



DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S *THE GAZETTE* QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



DHM 2010.24.43



DHM 87.73.40a



DHM 94.20.13



DHM 2009.38.8

WALK INTO WINTER

BY ARIES CASTEEL

With holidays and the new year rushing towards us, we at DHM would like to take a moment to thank our community and our members for their continued support. Despite the challenging last two years, we believe we have grown as a museum, and have planted strong roots for a bright future.

In the spirit of sharing cheer, here are a few recent highlights from our staff. Our museum assistant, Keila Mak, participated in an advocacy video series for Autism Nova Scotia, including writing a short article featured on page 7 of this issue. Our manager-curator Terry Eyland, is back to being a

Santa(’s helper) this holiday season, bringing cheer to Dartmouth’s youngsters. Our collections manager, Shannon Baxter, has made some fun collections-related discoveries, including notes from a 1901 Dartmouth “secret society,” run by local teenage girls! And I, Aries, the Events and Marketing Coordinator, gave a short presentation at the Libraries, Archives and Museums of Nova Scotia conference in late October. The presentation was titled ADHD in the Workplace: The Good, the Bad, and the Distracted. A recording of this presentation will soon be available on YouTube, exact details TBD.

Once again, thank you to our community, without whom none of this would be possible!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Walk Into Winter	1
Collections Corner	2-3
Oral History Digitization	4
Preserving the Past	5-6
Brain (Bring) It On	7-8
Murder Mystery Spotlight	8
Events and Workshops	9
Volunteer Recognition Event Spotlight	10
Membership	11
Visitor and Contact Info	12

COLLECTIONS CORNER

THE IMPORTANCE OF REFERENCE - A SNAPSHOT OF GEORGE CRAIG'S PAINTINGS

BY SHANNON BAXTER

This is not the first time that we have highlighted artist and general jack-of-all-trades George Craig here at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. However, recent discoveries in our archives have proven that the prolific artist had some clever ways to enhance his craft.

George H. Craig was born January 2nd, 1854. He had many jobs including working at the Ropeworks in Dartmouth, and owning both a Barber's Shop and Turkish Bath. He is best known as both a volunteer firefighter and eventually held the position of Fire Captain in Dartmouth between 1889 and 1894. He was a man who was keen to be involved in the community in various ways.

In 1889, Craig briefly took classes at the Victoria School of Art, now known as the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Anecdotally, he was so talented as a self-taught artist that he was soon promoted from

student to instructor. There have been no records at the school that can confirm whether he ever taught there. However, Craig himself, or one of his descendants, did take a photograph of one of the paintings he did while studying at the school. A rendition of a lion's head, either from stone or metal.



Pictured, Above: George Craig in the uniform for the Dartmouth Engine Company, c. 1889



Pictured, Above: Painting of Lion's Head, George Craig, 1889

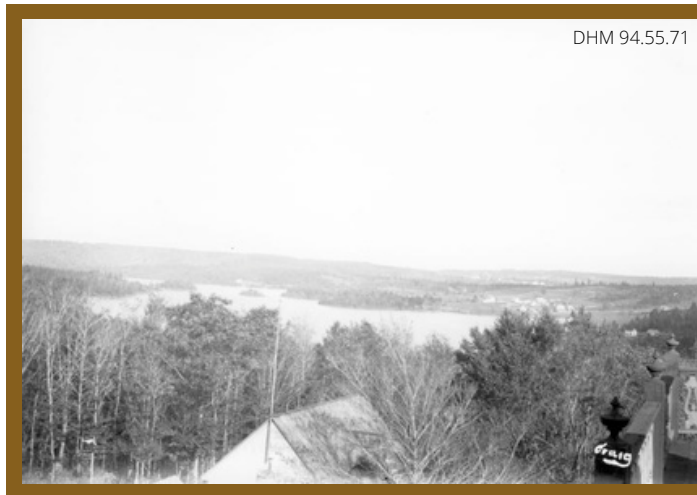
Craig took photography lessons in New York in 1892, however he had already shown a keen interest in the craft as early as 1890, as there are glass plate negatives of his that are dated to that year. George would photograph local Dartmouthians, as well as the landscape. It is here where the unique discovery was made relating to both his works of art and photographs. While reviewing digitized versions of the glass negatives, it was discovered that several of the images were nearly identical to paintings that Craig would later paint. Artists often paint from life, or use references they acquire for their studios and classes, from figure drawings to still life. It makes sense then that some artists would use early photography as a way to capture a scene for them to work from. It saved time for portraits, as the sitter did not have to remain at the studio for hours, and it also spared the artist from staying outdoors from long periods of time in fickle weather or lighting.

