

Cumberland Reflector

Cumberland County Museum & Archives

Summer 2009

Issue 102

History that Stirs the Imagination

The past four months have been a very exciting time for the Cumberland Museum Society. Our calendar has been filled with events designed to delight all ages; some of which we hope will become annual events.

Let us start with the May 1st Four Fathers Dinner. We are very pleased to announce that our "First Annual" dinner, auction and play was a huge success and plans are underway for next year's "An Evening With Our Four Fathers". We would like to thank everyone involved in making this event "a night to remember". Special thanks to Mr. Bill Casey, who took time out of his busy move to Ottawa to be the evenings "Guest Speaker and Master of Ceremonies." For those of you who were unable to attend, we hope you will join the celebration next year.



Cast of Play

Our Annual Plant Sale in May was a great time to talk with some of Cumberland County's enthusiastic gardeners. Our plant sale is a wonderful celebration of spring and visiting with old friends. School Tours were very popular this year. We were visited from school throughout Cumberland County such as Oxford, River Hebert, Springhill and Amherst. Each school was interested in information on various portions of Cumberland County Heritage: such as the Internment Camp, Industries, the Maritime Achievers and the Loyalist. It was a very interesting year with the students and we look forward to next year's school tours.

Partnerships are building at our museum. On June 6th our museum took part in the "Museums Across the Marsh Tour". For one day, you could purchase a passport for the low cost of \$4.00 and tour 6 amazing museums. We are pleased to announce that it was a wonderful success and we are hoping to extend next year's tour into a two day event.

The Community Fair held on June 6th, was a great experience. Our museum's booth had many visitors who were very interested in what the museum has to offer and we received positive comments on our Victorian Costumes.

On June 20th we held our annual "Museum Day". This year's event included a Yard and Book Sale, Old Fashion Family Games, Silent Auction, Barbeque, Children's Games, and an Afternoon Concert.

Our Annual General Members Meeting- saw the passing of a new Board Resolution. The Cumberland Museum Society's Board of Directors has been downsized from 12 to 8 board members. This is also a reminder that "Yearly Memberships" are from April 1st to March 31st of each year and that membership fees are \$15.00 a year. Anyone wishing to pay their membership fees can drop by the museum Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or Saturday 12pm to 5pm.

A Special Thank-You

We think it is only fitting to say thank you to our Manager/Curator Shirley Nickerson for the wonderful job she is doing for our museum. In the past two years we have witnessed some amazing transformations both inside and outside of the museum. We are fortunate to have her on staff and through her determination our museum has made a financial turn around that we hope will continue through the support of volunteer and community funding. As Shirley has stated many times "Volunteers are the back bone of our museum" and without this help we cannot continue to expand our services.



Shirley Nickerson enjoying An Evening With Our Four Fathers

Update On Museum Expansion Project

The channel of communication has begun with Transportation Infrastructural Renewal, Tourism, Culture and Heritage and CREDA concerning our expansion. Like all projects it takes time to cross the T's and dot the I's. Our museum is heading into the future like a ray of sunshine.

Your Board of Directors for 2009/2010

President -- Brian Trenholm

Vice President-- Elaine Bourque

Secretary -- Glenda Janes

Ian MacLean, Theresa Halfkenny, Shirley MacTavish, Bill Fairbanks, and Howard Spence.

President's Address

Firstly, I would like to thank Howard Spence for his time as our President and his continuing support via his expertise as our 'super chef' for the various dinners we host. We trust that Howard will be our continuing leader in this and other areas. We have been blessed, too, with the inspired work of our Manager /Curator, Shirley, and our super events person and fellow Director, Glenda Janes. Some long time Board Members have opted to return to their roles as volunteers around events and program, and we thank them for their continuing support. We are showing continuing strength in our grounds and in our events, regular and special, as demonstrated by this newsletter content, but there is much work to do. Every successful organization has strong Committees, and a solid set of parameters under which those Committees can thrive. That is what we wish to achieve with our current review of our committee structure, which your Board has just undertaken. So, as Members or potential members of the Cumberland Museum Society, I ask you to talk to our Manager / Curator or one of your Directors about this review. ...and talk to your friends about CMS. Expect to see lots of "Volunteer Opportunities" posted this fall, ones with specific tasks and skills that might interest you, and ones that clearly spell out the time and talents commitments we are seeking. For instance, who would like to take on the task of formulating this regular newsletter, something that should not fall to staff? I firmly believe that volunteering can be rewarding only when expectations are clear to all, and only when new folks are willing to take part. Thank you.

Brian Trenholm

Museum Day Activities
Good Old Fashion Family Fun
Saturday, May 20th.

Bring In

The Clowns



Sack Race



Izzy Purdy and Victoria Rector



Three Legged Race

Egg Workshop

The Egg Workshop given by Dale Ross was enjoyed by all, with all but two of the eggs making it home.

Participants learned the techniques of creating their own personalized "Hungarian Egg", using simple supplies such as an egg, pencil, wax, dye and a candle.

Mr. Ross has been painting eggs for a number of years and has an extensive collection.



100th Anniversary for the Canadian Red Cross

Guest Speakers: Rita Symth, Walter Goodwin, Ernie Fage and Dale Fawthrop were on hand to help celebrate the Canadian Red Cross 100th Anniversary. The afternoon consisted of guest speakers, demonstrations and the cutting of the anniversary cake.



