from aural history recordings to the full-length documentary on Helen Creighton. In the adjoining room, a former walk-in closet used by the original owner, Judge Alexander James, a sound booth will be installed that will record oral history submissions (voice and song) by museum visitors. As well, the sound booth will be open to the wider community, by appointment, to be used to record the stories and songs of invited informants for a myriad of research projects and diverse cultural groups.

## The Media Come to Quaker House

### Maida Follini

Saturday, February 17, saw an unusually large group descend on Quaker House, the oldest house in Dartmouth. Members of the Canadian Travel Media Writers' Association were having a tour of destinations in Dartmouth. After sampling the menus of the Wooden Monkey and Stone Pizza, they headed up Ochterloney Street. Quaker House is a small 18th century building, the only one still standing of a dozen

houses built in the 1780s for the Quaker Whalers from Nantucket. The touring writers, shepherded by Crystal Garrett of the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission, met Shannon Baxter, staff member at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and myself, representing Halifax Quaker Meeting. Shannon took them through the narrow passageways and low-ceilinged rooms where the tools and artifacts of the whaling industry are displayed. I told the story of the Quakers' arriving from Nantucket, and eventually removing to Milford Haven, Wales.

Quaker House, build in 1786, was the home of the Ray family. William Ray was a ship's captain, a whaler, and a cooper - that is, a barrel maker. Barrels were important to the whalers, who on the high seas tried out the oil from the whale blubber, storing it in barrels to carry back to shore. The biggest market for

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Maida and Crystal with the group outside of Quaker House

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the oil was England, where it was used to light the cities. Following the American Revolution, a group of Nantucket whalers left their island home to establish a whaling base in Nova Scotia. In this way, they could avoid the very high tariffs, which Americans had to pay, now that they were no longer in the British Empire. The Rays were one of 30 Nantucket families to settle in Nova Scotia,

Although the Nantucket Quaker Whalers were very successful with their new whaling colony, British government policy soon interfered. Seeing the profits made by the Dartmouth whalers, the powers back in London wanted these profits to come to Britain, rather than the colony. So they ordered the Dartmouth whale industry closed, and encouraged the whalers to re-settle in Wales. The Quaker leaders, realizing that if the central government was against them, the industry must fail, moved with their families, ships and whaling gear to Wales where they established the new town of Milford Haven for a whaling base.

Some Quakers decided to stay in Dartmouth and started businesses in boat-building, grist mills and bakeries. Others moved back to the United States. William Ray sold his house and he and his family returned to Nantucket, where he died fifteen years later.



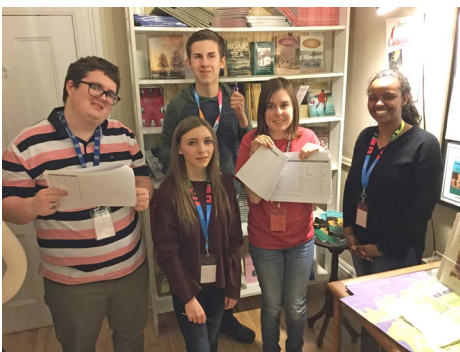
Maida regaling the group with tales inside Quaker House

Quaker House passed through many owners, until in 1971, the City of Dartmouth bought it and it has become a museum with displays commemorating the Dartmouth Quakers and the history of the whaling trade.

The visiting Media group, consisting of writers from around the province, were fascinated by the whale's skull and the whale's eye preserved in a glass container! Their questions showed interest in Quaker House and we hope they will spread the word about this unique historic site.

Quaker House will open for the 2018 season in June. For more information on the Dartmouth Quakers, check out *A Quaker Odyssey* by Maida Follini. Available in the gift shop at Evergreen House and online at [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca).

