

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

We have completed a very active year for the Society, and it's time to thank all those who helped make it a successful one. Our Board and Committees are owed a collective thank you for all their work and care, but some names deserve to go up in lights. Perhaps our Most Effective Player award should go to **Christine Lynch**, who as well as being a stalwart member of the Board and of the Randall House Management Committee, carried out once again the incredibly time-consuming job of filling out applications for grants from the Federal Government and the Province. All these applications were successful, and made it possible both to hire our summer staff and to mount our *War Comes To Wolfville* project. Christine was also a member of the Great War Project Committee. What a contribution!

We must also thank **Derek Watts**, who put considerable time and energy into introducing the Society to the SUMAC computer program, which is now up and running, and will soon be helping the Society keep in touch with members more efficiently. A special thanks to board member **Anne Hope**, who sat on the Selection Committee for our new Curator, produced posters for our meetings, provided refreshments, and recently organised our Christmas Card project. Special thanks too to our Curator **Roger Marsters**, who hit the ground running in May, provided us with a fine Great War exhibit in Randall House, and herded our splendid summer student staff through the season: his good taste, knowledge and enthusiasm have enriched us all. And thanks, last but not least, to our President, **Anthony Harding**, for his conscientious and benevolent leadership of the Society. And now: on to 2015! M.B.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Wolfville Historical Society will be held in the meeting room at St. John's Anglican Church, at 2 pm on Wednesday 21 January, 2015.

The official copy of the NS Legislature's Resolution will be presented to the Society, and Mayor Cantwell will deliver an address. Membership renewals will also be taken at the meeting.



WHS

Wolfville
Historical
Society

founded 1941

wolfvillehs.ednet.ns.ca

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 1

JANUARY 2015



RESOLUTION NO. 371

Moved By: *Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
Kings South*

Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Wolfville Historical Society has coordinated an impressive commemoration of the impact of the Great War on Wolfville and its people entitled 1914: War Comes to Wolfville; and

Whereas the special exhibits and events coordinated by the Wolfville Historical Society enabled Wolfville and area residents to better understand the role the community played in the Great War and its effect on the local community; and

Whereas 1914: War Comes to Wolfville has honoured the people of Wolfville and area who sent off so many of their loved ones to the war in Europe;

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly congratulate and thank the Wolfville Historical Society for their important cultural contribution to Wolfville and surrounding areas through this special commemoration.




**Keith Irving, MLA
Kings South**

Presented by Keith Irving, MLA Kings South, in the Second Session of the 62nd General Assembly of the Nova Scotia Legislature on October 22nd, 2014.

NEW NEWS

FALL MEETINGS

Sharon MacDonald was the guest speaker at our **October 15th** meeting, and gave a most interesting talk on the work of Phyllis Chesley, who was a passionate Nova Scotian pacifist during the First World War.

On **November 19th** our Curator Roger Marsters introduced the first cut of a short documentary which had been put together round a series of interviews with Centreville native Mac Frail, whose father Wallace Frail fought with distinction in WW1. We were delighted to welcome not only Mac himself but a large group of his family and friends, and the showing was followed by lively discussion. Work on shooting the film was co-ordinated by Christine Lynch, and the film had been assembled by one of our summer staff, Devon Thomson, who is a student at NSCAD.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Society's annual Christmas party took place on **December 11th**, being held once again at the welcoming heritage home of Michael Bawtree. Christine Hope took charge of the contributions of there was plenty to by substantial drafts Michael played carols, by our more vocal agreed it had been getting us properly festive season. There jinks of this kind until you will have time to But in the New Year other social delights: watch for announcements!



Lynch and Anne the food, and with several other members eat, washed down of mulled red wine. lustily accompanied members, and everyone a splendid evening, in the mood for the will be no more high next Christmas, so recover from this one. we can look forward to

WANTED: A VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH ARCHIVES!

The Society is in need of a volunteer who is able to spend one or two hours a week assisting the Archivist. Previous experience of archival work not required, as training will be offered. Please contact Anthony Harding or any member of the Board.

