



DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S

# THE GAZETTE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



#SaveDartmouthCove

DHM x.200.1

## IN MEMORIAM



HARRY EDWARD CHAPMAN, 1937-2022

This edition of the Gazette is dedicated to the memory of Harry Edward Chapman, a beloved Dartmouthian and author of several books on Dartmouth's history. His obituary is reproduced on page 2.

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# HARRY EDWARD CHAPMAN

MAY 7, 1937 - AUGUST 6, 2022

Following a brief illness, Harry Chapman died peacefully on August 6, 2022 at age 85. Although always humble, he was known for many things including his sense of humor, his generosity to the less fortunate, his deep faith and his devotion to his local community.

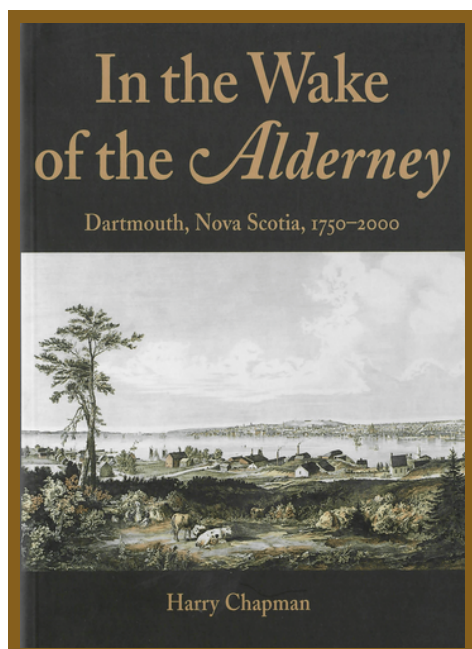
Harry was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the late Gertrude and James Chapman. He is predeceased by his sister, Lorraine. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Marilyn, their four children Sherry (Gary), Pat (Gabrielle), Coleen (Dean), and Ted (Joann), five grandchildren Paul, Breanna, Bridget, Matt, and Malcolm; and one great-grandchild, Raina Marie.

Harry was a writer. He spent his working years as a reporter and editor with the Halifax Herald and the Yarmouth Vanguard, and as a Communications Officer with the Nova Scotia Government. In addition to the writing he did for a living, Harry was a prolific author, having written and published fourteen books, many on various aspects of the history of Dartmouth. One of those books, *"In the Wake of the Alderney,"* won the Dartmouth Book Award.

Throughout his life he gave generously of his time to all things Dartmouth. He served for many years on the Dartmouth Natal Day Committee, he was a member of the Dartmouth Museum Society, President of the Dartmouth Historical Association, and a life-long honoured member of the Cole Harbour Heritage Society. Harry served on many Boards including Feeding Others of Dartmouth (Margaret's House) and Dartmouth Seniors Center.

While recognition was never important to him, Harry has been given numerous awards for his service to the community including a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, and the Joseph Howe Fellowship Award.

Harry cherished his Catholic faith. A member of St. Peter's Church for more than 60 years, Harry participated in numerous parish ministries, and was especially devoted to serving the marginalized as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was also a member of the Third Order of Lay Franciscans. In addition to cherishing his faith, Harry also cherished his family, especially his grandchildren, close friends, and his neighbours on Elliot Street. We will all miss his wit.



Above: *In The Wake of the Alderney*, Cover.



Above: Evergreen Strawberry Festival, July 1, 1989: Left to right: Syd Gosley, Harry Chapman, Carmen Moir, Mayor John Savage, DHM 89.33.52



# COLLECTIONS CORNER

## A HISTORY AS DEEP AS THE COVE

BY SHANNON BAXTER

The Dartmouth Cove has played a pivotal part in the early history of Dartmouth. It has been the location of shipbuilding, several large industries, and the beginnings of the ferry service.

Old Ferry Road got its name from the Creighton Ferry and Inn that was at the Cove. It would have been a simple rowboat that got people to and from Halifax. The Creighton Inn was built around the 1820s, and would have been a place for those to rest or wait for the boat to return from the other side of the harbour. The Inn burned down in 1853, and would have stood approximately at the corner of what is now Newcastle Street and Old Ferry Road.

