

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH AT 2 P.M., FIRE HALL

An important meeting will take place at the Wolfville Fire Hall on Wednesday, February 11th at which time we will have our first session with Andrea Arbic, the consultant who will help us fashion a strategic plan for the future development of the Society and of Randall House. This is a signal event for us; the board urges every member to attend and contribute to this process of renewal. See more about this process under Working for our Future!

Winter/Spring Programs

Wednesday, February 18th, 2 p.m. at the Fire Hall. The pioneer of the development of hydro-electric power in our area was Roy Jodrey who undertook the development of 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 & 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 18th, 2 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Dr. Merritt Gibson of Canning, now retired from teaching microscopic and developmental anatomy at Acadia University, is well known for his numerous books about the natural history of our region. He is also a researcher into our industrial history. He will speak to us about "Shipbuilding in Northern Kings County".

MEMBERS' DINNER, SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH 6:30 for 7:00 at the Port Williams Fire Hall:
Speaker: Floyd Priddle, one of the Captains of the Wolfville Fire Department and teacher at Northeast Kings High School speaking on the "History of Fire Fighting in Kings County".

The Society would like to express its appreciation to Christopher Olsen who has produced our newsletter for five years and has now retired. This is a volunteer task which is regular and unrelenting. Thank you Christopher, for so ably contributing your time and effort.

Wolfville Historical Society

Annual General Meeting - January 21, 2009

Election of Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

Officers President:	John Whidden (for a 2 year term)
Vice-President:	John Vaillancourt
Secretary:	Tom Haliburton
Treasurer:	Derek Watts

Directors Beth Keech
 Heather Watts
 Gordon Haliburton
 Elizabeth Browne (for a 2 year term)

Past President Glen Hancock

Committee Chairs RHMC Heather Watts
 Finance Derek Watts (1 year)
 Program John Vaillancourt
 Archivist Heather Watts
 Historian William Bishop
 Newsletter Elizabeth Browne
 Webmaster Debbie MacDonald

Memorial Foundation Trustees Gordon Haliburton (for 3 years)
 Pat Townsend
 Patty Williams

BONNIE ELLIOTT ENGAGED FOR HER THIRD YEAR

The members at the meeting voted unanimously to engage Bonnie Elliott for a third year as curator of the Randall House Museum. Everyone has seen the transformation that Bonnie has wrought in the exhibits and the arrangement of the house, and is delighted.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN APPROVED

Running a museum takes money, and the members and friends of the Randall House have shown they are generously committed to raising the money necessary to keep our museum going. The Fundraising Committee will soon be starting their 2009 campaign to raise the money we need for the coming year. Please be generous, and once again send us over the top!

WOLFVILLE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PASSAGE PROJECT FOR 2009:

Because of temporary difficulties being experienced by the Board of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums, which was the administrator of the Passage database project in the past, the Wolfville Historical Society has, with the support of the 55 Passage partner societies, agreed to "host" the project for 2009. Our Treasurer Derek Watts, will administer, manage and be accountable for the Passage project. He supervises and has great assistance from Karin Kierstead the Passage staff person. He also chairs the Passage Steering Committee (made up of representatives of the member museums), and is in regular communication with the President of the ANSM to work out an agreement , so that the project can return to ANSM control as soon as possible.

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE !

A Strategic Plan for the Society and an Interpretive Plan for the Museum are on the agenda in the next few months. You will have an opportunity to contribute your ideas about where our museum should be going in tough times, and how you enjoy seeing our collections displayed and interpreted. The project is funded by the NS Museum from its SDI Program to the extent of 75% (the balance provided by WHS). A renowned Museum consultant, Andrea Arbic, who is established in Halifax, has been contracted to lead and complete the work. The outcome will only be as successful as the attention given to it by you and me and other members of the Society. For this reason, the Board wants all the members to take a serious and thoughtful part in the process. In our successful proposal, we said that our objective was "... to develop a strategic plan that will broadly promote the Society (and its Museum) as an important heritage and cultural component in the community so that it can achieve greater sustainability."

