



# YARMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HISTORIGRAM

September 2008

Volume 8, Issue 8

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



photo by Bruce Bishop

"O Yea, O Yea, O Yea" was the cry that was heard in front of the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives on the morning of July 19, 2008. Yes, David Olie, Yarmouth's Town Crier, was there to open this year's **annual museum garden** sale. This fund raiser for our museum takes a lot of work in getting ready but with students and volunteers working together it ends up in a fun time for everyone. This year we made just over \$4,100.00 from this sale and certainly we will put this to good use in the operating of our museum. Thank you so much for the support we received from so many, donating items, moving boxes from one point to another, setting up for the sale and of course, buying these goods! The weather was great and a good time was had by all.

Wheels were defiantly turning at our museum during the first full week of August when our display of yesteryear's baby carriages was rolled to a new location. This was to make space for rolling in a **mid 1800s horse drawn hearse**. This was donated by Mr. Del Surette of Eelbrook, Yarmouth County. Thank you so much Mr. Surette for this fine donation; it is very much appreciated and will be admired by many.

During our last Society meeting, it was a pleasure to have **Angela Collier** as our guest speaker. Angela is with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, working with the Yarmouth branch. This sandstone building that houses the Gallery was the former Royal Bank of Canada building and was donated to the Art Gallery in 1997. Following renovations and preparations the Yarmouth branch opened their doors to the public in May 2006. They are open year-round, though the hours of operation vary with the seasons.

I encourage all those who can, to come join us at our museum Society meeting on Friday, September 5th where we will learn about beads, precious stones and jewelery throughout the ages. This talk will be presented by art and craftsperson **Annie Harding**. Also at this meeting will be a very special presentation to the Society by **John and Dorothy Goudey**. Please mark your calendars!

How's this for an inviting scenario?

A shop keeper was dismayed when a brand new business, much like his own, opened up next-door and erected a huge sign which read "Best Deals".

He was horrified when another competitor opened on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading "Lowest Prices".

The shopkeeper panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop. It read "Main Entrance".

Now it isn't that we have this kind of competition at the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives, but just as the shopkeeper in the story above did, we encourage everyone to come through our Main Entrance. From there you can branch out to the many areas of our Museum and Archives, and when you are finished this tour, you can take in numerous other fine museums in the town and county. We look forward to seeing you when you can visit.

Charles R. Winship  
President

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News from the Director .....	2
The Curator's Corner .....	2
Activities in the Archives .....	3
50 .....	3
Hi, Society.....	4
Masthead Gift Shop.....	5
Museum Timetable .....	6

# NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Bruce Bishop

Summer is certainly a busy time at your Museum and Archives – and that’s a good thing! It’s nice to see and hear how first-timers to the buildings react to our wealth of artifacts and information about the history of Yarmouth County.

Very soon, the Museum and Archives will be participating in Part 2 of **Yarmouth and Acadian Shores’ Total Market Readiness** program. In a nutshell, we’ll be evaluated with five other museums in the vicinity to discover what we still need to bring the Museum “up to speed”, so to speak, with similar sized museums in the country. As this is a project being funded by *Nova Scotia Tourism, Heritage and Culture and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency* (under the auspices of the Southwest Shore Development Authority), the end result will be that the Museum will receive approximately \$20,000 worth of interpretive media products. This may include audio and/or video devices for some of our displays.

Speaking of interpretive media, those of you who regularly surf the Internet will find that we now have a **360°**

**Virtual Tour of the Museum** on our website ([www.yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca)) that basically gives the viewer a taste of all the wonderful exhibits we have on hand with a video view of a roaming camera. The viewer can stop and start the camera, and even zoom in on a particular item. This interactive tool will be especially interesting to people who may consider a visit here, but who want a preview with a pictures-tell-a-thousand-words method!

