



DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S
THE GAZETTE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



DHM 95.31.244



ORIGINAL ROY REID CARTOON, DHM 70.30.63

Seasons Greeting from Dartmouth Heritage Museum!
Sending good wishes to all, we hope you enjoy a cozy
season with loved ones. We will see you in the New Year!

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'TIS THE SEASON

BY JOANNE PEPERS

As a chill enters the air and the days get shorter, I look forward to those first light snowflakes that float through the air, a chocolatey peppermint flavoured hot beverage, and the lights that decorate our homes. Some of the most familiar Christmas traditions of today are reminiscent of the Victorian Era (1837 to 1901), during which time Evergreen House was built (1867).

What about earlier Dartmouth families? What did Christmas Day look like prior to Queen Victoria's reign and the ushering in of the traditions that bear her name?

Did the Quakers celebrate a winter holiday?

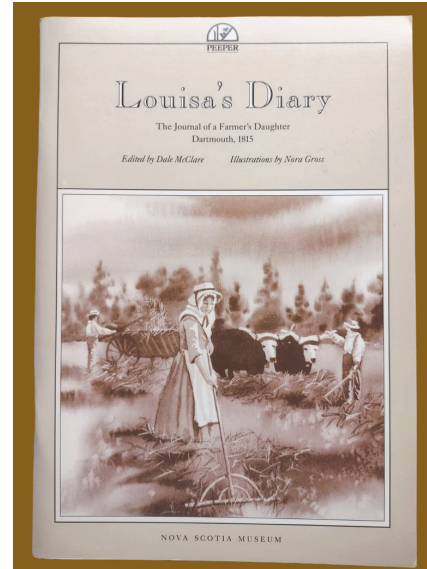
The Quakers came to Dartmouth in 1785-1786. They did not continue to operate their highly successful whaling business here for long, only a few years, but their family names and religious practice are still here. The Quakers, or Friends, believed that all days were equally holy, so Christmas day was no different from any other day. In their understanding, no day should be held as more holy than another and that the works that God has done should be remembered every day, not just certain calendar days.

So, on Christmas Day, many other community shops and businesses would close, while Quakers continued to do business and work as usual. This, however, lead to legal and social repercussions as the surrounding mainly Christian population recognized Christmas Day as a day when business should not be done. Over time, some Quaker



Above: Quaker House, 57 Ochterloney St

families chose to adopt some Christmas traditions as a way of celebrating family, but not as a religious holiday.



Above: Cover of Louisa's published diary

Louisa, a Farmer's Daughter in Dartmouth, 1815

Louisa Collins, whose diary fragments were later published as *Louisa's Diary: The Journal of a Farmer's Daughter Dartmouth, 1815*, was raised on a farm near Cole Harbour. Her diary gives us a glimpse into daily life of a young woman. Here is her entry for Monday, December 25, 1815:

"Eliza Coleman came up this morning and spent Christmas with us. John and James stopped to breakfast with us this morning. Charlotte spent the day at Mrs. Allen's, and the night."

Catherine Parr Traill would later write in *"The Canadian Settler's Guide"* that when she arrived in Upper Canada from England in 1832, she was struck by the indifference that settlers had for Christmas Day.

It seems to be the consensus that although Christmas Day was an observed holiday by many Christian settlers of that period, it was certainly not as celebrated as it is today.

What do you celebrate or observe during the winter season? If you have a Dartmouth winter story that you would like to share, we'd love to hear it.

COLLECTIONS CORNER

ARTIST HIGHLIGHT: ANNIE BLAGDON FAIRBANKS

BY SHANNON BAXTER

The Fairbanks family had left their mark on Dartmouth in various ways. Arguably the most well-known connection is that to the Shubenacadie Canal, that was championed by both Charles Rufus Fairbanks, who obtained funding for originally in the late 1820s, and later his son Charles William Fairbanks who assisted in completing the Canal in the 1850s and 1860s.

However, there were other figures in the Fairbanks family that have left their mark in other ways. Specifically in the realm of art. This is where we turn our attention to Annie Blagdon Fairbanks (1822-1899).