The Strategic Plan for the Society will be concluded first. Work begins with a Start-up Meeting on 11th February, which will be in the Wolfville Fire Hall at 2 pm for two hours, which we urge you to attend. Andrea will use the meeting to outline the work and to discuss the Society's expectations of the planning process and the type of participation that will be required from the Society in order to obtain the best possible results. There will be several other meetings you will want to attend which will be described on the 11th, when the schedule will be announced. The Concept Interpretive Plan for the Museum will follow at the end of April and you will hear about that too at the Start-up meeting. This is signally important work for the Society to be undertaking. Be sure and play your part in helping to shape your Society and museum for the future!

STRUCTURAL REPORT ON OUR OLD HOUSE:

Last fall Eric Krause, a structural historian from Sydney, CB visited Randall House for several days to investigate and study the building. We have now received his report which contains first "a historical check list of character defining building elements", a chronological check list of past upgrades and repairs, and a condition report with a preliminary check list of conservation observations and recommendations. This will be of great benefit to property chairs in the present and the future, and will play its part in Andrea Arbic's strategic planning for the Society. In many ways it brings the Jost Report of 1996 (which has been of such practical help over the past 12 years) up to date as well as giving us many new insights into the history of the building.

HISTORIC WALLPAPER FROM OUR PAST:

On our website there is an Edson Graham photograph of the wallpapered parlour walls of the T.A.S. DeWolf House, where the WHS first began its museum. According to legend this wonderful scenic paper was given to Judge Elisha DeWolf by HRH the Duke of Kent, as a wedding gift for his son T.A.S. DeWolf. In December we had a call from a volunteer with the Knaut-Rhuland house in Lunenburg, who was researching early wallpaper for her museum. She had heard of the Wolfville paper and in December she made a special trip to see the small framed piece which we display in the front hall. She also provided us with the website http://www.wanhatkonstit.fi/Zuber_Jardins_Francais.htm on which can be seen the full glory of the original paper, designed about 1822. Subsequently we were able to discover where several other pieces of the paper removed from our first museum ended up. What we can't find is any proof that the Duke of Kent really was the donor. Do you know any more about this legend?

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report 2008 - January 1 to December 31. 2008

STATEMENT SUMMARY - OPERATING ACCOUNT

Balance forward 01/01/08	\$3095.45	Bank statement 31/12/08	\$13,055.87
Revenues	\$56,597.44	O/S cheques (4)	\$ 1,597.96
	\$59,692.89		
Disbursements	\$48,234.98		
Balance 31/12/08	\$11,457.91	Balance forward 01/01/09	\$11,457.91

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2008

In April, following publication of "A Heritage Strategy for Nova Scotia, 2008-2013", the Heritage Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, granted a once only payment of \$10,000 to every museum in the community Museums Assistance Program. Some of the larger expenditures that the Society made this year against our grant are the purchase of the "open storage" shelving units, a computer and monitor the museum office and an upgrade of the Passage laptop, totaling nearly \$3,000. It is this that explains the larger than usual balance forward in the Statement Summary. The continued employment of our curator in 2008 was made possible by the success of the Fund Raising among the members and friends. A larger number renewed their membership at the Sustaining Member level this year, and a few made much larger donations in addition, which was most gratifying. Also, the donations from supporting businesses increased. Here are the amounts that together were received:-

Regular Memberships	\$ 860
Sustaining Memberships	\$ 4,250
Donations	\$ 1,245
Large donations ("angels")	\$ 4,250
Businesses	\$ 1,925
Town grant	\$ 6,500
Total	\$19,030

As treasurer, I thank you for this resounding support of your museum and Society activities.

The one failing this year, over which we had really no control, was the 20% loss sustained by our investment account over the year. The funds had performed satisfactorily in 2007, sufficient for us to transfer \$2,500 of dividends and interest to the operating account in February 2008. We can only hope that the market improves or recovers in 2009.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact Tom Haliburton, Secretary.

Derek Watts, Treasurer