Continued on next page...

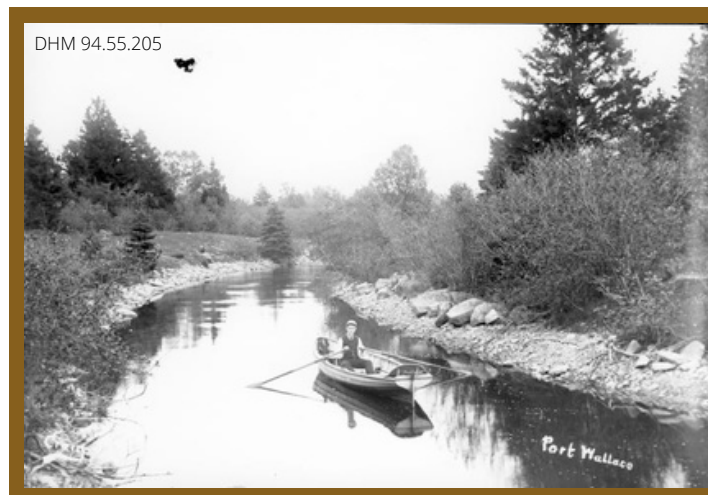
COLLECTIONS CORNER CONTINUED...

It was incredible to look between the glass negative image and the painting, especially for views that would be recognizable to the locals of Dartmouth: Lake Banook and Lake MicMac from the widow's walk of the old stately home "The Brae" (1842-1938), and the Port Wallace Locks, to name a few.

Some may argue that the black and white image of the photograph may be challenging when trying to recreate it in oils or watercolour. However, George Craig proved that he could master both mediums with great confidence.



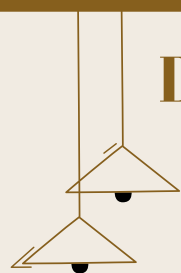
Pictured, Above: Dartmouth Lakes from "The Brae" 1890-1892. George Craig. Glass Negative Photograph (left) and Oil on Board (right)



Pictured, Above: Dartmouth Lakes from "The Brae" 1890-1892. George Craig. Glass Negative Photograph (left) and Oil on Board (right)

DHM Low-Sensory & Neurodivergent Hours

Every Wednesday morning from 10am-12pm, we dim the lights and quiet the museum to allow guests with sensory sensitivities to visit us without feeling overwhelmed. Self-guided tour booklets are available for those who prefer, or, if requested, a member of staff can offer a soft-spoken tour.



ORAL HISTORY DIGITIZATION

BY CASSANDRA CURTIS

Over the past couple of months, I have had the opportunity to work on digitizing the Dartmouth Heritage Museum's large collection of oral history cassette tapes, most of which were recorded between the 1970's and 1990's. This collection contains information on a wide variety of topics, from boat building in Cape Breton to boat building in Halifax Harbour. Just kidding of course, the collection also contains wonderful recollections of life in Turn-of-the-Century Dartmouth, old Dartmouth Christmas traditions, and memories of the many downtown shops and businesses which have closed and opened over the years. There are also interviews with workers at many of the old Dartmouth production plants, as well as some harrowing stories from the Halifax Explosion.