## Autism Nova Scotia Volunteers at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum



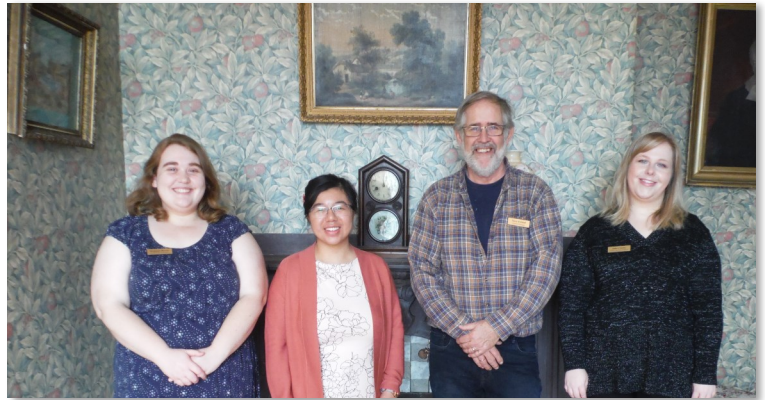
Volunteers inventorying the gift shop at Evergreen House.

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum is a Community Partner in the winter 2018 Cycle of the CommunityWorks Canada® program facilitated by Autism Nova Scotia. CommunityWorks Canada® is a pre-employment training program for teens and young adults ages 15 to 21 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The program facilitates social

inclusion and community engagement and helps participants develop life and employment skills through readiness training and community volunteer experiences. Get involved today by calling 902-593-1015 or [jblack@autismns.ca](mailto:jblack@autismns.ca).

## Staff News

Who are the people behind the Dartmouth Heritage Museum? This issue of the Gazette will explore that very question. You will be introduced to various members of our small but mighty team. The staff and volunteers that help to make the Museum function. Learn a little bit about them and how they came to join the Museum. The summer 2017 issue introduced the seasonal heritage interpreters of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, but what about everyone else.



Left to Right: Shannon Baxter, Keila Mak, Terry Eyland and Julia Clarke

Since the first meeting of Dartmouth Museum Society at the Belmont Hotel on October 19, 1961 to the current Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has always had engaged, passionate people behind it. The current team is no different.

Meet Our Team!

### Terry Eyland

Curator/Manager

It has been a busy 7 weeks! I started as the new manager at the museum on January 15th. My first task was to submit the Young Canada Works student applications due that day. Provincial and Federal student job grants followed, along with ideas for other funding opportunities that are in the works. Only a few days in we received word of the Helen Creighton designation as a person of national historic significance. Strange that, since we already knew she was a person of national historic significance!

To back up a bit, I should properly introduce myself. I am Terry Eyland. For the past many years, except for a two-year stint working at Library & Archives Canada in Gatineau, Quebec, I was curator at the Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum. The challenges there are similar to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, barring the herding of livestock. Like the DHM, the Farm had buildings on different properties and partnered with many community groups.

The board, staff and I are working well together. So far, I have met the Evergreen Writer's Group and the much-appreciated daily volunteers Marilyn Purchase, Cathie Ingram, Mary Liz Greene, Josephine Ellis, Vivien Blamire and Kathleen Richardson-Prager who help with visitor service to give Julia a daily lunch break. I have also met Laurie Campbell, the Librarian who works hard on our library collection and Michael Craven our jack-of-all-trades who has not been stymied by any task so far. If you want to join in, Julia has the volunteer information sheets ready at hand!

The HRM staff have been great! Kellie McIvor, the HRM Cultural Assets Manager has been working hard to protect and preserve the collections. Working with Shannon, Debra and Phil, our vast collections are in great shape and getting better every day. HRM's Moira Edmonds, Bruce Chisholm and Mark Rainer have all been here with tradespeople to get much

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needed repairs and restoration work completed.

This year we are working on a new permanent exhibit celebrating Helen Creighton and on a refurbishing of the museum properties. Councillor Sam Austin and Derek Vallis have donated funding to

## Shannon Baxter

Collections Assistant

I first began working at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum in November of 2016. I was hired as an intern through the Young Canada Works program, and my main project was unboxing and rehousing the museum's extensive Starr Skate collection. Some of you may remember the series of blogs I wrote while I carefully inventoried, cleaned, and researched all the fascinating ice skates! It was an incredibly fun project.

I also assisted with the development of the exhibit *Explosion! Dartmouth's Ordeal of the 1917 Disaster*. I began working on the exhibit with very little knowledge of the Halifax Harbour Explosion. It was a very humbling experience to delve deeper into how the tragedy affected Dartmouth and beyond.

I am no longer an intern here, but am now the Collections Assistant. I continue to work

## Julia Clarke

Visitor Services Officer

Hi! My name is Julia Clarke and I am the Visitor Services Officer at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. I have been at DHM since last February and I'm loving it! My role involves interpretation, coordinating events, membership, volunteers, the gift shop, social media, our website, and other stuff I'm sure I'm forgetting. Most of my position relates to public facing, visitor related things. If you're interested in any of those, please reach out to me! So, that's what I'm up to here at the Museum.