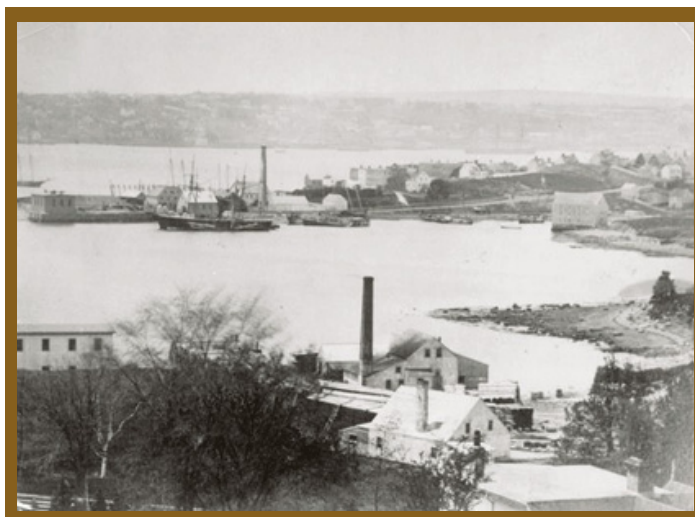


Above: *Creighton's Inn and Ferry*, by unknown artist. circa. 1820, DHM x1988.28.1

The shipbuilding industry started here with the Quakers, close to where Dominion Diving and King's Wharf is today. Other major shipbuilders who used the Cove included Thomas Lowden, John Chappell, and Alexander Lyle. They built everything from the first ferry boats to ships for the Cunard Line.

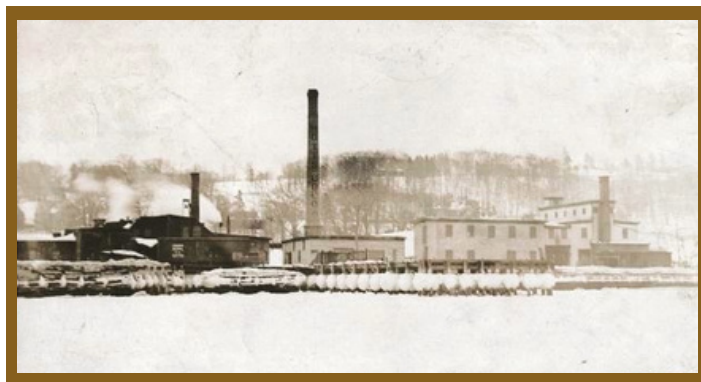
*PS: Keep an eye out for our upcoming exhibit on the Dartmouth Marine Slips, where we go further into the shipbuilding history of the Cove!*

The Cove was also the location of the John P. Mott



Above: *Dartmouth from Dartmouth Cove, 1865*, DHM x.200.1

Chocolate Factory. An industry that we have featured in the Gazette in the past. John P. Mott was one of the wealthiest men in his time thanks to his factory that produced chocolate, spices, candles and soaps. His large estate, Hazelhurst, is what gave the current street its name. There was once a boardwalk on Mott's estate, where there were fruit trees and according to some sources, peacocks strutting about the property. Mott's would be a staple of Dartmouth Industry from 1844 to 1927.



Above: *Mott's Factory*, DHM 2011.64.1

Another sugary sweet industry that was along the cove was the Dominion Molasses Company. They sold various types of molasses. Dominion Molasses was best known for two varieties: Dolmco, a table style of molasses; and Gingerbread, made for baking.

If you would like to learn more about this sweet side of Dartmouth's history, our museum exhibit

*Continued on next page*

# A HISTORY AS DEEP AS THE COVE, CONT'D

“The Sweetside of the Harbour” will be available to view until September 9th.

There are still various industries that are based in and around the Dartmouth Cove. Dominion Diving, and the Centre of Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship are two examples of this. A Trans-Canada Trail goes along the coastline of the Cove and connects the Alderney Ferry Terminal all the way down to the Woodside Ferry Terminal.

