



# HISTORIGRAM

May, 2008

Volume 8 Issue 4

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Listen, I believe spring is in the air, do you hear the birds singing? Do you see the flowers beginning to bloom? Do you see the daylight hours stretching? Yes these are all sure signs of spring. Happy spring time everyone.

We do regret to inform you that the decision of the Board of Directors, led to the dismissal of Derek Kowalchuk as the director of the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> a conference was held at the Holy Trinity Anglican Parish Hall in Yarmouth entitled Re-Using Old Buildings. This was put on by the Standards and Guidelines Office, Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative. Several speakers, throughout these two days, shared various aspects of the re-use of old buildings. We learned about tools and techniques used in doing these types of projects. It was very interesting to see the slides and hear how the old Nova Scotia Textiles Mill project in Windsor is moving ahead. Through the Re-Use program this mill will be used to house a number of shops and businesses along with some condos for living quarters.

Another area touched on was the Re-Use of old abandoned church buildings. Some of these buildings are being converted over to private homes. Some are being dismantled, moved to other areas and reconstructed for reuse.

At the end of the first day Wilfred Allan took those interested, on a pleasant walk through Yarmouth town to view the beautiful old homes, some of which have been restored and saved from demolition. Wilfred told many interesting historic stories of the properties as we passed by. This walk took about an hour and ended up at Rudder's Pub on Water Street for a reception.

With the time and enthusiasm of each presenter during this conference I felt we came away much more informed on the time, cost, care and love of restoring and re-using our old buildings.

For our April society meeting we were fortunate to have Mike Tavares as the program speaker. Mike was also one of the presenters for Re-Use of old buildings. For our program he talked on some of the older houses he has restored on the streetscapes of our town. The power point presentation of before and after restoration, certainly put meaning to what he has accomplished. It was also very interesting to learn just where some of the building materials for these houses came from. Things like bricks and foundation stones which were used as ballast for ships as they returned to Yarmouth with other cargo. Stories of when, why, how and just who built these houses years ago along with what they are being used for today made this a very informative program.

Our monthly Hall Tree featured three lovely dresses from the 1930's, donated by local residents. So many memories and changes have developed through the years.

At the close of our program we sang Happy Anniversary in connection with this being our 50<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of our museum. Barb Hinckley brought in some



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

homemade cup cakes made in ice-cream cones with frosting and candles. These were placed on a table in the form of the number 50 and lit as we sang. After this these were given out as tasty snacks for us to enjoy.

As a matter of interest there will be a **Heritage Fair on May 1<sup>st</sup>** taking place at the Nova Scotia Community College, Burrigge Campus. In the past this has been a big event and is open to the public. Please plan to attend and support all those who have put so much into making these projects and are so willing to share them with us.

Our May society meeting will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the museum at 7:30. Hope to see you there.

*President  
Charles R. Winship*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

It looks like spring outside my window, and as I haven't yet experienced springtime in Yarmouth, I'm getting excited! The past few months have been a whirlwind introduction to the archives, museum, and the larger community beyond. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you already, and I look forward to meeting more Society members in the future. Here is a brief review of some of the things I've been doing since I began:

In the first three weeks of March alone, I had over 30 in-person visitors to the archives with every kind of research request you could imagine (a great way to get better acquainted with our resources!). Towards the end of March and into April, I had large groups of students from many of the local schools in to do research for heritage fair projects. It was fantastic to share our resources with students and to have them learn about the archives – who we are and what we can offer them – early on in life. At the same time, I completed several interesting research requests by mail and continued working on others.

I welcomed several local classes and other groups into the archives and gave them short tours, sometimes with a special purpose in mind, such as when a group came from the high school to look at documents and artifacts relating to Black History Day. Many of the students had no prior knowledge of or experience with the archives, and I'm happy to be able to help change that.

I'm also happy to have had the support of a fantastic group of volunteers. I want to acknowledge how much each person contributes to the operation of the archives – your help has made my transition into this position much smoother, and I'm extremely grateful for it. I also appreciate all of the assistance from the rest of the staff, Board and Society members, museum volunteers, and all of the friendly visitors I've met who have shared information and stories with me.