On Friday, September 5 at the monthly Historical Society meeting, a very special handing-over of a residential property in Yarmouth County to the Historical Society will take place. **Mr. & Mrs. John Goudey** of Elm Street, longtime supporters of the Museum and Archives, are donating their year-round abode at Lake Annis to the Museum for re-sale. Please drop by the Museum that evening to join in thanking the Goudeys for this very generous gesture.



## The Curator's Corner

by Nadine Gates



Photo by Bruce Bishop

On August 6, we were the proud recipients of a mid-1800s horse-drawn funeral hearse.

**Del Surette** of Eel Brook, Yarmouth County, came in to the museum the week before to ask if we would be interested in adding it to the collection. Without hesitation I said yes, and, with the help of Tusket Ford Sales and Service (who moved it free of charge), it now sits stoically in the Transportation Section of the Education Wing for all to see.

Mr. Surette became the owner of this Victorian hearse in 1969 when he purchased the store in Eel Brook it was housed in. It didn't have an undercarriage and was in disrepair. Mr. Surette found an undercarriage to fit and had restoration/repair work done by Mr. Élie Pothier of Eel Brook, which took over a year to accomplish. The hearse was employed in the parish of Ste Anne du Ruisseau, Yarmouth County, for many years. When it was first or last put into use is not known because the original Ste. Anne Church, built in 1808, and its records, were destroyed by fire in 1900.

The hearse was part of Ste Anne du Ruisseau's Acadian Festival parade in the early 1970s. Mr. Surette has displayed the hearse on his property every summer since 1990 and stored

it under cover during the winter months. It is in remarkably good shape with original tasseled draperies. I hope everyone has a chance to drop in and see it.

It was so nice to see Society member **Jim MacIntyre** who is visiting from British Columbia. Jim, a descendant of the Hilton family, also donated a unique item to the museum's collection: a hair piece that belonged to **Cora Hilton**, wife of Capt. Hilton.

Again, if any of you are travelling through town, please drop in and say hello.

Summer has come to an end and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the summer students for the hard work they got done over the last two months. Visitors commented on how great the young staff at the museum was, and I have to agree. Their smiling friendly faces will be missed and I hope to see some of them back next summer. To **Jordan LeBlanc, Casidhe Nickerson, Katherine Surette, Jennie d'Entremont, Deanna Pottier, Seamus Murphy, Donovan Bain** and **Nicole Wallace** -- I wish you all a great school year!

## Activities in the Archives

by Jamie Serran, Archivist

In addition to our usual work – doing research, helping visitors, sorting through our ever-present storage rooms – our photo reproduction service has really exploded over the past month. The photo collection in the Yarmouth County Archives is vast and diverse, covering a wide range of subjects, many of which cannot be found anywhere else.

Our **photo submissions** to the Clare and Lobster Bay Shopper always inspire interest in their readers, and often prompt a call to us to request a copy! Quite a few individuals and local businesses have recently taken advantage of our photo reproduction service and requested copies of photos from our collection.

The photos on our website are only the tip of the iceberg; if you have ever been in the archives and seen the bookcase full of numbered binders, you might have a better idea of the scope of our collection. Each of those binders contains photocopies of our photographs, and each is organized by subject, with the cataloguing code included on the copy to allow for easy access, should you want a copy. Stop by and browse through our wonderful collection, and look for our photos displayed around Yarmouth in the coming months.

Another photo display to watch out for will be in the August issue of *Commerce* magazine, currently in locations in Yarmouth, Digby and Shelburne counties. Several of our photos featuring Yarmouth's old hotels – the Grand, the Markland, Lakeside Inn and the Bayview – will appear in that issue. Enjoy!



