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ATLANTIC ANCHOR

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Shelburne Historical Society

Shelburne Historical Society

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The Shelburne Historical Society (Society) is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1967. Along with the Province it facilitated the creation of the Ross-Thomson House and the J. C. Williams Dory Shop and is also responsible for the Shelburne County Museum, the Coyle House, the Muir-Cox Shipbuilding Interpretive Centre, and Cox's Warehouse. The Society has a five year plan and we see ourselves as one of the economic drivers of the community, not just by attracting tourists, but most importantly, by manifesting the pride in the community's heritage and natural assets which will attract people to come, stay and create jobs for the young people of Shelburne.

Historical Society Board

Louise Lindsay – President

Gloria Beuree – Vice-President

Grant Redding – Treasurer

Gloria Beuree – Secretary

Rick Davis – Director

Bill Cox – Director

David Huddleston – Director

Pat Ripley – Director

Yola Christie – Director

Elizabeth Cromwell – Director

Mary Lee Gonzaga – Director

Bob Sinden – Director

Karen Mattatall – Director

Pamela Irwin – Director

BUDGET FIGURES

In January of this year Louise Lindsay, President made a presentation to the Municipal Council noting that if we don't get better tourist seasons or a bit of extra help there could be museums closing. The overview of the Museum Complex's financial picture over the past decade was viewed as follows:

- In 1994/95, the province contributed 72% - \$90,300 – of the total \$105,177 budget.
- In 2004/05, the province contributed 44% - \$105,177 – of a \$240,829 budget.

Ms. Lindsay explained that she expects the amount to be the same in 2005/06.

Clerk/Treasurer Alan Merritt noted that in the figures Ms. Lindsay presented, the total revenue from provincial grants, the amount earned in gift shops and the amount raised by staff and volunteers with suppers, auctions and fun days added up to less than the operating budget.

MUSEUM NOTES:

Shelburne County Museum

- The winter has been spent once more with Betty Stoddard, Bookkeeper and Finn Bower, Curator manning the Shelburne County Museum on a voluntary basis. This writer did her usual amount of volunteer hours with a few more added on for work and planning at Muir-Cox Shipbuilding Interpretive Centre which I have taken on in the absence of Leona Ringer. Leona is expecting a baby the first of June and I, along with the other staff at the Complex, would like to extend our very best wishes and congratulations to Leona and John. This will be a brother or sister for Leona's 10-year-old twins, Cody and Kyle. At this time I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Leona for volunteering her time to take care of the computer art of developing a new set of instructions and topper for our medium schooner kits with four sails up.
- Vanessa Earle, Job Creation Partnership worker, who worked with Finn on various projects, left Shelburne to join her partner in Dartmouth where he found work. We then were fortunate to welcome Doris Swaine into the fold and Finn, with Doris' able assistance has continued on with vessel research. Vanessa finished on November 26, 2004 and Doris began on February 28, 2005. Since Doris has been on board she has researched vessel data from 1942 to 1946, organized cabinets for easier access, researched film tapes for information, researched newspapers for 1931 to 1941, attended a First Aid Course and assisted with general chores such as manning the front desk, helping with barbecues and assisting with yard work.
- Finn Bower, Curator is researching and assembling artifacts for the temporary exhibit that will soon be taking shape in the extension next to Betty's retail outlet.
- Additions to our collection are a pelorus and sextant that belonged to Captain Guerdon Bower. Captain Donald MacAlpine donated these items. He was originally from Shelburne County, now residing in Dartmouth, N. S. These items

