



Wolfville Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

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WEDNESDAY, May 20th, at 2 p.m., Fire Hall

Dr. Dan Conlin, a Curator at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic grew up in the Valley Town of Berwick wondering about a large derelict building standing there. It was the local apple evaporator, and in time, as a researcher and scholar, he did a case study on it. He discovered that beginning in the 1890's and extending into the 1940's each Valley town had as its chief industrial enterprise "the Evaporator". He has developed a talk out of his research and has agreed to speak to us about the "Apple Evaporators of the Annapolis Valley".

WEDNESDAY, June 17th, at 2 p.m., Fire Hall

A Wolfville Historical Society member, Phyllis Westbury, will tell us about the "Passage Project" upon which she and other members are spending many hours, and which our Society supports with some of our money. Her illustrated talk will focus on individual artifacts in our Museum which are interesting and perhaps unique, and on all the work that goes into making a wider public aware and appreciative of them. This will be the final meeting in our Spring Series.

Museum Events at a Glance

June 12th	Volunteer Orientation & Tea	2:00 - 4:0p.m.
June 15th	Randall House Museum Opens for the Season	
July 1st	Canada Day Barbecue in Willow Park with the Scouts	12:00 Noon
July 24th	Diamond tea & 60th Birthday party	2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
July 25th	Patriquin Regatta & Boat building workshop	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this newsletter goes out, the series of meetings in which we have worked out a long range strategy for the future path of the Society and Randall House comes to an end. The time period has been drawn out because of snow cancellations, and I want to thank all those who have contributed and persevered through the process. The Board has every confidence that, when we see the final document, we will all be pleased at the clarity of focus which will enable us to be more effective in our endeavours.

The annual renaissance of Randall House will begin shortly. We are very pleased that Bonnie Elliott will be at the helm again to steer us through the 2009 season. She has already been busy with preparatory work and collections management. She will have two mates on deck this summer; in addition to the usual summer assistant (for whose position we are now taking applications and who is partly funded by a provincial grant), we have been selected as a preferred work place by a very personable Acadia student who will be working with us under a fully funded program. This will mean that much more can be accomplished in the areas of visitor service and general museum activities. A full deck crew will be required nonetheless, and all members are urged to enquire as to areas in which volunteer participation will be helpful.

It seems that everyone of the sixty people at the Members' Dinner very much enjoyed the presentation by Capt. Floyd Priddle of the Wolfville Fire Department. We are grateful to him and the other two members of the department who participated.

In June we will again be presenting the Kirkconnell Prize in History to a Horton High School student who intends to do undergraduate work in history. This is a small but important part of the Society's involvement in the greater community who, in the end, largely determine our success. Finally, may I remind you of our fundraising campaign which enables us to maintain and improve Randall House. If you have not already, please donate.

John Whidden,
President

Click & Collage

Two photography workshops are offered where children can spend some time learning about photography in the past and then experiment with their own camera taking pictures of artifacts and scenes of Wolfville architecture which they find appealing. The next day participants will complete the project by working with their team-mates on a collage with the developed pictures they've photographed. Call the Museum for further information and to book your spot! 542-9775
Facilitated by Elaine Slaunwhite

July 15 & 16 th .	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	7 - 9 year old age
	1:00 p.m. - 3 p.m.	10 - 15 year old

MURDOCH'S HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA

The WHS possesses a set of Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, the original publication, issued monthly from March 1865 to February 1867, all together 23 issues with dark blue paper covers.

These histories came to Randall House circa 1949, from GH Starr, Starr's Point.

Unfortunately, Volume One, Number One is missing, and has been so for many years.

We have been looking for a replacement in book stores and on the antiquarian book lists for two years now, with no success.

Before we give up hope, we would like to ask the WHS membership if they have a copy they would like to donate.

Friday Afternoon Teas

Featuring Fresh Biscuits & Cream
Locally Made Preserves

&

FINE SELECTION OF IMPORTED TEAS

Bookings Only please (542-9775)

\$5.00

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. throughout the summer

BOOK REPORT

The other day I came across a lost book on a shelf and thought immediately that good local history bugs as well as lovers of romance novels ought to be aware of it. It is a Ballantine paperback written by Alfred Silver and published in 1996, with the stark title **ACADIA**. It tells the story of the great struggle between Charles LaTour and his rival d'Aulnay for supremacy in Acadia through the middle years of the 17th Century. Probably you remember the bare-bones story from your Grade 4 or 5 history lessons. Silver puts flesh on the bones with great skill. It is

unfortunate that his novel is not (apparently) available in a full-sized hard-cover edition.

