

Shelburne Historical Society
Box 39, Shelburne, N.S., BOT 1WO
September 14, 1982

Dear Members and Friends of the Shelburne Historical Society:

The past summer has been a good warm-up exercise for us all, for next year's Bicentennial. In view of that, we'll begin with a report on both the activities which were initiated this summer, to be repeated next, and, on the upcoming, once-in-a-lifetime events which will take place the summer of 1983.

Founder's Weekend: this year the date was July 22nd; will be our official birthday next year, and, hopefully, many years thereafter. It was kicked off on Thursday evening with a wine and cheese birthday party in the Dory Shop. This also gave us the opportunity to meet the crew from CBC with whom many of us had worked throughout the week. (More on that week, later.) Friday evening, the Dancing Beggars performed "Mistress Hardy's Tavern" at the Cenotaph. Saturday and Sunday were filled with fun events for all ages and interests: a soap-box derby, sponsored by the boy Scouts; a King Woodsman's Competition, sponsored by Olands; a Founder's Day Dance at the arena Saturday night; Sunday morning, a horse show put on by the Shelburne County Horsemen's Association. On Sunday afternoon, yacht races on the Harbour and the band playing on the area next to the parking lot made the Garden Party most pleasant. A new event scheduled for next summer is a Gathering of Loyalist Scots, sponsored by the Ross clan. The Chieftan of the clan resides in Shelburne County. With promotion of next year's Gathering in mind, the Ross clan sponsored a float in the 1982 Shelburne County Exhibition parade, depicting the landing of a typical Loyalist Scot family with all their earthly belongings. Your editor and her two daughters took their places proudly on the float, being Loyalist descendants, although we are of the Fraser clan, not Ross.

Bill Smith has agreed to co-ordinate a band concert with appropriate music to the extraordinary fireworks display that is planned.

And from Buckingham Palace: IF we have representation, it will probably be Prince Charles and Lady Diana. They will be attending the Gathering of the Clans in Halifax, a few days before, so everyone keep their fingers and toes crossed!

Now, Marion Hogg, who did such a commendable job of co-ordinating the Garden Party this year, reports on the Big Event:

The 6th Annual Garden Party of the Shelburne Historical Society was held on the grounds of the Ross-Thomson House Museum on Sunday afternoon, July 25, from 2:30 - 4:30 pm. It was a lovely sunny day and it is estimated that over 250 people attended. The Shelburne Brass Band played throughout the afternoon from the parking lot grounds and there was a small fashion show of Loyalist costumes from the Shelburne group and pre-Loyalist costumes by the Barrington Group. Many of our Historical Society members were in costume and all the ladies who poured were dressed in Loyalist fashions and this lent a great deal to the atmosphere of the Garden Party. All the delicious refreshments were donated by the members of the Historical Society and the committee worked especially hard to ensure the success of this annual occasion.

The Committee was: Marion Hogg, Chairlady – Publicity; Hilda Fuller - Food table and decorations; Margaret Quinlan - Food and tea preparation; Barb Belliveau - Serving utensils; Pauline Holmes - Arranging of pourers, ticket takers, greeters, etc. We were assisted in our serving by four Girl Guides and two Venturers and this was much appreciated and saved us a lot of leg work. Hosts and hostesses during the afternoon were Mr. & Mrs. William Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Atkinson, Rita Bower and Marion Hogg. Ticket sellers were Mrs. Elizabeth Thorburn, Mrs. Dorothy Swansburg and Mrs. Dorothy Freeman. Pouring were Mrs. Corinne Earle, Mrs. Frances Richardson and Mrs. Diana Jensen and Mrs. Hilda Fuller. "Tottie's Store" was open for the afternoon and this was staffed by Mrs. Mary Archibald and Mrs. Rebecca Spittler.

As usual, the gardens of the Ross-Thomson and the Shelburne County Museum looked lovely, due to Wayne Butler and his hard workers. This year, he was on-site Supervisor for a group of boys from the N.S.S.B., who worked enthusiastically on Tottie's Store and on the bowling green. And the bowling green is lovely and green! When you see it, just picture all the Loyalist ladies and gentlemen gracefully bowling in their beautiful costumes next summer.

