

Wolfville Historical Society

Newsletter

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June 2006

<http://wolfvillehs.ednet.ns.ca>

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Randall House Museum opens June 15th

Randall House Summer Staff

We are delighted to have Andre French back this year as Randall House Manager for the season. Andre made a lot of friends last year among both volunteers and visitors and when last seen was working hard on a new guided tour script for the Randall House.

Our Museum Assistant this summer is James Cloghese, whom many of you know. James has long been a volunteer at Randall House, helping Heather Davidson with the Patriquin Regatta among other things. He won our WHS history prize at Horton High last year, and is now studying history at Dalhousie. We welcome both Andre and James to Randall House Museum.

Randall House Museum Summer Notes

Summer Exhibits

Dear Dottie . . . See back page for this exciting new exhibit.

"The Wheels of Wolfville" exhibit, curated by Sue Bissix, opens later in July and will introduce you to the huge variety of wheels that were used in our town in days gone by. There's even a rumour that a very early Wolfville fire engine has been found and will be on display (but not in the temporary exhibit room!).

In addition, our Exhibits Committee Chair, Myra Tuton, Andre and James will be planning small mini-exhibits in the other rooms of the house. Come in and see what they have chosen to show.

New Things to look for at Randall House

- ...the beautiful new upholstery on the Hepplewhite-style chaise longue that belonged to Judge Elisha DeWolf
- ...the drugget (what's a drugget?)
- ...see if you can spot which windows have been protected by UV filtering film
- ...the display area in the cellar which now contains farm and outdoor equipment
- ...what are those scientific-looking little white cell-phone-sized boxes doing?

The Costume & Textile Collection

Our valuable and interesting collection of historic costume and textiles has found a new home. The Board has rented a large room in St. John's Parish Hall with a five year financial pledge from an interested member. The space will provide off-site storage with much better conditions than we have at Randall House and also allow for large work tables and workspace during the winter. Bonnie Elliott, our talented costume co-ordinator, who spent a month working with us in February, has now become a volunteer and promoter of the collection. She has organized a costume committee and, after her summer job in Halifax, will resume work with us as a volunteer in the fall. If you're interesting in working on the collection, she'd love to have your help.

Passage Program Begins

Christine Lynch, Phyllis Westbury and Caroline Power have been trained by the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage and are now starting the daunting task of transferring all our accession records to the new computer database called the *Passage Program*. This will bring us into a large family of Nova Scotia museums who use the database and will make retrieval of information much easier. Andre and James will be involved with this work later in the summer.

The Roof

Summer's baking sun and recently a couple of major windstorms in the winter caused considerable damage to the asphalt shingles on the south side of the Randall House roof. The board authorised the replacement of the shingles on the south side and this was quickly completed by Steve Atwell at the end of April. The roof boards beneath the shingles were found to be in very good condition; but within the next ten years we will probably have to reshingle the whole roof. Our long-range plan is to restore with cedar shingles, a roof that Randall House would have had when it was built. (You can see an example on Kent Lodge on West Main Street.) Because this will be an expensive project, fundraising for that purpose will be started well ahead of time.

New Exhibit

Dear Dottie... June and July 2006

Between 1868 and 1885 Dottie Stewart of Grand Pré received nearly 600 letters from her friends, relatives and suitors. She saved them all. Last fall they were rescued from a trunk in the attic of her old home and donated to the Randall House Museum where they are the focus of a special exhibit during June and July.

- Dottie Stewart social July 1st, 2-4 p.m.
- Get to know Dottie and her friends.
- Write a letter to your friend with old fashioned pen & ink.
- Have a Parkin made from an old family recipe!

Randall House Museum
259 Main Street,
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The Dottie Stewart Letters

Dear Dottie . . . is the opening exhibit at Randall House this year, curated by the Dottie Stewart Letter Group. You have all heard of the wonderful trunk of 19th century letters from Grand Pré that were donated to the museum last fall. Now you'll have a chance to see them, and find out what we have learned about the people, the families and the activities of the 70-some correspondents who wrote to "Dear Dottie" over a 15-year period. The exhibit opens on June 15th but there will also be a Dottie Stewart Social on July 1st

Civic Memorial Book — More New Names to Be Added

The trustees have just delivered five more completed citations for preparation by the graphic designer. The names are: Gladys West, Robert Chambers, R.A. Jodrey, Nicholas Pierson and Carl "Pope" Borden. Many of our members will remember Gladys West and may even have been students of hers during her 55 (or was it 57?) years of teaching in Wolfville. The trustees invite any members who would like to donate an amount towards her particular entry to do so.

Citations for Esther Clarke Wright, Connie Hayward and Evelyn Garbury are also currently being prepared with a view to entering these in the fall. The Civic Memorial Book itself is undergoing a little conservation by Ruth Legge, who manufactured it in 1994 to receive the very first entry. The worn cover paper is to be renewed, the calf leather binding is to be rubbed and polished and a protective carrying box is being made.

The Memorial Fund, initiated by Robbins Elliott in 1993, is now valued at \$32,386.00.

It generated investment income of \$2,721.00 in 2005 for Society projects.