A little bit about me. I was born and raised in

revitalize the Quaker House gardens. At the same time, we plan to design and plant a Victoria garden at Evergreen. More on those plans later!

I look forward to meeting all DHM members, neighbours and friends. There is a lot of work ahead so join in on the fun!

primarily at the museum's off-site artifact storage facility. I inventory artifacts, clean them and photograph them.

The days are always full of surprises when you open a box! I am hoping to write some new blog posts that highlight some of the artifacts that I will be working on in the future.

For upcoming exhibits, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum is planning to revitalize our exhibit on Helen Creighton. I am rather excited to be assisting with this exhibit! Folklore and the work of Helen Creighton is one of the things that had me interested in working at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. There has been a lot that has been keeping me here, of course, and I am excited for all the various projects and events that are on the horizon!

Dartmouth, well not born technically, as the hospital is in Halifax. For a Dartmouthian, that's just a technicality, really. I am passionate about history, museums and lots of other nerdy things. I have a pretty rich museum background as I have volunteered or worked at many of the museums in HRM. I have always adored museums and the role that they are able to play in their communities. I hope during my time at the DHM that I am able to help grow the museum and increase its impact in the community. We have exciting things coming up in 2018 and I can't wait!

## Keila Mak

Museum Assistant

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum has been a very inclusive and welcoming workplace. It is through a program with AWN and Nova Scotia Community College that I have been able to discover a new world at my finger tips.

Behind the scenes at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, I get to work with amazing team members who bring sociocultural anthropology to

life. What motivates me in the morning to come to my workspace is learning about the countless stories found on each flipped book page, letter, and artifact. Learning things by researching, reading, and recording are some of my favourite things to do. In my spare time, I enjoy folding paper origami, journaling, swimming, and music.

## Patricia Lane

Volunteer



I grew up in Dartmouth, first in the downtown area and then in Woodlawn, and have early memories of a vibrant downtown with dress shops, shoe stores, homes, schools and movie theatres. For most

of my adult life however, Dartmouth has been the shabby sister to Halifax, and once I grew older and moved to Ontario, I confess to telling people that I was from Halifax. When, a dozen years ago, I decided to return home, I assumed that I would settle on the Halifax side of the harbour. Instead, here I am happily living in North End Dartmouth and working in a revitalizing downtown where wonderful new restaurants, shops and businesses intermingle with the lovely old homes and streetscapes of my childhood. Visits to Evergreen House and events like the Heritage House Tours have played a part in my rediscovery of Dartmouth as a community where, with careful thought and effort, the past can positively affect the future, where old and new can successfully coexist.

My desire to volunteer rather than just visit the Museum began with the realization that having sold my

house, I really missed messing about in a garden. Quaker House, with its lovely tranquil back garden, is a quick walk from my office, so I asked if I could just pop in at lunch or after work and do a bit of weeding and watering. “Welcome aboard” said the museum folk. I also have a degree in History and love to poke around old documents and records. As a result, I’ve become rather obsessively immersed in an on-line search to determine how and why a 1717 London marriage certificate was hidden away within the walls of Quaker House circa 1785. As well, I’m slowly working on an inventory of the museum’s paper files connected to Quaker House. Those files reveal not only the extent of historical information that has been amassed, but also something of the many volunteers who over the years have worked to research, restore and preserve the structure and the stories of Quaker House. Each individual volunteer has added their own expertise and enthusiasm to the project and I am very happy to now add my bit. It’s a delight to join them.

Editor’s note: If you enjoy gardening, consider volunteering to help us fix up the Quaker House garden for the upcoming season. Visit our website or drop-by Evergreen House to complete the Volunteer Information Sheet.

