



**Wolfville Historical Society**  
Randall House Museum  
259 Main Street, Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1C6

**YULETIDE FESTIVITIES**

**Saturday, December 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** – In support of the Randall House Museum join friends for a Christmas celebration at 576 Main Street, Wolfville, the old Johnson farm house, hosted by Dr. Martin and Shelley Fleckenstein. Festivities will include music, caroling and delicious holiday treats. A free will donation will be appreciated.

**Thursday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.** – at the home of Maxine McCuaig, 646 Main St. Carol singing, Christmas readings, delicious food. If members have favourite readings they should let us know....maybe they will be lucky. Members are invited to bring delicious finger food if possible.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends:

The Wolfville Historical Society has had what one could well describe as a momentous year, one in which we have made progress on all fronts, and the Board wants to thank you all for your financial and other contributions as well as your work in 2008 which has made the second year of our five year project a success. Our members, supporters from the business community, and the Town have allowed us to meet the fund raising objectives.

At Randall House the focus has been on collections management. We now have proper storage and shelving and our Curator, Bonnie Elliott, has been able to organize and work on those items which are not on display. The children's room, the attic and the textile room which we rent in St. John's parish hall are all in use now and provide proper safe storage space; children's artifacts will be placed around other rooms in a more natural setting. The Passage team has made great strides in digitizing and enriching our accession records, and another group of our "made in Nova Scotia" items are now on the national CHIN website.

Our application for a Strategic Development Initiative grant, which will enable us to engage consultants so that we may develop a long range strategy for the museum

and the Society, has been successful. Thus the board and general membership will be involved in the new year in a series of meetings to bring this about. Another part of this strategy will involve the ongoing maintenance of Randall House, and the survey which we commissioned from Kraus House, a firm of structural historians, to analyse the fabric of Randall House and recommend how we can best maintain it, will be ready shortly. We are one of the few heritage societies in the province to have engaged in this process of developing concept plans for our society and museum; in addition to providing us with a plan for our future operations it will give us an important boost in credibility as we seek support from province, town and our surrounding community.

We look forward next year to the triennial analysis of the operations of Randall House and the Society by the provincial Community Museums Assistance Program. At every inspection our ratings have gone up as we improve our operations and structures, and we look forward with confidence to this trend continuing. Amongst us, members, board and Curator have brought the Wolfville Historical Society and Randall House Museum into the very top rank of community museums in the province and country, and we should all take great pride in this achievement.

Finally, I ask that all of you attend our annual general meeting in January. At this meeting we will be asked to make the commitments of time and financial support that will be necessary if we are to go ahead into the third year of employing a professional curator, and with the strategic development process outlined above.

A description of future schedules and events follows this letter. Merry Christmas and best wishes to you all for a very Happy New Year.

Cheers, John Whidden

#### WOLFVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2009 PROGRAM

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009** at 2:00 p.m. the **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held at the Fire Hall. Reports for the year 2008 will be given and once again we will hear from His Worship the Mayor concerning past and future developments for the Town of Wolfville.

Wednesday, February 18: The pioneer of the development of hydro-electric power in our area was Roy Jodrey who undertook its development at White Rock and at St. Croix in the long ago dark ages. He also developed a wood pulp enterprise at Hantsport, and in 1927 founded the Minas Basin Pulp and Power Company there. His grandson, Dr. Roy Bishop, retired as a professor at Acadia University, grew up in his grandfather's shadow and is well qualified to speak to us about "Early Hydro-Electric Developments on the Gaspereau, Avon and St. Croix River Systems".

Wednesday, March 18: Dr. Merritt Gibson of Canning will speak on "Shipbuilding in Northern Kings County".

Saturday, April 18 - **Member's Dinner** at 6:30 for 7:00 p.m. Port Williams Community Centre. Speaker: Mr. Floyd Priddle will talk on the "History of Firefighting in the Local Area".

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**Book Alert:** Stephen Kimber, who spoke to us after publishing his "Sailors, Slackers and Blind Pigs: Halifax at War" has a new book out called "Loyalists and Layabouts". In this he traces the outcome of the American Revolution and the rise & fall of the Loyalist town of Shelburne by following the lives of several of the memorable people involved. This is a good read and an instructive one on a slice of Nova Scotian history almost unknown to many of us. (GMH)