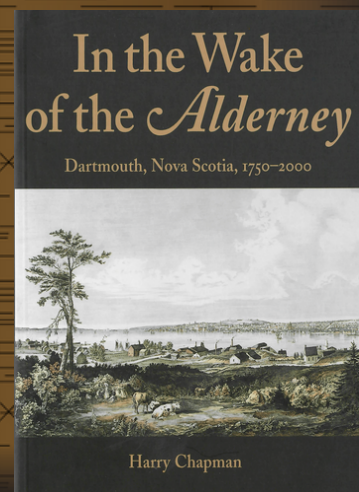
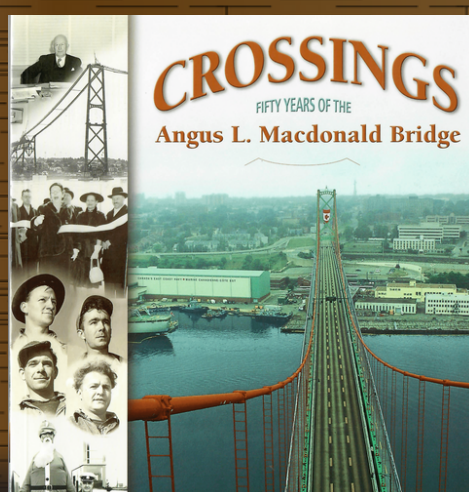
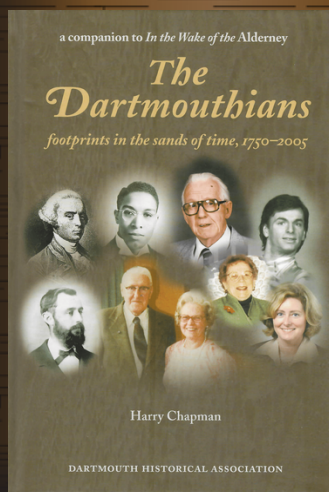
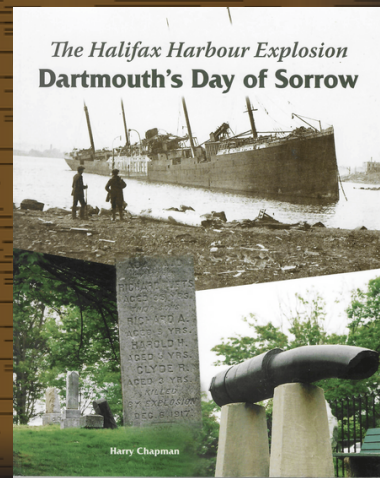
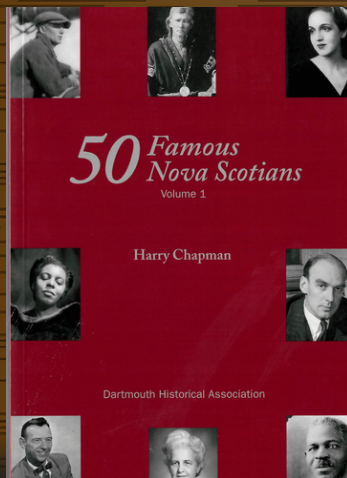
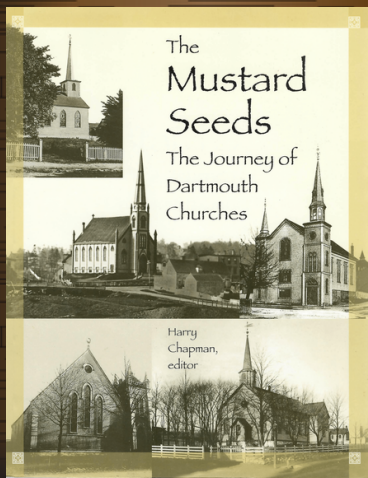
However, recently there had been plans for potential development at the Dartmouth Cove, that would see several tons of landfill deposited into the water. This has caused a great deal of concern for those who work and live around the cove, and love it for its longstanding history of place within Dartmouth.