The process of digitizing these tapes has been a learning process for all of us. We originally purchased a promising new piece of technology from Amazon, a Walkman-sized cassette player with a USB attachment which would (theoretically) allow you to record from the cassette directly onto the USB. We should have suspected from the price that the device might not be very durable, and sure enough the USB

functionality stopped working after a couple of weeks.

As an alternative, I spent some time researching and experimenting with ways to connect the tape player directly to the computer and record internally using free recording software. So far, this approach has been successful! This digitization process, which used to be a costly and complex procedure, can now be done for free using a standard computer and any tape player with a headphone jack.

So far, I have digitized nearly 30 interviews, and have many more boxes of tapes to go. The goal of digitizing is never to abandon an old storage medium; these tapes will still be well cared for once their contents have been recorded. Instead, digitizing gives us a backup of these valuable interviews which can safely be kept in a different location, meaning they are more likely to be properly preserved for generations to come.

To listen to some of the newly digitised interviews recalling their experiences during the Halifax/Dartmouth Explosion of 1917, you can visit the Oral Histories page on our website, which can be found under the Learn tab on the front page. And for those still having trouble, here is a link:

www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca/learn/oral-histories/

We're partnering with WillPower to bring you more options to make informed decisions about planned giving to the museum! To learn more, visit **WillPower.ca**, or start right on DHM's charity page at:

www.willpower.ca/charities/dartmouth-heritage-museum/



CHANGE THE WORLD WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT IN YOUR WILL, WHILE STILL SUPPORTING THOSE YOU LOVE.

PRESERVING THE PAST

BY TERRY EYLAND

Over the centuries, Dartmouth has had several ferries. One of these was the short-lived “Governor Cornwallis”. The “Governor Cornwallis” was designed by William Roué, best known for his more famous project, the schooner “Bluenose”.

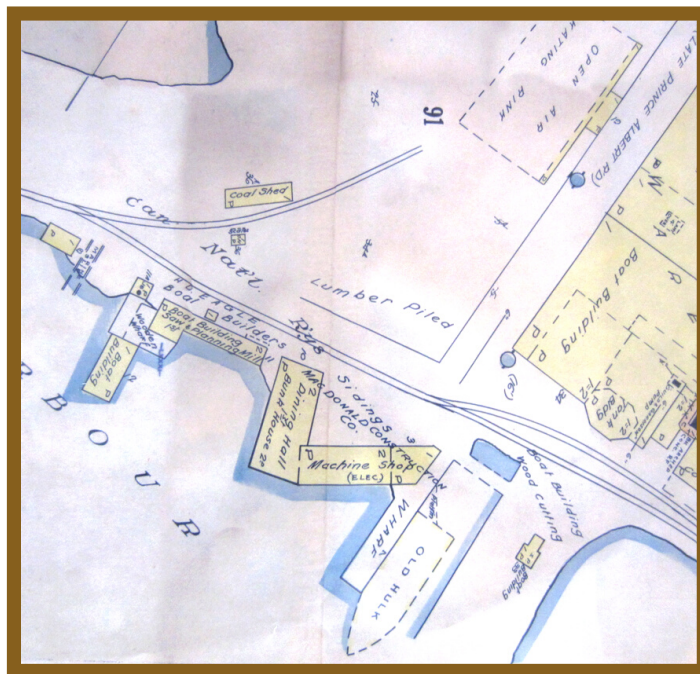


H.D. Weagle, builder; W.J. Roué, designer; and A.S. Macmillan, Premier of N.S.

PICTURED, ABOVE: H. D. WEAGLE, W. J. ROUÉ, AND A. S. MACMILLAN (THEN PREMIER OF NS)

This past October, Wayne Duncan brought a photo album to the museum. He wondered if it was something we might be interested in looking at. He had been speaking to Frank Leaman who suggested that the DHM would be VERY INTERESTED in the document. And so we were!! The album was given to Wayne by his Uncle Vernon Weagle, and contained photos of the building of the ferry “Governor Cornwallis”. It also contained newspaper articles from the time when the ferry was built, 1942, and other photos of smaller craft build at the boat yard.