It's been a great couple of months so far, and I anticipate a busy and productive spring and summer ahead. To anyone I haven't met: please feel free to drop in and say hello. Then, once you're here, if you're interested in staying a little longer (a few hours, perhaps?), let me know: we could always use more help around the archives, and we have a variety of projects that can take as much or as little time as you have to spare.

Before I sign off, a housekeeping item:

- ❖ We're looking for a typewriter to use in cataloguing books for our library. Does anyone have one to lend and/or donate?

Happy spring!

*Jamie Serran  
Archivist*



# Mast Head Gift Shop



## Spring Sale



Special 20% Member's Discount  
on all **books** in the gift shop during the month of **May!**

*Watch in June for new titles in the gift shop.*

The spring/summer bookseller's brochure will soon be in the local paper. If there is something there you would like that is not in the shop, please let us know and we will attempt to order it for you.

**No tax is charged on purchases in the gift shop.**  
Visit our website @ <http://YarmouthCountyMuseum.ednet.ns.ca>  
for a list of available books.

## Annual Museum Garden Sale

Please note July 12th is the date for our Garden Sale. We have appreciated your support in previous years through your donations of items for this event. If you have any donations for this year's sale please bring them to the museum or call the museum and we will pick them up. For those who may not be familiar with this great event and are not sure just what to donate, here is a little overview.

We generally have tables set up for a garden section for any plants or garden items. Tables for an antique section, flea market items, baked goods, costume jewellery and books. Any items larger or small, we do our best to sell them all. A great fundraiser like this could not be successful without the support of fine people like yourself. We do look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you.

## Quilt Raffle

A new hand made quilt has been donated to our museum by Mollie Hardy. This is to be raffled off as a fund-raiser for the museum and the winning ticket will be drawn this December. You may purchase your tickets at the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives during open hours.

Thank you for your support again this year.

## **SOME NEW BRUNSWICK - YARMOUTH CONNECTIONS!**

– by Peter Eldridge

During 1988, our Museum Director at the time, **Eric Ruff**, spoke at the New Brunswick Museum about some significant historical connections between New Brunswick and Yarmouth, both ports having a tradition of ship-building and global trade.

Reading from the U.N.B. academic journal *Acadiensis* of October 1903, Eric cited in part a copy of a lengthy letter to *The Yarmouth Herald* written by ship-portrait painter **Edward J. Russell** of Saint John:

**“In tonnage, Yarmouth stood fifth [in the world] in the ownership [of ships] ... The herculean enterprise, faithful and patriotic endurance, and shrewd business habits of the people who conducted that great business on land and sea is a story that would fill volumes.**

**“I hold that the many hundreds of works of art [ship paintings in Yarmouth homes] should be carefully preserved in some building. Every inch of canvas covered by these marine portraits conveys an almost limitless history ... Yarmouth is absolutely in want of just such a museum.”**

**Eric highlighted in 1988, “Yarmouth now has such a museum!** However, the **Yarmouth County Museum** is more than a collection of ship portraits, although ship portraits do form our prize collection”, in what has become a leading centre of national maritime heritage. He continued,

**“Prior to 1840, when Yarmouth became a ‘free port’, Yarmouth depended on Saint John for many of its manufactured goods from the United States. These goods could not be imported directly, as Yarmouth had no customs office of any size – instead, goods had to be transhipped through other ports. Saint John was the easiest one.**

**“The extent of this ‘trade’ can be seen from the figures from 1831. That year, imports from New Brunswick amounted to a value of L.7312,6,11, and required 83 vessels totalling 4352 tons and involving 323 man. Exports to N. B. were valued at L.3302,8,0 and involved 74 vessels, 3633 tons, and 221 men.**

**“When this transshipment trade ended in 1840, other commercial links continued, no doubt based on earlier trading partnerships.**

**“Such a partnership was responsible for the construction of the Yarmouth lighthouse at Cape Forchu in 1839, when merchants from both Saint John and Yarmouth subscribed funds for its construction. At the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, this light was, and continues to be, of importance to shipping entering the Bay of Fundy. (2008 -- the lens of an early light is now housed in our Museum).**

**“The Yarmouth Light has been but one of the many shipping connections. These include:**

1. Vessels built for Yarmouth owners in Yarmouth, and often towed to Saint John to be rigged.
2. A few vessels built by Saint John builders for Yarmouth owners. (Eric read a list).
3. Most Yarmouth vessels loaded cargo at Saint John for their maiden voyage.
4. Saint John was an important port-of-call for Yarmouth vessels, especially in the timber trade.
5. The above connections undoubtedly led to business dealings which, in turn, often led to Yarmouth captains commanding New Brunswick vessels.
6. And they occasioned Yarmouth owners and captains to commission ship portraits from the Saint John portrait-painter Edward J. Russell. Several of these portraits are now in the Yarmouth County Museum.”