For those interested to learn more about the Infill Proposal, and what local Dartmouthians are doing to respond to it, please check the Save the Dartmouth Cove initiative at:

[www.savedartmouthcove.ca](http://www.savedartmouthcove.ca)

## IN THE REFERENCE LIBRARY

Dive into Dartmouth's deep history with these books by Harry Chapman, available for your purusal in our reference library downstairs at Evergreen House





# EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

by Dartmouth Heritage Museum

## CRADLES AT THE COVE

**NEW EXHIBIT**  
**SEPT 19TH TO NOV 4TH**  
**THE DARTMOUTH MARINE SLIPS**

OUR NEWEST TEMPORARY EXHIBIT AT EVERGREEN HOUSE EXPLORES THE RICH AND VARIED HISTORY OF THE MARINE SLIPS ALONG THE DARTMOUTH COVE. COME EXPLORE DARTMOUTH'S CONNECTION TO THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

## HELEN'S BIRTHDAY TEA

**SAT. SEPT 17TH**  
**4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**  
**FREE FOR ALL**

IN HONOUR OF FOLKLORIST HELEN CREIGHTON'S BIRTHDAY (SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1899), DHM IS HOSTING A BIRTHDAY TEA, COMPLETE WITH SCONES, CAKE, SWEET TREATS AND, OF COURSE, TEA. ENJOY WHILE TAKING IN THE FOLKSY LIVE TUNES FROM BLUE LOBELIA, TYLER MESSICK, AND ERIC STEPHEN MARTIN!

## HALLOWEEN AT HELEN'S

**FRI. OCT 28TH, 2022**  
**CHILDREN'S PUMKIN HUNT 4:00PM**  
**SPOOKY STORYTELLING 6:00PM**

BEGINS WITH AN AFTERNOON PUMPKIN HUNT AND SOME CREEPY CRAFTS PERFECT FOR LITTLE GHOULS AND GOBLINS. AND IN THE EVENING, A COFFEE HOUSE, FEATURING SOME SPOOKY STORYTELLING FOR ALL THE GROWN-UP GHOSTIES.

## FOLKSY FABRICATIONS

**NEW EXHIBIT**  
**NOV 18TH TO JAN 20TH**  
**FOLK ART**

A NEW TEMPORARY EXHIBIT EXPLORING AND SHOWCASING SOME OF THE EXCITING, CULTURAL, AND HOMEY FOLK ART PIECES FROM OUR COLLECTION. LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT STYLES AND MATERIALS USED BY LOCAL ARTISTS IN THEIR CREATIVE ENDEAVOURS..

## HOLIDAY COFFEE HOUSE

**THURS. NOV 24TH, 2022**  
**5:00PM - 7:00PM**  
**COFFEE HOUSE BY DONATION**

AN EVENING MADE FOR SINGERS AND POETS ALIKE. JOIN US IN THE GORGEOUS AND HISTORIC EVERGREEN HOUSE FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, POETRY, LIGHT SNACKS, REFRESHING BEVERAGES, AND GOOD FRIENDS!

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

# THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERY HOUSE

BY JOANNE PEPERS

I've been in the Manager-Curator's chair for about three months now and I'm excited by all of the stories that this museum has to tell. This summer, we had on staff a Virtual Content Technician who has been recording stories of Dartmouth's past with fellow staff and members of the community. When asked if I would like to contribute, I eagerly said yes. After all, I love telling a good story.

Like many, I'm drawn to history's mysteries. So, of course when I came across the story of "Mystery House," I had to learn more.

Let's start with the facts. The house is a registered HRM Heritage Property, located at 95 King Street in Dartmouth. It was built in 1845 for Thomas Thorpe. Architecturally, it's valued as an example of the Neo-Classical style and with only one other example in Nova Scotia (Martock House), this is indeed a special building. The key character elements of this style are symmetry, classical elements, and an impressive entry.

Thomas Thorpe rented out a room in his house to Dr. John McDonald. The doctor, alias McEachern, had arrived around 1840 from Scotland. He partnered with his half-brother Allan McDonald, who owned a general store and kept a post office. Dr. McDonald no longer wished to practice medicine, so paid Allan for one-third interest in his business. Allen would die in his home above his store in 1840, after a very brief illness.