Hugh D. Weagle, Vernon’s brother, established the shipyard in the late 1930’s. H.D. Weagle Boat Builders was situated on Dartmouth Cove, close to the bottom of Canal Street. In the Fire Insurance Plan of 1944, the shipyard is incorrectly labeled “H.D. Eagle Boat Builders”.



PICTURED, ABOVE: FIRE INSURANCE MAP OF DARTMOUTH, 1944, SHOWING WEAGLE BOAT BUILDERS

It was notable that the “Governor Cornwallis” was the first Halifax/Dartmouth Ferry to employ diesel electric engines. Unfortunately, the Ferry was only operational for about two years. On December 22, 1944, shortly after leaving the dock, the engine room crew discovered a fire in the ceiling of the engine room. The engineer and oiler managed to control the fire until the ferry had docked and unloaded. The blaze could not be extinguished, and the boat was tugged to the open water near George's Island. The remains of the ferry were left to sink into the harbour.



PICTURED, ABOVE: "RIBS" OF THE FERRY "GOVERNOR CORNWALLIS"

Continued on next page...

There was no inquiry relating to the fire that we have found but Wayne Duncan said that the fire was probably caused by flammable materials being stored close to the exhaust system.

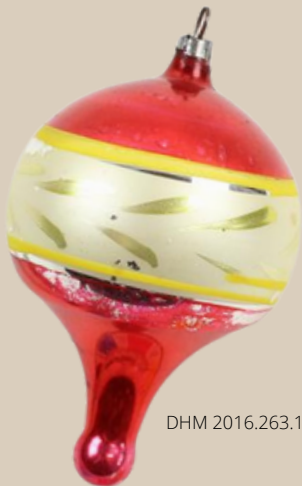
The DHM is interested in all of Dartmouth's history. Like Wayne Duncan, if you have photos, albums, scrapbooks or other documents that will help us interpret and depict the lives, work, play and accomplishments of Dartmouthians bring them to us!! We will take the originals but if you do not want to part with family treasures, which is understandable, we would really like to scan the material and preserve those memories in our archives for future generations. We are also always interested in artifacts that have strong Dartmouth links, so keep us in mind!



PICTURED, ABOVE: PAINTING BY J DON FRASER OF THE FERRY "GOVERNOR CORNWALLIS" ON FIRE.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR

Ornaments!



DHM 2016.263.1WC



DHM 2002.21.1



DHM 89.46.17d

BRAIN (BRING) IT ON

BY KEILA MAK; MUSEUM ASSISTANT

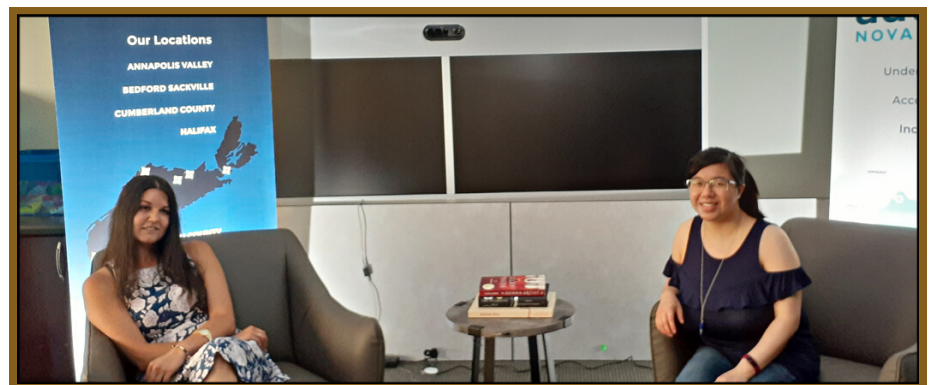
One of the supports that Autism Nova Scotia and Dartmouth Heritage Museum allowed me to have when I first came to Dartmouth Heritage Museum, was a job coach. The job coach supported me for a couple of months and has even given me extended support outside of the job to help me better process situations and “what-if” situations.