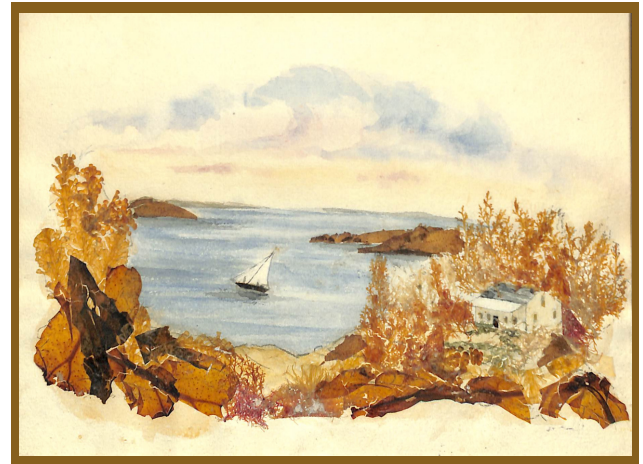


Above: Annie Blagdon Fairbanks. circa. 1839, DHM 73.87.176

Annie was the second of three daughters born to John Eleazer Fairbanks and Ann "Nancy" Prescott. Her older sister was Catherine (1820-1906) and the youngest sister was Jane (1823-1856). They were raised together at Woodside, which was originally built in 1830. While the estate and house are no longer there, the name remains as a district of Dartmouth.

Annie and her sister Jane were both artists, as is evident from items belonging to the family that are now part of the museum's collection.

One of the most unique pieces by Annie was a painting she did of Woodside itself. What makes the painting so unique is that while it is primarily watercolour, she had also incorporated seaweed to represent the trees in the landscape. This collage is one of the only known depictions of the Woodside Estate.



Above: Watercolour with mosses by Ann Blagdon Fairbanks of Fairbanks estate "Woodside" in Dartmouth DHM 73.87.23

Annie was also extremely talented in needlepoint work. We have several pieces of her work in the collection, including three pieces depicting flowers, and even a pincushion that she worked on and then was used in the family long afterwards. The flowers in particular show an incredible eye to detail. In fact, at least one of the pieces is attributed to being based on the botanical art of Maria Morris Miller (1813 – 1875) she produced a series of lithographs titled Wild Flowers of Nova Scotia in 1840. It's quite possible that Annie had a copy of this very work to take her inspiration from.



Sampler made by Anne Blagdon Fairbanks from a print by Maria Morris, Moose Bush; DHM 81.43.3

Continued on next page

ANNIE BLAGDON FAIRBANKS, CONTINUED

Annie never married, but she was still a big part of the lives of her sisters. Her sister Jane would marry Reverend William Duff, and moved with him to Lunenburg. Sadly, Jane would die very young at the age of 33, leaving behind both her husband and five young children. Annie moved in with the family, to help William raise the children. She remained there until her death in 1899 at the age of 77.

We are extremely lucky to have examples of Annie's work in our collection, and to highlight just one of the many talented women artists who were born and raised in Dartmouth.

Right: Pin cushion embroidered by Anne Blagdon Fairbanks; DHM 71.99.2



Advertise with DHM!

YOUR
AD
HERE?

Help us create a wider reach with our news, events, and stories out to the community in more places with advertisement space in the Gazette, available starting in 2023! DHM wants to increase the number of printed copies of the Gazette, and distribute them to local businesses and organizations for the public to pick up at their leisure.

Why advertise with the Gazette?

Our newsletter is currently sent by email to 700+ subscribers, with an opening rate from 44-69% (over the course of the year). By advertising with us in our quarterly newsletter, you have the chance to help us fund a broader print reach within the community while promoting your own local businesses & organizations.

Pricing:	Full Page Ad	Half Page Ad	Quarter Page/Banner Ad
	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$75.00

For more details, please email info@dartmouthmuseum.ca

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

by Dartmouth Heritage Museum

CRADLES AT THE COVE

**NEW EXHIBIT
EXTENDED TO JAN 20TH
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.

HOLIDAY CRAFTING

**DECEMBER 9TH 2022
1:00PM - 5:00PM | NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
DROP-IN EVENT FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES**

COME DOWN TO EVERGREEN HOUSE ON DECEMBER 9TH FOR SOME HOLIDAY CRAFTING! WE'LL HAVE THE MATERIALS AND SOME IDEAS, YOU BRING YOUR IMAGINATION! THIS IS A DROP IN EVENT, MEANING YOU CAN STOP BY WHENEVER BETWEEN 1PM AND 5PM TO MAKE SOME FUN STUFF! HOPE WE SEE YOU THERE!

