



# WHS

Wolfville  
Historical  
Society  
*founded 1941*

wolfvillehs.ednet.ns.ca

## NEWSLETTER

RANDALL HOUSE : WOLFVILLE'S COMMUNITY MUSEUM

**Volume 14 Issue 1**

**JANUARY 2014**

This is a brief New Year newsletter to keep you up to date with what is going on at the Wolfville Historical Society, since -- contrary to what some may think! -- work does not stop during these winter months. Randall House Museum is of course closed, and our Curator Alexandra Hernould's full time duties have ended until the spring, though she still devotes one day a week to the Society. Board Members continue to look after the many bits and pieces which always seem to crop up and call for attention. And we are especially busy this winter because we are already planning our activities for the summer of 2014, under the heading of 'The Great War Project'. Read all about it! We very much hope that our current members will all renew their membership for this special year, and that our plans will attract a lot of new folks to the Society and its work. We welcome your support and participation. Happy New Year!

*Michael Bawtree, Editor*

### ***THE GREAT WAR PROJECT***

## **1914: WAR COMES TO WOLFVILLE**

As far back as the Fall of 2012, our Ad Hoc Committee, which was brought together to develop new paths for the Society, began to sketch out an idea for the summer of 2014: a commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War one hundred years before. The Great War Project has been mentioned in previous newsletters, but only briefly, because our Great War Committee was only just beginning to meet and brainstorm and plan. We are now ready to share with members the plans that have been so far developed. Here is a summary -- an outline developed to accompany our discussions with participating organisations.

**‘1914: WAR COMES TO WOLFVILLE’**  
**a Commemoration Project for the Town of Wolfville and area**  
**co-ordinated by the**  
**Wolfville Historical Society**

***BACKGROUND***

The Great War with all its battlefield sacrifice will be commemorated in many ways in 2014. Rather than recalling the horrors of the trenches, the Wolfville Historical Society is developing a plan to commemorate the part played during the war on the home front, in this part of the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia.

***THE PROJECT***

The far-away war had a major effect on the lives of people in our area. Although there was no compulsory conscription, men flocked to enlist when war broke out. As a result, the Valley’s farms and apple factories and its many retail businesses lost their employees. Acadia University’s young men also left for the army and the front: one of them earned the Victoria Cross ‘for valour’. Many young women also enlisted as nurses, and those who stayed often had to take the place of men in many areas of the economy. Last summer, a special research assistant was tasked by the Wolfville Historical Society to go through the local newspapers of the day, to see how area residents received news of the War and how they responded.

The Society is now developing a plan to bring local organizations together to create a summer of activities and events to recall the effects of the war in this peaceful Valley. There has been an initial meeting with the Mayor of Wolfville, who has reacted positively to the plan, and suggested the Town might fund a comprehensive brochure. Contacts have been developed with the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion; with the Wolfville Fire Department; with the Wolfville Business Development Corporation; with the History Department, Art Gallery and Archives of Acadia University; with the Women’s Institutes of Port Williams and Grand Pre (both founded in 1913); with a Battle Reenactment group in Halifax; with the Canadian Red Cross; and with at least one retail store-owner, who has already offered part of her store window for appropriate displays.

The Society’s Curator, Alexandra Hernould, is planning a special exhibit on the Great War as part of the annual season at Randall House. A call has already gone out for artefacts from that period, and inviting local residents with memories passed on from the War period to be interviewed on video as part of the exhibit. These interviews have now begun.