During our time together, some of the best advice I gave to my non-autistic job coach was, “just get to know me more.” Sometimes I find researching medical topics like Autism can get overwhelming. Autism is a spectrum because our neurodiversity is different than most people’s brains. Our brains have a weak connection between the synapses that do the conducting and the brain synapses that control emotions and feelings.

Sometimes one part of us gets more exhausted than others, because of how our brain functions. Like everyone, autistic people have strengths and weaknesses. We have our own unique and sometimes very focused gifts. For example, there was once a child at a restaurant. The child’s communication skills were not very developed, but he had a knack for art at his fingertips. The child could create paper origami airplanes of various complexities, or create something from scratch. The business owner at the restaurant saw potential in this child and employed him, making the employer’s business not just any

regular business. By applying inclusive employment, not only did the child have a fighting chance of survival, but the restaurant gained the attention of more customers. His skills helped the restaurant gain the attention of more customers.

Other than Autism, I have two other health struggles I deal with, yet I am still ready, willing, and able. Growing up, or “adulthood” as it is called today, has been a challenge and an experiment. Throughout a decade of my life, I



Pictured above: Eden Arkens (left) and Keila Mak (right) are being filmed by Autism Nova Scotia to help represent people on the Autism Spectrum advocate for inclusive employment and the possibilities of thriving.

learned that it is important to not give up and to celebrate the small successes. I learned to take one step at a time and make time to apply good prayer.

Eventually, all those small milestones will create or impact to something great. I personally would not trade my life experiences with another person. Why? That is because the past is the past, and the present is the present. There were moments of shame and guilt, but there is always something more powerful than living in guilt or shame. This is casting away my old self, and telling myself honestly to learn from my mistakes and keep moving forward; by loving all the positive, healthy, good things life still has to offer.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum has now revitalized the organization with a new mission statement:

“To use storytelling to educate the public and strengthen the bond of our community. Our research, collections, and programming help frame and understanding of past choices, present circumstances, and future possibilities.”

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page article: Brain (Bring) It On.

I nominate Dartmouth Heritage Museum as one of the best places to work with for inclusive employment. Becoming one of the main staff at Dartmouth Heritage Museum, it has been a very wonderful experience, and an environment where I can grow out of my shell, a little bit at a time. I plan to continuously contribute valuable skills, ideas, and individual talents to Dartmouth Heritage Museum. I have been doing odd jobs, front desk jobs, certain creative jobs, and most importantly for me, learning how to communicate openly.

For people like myself, Dartmouth Heritage Museum offers a new program for low-sensory and neurodivergent every Wednesday morning from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Lights will be dimmed, and a quieter environment will allow the guests with sensory sensitivities to visit the Museum without feeling overwhelmed. Self-guided tour information is made available, or tours can be guided with a soft-spoken voice when requested. I am very glad that Dartmouth Heritage Museum works with Autism Nova Scotia and other diverse organizations. Together, we imbue each other with the energy to keep going, learning new skills, and bringing a sense of meaning in our lives.

Murder Mystery Spotlight



This year's Murder Mystery story was set in the 1920s. Like the 2019 story, it featured several nods to real local history. Some examples include the family names of Starr, Stairs, and Howe, or references to local industries like the Ropeworks (Consumer Cordage Company). The clues, too, were designed from real historical examples - as many local as possible. For instance, a medicine label created was made as close to an original as was possible, keeping nearly all the same wording. If you are interested in learning more about the individual clues, there will be another chance to play this story early next year!



A special thanks to our guests, not only for supporting us, but for the genius sleuthing and entertaining banter, which made the evening so lively. Thanks also to our special volunteer actors, Kyle Ellsworth and Regan Bennett. Regan Bennett is a theatre and film actor based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She is an active volunteer in the theatre community, and hopes to haunt Evergreen House once she shuffles off this mortal coil. Kyle Ellsworth is also a local film actor, originally from Summerside, PEI. Kyle also works in planting trees both at home and out on the western coast in BC.