Tottie's Store re-opened for business on July 9th, after a great deal of work on the part of many volunteers, the committee members, and the students who were hired through the Summer Employment Program. Charles Smith, a university student and leader of the project, was a terrific asset. No job was too big or too small for him and his boys and their hours extended way beyond the call of duty. Tottie's has proven to be more profitable than we imagined, and is, we think, a very attractive shop. It is staffed by volunteers who are very dedicated and dependable, and they all seem to enjoy themselves while working. Margaret Quinlan has very kindly invited the Volunteers to her cottage on October 6th for a potluck supper. The Annual Craft Sale and Tea will be held on September 15th, at Tottie's and perhaps partly in the Museum, depending on the weather. This event will have taken place by the time the Newsletter is published, so we hope you all attended, got a head start on your Christmas shopping, and had a pleasant tea.

The week of July 20th: there's so much to say about it. Not just Historical Society members were involved, but actors of both the Schooner Players and the Black Pioneer theater groups, as well as many other residents of Shelburne. A crew from CBC visited Shelburne and filmed scenes throughout the town which will be shown next year in their film on the Loyalists. Some of the scenes included: a prayer meeting in the garden of the Ross-Thomson House, an act in the Ross-Thomson Store, another in Phillip Walker's house, and a walk down historic Dock Street by Elizabeth deMolitor, our seamstress of Loyalist costumes, with Corinne Earle and Danny Holmes in their costumes. The week was busy, to the point of frantic, and, where so much depended on the weather, seemed disorganized when things had to be postponed until the rain stopped. But we happily survived it all and will look forward to seeing the finished product next year. It is stimulating, to say the least, when you imagine that every week next summer will be similar to that week last summer!

The Loyalists were well represented at the official opening of the Pan-American Games in Halifax. A group made up of members of the Black Pioneers, the Shelburne Historical Society and the United Empire Loyalist Heritage Bicentennial Association of Nova Scotia, including

Mary Gillis, the President, attend the opening on August 21st. Rita Bower, Bill Belliveau, Margaret Swayne and Fran Richardson marched in costume representing the Shelburne Historical Society. Your editor was proud to be amongst those representing the Loyalists, and certainly found it a moving experience, one she is glad she did not miss.

The Shelburne Historical Society's annual field trip took members to the Chapel Hill Museum this August. Olive Cox writes: On Thursday afternoon August 19, 12 members of our Society journeyed to Shag Harbour to visit the Chapel Hill Museum. This visit was arranged to take place on our regular monthly meeting date, which was a delightful change, with the weather cooperating. Cars left the Shelburne County Museum around 3 o'clock, each passenger carrying a box lunch. On arriving we were greeted by Mrs. Clarris Hill and Mr. Joe Kenney. Mr. Kenney's wife is the daughter of the late Gilbert Nickerson who is known to all as The Old Chairmaker. At the museum we saw many exhibits – the work of the Old Chairmaker who used wood from shipwrecks to make his carvings, as well as other interesting artifacts donated by the citizens of Shag Harbour and their relations. We ate around 5 o'clock; tea and coffee were provided by our host and hostess who assured us our visit was very much appreciated. Chapel Hill Museum now open for the third summer, is very appropriately named as the building was formerly the Untied Baptist Church and is situated on a hill at the entrance to the village. Mr. Kenney spoke with pride regarding the museum and justly so, as there one sees much of the history of the village being rpeserved.

Finn Bower, Curator of the Shelburne County Museum, reports that attendance figures are up about 1,000 this summer, and Barbara Belliveau reports near the same. An increase in school visits from our local schools and in bus tours explains the higher figure. Finn also writes about the exhibits at the museum this summer:

Summer Exhibit 1982: Reproduction Loyalist Costume. This exhibit of reproduction Loyalist costume was prepared by the Costume Committee of the Shelburne Historical Society. This exhibit consists of eight costumes- four representing the working class and four representing a family possessed of more fortunate circumstances. All costumes have been made of natural fibres in materials and pattern as closely duplicating as possible those that would have been used in the late 18th century. All sewing has been done by hand just as it would have been at that time. Accompanying this exhibit are examples of patterned material, fans, walking sticks, snuff boxes, glasses, etc. which were used at that time. Also included are a collection of samplers, the patterns which were used to create the costumes, and many of the examples of pictures of clothing of the period and paintings from which the research of this project was founded.

A display of "Descendants of Shelburne Black Loyalists" has been arranged along with items which were donated by Mrs. Bernice Acker, herself a descendant of Black Loyalists who came to Shelburne. This exhibit has of much interest to the visitors from our own black community as well as our many visitors from other areas of Canada and the U.S.