## 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!



Jean Wagener	Bernard Hart	June Marsden
Karen Munroe	Catherine Harrison	Carol & Rick Richardson
Gary Aitchison	Ann Creighton Day	Audrey Manzer
Margot Walker	Sally King	Wilma Stewart-White
Lorna Huestis	Carmen Moir	Peter Payzant
Karen Colter	David & Sylvia Harvey	Elinor Benjamin
Holly Gunn	Roland Thornhill	Joyce Foote
Barbara MacKenzie	Brenda Shannon	

## A New Way to Donate

We want your nickels and dimes! The Dartmouth Heritage Museum now has a drop-off account set up at Canadian Recycling, 365 Portland Street. This is an easy way for you, our supporters, to donate to the Museum. When you drop off your bottles at the depot just mention the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and the refund will be donated to us.

For more information, please contact the Museum at 902-464-2300 or [info@dartmouthmuseum.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthmuseum.ca).



### **Mother's Day Tea at Evergreen, hosted by Claudia Chender, MLA**

You're invited to Evergreen House on Saturday, May 12 for a special Mother's Day tea hosted by Claudia Chender, MLA. We are delighted to partner with Minister Chender for this event. The menu will include freshly made sandwiches, scones and cookies from Karyn's Cookies & Treats, and, of course, piping hot tea.

Guests will be treated to music from siblings, Alistair and Lydia Maksym, and their mother, Jennifer Publicover. They will offer guests an enjoyable and eclectic mix of classical music, traditional music, and jazz.

No charge, but space is limited. Please RSVP with Grace at [chenderoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:chenderoutreach@gmail.com) or 902-406-2301.

### **Upper Level – Explosion! Dartmouth's Ordeal of the 1917 Disaster**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Harbour Explosion, we present the exhibit, *Explosion! Dartmouth's Ordeal of the 1917 Disaster*. This exhibit explores and reflects upon the impact of the event on Dartmouth. It focuses on the cause of the Explosion and how Dartmouth residents worked together to rebuild their community. Come see the much talked about Frank Baker diary, oral histories from survivors, eyewitness accounts, and artifacts from affected homes and families. Due to its popularity, it has been **extended until March 31**.

### **Main Level – Dartmouth in Wintertime**

A new temporary exhibit on the main level of Evergreen. It explores events and activities that took place in Dartmouth during the colder months of the past. Check out snapshots of past frigid weather, tools that were used in Dartmouth's once booming Ice-Cutting Industry, and see a small sample of the museum's extensive ice skate collection, including some of the awards won by local skaters. The exhibit will be up until March 31.



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## Lower Level – The Carriage Room Photography Studio

Come and visit our recreation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Photographic Studio to learn how the art of photography has developed through the years. Peer into the past through the lenses of select antique cameras, and witness the process of creating wet-plate photographs.

26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth

T: 902-464-2300

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

\$5.00 Admission. Members and children under 12 are free.

Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm. Saturday, 10 am-1 pm & 2-5 pm

## Evergreen Writers' Group

We welcome newcomers to our meetings at Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street in Dartmouth. We get together the first Wednesday of each month for discussion, encouragement, providing feedback to each other on works in progress, guest speakers and workshops. For more information, call 463-5612 or email

[evergreen\\_writers@yahoo.ca](mailto:evergreen_writers@yahoo.ca)

The gift shop at Evergreen House is now restocked with *Out of the Mist* and *Off Highway*, the two anthologies published by the Evergreen Writers' Group. Both books are also available online at [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca).



# Dartmouth Heritage Museum

protecting, preserving, and promoting our heritage

26 Newcastle Street  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3M5

Phone: (902) 464-2300  
E-mail: [info@dartmouthmuseum.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthmuseum.ca)  
Website: [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca/](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca/)

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

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## *DHMS Membership Form*

### Individual Membership - \$20

Individual membership entitles you to free admission to both historic houses (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card, invitations to exhibit openings and functions, a \$10 tax receipt, our newsletter, and a vote at our AGM.

### Family Membership - \$30

Family membership entitles you to free admission to both historic houses (Evergreen and Quaker House) upon presentation of your card, invitations to exhibit openings and functions, a \$15 tax receipt, our newsletter, and a vote at our AGM. Family membership includes two parents and children under 18.

### 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.

Group Member - For companies, universities, foundations, governmental departments, etc. Please visit our website for more information.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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		\$
<b>Total Membership Fee</b>			\$
<b>Donations are helpful and appreciated with tax receipts issued for the full amount. Would you like to make a donation at this time?</b> If yes, please indicate amount in the box to the right.			\$
<b>Total Payable (Membership + Donation)</b>			\$

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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 by email?  Yes  No

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

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