IMAGES, LEFT TO RIGHT: MURDER MYSTERY POSTER; VOLUNTEER-ACTORS KYLE ELLSWORTH AND REGAN BENNETT, RESPECTIVELY; VOLUNTEER-ACTOR REGAN BENNETT WITH BLACK VEIL

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Roster of Events by Dartmouth Heritage Museum

EVERGREEN COFFEE HOUSES



FRI. DEC. 3RD 2021 & FRI. JAN. 14TH 2022
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
LIMITED SEATS

INCLUDES OPEN MIC. A NIGHT MADE FOR SINGERS AND POETS ALIKE, JOIN US IN THE BEAUTIFUL HISTORIC EVERGREEN HOUSE FOR A NIGHT OF MUSIC, POETRY, LIGHT SNACKS, WARM BEVERAGES, AND GOOD FRIENDS FOR EVERYONE TO MEET AND GET TO KNOW.

SAT. JAN 22ND, 2022
1PM-5PM
LIMITED TICKETS

JOIN US IN JANUARY FOR AN AFTERNOON WITH OUR NEIGHBOUR, FAMED NOVA SCOTIAN ARTIST TOM FORRESTALL! TICKETS WILL BE \$125.00 EACH AND INCLUDE CANVAS AND REFRESHMENTS. YOU BRING YOURSELF AND YOUR WATERCOLOURS (PAINT OR PENCIL). VERY LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

PAINTING WITH TOM FORRESTALL



OLD FASHIONED VALENTINE CARD MAKING



FRI. FEB. 11TH 2022
ALL DAY (10AM-5PM)
DROP-IN

COME BY DURING OUR OPENING HOURS TO SEE SOME ELABORATE VALENTINE'S FROM OUR COLLECTION, AND TRY YOUR HAND AT MAKING YOUR OWN! WE WILL PROVIDE MATERIALS, JUST BRING THOUGHTS OF YOUR LOVED ONES!

MARCH 25TH, 2022 (TENTATIVELY SET)
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
17 TICKETS ONLY

A UNIQUELY SCRIPTED EVENING FOR FANS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE NOVELS AND CLUE-STYLE BOARD GAMES. DRESS TO THE NINES AND COME DOWN FOR AN EVENING OF AMATEUR-SLEUTHING! WE GUARANTEE SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SCARES AND SNACKS. THIS EVENING WILL BE 1920'S THEMED.

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT



For full details on events, please check out our Facebook page for the most up-to-date info!
Trouble finding info? Just give us a call or send an email! Contact details on back page.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT: SPOTLIGHT

A Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held on Sunday, November 28. Certificates from the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society were presented. The volunteers will also receive a certificate from Darren Fisher, Dartmouth MP, to be delivered to the Museum this week. Each Honouree also received a beautiful red rose. Long-time volunteer Marilyn Purchase, was honoured as Special Volunteer with a signed copy of Clary Croft's new book, *My Charmed Life In Music, Art and Folklore*. She also received a Certificate from Dartmouth MLA Claudia Chender's office. Mayor Savage attended and congratulated the volunteers. He spoke with fondness of his childhood memories of the Dartmouth Museum as it was called then. Everyone enjoyed the meal and cake.



GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Cozy Holiday Gift Ideas from DHM:



Still searching for some holiday gifts? DHM has a selection of home-made knit items from long-time member Barbara MacKenzie - including tea cozies, mittens, wrist warmers, slippers, and more! There's lots to discover at our little gift shop - so come by Evergreen house and take a peak!

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: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type:	Annual Fee	# of years	Total
Individual	\$20.00		
Family	\$30.00		
Donation (tax receipts are issued for donations)			

Cheques should be made out to:

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

May we have your permission to add your email to our mailing list? (This mailing list is used to update our members and community about our news and upcoming events, as well as send out our quarterly newsletter) Yes _____ No _____

May we use your name in public recognition of our donors? 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

26 Newcastle St
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Canada
B2Y 3M5

www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca

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 be 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.