"Victorian Parlour" - An old-fashioned Victorian Parlour has been re-created to show off our many pieces of interesting Victoriana. This is the nostalgic display and always brings back many "I remember my grandmother had one of those" comments. This remains an ever popular display with young and old alike. This season we added a display of children's toys as well as changing the assortment of paintings, and pictures in the wall display.

Permanent Exhibit: Some changes were made in our upstairs Loyalist display this summer to accommodate items loaned and donated to us by descendants of Joseph Durfee, leader of the Port Roseway Associates.

"Aquatic Exotic" - A Travelling Exhibition produced by the British Columbia Provincial Museum. An exhibition of the underwater photographer's act by Brent Cooke of the Museum's Aquatic Zoology Department. "Aquatic Exotic" dealt with four groups of sea life found in the coastal waters of British Columbia. Within each of the four groups, sea anemones, sea slugs, sea stars and fishes, there is a great diversity of body shapes, camouflages, colors and lifestyles, all of which were beautifully illustrated in this exhibit. This exhibit was distributed by the Nova Scotia Museum as part of the National Museums Program. An Exhibit of Undersea Life found in the coastal waters of the Atlantic was arranged by the Shelburne County Museum to accompany "Aquatic Exotic" and to make comparisons of sea life found on both coasts to the visiting classes. An assortment of sea stars, seashells, sponges, etc, were collected to give students a first hand look at some of our surprising sea creatures.

Dory Construction Slide Show - All classes were shown the "construction" of a dory' slide presentation by Mr. Sydney Mahaney. Mr. Mahaney provided the museum with a model dory and students were able to have a first hand look at a dory and discuss the features.

The Summer Talent Showcase, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Culture, Recreation and Physical Fitness presented three programs this summer at the Museum Complex. Russell Crosby demonstrated biard carvings on August 8th and duck decoy carvings on August 22nd. On July 25th, "Loyalists" were "on parade" at the Shelburne Historical Society Annual Garden Party. This is the second year this program has taken place at our museum and it is a wonderful opportunity to expose our talented artists to the public.

Mary Archibald has been busy researching documentation of the Cox Warehouse for a proposal which has been sent to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Parks Canada. If the proposal is accepted, the Cox building will become an interpretative center for the Loyalists, and (here's a lovely bonus) funding will come from Environment Canada. Something else to keep our fingers crossed for!

Volunteers are needed in the Shelburne County Museum, most days, until October 15th. Since the students have all gone back to university, Finn is on her own at the Museum. In order for her to get her Curator's work done, have a lunch hour and two days off a week, we need volunteer helpers to hold the fort. If you have just a few hours to spare, please give Nettie Conrad a call and lighten her load.

On September 18th, about 60 people from Heritage Trust will be visiting Shelburne. On October 3rd, the Katimavik group of young people will have finished their job in the Cox Warehouse. There'll be more on these last two items in the next Newsletter.

Watch for activity up the road, past the Ross-Thomson House. The Water Street Co-Op has purchased the old I.O.O.F. Hall on Charlotte Lane. Although the Co-Op is not in the financial position to do a complete facelift right away, we do know that the building will once again be made solid, attractive and most important of all: useful.

Here's Finn Bower's list of new accessions to the collection of the Shelburne County Museum:

Date	Item	Donor	Address
July 26	Late Victorian Corner-Chair	Anonymous	(Donor prefers to remain unknown)
Aug. 23	4 Glass Milk Jars 23 Glass Pre serving Jars	Charles Hayden	Osburne Harbour
Aug. 23	1 Micmac Stone Adze 1 Micmac Scraping Tool	Joan Crise	Dillsburg, Pa.
Aug. 23	1 Barrel Stave Wooden Dash Butter Churn 1 Set of Brass Quoits	Pauline Smith	Shelburne, N.S.
Aug. 26	1 Tanning Pot	Mrs. J. E. Wiley, Jr.	Gunning Cove
Aug. 27	4 Mounted Ship's Blacksmith Tools 1 Small Spokeshave 1 Mounted Sickle 1 Apple Peeler-Corer	Nancy Hart	Shelburne, N.S.
Sept. 7	1 Wooden Doll Cradle 1 Bisque Doll ca. 1909	Mrs. Nancy Wamback Jordan Branch, Shelb. Co.	

Your Newsletter Editor, Cathy Holmes