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Royal Dinner

On July 2nd the museum hosted a Royal Dinner in conjunction with the Four Fathers Festival. The culinary delights prepared by the chef and the ladies in their fancy attire created an evening fit for a King and Queen.

Right photo (left to right) Robert Bird Robert Angel, Mr. & Mrs Sandy Fairbanks.

Below: Alice Duxbury, Evie Coates and Lorraine Duxbury in all their finery of days gone by.

History that Stirs the Imagination



Zonta Club 25th Anniversary



On June 6th the Zonta Club ladies celebrated their 25th Anniversary at our museum. These ladies know the meaning of community spirit and it is depicted in their community activities. In honor of their Silver Anniversary a Rose Bush was planted in commemoration of one of their beloved members.



Thank you

Donations are a very important part of our mission, here at the museum. Without these kind and generous gifts it would be difficult to promote and preserve the rich history and heritage of Cumberland County. Over the past year we have been fortunate to receive donations that are a wonderful addition to our museum's collection. These donations include an 1810 teapot housed inside a magnificent caddy, the Chapman Genealogy and a wide variety of photographs including photographs of the original furnishing of Grove Cottage belonging to Robert Berry Dickey. These photographs will assist us in recreating the historical time period of our museum.

We can never stress the importance that both gift and monetary donations are to the preservation of our history, our heritage and our museum.



Manager/Curator Shirley Nickerson accepting a donation of a Red Cross Certificate from Mr. Gardner Hurley. This certificate became one of the focal points of the Red Cross Exhibit.



Cumberland Reflector Victorian Walking Tours

Come and join the Cumberland County Museum & Archives 's summer student, Kristen Holloway as she takes you on a guided tour along Victoria Street to learn about some of Amherst's beautiful Victorian Homes.

The tour includes a description of some of the downtown buildings including the Bank of Nova Scotia and the First Baptist Church; as well as details about many of the Victorian Homes along East Victoria St., including the Tupper House which was built and lived in by Sir Charles Tupper, one of Cumberland County's Four Fathers of Confederation.

The tours consist of an architectural account of the buildings and homes, as well as many interested facts about the building that you may not know. We will also incorporate knowledge about the previous owners of the various Victorian homes. Such as the Hewson House; owned by Edger Hewson, who was one of the original owners of the Hewson Woollen Mills.

A highlight on our tours is an inside visit of the Regent Bed and Breakfast hosted by owner, Mr. Jim Kerr.

Our Tours will take place every Friday at 2pm; meeting location Victoria Park Bandstand. Last tour for the summer will be August 21, 2009. Hope to see you there.

Below you will find a list of the committees that are looking for members. Please fill out the information areas and don't forget to check off the committees you are interested in. Drop it by the museum or mail it to the Cumberland County Museum and Archives at 150 Church Street, Amherst B4H 3C4. Thank you for your support.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax #: _____ Email address: _____

I would like to volunteer to provide support for; (check a box)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Special events | <input type="checkbox"/> Building & Grounds Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Archives/Artifact Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Researcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Desk Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Committee |

History that Stirs the Imagination

Events for the Fall

Mad Hatter Autumn Dinner- Friday, September 25th.at – Cost \$20.00 per person. There will be a prize awarded to the lady or gentleman for the "Most Outstanding Hat".

Local Artist Book Launch- Sunday, October 18th at 2pm- Book Entitled, "Cumberland County Facts and Folklore" written by local author, Laurie-Glenn Norris.

Felting Workshop in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival- two workshops October 16 & 17-Instructor- Justine Kerr Each Workshop is \$50.00 and includes supplies. You can visit Justine Kerr website at www.justinekerr.com.

Haunted House October -This year many of the favorites will be back with a few added surprises. So be prepared to be SCARED. Anyone interested in volunteering their time with planning, decorating or playing a character, please feel free to call the museum to sign up. Date yet to be determined.

Remembrance Dinner- November will see the encore of the War-time Melodies Dinner which was so entertaining last year- Date yet to be determined.

Volunteers

I am sure you have all heard me say numerous times that without the everyday support of volunteers; our museum would not be able to effectively accomplish its mission. I can never repeat that sentiment enough and with this said I must state that our museum is in need of more volunteers.

There are many different opportunities and jobs which could be tailored to your preferences such as: Building/Grounds-which the purpose is to provide building and grounds maintenance assistances.

Front Desk support –which the purpose is to provide reception and visitor service: Researcher which purpose is to assist with research of archives for genealogy/historical information and identify sources and record data. Archives/Artefacts Support-which the purpose is to provide much needed assistance to CCM in the acquisition/preservation management of the collection.

As most of you are aware, the museum is in the first stage of our expansion project and we are in need of new committee and sub-committee members. The Program Committee and Communications Committee are just two of the committees that are recruiting new members.

The program committee's goal is to engage the attention of the community and sustain and renew the membership. The Society wishes to reach out to and involve the community, to explain its purposes, objectives and activities and to establish itself as an essential, well recognized, respected and broadly valued community organization. If you are interested in any of these positions please feel free to call or drop us a line at any time.