Gordon Haliburton

Curator's Nook

At the time of opening your mailboxes or reading this online, the WHS will have completed the meetings with the consultants to determine a new concept plan for the museum. The final report from the consultants is due in June. This summer you will see some changes particularly upstairs as we integrate some badly needed storage space into the mix. As for our temporary exhibit this summer we are shining a spotlight on recent acquisitions to the museum to show the members and public how we are growing and to thank the donors for thinking of us. *Why We Collect...* will explore the reasons why museums are essential for preserving the community's collective memory.

Throughout the summer, the regular Friday Afternoon Teas will continue by BOOKINGS ONLY- so if you have a party that would like to enjoy a great cup of tea and freshly made delectables in the ambience of the dining room, please call the museum ahead of time to reserve a table. For those "who can't find anything to wear" we will be hosting 'Dress like a Planter', a summer long sewing circle for those who would like to don a thimble and ply your needle towards completing a wardrobe for the 250th Planter Celebration in 2010.

Some special events are planned. Once again and as a result of the resounding success last summer, Randall House will be pairing up with the Scouts for the Canada Day Barbecue in Willow Park. During Mud Creek Days, a Diamond Tea will be held to celebrate 60 years of Randall House operating as a museum. A small exhibit of 1940's fashions and memorabilia from the early days of the WHS will be on display. Elaine Slauenwhite has planned some 'cool' photography workshops for children ages 7-9 and 10-15 on July 15 & 16th.

This year we are fortunate to be hiring 2 summer students. One has already been hired and her name is Tiffany Paul, an Acadia student with a double major in Biology and French who has some museum experience and is looking forward to offering tours in French. Under the NS Student Career Skills Development Program we will be hiring a second student from the end of May until the end of August. If you know of a student who is interested in working at the museum, check our website, for further

details.

After the marigolds are planted, I'll see you at the museum...

Bonnie Elliott, Curator

Greet & Guide - A Call for Volunteers

The Museum needs volunteers this summer to greet, guide, file, photocopy, manage the gift shop, serve tea, and work at special events. If you are interested in lending a hand in all sorts of essential activities for an hour or a day we can really use your help.

Don't know what to do? We will train you! Come to the Volunteer Orientation information session and tea on Friday, June 12 from 2-4 pm.

Call us at 542-9775

Some History of Hydroelectric Power in Nova Scotia

- 1887 — A small hydroelectric plant established at the head of Halifax's NW Arm
- 1891 — Acadia Electric Light Company, Wolfville (coal & oil) 0.05 MW
- 1903 — First significant hydroelectric plant in Nova Scotia built by mining interests on the Liscomb River
- 1919 — Nova Scotia Power Commission (NSPC) formed by the government
- 1920 — Gaspereau River Light, Heat and Power Company (R.A. Jodrey, C.H. Wright)
- 1920 — St. Margaret's Bay hydro plants began to be built (NSPC)
- 1921 — Avon River Power Company formed (W.H. Chase, RAJ, CHW), construction of Avon unit #1 began in 1922.
- 1926 — ARP absorbed GRLHP
- 1927 — Minas Basin Pulp & Paper Mills Company formed (RAJ, CHW, T.B. Akin)
- 1927 — ARP acquired water rights for the Black River, and under RAJ's direction began building Hell's Gate unit #1.
- 1928 — NSPC began hydro development on the Mersey River
- 1928 — Nova Scotia Tramways & Power Company became Nova Scotia Light & Power Company
- 1928 — ARP constructing Falls Lake dam and Avon unit #2
- 1929 — ARP sold to I.W. Killam's NSLP

- 1933 — MBP&PM begins building Lower St. Croix plant
- 1934 — Minas Basin Pulp & Power Company (name change)
- 1936 — MBP&P begins building Upper St. Croix plant
- 1951 — ARP absorbed into NSLP
- 1972 — NSLP expropriated by the NSPC, which became the NS Power Corporation in 1973.
- 1992 — NSPC became Nova Scotia Power Inc., a private company
- 1994 — Stiver's Falls dam replaced
- 1997 — Falls Lake dam replaced
- 1998 — Emera formed as holding company that included NSPI

WOLFVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual & Sustaining Membership Application Form for 2009

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Town: _____ Prov.: _____ Code: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Do you wish to receive your Newsletter by e-mail? Y or N
Annual Membership: Individual - \$20.00; Family - \$30.00
Annual Sustaining Membership: Individual or couple - \$100.00
A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued.