

The Atlantic Anchor



The Shelburne Historical Society Newsletter

Autumn 2016

From the President – Louise Lindsay



Our ***Museums by the Sea*** have just ended another great summer season! The Dory Shop Museum is now closed and tucked in for the winter. The Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum is closed, but will be open and animated with the assistance of members of the **Shelburne Re-enactment Association** for the **Christmas Crawl**. Please plan to come out for the 'Crawl' on Saturday, Nov. 12. It is always a fun event, with great treats at each location, an opportunity to start your Christmas shopping and win a beautiful gift basket! This year, along with the **Ross-Thomson House** and **Shelburne County Museum**, **Tottie's Crafts**, **Charlotte Lane Café and Crafts**, **Thistle Dew Nicely Flower Shop**, **Gosbee's Sporting Goods**, **TLC Pharmasave**, **The Beandock** and **Roundbird Pottery Studio** will be participating.

In the spring newsletter, I mentioned that **Daphne Miller**, our site manager, had just returned to work part-time after a medical leave of absence. Shortly after Daphne's return she submitted her resignation and left us on July 8. On Daphne's last day, we had a wonderful send-off lunch for her at Charlotte Lane Café. On behalf of the board and all the staff, I'd like to wish **Daphne** all the best in her future endeavours!

Janet Maltby, the manager of rural sites for the Nova Scotia Museum, was in Shelburne for Daphne's farewell luncheon. Afterwards she and I met to discuss Daphne's departure, the site manager's position and how best to proceed. Two of the questions I wanted answered were what similar museums called their heads and how much they were remunerated. Later in the summer, **Janet** informed me that for similar-sized organizations, most were called 'director', not 'site manager', and were paid considerably more than we have been paying our site manager. After receiving that information, **Valerie Martin**, our treasurer, and I reviewed our financial information and budgets to see if we could possibly pay a little more. The position of director was subsequently posted, with applications accepted until Nov. 7, 2016. I am pleased to say that **Janet Maltby** has agreed to sit on the hiring committee. We hope to have a director for the museums in place early in the New Year.

As I mentioned in this spring's ***Atlantic Anchor***, the Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) was evaluating all the Community Museum Assistance Program (CMAP) museums this summer. This is a very rigorous evaluation which was done in two parts. The first deadline was May 6, 2016, and we had to upload onto their website digital copies of our documents to address 12 pages of questions on governance, management, facilities, collections and access to information, interpretation, community, and marketing and revenue generation. The second part took place on July 20, 2016, when a team of three evaluators came to the museum and completed the evaluation by grading us on 180 questions on the same topics.

This was a huge effort and occurred when Daphne wasn't with us, so we were short-staffed. **Allison Burnett**, our new curator, led the effort to prepare for the second phase of the evaluation. She and her team – which included **Milford Buchanan, Tamitha Dolliver, Doreen Guy, Ashley McDaniel, Leslie White** and many more – worked hard making covers for the exhibit room windows, preparing a temporary exhibit on 200 years of shipbuilding in Shelburne, updating our collection database and cleaning and reorganizing our storage areas. A mammoth undertaking, and a job well done! In mid-September, we received our score and a detailed report on our scoring. We scored 81 per cent, which we subsequently found out was a really good score. Only four out of the 66 museums evaluated got above 80 per cent! So, I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to **Allison and ALL the staff and volunteers** who made this evaluation a success! Every one of them put in extra time and effort.



On April 1, 2016, I submitted a grant application to the *Community Facilities Improvement Program* to replace some windows, repair siding and paint the Nairn House, which houses the Shelburne County Museum. On July 29, we received an e-mail which notified us that we got the provincial grant. Trying to find carpenters that late in the season to give us a price to do the work has been very difficult. Hopefully, you will see some work being done on the museum soon!

In September, we were pleased to have a visit from **Rhonda Walker**, executive director of archives, libraries and museums, and **Tracey Taweel**, deputy minister of communities, culture and heritage. I gave them a tour of all three of our museums and then had a good meeting with them. **Rhonda** noted a big improvement in the Ross-Thomson House, and both seemed very impressed with all the museums. **Tracey** really liked the *Tri-County Vanguard* article on **Milford** and how he is keeping dory-making alive.

We welcomed **Greta Mossman** and **Kim Walker** as the new senior heritage interpreters at the Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum this spring, and what a job they have done! These ladies, with their enthusiasm, have invigorated the museum and charmed the visitors! They have done stencilling, felting, pressed flowers and then turned them into bookmarks and cards for the shop, to name just a few

things! As well, music is regularly heard in the garden, thanks to **Greta** and her husband, **Rod**. Big changes are underway in the garden, too. They worked with **Dawn Harding** to develop a new garden plan, and then, with a huge volunteer effort by **Rod Mossman**, it is well underway. A big **THANK YOU** to **Rod** for his volunteer work this summer! It is really appreciated.

Again this year, the Dory Shop Museum had a great season. **Milford Buchanan**, our master dory maker, built another dory for the Queen of Hearts Dory Racing Club. Congratulations to Milford and his wonderful volunteer assistant, **Mick Fearn**, on another great job!

Our retail profits are up again! The hot items are still our whirligigs. Credit for the increased sales goes to all the Dory Shop staff: **Milford Buchanan**, **Leona Ringer**, **Ashley McDaniel** and our summer students, **Ally Guye** and **Rebecca Deinstadt**, who designed, built and painted the whirligigs. Also thanks to **Greta Mossman** and **Kim Walker**, who are also talented whirligig painters and assisted during the crunch to get stock ready for September's Whirligig and Weathervane Festival. Everyone's hard work made a big difference to our financial position at the end of the season.

Tamitha Dolliver, our retail and office manager, has been working her magic on our retail efforts for the last four years. Profits have been going up each year, which is very impressive and has really helped our finances. Unfortunately for us, **Tamitha** has decided to retire from her position at the end of the year. Her job and office location serve as the hub for the museum complex. Even though it is a busy job, with considerable stress and many interruptions, **Tamitha's** bright smile has always warmly greeted visitors and staff. She cheerfully assists visitors, helps with exhibits and supports staff and the board in myriad ways, while efficiently doing



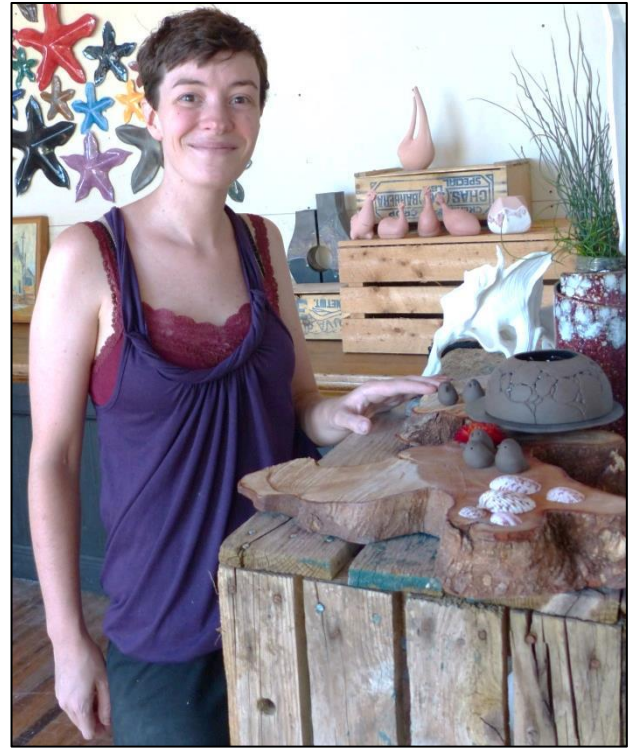
her primary jobs. She will be missed by all! On behalf of the board, the members and all the staff, I want to thank **Tamitha** for the huge contribution she has made to our organization.

Tamitha graciously gave us lots of notice so that she would be able to train her replacements. We advertised internally first, and **Leona Ringer** will be taking over the retail manager responsibilities. **Lorraine Oake**, who spent two weeks working with Tamitha in October, will be starting the beginning of April in the administrative position. We look forward to **Lorraine** joining us full-time.





This past season our interpreters at the Ross-Thomson House and Store demonstrated various activities, such as butter-churning and candle-making. In this photo from July 6th, (left to right) Kim Walker, Amie Riley and Greta Mossman share a laugh while churning butter.



Rosemary Cheetham has moved her Roundbird ceramics studio into the south side of the Cox Warehouse. Besides her regular studio hours, Rosemary will be open for the Nov. 12th Christmas Crawl. Be sure to stop by and pay her a visit!



Kim Walker's photo, one of a series of photos she captured of our Aug. 30th dory launch. Thank you to Milford Buchanan and his hard-working crew at the Dory Shop Museum!

Vision: The Shelburne Historical Society is an essential and integral part of life in Shelburne County, serving community members and visitors of all ages. Through collaborations and partnerships, we make our heritage vital, relevant, and widely accessible. We are financially and environmentally sustainable, and support our community in its social, economic and cultural development.

Shelburne County Museum gets paranormal investigation

By Sue Deschene

Shelburne has lots of old buildings. Many of them are rumoured to be haunted.

On July 27, members of the Greater Moncton Paranormal Society (GMPS) visited the Shelburne County Museum, where they conducted their first out-of-province paranormal investigation.

The group set up video cameras and audio recorders, as well as EMF (Electro Magnetic Field), temperature and infrared equipment in “hot spots,” or areas of reported activity in the museum.

Louise Lindsay, president of the Shelburne Historical Society, was on hand during the all-night investigation, as was board member Wayne Butler.

Lots of stories have circulated over the years about ghosts at the museum.

“There’s supposed to be a fellow coming down the steps, just the waist-down legs, nothing else,” Wayne said. “People have seen it. I haven’t seen it, but I have been in here for a meeting at night, when it sounded like someone was throwing wood around.”