Eric concluded his talk by reading an extensive list of New Brunswick-Yarmouth-related ship portraits in our Museum, including one of the finest paintings of the famed Saint John-built **MARCO POLO. The captain on her maiden voyage was Amos Crosby of Yarmouth.**

Among many other historic connections, what was possibly **Canada’s first international ferry** service was established in the mid 1800s between Saint John, Yarmouth, and Boston/New York **by L. E. Baker of Yarmouth, considered a ‘father of Canadian tourism’.**

Yarmouth was reportedly the first large community to send significant emergency aid on the occasion of the devastating Saint John city fire in 1877.

During the 1930s, Alma, N.B. resident **Mollie Kool**, the first registered female sea-captain in North America -- second in the world -- completed her first-mate’s certification requirements at navigational school in Saint John, and her Master’s ‘ticket’ at navigational school in Yarmouth. She then served as vessel captain calling at ports around the Bay of Fundy. (*The New Brunswick Reader Magazine*, May 9, 1998).

(Continued on page 5)

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**Yarmouth County Museum:**

When the present Museum building was purchased in 1967, **Major Daniel J. Murphy** of Saint John presented the **Yarmouth County Historical Society** with sufficient funds to cover the purchase price. Born in Yarmouth, he became a superintendent with the Dominion Atlantic Railway, and was a resident of Saint John during the latter years of his long life.

(P.S. Following his retirement in 2005, during the past year **our former Museum director Eric Ruff and his wife Barbara** have been enjoying canal-boating in England. Eric will soon be continuing his Yarmouth County Museum research, writing about the history of his beloved sailing ships!).

**OUR PROJECT FOR 2008**

The time has come to renovate our kitchen. Over the years, our society ladies have worked very hard to produce many teas, luncheons, and various receptions, and our kitchen has not been an easy one in which work. Half the kitchen is Eric's old office with his furniture moved out.

In order to make our kitchen efficient we need to put in new cupboards, counters, and a commercial dishwasher. Considering the price of materials and labor today, our kitchen will cost \$25,000 to \$30,000.

We have collected about \$7000 so far. We are now, once again, making an appeal to our generous members to help us reach our goal for this new kitchen.

*Mary Eldridge, Treasurer*



*Milton North Cor Chestnut*

This Photograph of Milton corner was taken c.1890. The image is taken looking up Chestnut Street. Notice the horse fountain at this time is pointing north, not east as it currently is. The fountain was a gift to the town by Miss Clara Killam. The streetcar is marked "10 Yarmouth Street Railway" and you can see by close inspection that there are numerous individuals in the windows. Both buildings on the corner of Chestnut Street are still standing today. (PH-104-49)

# YARMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca>

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Museum Hours: Archives Hours:

### Winter Hours

January 2<sup>nd</sup> - May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Tuesday - Saturday

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Closed

Sunday, Monday & Stat Holidays

(\*our hours change after the Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend)  
Pelton - Fuller House open during summer months  
Killam Bros. Shipping Office open during summer months

# JUNE HISTORIGRAM DEADLINE: FRIDAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>

## Membership Report

Welcome New Members:

- Louissette Saulnier, Yarmouth
- Marina Tokai, Yarmouth
- Maurietta Fevens, Yarmouth

As members are aware, **postal costs have again increased.** If you are interested in receiving your newsletter by email, (in Adobe pdf format) email us at the following:  
[ycmhistorigram@eastlink.ca](mailto:ycmhistorigram@eastlink.ca)

## Membership Fees

Membership fees to the society are for a calendar year. Dues and membership for 2008 are currently being accepted.

- Single.....\$25.00
- Family.....\$40.00
- Life (single).....\$400.00
- Life (family).....\$550.00

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