In the years following, John continued the business, but things were not going well. Mrs. Allan McDonald complained that John was incompetent and John refused to disclose financial statements. While this dissent boiled, stock and equipment were disappearing. John was said to have acted strangely at some points in time – he would close his shop on a business day, and on one occasion, left for Truro for no reason and had to be brought back home.

In March of 1844, an auction was advertised that would sell a portion of the McDonald property. John continued to operate the post office and involve himself on local committees. He was a respected Justice of the Peace and governor on the board of Dalhousie College.

Then, on November 30, 1846, Dr. John McDonald left his rooms at Thomas Thorpe's house and never



Above: Sketch of 95 King Street by L.B. Jenson DHM 86.85.2

returned. It was a stormy day, with snow falling until late at night. That seems to be the only certain fact – witness accounts differed greatly. Mrs. Benjamin Elliot, who lived on the opposite side of the street, said that she saw John leave between 6pm and 7pm and assumed he was heading to the St. Andrew's Day dinner held by the North British Society of Halifax. The last sighting was at 8pm near Bauld and Gibson's warehouse in Halifax.

Thomas Thorpe, an employee of McDonald's at the post office in his general store, stated that John left on the morning of the 30th, went to the store, and put a note in the mailbag. He said that John left in a hurry to catch the 10am ferry to Halifax. He reportedly left his spectacles and stick in the post office. Mr. Thorpe described John as wearing his usual clothing, but not carrying anything with him that would indicate that he did not plan to return. He noted that John seemed absent-minded and troubled in the week leading up to his disappearance.

Rumours swirled like the snow that fell that night. Some claimed they heard cries of distress in Halifax. Some claimed a trail of blood was seen in the snow that led to a wharf on the McDonald property at the foot of Church Street. One sighting was reported in Saint John, New Brunswick, but no one followed up. Searches were conducted, including having the copper mines drained, but to no avail. An investigation was not undertaken until four years later, and it turned up no new information. The story would consume Dartmouth and Thorpe's house would become known as the Mystery House.

What are some theories?

One theory circulated that the Doctor had used an underground tunnel system that led from the Blockhouse that once stood across the street from Mystery House to the Harbour. Did the tunnel



## THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERY HOUSE... CONT'D

BY JOANNE PEPERS

connect to the basement of Mystery House? Did the Doctor take an ill-begotten sum of money and skip town?

In 1879, the story would resurface, when a human skull was unearthed in the cellar-kitchen of the Mystery House. Many thought this was proof that John McDonald was murdered in his home. However, Mrs. Mary Loner, a former occupant would come forward and state that she had received the skill from the widow of Dr. John Slayter and she had hidden it in the ground many years prior to its discovery. Dr. W.H. Weeks confirmed that it looked like the skull that Dr. Slayter had – apparently, it had belonged to one of the “Saladin” pirates that had been hanged in 1844.

Later residents of the Mystery House claimed to experience supernatural occurrences, including



Above: Photo of 95 King St, circa 1950. DHM 74.50.9

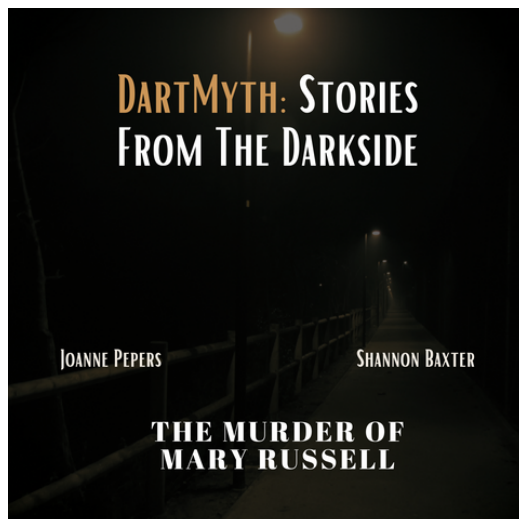
sightings of uniformed soldiers, items falling from shelves, and a roaring fire in an unlit woodstove. Allegedly, these occurrences happened on one night in particular – November 30th.