Lindsay Isenor (left) and Dan Donaldson discuss preparations for their team's July 27th paranormal investigation at the Shelburne County Museum.

The historical society sold tickets to the event as a fundraiser. Celia Melanson had the winning ticket, which she passed on to her friend, Pat deMolitor, who invited Rita Crosbie to join her. The pair got to do more than tag along. They were trained on how to use the team's paranormal detection equipment.

Taking part in a paranormal investigation is something Pat has always wanted to do. “It was on my bucket list,” she said.

As a nurse, Pat has witnessed things she can't explain, so she considers herself a believer in the spirit world.

“I’ve seen people hold on, when they should have died days before. And as soon as that loved one comes, that’s it. I think the spirit

lives on. My personal belief is, if somebody’s had a happy life, they might pop back in every so often where they existed, just to see how things are going.”

Both Pat and Rita were impressed with the GMPS team's approach, noting that they took steps to ensure that all possible anomalies were ruled out.

Rita pointed out that, “Whilst nothing went ‘bump in the night’, she did experience some unusual sensations.

“We went upstairs and spent time there, with Pat and I picking up the same things in one room. We were then drawn to the modern part without any air (conditioning). This was an interesting experience, as the room was stifling hot, but as we walked in, Pat, I and Louise all

felt a powerful chill, so much so my arms and then body were full of goosebumps, as were theirs.”

After spending time there, and recording their observations, Rita recalled, the group got ready to leave. They were using a piece of equipment which converted environmental readings into words.

“As we left that room again, Pat, Louise and I all felt an icy chill at the same time, so much so we all stopped and reacted at the same time in the same way. The watcher on the cameras downstairs noticed the reaction and asked what had happened. At the same time that happened, the voice box said ‘paranormal’, which was interesting too.”

The GMPS team has lots of technical data to sift through, so immediately after their visit they could offer no firm conclusion on whether the museum is haunted. But they were able to share some personal observations.

“When Charmian was watching the cameras during the second half of our investigation, she reported hearing ‘a high frequency hiss’ which ended with an ‘aaahhhhhh’ deeper tone comparable to a vocal sound,” recalled lead investigator Lindsay Isenor.

“She said sounded like it was very close to her, but she was alone in that section of the building. Around the same time, one of our investigators, Dan, felt his arm being brushed up against, when nothing was there. Also, while all this was happening, one of our stationary DVR cameras started making a weird noise, like someone was tapping on it with their fingernail, but there were no visual malfunctions, including on the live feed.”

Lindsay said her team planned to submit a full report of findings sometime this fall.



On hand for the Greater Moncton Paranormal Society's investigation at the Shelburne County Museum were (left to right) Charmian Douthwright, Rita Crosbie, Rebecca Belliveau, Dwayne Managire, Pat deMolitor, Lindsay Isenor and Dan Donaldson.

The Curator's Corner

By Allison Burnett

A big thank you to our volunteer, Leslie White, for volunteering to sew curtains for the Shelburne County Museum!

In the spring we asked Leslie to sew curtains for the nine windows located in the display areas of the museum, and she kindly agreed.

It is very important for objects on display in the exhibit spaces to be protected as much as possible from the sun. When exposed to sunlight, delicate objects like documents, paintings and textiles deteriorate and become irreversibly faded.



Leslie White

The new curtains have a special blackout material backing, so the artifacts on display in our museum are safe from the sun's damaging rays. Many thanks to Leslie for the massive amount of work she dedicated toward the completion of this project!

This summer the Shelburne County Museum presented a new temporary exhibit on the history of ship- and boatbuilding in the town of Shelburne, titled "Shipyards and Boat Shops – Highlights from two centuries of ship- and boatbuilding in Shelburne."

The exhibit, which is my first as curator at the museum, makes use of repurposed information panels from the former Muir-Cox Shipbuilding Interpretive Centre displayed alongside newly developed information and reproductions of photographs from the Shelburne County Museum collection.

Half-hull models from local shipbuilders, a John Etherington Ltd. time book recording shipbuilder hours worked during January and February of 1919, and a contraption demonstrating how rope for ship rigging was historically made, are featured in this exhibit.

As well, two tablets are provided, one with an interactive map showing the locations and names of ship- and boatbuilding operations once located in Shelburne, and another with a timed schooner-building game.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Shelburne Christmas Crawl

Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Get an early start on your Christmas shopping while supporting some of our wonderful local businesses at Shelburne's 15th Annual Historic District Christmas Crawl. You'll find unique gifts for everyone on your list, as well as complimentary tasty treats at every stop. Enter to win a fabulous gift basket!

Christmas Party

Shelburne County Museum

Saturday, Dec. 10,
2 to 4 p.m.



The public is invited to our annual Christmas party. Kids, get your wish lists ready: Santa Claus will be there!

The Dory Shop Museum and the Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum are closed for the season ... but the Shelburne County Museum stays open year-round!

The Shelburne County Museum will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday during the winter (closed 1 to 2 p.m. daily). Our museum gift shop is a great place to do your Christmas shopping!

The museum will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 23, reopening on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017.



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