Letter to the Editor



FROM THE MAYOR OF WOLFVILLE

Looking forward to the goals and opportunities of the new year one must reflect on the achievements of the past year. One of the significant events of 2014 was the 100th anniversary of the official start of WW1 and I would like to make note of the respectful manner in which this “War to end all wars” was recognized by the Wolfville Historical Society.

From the presentation by you at The Legion to the “Recruiting Centre” on Main St., the various posters and window displays around the town, to the arrival of King George and Queen Mary, along with the poetry readings and screenings of film, the effect on Wolfville's day to day living during this period was given some identity.

Please pass along my sincere thanks to the Society for their active involvement and attention to this historic event.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cantwell, Mayor



OUR M.L.A. KEITH IRVING

recently moved a resolution in the Nova Scotia legislature, drawing attention to the work of the Wolfville Historical Society in our *1914: War Comes To Wolfville* project, and congratulating all concerned. A copy of the resolution can be seen on the front of this newsletter. Thank you, Keith!

SPRING PROGRAM, 2015

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. at BAC 132, Acadia University

Speaker: A.J.B. (John) Johnston.

John Johnston is a Canadian writer who works in three disciplines: fiction, history and interpretive writing for exhibits. Born and raised in Truro, he worked for Parks Canada for many years, including 23 years as a staff historian at the Fortress of Louisbourg.

Wednesday, March 18, 2 p.m. at the meeting room, St. John's Anglican Church

Speaker: Tony Berger

– Wolfville resident Tony Berger, author of a book on the history of Bonne Bay, an area of Gros Morne Park, is planning to speak to us on West Coast Newfoundland and Nova Scotia connections in the 19th Century.

SO WHAT ELSE IS IN STORE FOR 2015?

The Board has already discussed what could be a very exciting project for the coming season: a celebration of Wolfville's long and distinguished theatrical history from 1900 to 2000. From the early days of movement classes at Seminary House, to the first mixed gender production in 1913, and including the work of Harold Sipprell, Evelyn Garbary, Jack Sheriff, Michael Bawtree and Colin Bernhardt, Acadia has been the leader in bringing special sophistication to Wolfville's theatre. But their work often stretched outside the University, including Sipprell's theatre tours through Nova Scotia, Sheriff's establishment of the Kipawo Showboat Company and Theatre Arts Festival International (TAFI), the founding of the Mermaid Theatre in Wolfville by Garbary with Sara-Lee Lewis and Tom Miller, and the establishment of the Atlantic Theatre Festival in 1995 led by Bawtree, Bernhardt and Andria Hill-Lehr. The Board has appointed a Project Committee to work on the details of the initiative, and our President has written to President Ivany of Acadia inviting the University to collaborate with us. We are already in talks with the Acadia Archives and the History Department. More news soon.

2015, by the way, marks the 20th anniversary of ATF's founding.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

January 1st begins a new membership year for the Society, and we urge all of our members to renew their memberships right away: we so appreciate your involvement. We also encourage you to bring new members into the fold: membership fees form an important part of our revenue, and we are aiming this year to bring the number of our members to over one hundred. Our tally in 2014 was 85. We hear that when the Atlantic Theatre Festival was under full steam, over 200 Wolfville and area folks were serving as volunteers, undertaking many necessary tasks from ushering for the plays to fetching actors from the airport. Assuming that our Theatre Project goes ahead, the Wolfville Historical Society will surely need many volunteers to help staff the principal exhibit. Please let us know if you would consider being part of this team, at times of your own choosing. And if you are a former ATF volunteer, your knowledge and experience will be even more appreciated! A shortened Membership Form comes with this newsletter, and more copies can be obtained at our meetings, or our website.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

[NOTE: The support of Sustaining Members is particularly important for the Society. If you can afford it, please sign up as a Sustaining Member!]

- () **Distance Member:** Minimum \$10

Name: _____

Mailing Address _____

Town: _____ **Province:** _____ **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

Please let us know if you would like to be part of the team to staff our 2015 Summer Exhibit, understanding you can choose the times you are available:

Yes, count me in! *No, I am unable to participate this year*

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

Tel: 542-9775 in summer season E-mail: Randallhouse@outlook.com