Will we ever know what happened to John McDonald? Perhaps... until then, it's still a mystery.

## DARTMYTH: STORIES FROM THE DARKSIDE

Our podcast has returned! Tune in on the first Thursday of the month for a new episode! This episode of the DartMyth podcast tells the story of the murder of Mary Russell.

You can find DartMyth on our Soundcloud, through Google Podcasts, Spotify, Spreaker, and others. For a complete list of links check out our website at [dartmouthmuseum.ca](http://dartmouthmuseum.ca)



DartMyth: Stories from the Darkside is produced in-house by Dartmouth Heritage Museum, and features tales and lore surrounding Kijipuktuk (Dartmouth and Halifax, Nova Scotia).

### [CONTENT WARNING: Domestic Violence]

If you or someone you know is in need of support, the following resources exist:

**Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team** - 902-429-8167 OR 1-800-429-8167

**Avalon Sexual Assault Centre** - 902-425-0122

**Adsum House** - 902-423-5049

**Kids Help Line** - 1-800-668-6868

**211 in Nova Scotia** is private and confidential - they will provide you with resources that are available in the area in which you live.



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YOUR WILL, WHILE STILL SUPPORTING THOSE  
YOU LOVE.

[www.willpower.ca/charities/dartmouth-heritage-museum/](http://www.willpower.ca/charities/dartmouth-heritage-museum/)



# SHIPWRECKS OF NOVA SCOTIA

BY MIRREN TREVORS

When the *HMS Mars* was sailing in the mid-18th century, ships were frequently captured by other vessels and claimed as part of a new fleet. The *Mars* herself, originally being part of a 1746 French expedition tasked with recapturing the Fortress of Louisbourg, was captured by the English after a storm off Sable Island caused her to be separated from the rest of the expedition.

After being conscripted into the English Fleet, the *Mars* experienced another devastating storm, as well as rampant disease on board, and was forced to leave Louisbourg for Halifax.

On June 24th, 1755, the *Mars* came across a fishing schooner while nearing the mouth of Halifax Harbour, and had the captain of the schooner, Captain William Lee Worthy, board the *Mars* and navigate the ship into the harbour. Upon nearing a buoy in front of the ship, Worthy assured Captain John Amherst of the *Mars* that there was enough water to carry the ship over the shoals and into the harbour safely. Unbeknownst to them, the buoy in question had shifted up onto the shoal, leaving them in only 9 fathoms (approximately 16 metres) of water. Before anything could be done to change course and avoid the shoal, the ship was dashed hard against the rocks of the harbour.

The ship quickly began taking on water, and the crew of 116 were ordered to cast the guns overboard and abandon ship.

The rock on which the *Mars* met her end is now known as Mars Rock.

The wreck of the *Barque Saladin* gained notoriety for being the last piracy trial held in Nova Scotia. Of the original 14 crew members who embarked on the journey from Valparaiso, Chile, to London, England, only 6 survived to give accounts of the voyage.

Fielding, a passenger who had boarded the barque with his son after escaping from prison in Peru, conspired with other members of the crew to stage a mutiny against the Captain Alexander McKenzie and the first mate Thomas Bryerly by striking them both on the head and then throwing their bodies overboard.

The object of the mutiny was to take control of the ship, collect the money and goods that had been stored in the hold, and then sail to America to make away with their spoils.

In order to prevent the other crew members from turning on each other, Fielding had the crew collect all the weapons on board and throw them into the ocean. A crew member then found two horse pistols hidden under the galley table, as well as a carving knife that had been hidden in a liquor cabinet, the only key to which was in Fielding's possession.

With this compounding evidence, as well as claims from crew members that Fielding was planning on killing the rest of the crew, he and his son were thrown overboard.

The crew then divided the spoils, keeping to the original plan of disguising the ship and making away to America with the stolen goods. However, they ran into rocks off of Nova Scotia's eastern shore, and were stranded near the mouth of Country Harbour, Nova Scotia. Soon after they were stranded, the schooner *The Billow*, commanded by Captain William Cunningham, arrived to assist the crew of the *Saladin*. The remaining crew told Captain Cunningham that the missing crew members had all either died at sea or were washed overboard during rough weather. Suspicion was raised after some boy's clothes were found among the crew's possessions, and the 6 remaining members of the *Saladin* were arrested and tried for piracy and murder after confessing to the actions taken during the voyage.