*Lakeside Inn, taken in its opening year, 1931. Yarmouth Co. Museum & Archives*

# 50

*things you can do on our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the  
Yarmouth County Museum and Archives*

- (1) Give yourself a guided tour of the Museum; there are laminated maps at the Front Desk.
- (2) Our friendly, knowledgeable volunteers love to chat – so why not get personalized lessons in local history from them?
- (3) On the first Friday of every month, drop in to one of our Historical Society meetings for interesting talks on a variety of subjects, and continue the discussions over refreshments
- (4) Bring in school classes and other groups for tours
- (5) Go on a scavenger hunt to unearth little-known museum treasures (the quiz is available at the Front Desk)
- (6) Visit the Pelton-Fuller House, summer home of the original Fuller-Brush Man right next door – 20 Collins Street.
- (7) Stroll through the Pelton-Fuller House rose garden (in season, of course!)
- (8) Visit Canada's oldest shipping office -- The Killam Brothers – located at 90 Water Street.
- (9) Research school projects in the Archives
- (10) Are you interested in constructing your family tree? We can get you started in our Archives!
- (11) Research Yarmouth County heritage buildings, legends and ghost stories in the Archives
- (12) Read letters and diaries from the past (Archives)
- (13) Read old newspapers on microfilm to find out the news of the day in 1833 and beyond!
- (14) Investigate the clipping files in the archives to find the weird and wonderful stories that we've pulled from the papers over the years
- (15) Travel back in time by checking out the Archives' fabulous photo collection and see for yourself how things have changed in Yarmouth town and County over time
- (16) Celebrate our local authors, artists and organizations at book launches, exhibit openings, and other events in the Education Wing\
- (17) Organize and celebrate your special occasion in an atmosphere filled room; rentals can be arranged
- (18) See rare and vanishing Mi'kmaq artifacts

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

(19) Get up "close and personal" with Yarmouth's famous Runic Stone

(20) Get a feel for the lives of the early Acadians; talk to our Curator, Nadine – she's of Acadian descent

(21) See artifacts which belonged to some of the pioneer families of present-day Yarmouth town and county

(22) Research early Black history in Yarmouth Town and County.

(23) Contemplate Yarmouth's economic prosperity of the late nineteenth century through the collection of shipbuilding tools, ship paintings, models, and half-models

(24) See relics from various local shipwrecks

(25) Admire the lens from the old Yarmouth Light

(26) Watch the glass etching of the Bromo follow as you move about the etching

(27) Imagine yourself in the costumes of the past

(28) See how many items you can identify on the "What's It?" Board

(29) Try on an 1850s reproduction dress and other costume pieces  
(Call in advance for this, please)

(30) Try to imagine the diligence and patience needed to construct some the ship models on display

(31) Learn about the Yarmouth-New England ferry connections from 1855 up to today

(32) Picture yourself captain of a sailing ship and have your photo taken behind a ship's wheel

(33) Take a look at rooms as they would have been furnished a century ago, and put yourself back to that time

(34) Admire the musical instrument collection, and the quality of the items

(35) Take in the works of local artists, in particular the Lester Sykes panorama

(36) Think about how transport has changed, and why

(37) Picture yourself travelling to Pubnico by stagecoach, on a bumpy road and see our newly acquired horse-drawn hearse!

(38) Admire the electric car, produced ninety years ago

(39) See items and artifacts from some of Yarmouth's former industries

(40) Learn more about the development of tourism in Yarmouth – the pictures from our old grand accommodations are fascinating

(41) See a model of the first Lurcher, and learn more about the Lurcher lightships

(42) See local military items, including items from a couple of Yarmouth's many war heroes

(43) Learn about illnesses and medicine in the past, and be glad you were born in these recent times!

(44) See how some "old-fashioned" technology may not be so out-of-date

(45) Wonder at how people coped with the challenges of life one and two centuries ago

(46) Visit often, because many exhibits and art shows are changed frequently!

(47) Volunteer to help out whenever you can in the Museum or Archives and learn some new skills

(48) Shop till you drop in the Museum's 'Mast Head' gift shop

(49) Check out our 50% off table in the Gift Shop!

(50) Relax in the Education Wing admiring the artwork on display.