GALS & GUIDES

**NEW EXHIBIT
JAN 31ST TO APRIL 30TH
GIRL GUIDES AND GIRLHOOD IN DARTMOUTH**

A NEW TEMPORARY EXHIBIT COVERING THE HISTORY OF THE GIRL GUIDES, AND OTHER GIRL-ORIENTED ORGANISATIONS IN DARTMOUTH. LEARN ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF GIRLHOOD IN DARTMOUTH AND REMINISCE WITH SOME OF OUR ARTEFACTS ABOUT YOUR OWN MEMORIES OF GROWING UP

OLD FASHIONED VALENTINES

**FRI. FEBRUARY 10TH, 2023
DROP-IN CARD CRAFTING
1PM-5PM**

COME DOWN AND ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF VALENTINE CARD CRAFTING, AND GET A PEAK AT SOME OF THE LOVELY HISTORICAL VALENTINES IN OUR COLLECTION! CRAFTING MATERIALS PROVIDED, JUST BRING LOVE IN YOUR HEART!

All events & exhibits are located at Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle St, Dartmouth, unless otherwise stated.

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.

FROM THE COLLECTION: HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS



DHM 95.31.53



DHM 95.31.75



DHM 85.1.15



DHM 2011.193.10



DHM 95.31.66

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

DHM 95.31.79



DHM 95.31.77

DHM 95.31.71



DHM 95.31.73

DHM 95.31.50



We hope you enjoy this selection of Christmas & New Years cards from our collection!

THE 'GOVERNOR CORNWALLIS' FERRY FIRE

BY ELIZABETH CARBONNEAU

At 8:30 AM on 20 November 1941, Dartmouth's newest ferry was launched into the harbour. Her name, chosen by local schoolchildren, was *Governor Cornwallis*, and she was christened by the daughter of then-mayor L.J. Isnor.

Although she did not yet have engines, she was to be fitted with diesel-electric engines recommended by Superintendent Pearce. Architect and shipbuilder William Roué and Hugh Weagle, two Dartmouthians, had contributed greatly to the ferry's design and construction. Unfortunately, the ferry's early life was plagued with mechanical issues: steering issues, blown fuses, collisions, issues with circulating pumps, cylinder blowout, pipe failure, and horribly disruptive engine noise and vibration. Weagle lined cabin windows with felt and had the engines lifted and fitted with rubber vibration absorbers, but the ferry still shook and passengers still complained. In a desperate last attempt to fix the shaking, carpenters lined the engine room ceiling with Cellutex.

Despite her issues, the *Governor Cornwallis* was an invaluable component of the ferry service's growth and development. Her large size helped to clear vehicle traffic on both sides of the harbour, and the upper panoramic deck and heated cabins made the passenger experience a pleasant one.

Just three years later, though, disaster struck. At 4:05 PM on 22 December 1944, the *Governor Cornwallis* departed Halifax for Dartmouth carrying 20 cars and 400 passengers. The engine crew immediately discovered a fire burning between the deckhead and the false Cellutex ceiling. In an effort to avoid passenger panic, the workers fought the fire while the ferry carried on, her captain unaware of the events below decks. All vehicles and passengers safely left the ferry before word spread that she was on fire. Within moments, the fire was raging. Fire boats and harbour tugs raced to tow the blazing *Governor Cornwallis* to the open water near George's Island. There, she burnt until she sank into the harbour.

The fire marshal proclaimed that the Cellutex ceiling

had been installed too close to the furnace's smoke pipe, which caused it to catch fire. The two engine room workers, engineer Carmichael and oiler Horobin, were lauded as heroes for their bravery and dedication.

The *Governor Cornwallis* had her fair share of engine issues, and many felt she was more trouble than she was worth. Nevertheless, Dartmouth (and especially Weagle and Roué) greatly mourned her loss.