***PLANS FOR THE SUMMER’S ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:***

1. The opening of Randall House, May 31
2. Celebration of Canadian History Week July 1-7 with:
  - i) The opening of the Great War Exhibit at Randall House

- ii) Showing of films of the period
  - iii) A reading of poetry and prose from WW1.
  - iv) Talk about the lead-up to the War
3. Canada Day marked with old Dominion Day posters.
  4. 'Pop-up' exhibits displayed at major town locations (post office, firehall, train station etc.) detailing the part played by these institutions during the war.
  5. Regular bulletins of world news documenting the approach of War to be set up in locations around town – perhaps in store windows – reproducing news reports of the day, as well as advertisements from local businesses.
  6. Special events marking Canada's entry into the war August 5th.
- These plans are still being developed, and the Society is researching sources of funding for their implementation. Incidentally, we are grateful to the Tartan Foundation for their most generous recent gift of \$3,500 to the Society. And, as always, we thank the Town of Wolfville for their continued support.

**SUMMARY**

The Wolfville Historical Society believes that these events can do a lot to inform local residents of a part of their history which is in danger of being forgotten, especially among the younger generation. But they also believe that, properly marketed and publicised, the season of events and activities will attract and engage visitors to the Town and area, and provide an opportunity for many different local organizations to work together in the creation of a unique display of the Town's historical identity, and the part it played at a significant moment in world history.



**1914: NEWS BULLETIN**  
**JUNE 28TH**

**ARCHDUKE ASSASSINATED!**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia –**

"Today His Royal Highness Prince Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated with his wife while driving through the streets of Sarajevo, Bosnia. They both died instantly, along with their driver.

This dastardly crime is believed to be the work of a Serbian anarchist seeking to overthrow Austro-Hungarian rule over Bosnia and make it part of Greater Serbia.

The consequences of this murderous attack could be serious, if Russia is seen as being behind the crime . . .



WOLFVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GREAT WAR PROJECT

**CAN YOU SUGGEST A SOLUTION TO THIS URGENT PROBLEM?**

For some years now, the Society's collection of valuable historical costumes has been stored in the basement of St. John's Church Hall. But the Hall has now been purchased by L'Arche, and the arrangement will soon come to an end. Do you have or know of any space, preferably in or close to Wolfville, which might be suitable and available for the storage of our costumes? It should be dry and have a heat source. If you can help in any way, please call Jan Baldwin at 542-4042.

## WOLFVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO BEGIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR, JANUARY 1ST, AND BE PART OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR THIS IMPORTANT YEAR!**

*The Wolfville Historical Society, founded in 1941, is dedicated to increasing the community's interest in and appreciation of the heritage of Wolfville and surrounding area. From June to September it operates the Randall House Museum. In the winter months it meets regularly to enjoy lectures on historical and related subjects from specialists. In 2014 its co-ordination of the Great War Project will give a unique opportunity to participate in a major community initiative. Please join with us this special year!*

*There are several categories of membership. Please tick the box that is right for you:*

- Youth - under 21: \$10 per year  
 Individual: \$20 per year  
 Family: \$30 per year  
 Sustaining Member (or couple): \$100 per year

*(The Society needs a good proportion of Sustaining Members to build the funds it needs to operate. If you can afford it, please sign up as a Sustaining Member!)*

- Distance member: minimum \$10

*(Those not now living in the community who would still like to support the Society's work can now be welcomed as 'distance members')*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill out the form and give it to any Society member with payment - or send it along to:  
Wolfville Historical Society 259 Main Street, Wolfville N.S. B4P 1C6.  
Make out cheque to 'Wolfville Historical Society'. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued.  
Memberships start or are renewable on January 1st of each year.*

## VOLUNTEERING FOR THE SOCIETY

*We are happy to have the financial support that you give to the Society by becoming a member. But we would also like to invite you to volunteer any help you can give - especially in the coming year, when we have taken on a major initiative with the Great War Project. Please tick a box against the tasks that you might be prepared to undertake if there is a need:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small exterior and interior painting jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-hosting Friday teas                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry construction or repairs         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tour guide at Randall House                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with mail-outs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Research and maintenance in our archival collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping at events                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Providing finger-food for gatherings      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

**Wolfville Historical Society, Randall House, 259 Main St, Wolfville NS B4P 1C6  
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