- compiled by John Sollows

## Hi, Society!

News about Yarmouth County Historical Society Members and Friends

### Durkee Memorial Library

The afternoon of Saturday, August 9 saw the rededication of the Durkee Memorial Library in Carleton. The Library itself goes back to 1938, and was established in memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Durkee.

During the past couple of years, enthusiastic Carleton residents, with some financial help from the provincial government, have amassed a respectable collection of Carleton-related artifacts and historical documents, and built an expansion to the library to house these. Most of the timber for the expansion came from the former Carleton Presbyterian Church, which will soon be no more.

Carleton's own Richard Hurlburt (MLA, Yarmouth) cut the ribbon, officially opening the new display. The

refreshments offered were almost as impressive as the displays inside, and we were given a tour of the nearby cemetery, dating back to 1847, where most of Carleton's original settlers are buried, as well as the Durkees to whom the Library commemorates.

I encourage all members to pop out and visit. Call Gail (761-2022) or Mary-Ann (761-2770) to make sure you can get in! Financial support would also be gratefully accepted, either through donations or purchases of a cookbook and/or calendar. Subscriptions are also invited for a *History of Carleton*, which the Library is planning to print, based upon a couple of manuscript histories which go up to 1967.

The village of Carleton has set an excellent example in focusing on its history. I hope other communities here and elsewhere in the province can follow.

- John Sollows with Dottie English



### MUSEUM TIMETABLE

**Friday, September 5 – 7:30 p.m.**

The annual monthly meeting of the Historical Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. Of special note will be the handing over of a property deed from **John & Dorothy Goudey** to the Society. There will also be a talk about jewellery and gems from **Annie Harding**.

**Saturday, September 6 – 1 p.m.**

“Stitches in Time” in the lower art gallery of the Education Wing opens to the public. This exhibit depicts everything you always wanted to see (and know) about sewing.

**Sunday, September 14 – 2 to 4 p.m.**

This is the closing day for the “Pairings” Art Exhibit: a collaboration of Yarmouth artists and writers. A second round of writers will be reading their prose inspired by the “new” paintings that have been on display for the past month. Light refreshments will be served.

**Monday, September 15 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Soprano Sally Dibblee and pianist Robert Kortgaard**

Soprano Sally Dibblee and pianist Robert Kortgaard will be in performance at the Yarmouth County Museum on Monday, Sept. 15, at 7:30 p.m. The duo is presented by **Hear!Here!** in Yarmouth, a newly formed committee comprising local music lovers who believe people in southwestern Nova Scotia shouldn't have to travel to enjoy classical musicians in performance. Tickets (\$25) for the performance are available at Hands on Crafts and the Tri-County Women's Centre, or by calling Joan Semple, 902-742-8765 or Belle Hatfield, 902-742-3685.

**Sunday, September 21 – 7 pm**

The official opening of “Inside and Out” –an art exhibit by the very talented local artist Jennie Morrow. This exhibit of oil paintings will feature many new works by the artist. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

**Thursday, September 25**

Board of Directors Meeting at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, November 29**

*An Edwardian Christmas – Yarmouth in 1908* (Fundraising Event). Time, place & admission TBA.

**Saturday, December 6**

The lucky winner of the Quilt Raffle is notified.

## OCTOBER HISTORIGRAM DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

### Membership Report

**New Member**

Sandy McGill Lunenburg NS

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**

**YARMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**Summer Hours**

**Museum**  
Monday–Saturday 9am - 5pm,  
Sunday 1pm – 5pm

**Pelton Fuller House**  
June 15th - October 15th - Monday – Saturday  
9am – 4:30pm – Sunday by request

**Killam Brothers Shipping Office**  
Open most days 10am- 4:30pm

**Archives**  
Monday – Saturday 9am - 5pm  
(closed for lunch daily 12 – 1pm)  
(our hours change after the Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend)

### 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

**Please make payment to:**  
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