Postcard, titled "Governor Cornwallis - Destroyed by Fire, Dec. 22, 1944." DHM 2011.109.1

SOURCE: *WE LOVE TO RIDE THE FERRY* BY JOAN PAYZANT

Learn more on this story on *Curator's Corner*, at youtube.com/DartmouthHMuseum



Holiday Closure

DHM will be closed to the public from December 19th 2022, and will reopen on January 3rd, 2023



EVERGREEN RENTALS



Helen's Gardens



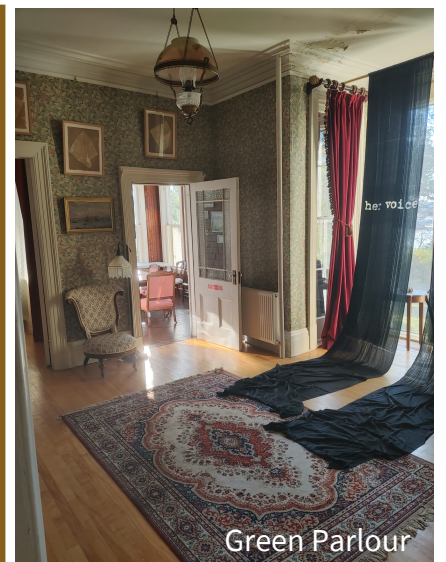
Reference Library



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

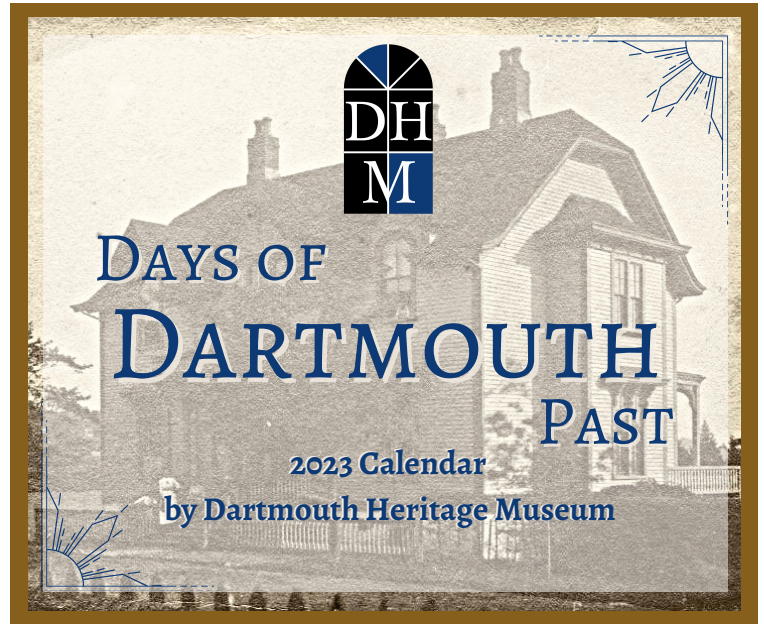
**Pricing current at time of printing, based on a per room basis.*

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

GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Right: Cover of the 2023 Historic Dartmouth Calendar (\$20.00 each)

This 14 Month Calendar features special images from the DHM collection showcasing moments of Dartmouth history! (January 2023 through February 2024).



Left: Original Design Cards (\$6.00 each)

NEW Cards from Olivia Martin, featuring original designs of Evergreen House, Quaker House, and an early Dartmouth-Halifax Ferry, the *Sir Charles Ogle*.

Right: Books on Dartmouth & Nova Scotia history by author Harry Chapman

LtR: *The Dartmouthians* (\$20 ea.), *50 Famous Nova Scotians* (\$25 ea.), *In the Wake of the Alderney* (\$30 ea.), *The Mustard Seeds: The Journey of Dartmouth's Churches* (\$15 ea.), *100 Candles: Dartmouth Natal Day, 1895-1995* (\$15 ea.), and *The Halifax Harbour Explosion: Dartmouth's Day of Sorrow* (\$20 ea.)



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-May	June-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
902-464-2300
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

Appointments can 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.