# EVERGREEN RENTALS



Helen's Gardens



Reference Library



Red Parlour



Sun Porch



Green Parlour

Did you know the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has room rentals for small events and gatherings? Are you looking for a charming space, full of historic character AND a fantastic view of the harbour? Evergreen may be the space for you! This glorious mid-Victorian manor was a family residence before being restored and converted into a museum. Since then, the house has played host to several movies and television shows, including the newly released *Chapelwaite*, a Stephen King inspired series. Currently, for private functions, we rent out rooms in the museum for small events, as the Victorian charm also comes with limited space. In the warmer months, there are also the Gardens. Directly behind the house, the sloping green hill rolls down to a lovely garden complete with stone fences and a gorgeously blooming rhododendron. Reach out to us directly or head over to our website under "facility rental" !

## Standard Pricing\*:

**Private booking: \$20.00/hour**

*For individual booking such as baby showers*

**Non-Profit booking : \$25.00/hour**

*For booking from non-profit or other charity organisations*

**Corporate booking: \$30.00/hour**

*For government, for-profit companies and others*

*\*Pricing current at time of printing, based on a per room basis.*

*For the most up-to-date pricing and availability please visit our website.*



# GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT



Above: DHM original Beeswax Teacup Candles (\$15es) & Teacup Trinket tray (\$10ea)

Beeswax is produced by honeybees, which is then used to create honeycomb. Bees use honeycomb to store nutrients and food that they have collected during the summer so that they can survive the winter. Beeswax is a unique and special wax, especially when it comes to candle making. With a higher melting point than other waxes, it has a longer burn span, and a brighter warm toned flame. Not only are these candles long lasting, but they can also be a beautiful decoration or gift.

Below: Old Fashioned Candy Sticks (\$1ea)

We have some new flavours for our old fashioned candy sticks! Try out the sugary sweet flavours like Cotton Candy, Bubblegum, Tutti Frutti, Blue Raspberry, Strawberries & Cream or classic Peppermint!



## GIFT SHOP: COMING SOON



From local maker Joy Vibe Soaps we have two DHM themed soaps, pictured here and soon to be available!

On the left is *The Sweet Side*: a cocoa soap, swirled with a cherry soap, and a cinnamon swirl topping.

On the right is *Helen's Yellow Rose*: with a top layer of rose essential oil soap, a bottom layer of earl grey infused soap, and dried rose petals.

Check out more from Joy Vibes at [joyvibesojaps.ca](http://joyvibesojaps.ca)



From the beloved Sense & Sensiblitea we have some delicious teas on the way! Keep an eye out for some luxurious historical teas, and the popular Second Breakfast blend for all our Hobbits out there!

Check out all their blends at [sense-and-sensiblitea.square.site](http://sense-and-sensiblitea.square.site)





# DHMS MEMBERSHIP

## We have 3 categories of membership:

- **Individual Membership** is for one (1) person  
Price: \$20
- **Family Membership** is for a family unit, consisting of at least one (1) adult and one child under the age of eighteen (18)  
Price: \$30
- **Group Membership** is for societies, museums, universities, libraries, corporations, firms, partnerships, foundations and governmental departments.  
Price: Please Contact

### 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

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 send updates 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-June      July-Aug  
Tues-Fri      Tues-Sat  
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](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)  
902-464-2300  
[info@dartmouthmuseum.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthmuseum.ca)



## Quaker House

57 Ochterloney St  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
Hours\*:

July-August

**CLOSED UNTIL  
2023**

\*see below for more details on opening hours



## Visiting the Museum:

For the most up-to-date information on our opening hours, please visit our website at [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)

Appointments can be always be booked by contacting the museum, but are not necessary. Please note that face masks are still highly encouraged when visiting the museum.

Visits and tours remain free of charge for all. Donations are welcome.