- will be housed in special locking cabinets built by Milford Buchanan and his assistant, Dale Harris. These items will be part of the shipbuilding exhibit.
- A large volume of Gilray's late 18th Century caricatures are soon to be exhibited in a special locking exhibit case, which was built, by Milford and Dale. This large book was donated to the Shelburne County Museum by Gale Burland and will be added to the county history section.
 - Harold G. Simms of Norwell, MA has spent fourteen years researching his Grandfather, Amos Pentz's vessels and a copy of his completed book has been donated to the Museum. This book covers 141 wooden ships, built from 1872 to 1922 with most of them being built in Shelburne, Nova Scotia.
 - Last year Walter Ansel and his Dad from Mystic Seaport, The Museum of America and the Sea made arrangements and came to Shelburne to be taught by Milford Buchanan, Sr. Dory Builder at the J. C. Williams Dory Shop the method of building a Shelburne Dory. As is the case on many occasion Mr. Bill Cox was also on hand to lend his expertise in the matter. Shortly after their return to the United States Bill, Milford and I all received a beautiful hard cover 396-page book on Mystic Seaport Watercraft written by Maynard Bray, Benjamin A. G. Fuller and Peter T. Vermilya. The closing paragraph in his letter reads, "we were sure overwhelmed by your generosity and hospitality. I hope to be able to show you around and help you when you visit us some day. Thank you very much."
 - A copy of this book has been turned over to the Shelburne County Museum for their collection.

ROSS-THOMSON HOUSE & STORE

Each year the museums are asked to submit a list of repairs that we, the Managers, deem needed and necessary. This year the Ross-Thomson House was chosen as one of the museums to receive financial assistance from Nova Scotia Economic Development to implement these repairs. We were given \$15,000.00 for these much needed repairs. Most of these repairs had been noted on our reports for quite a few years previously so we will be happy to get them completed.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews will be held on May 12th at the Shelburne County Museum to fill positions available to man the museums for the summer months. Summer student positions are dependent on acquiring grants from the Provincial and Federal agencies. This year as well we will be hiring a Senior Guide whose position will be ongoing each year to provide continuity. This position runs from May 27th to October 17th. There is also an application pending for a grant from Young Canada Works for a student who will work with the Coordinator and Senior Dory Builder to develop a school kit demonstrating the building of a Shelburne dory. Mr. Lewis Jackson and Mr. Bill Cox will be advisors on this project and this young person will be working closely with staff at the Nova Scotia Museum.

EVENTS SCHEDULE 2005

- May 20th Tag Day
- June 1st All four museums open
- Shelburne County Museum
 - Ross-Thomson House
 - J. C. Williams Dory Shop
 - Muir-Cox Shipyard
- June 11th & 12th
- Museum Awareness Weekend
 - No admission charged
 - Donations Welcomed
- June 11th
- Assist the Gardeners plant our 18th Century garden
 - Tea & treats at RTH at 11:30-
 - Dory Dog Sales
 - 2:00 PM Flag Raising Ceremony – grounds of the Coyle House
 - 2:00 – 4:00 pm at SCM
 - Robert McNeil identifies primitives, nautical and Judy Day identifies chinaware
- July 24th
- Annual Historical Society Garden Party featuring local talent along with appearances by Neville MacKay, Florist and Lynne Crowell, singer
- Aug. 21 & 22 Shelburne Museum Complex Fun Weekend
- Sept. 10th - Living House Day at RTH
- October 8th - 19th International Pumpkin Festival

Posters and advertisement will be produced closer to the actual date of the above noted events but any inquiries will be addressed by calling 902-875-3219.

Fundraising:

Fundraising analysis from 2003 to 2004:

TAG DAY	down .009%
LOG DRIVE	down 39%
FUN DAY	down .03%
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL	down 23%

These figures were part of the norm for last season, which included a decrease in visitation, which inadvertently filters down to the retail, admission, fundraising and donation figures.

Muir-Cox Shipbuilding Interpretive Centre

- We were very fortunate to have Dale Harris' Job Creation Partnership term extended to July 17th. Dale has been an invaluable assistant to Milford Buchanan, our Sr. Dory Builder, Model Designer and Model and Craft Builder.
- Louise Lindsay and I manned a booth at the Atlantic Craft Show at the World Trade & Convention Centre in February and were very pleased to meet and greet both new and previous customers and proud to show our wares.
- Milford and Dale have been working diligently on building our inventory and at the same time preparing models, kits and whirligigs to fill our present orders.
- Milford has designed a scaled plan and model for a medium Bluenose Schooner Kit with Sales. This was a custom order for the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic. Other custom orders have been designed and crafted for other customers.
- This year we have added to our inventory buoy baubles and key chains and a package of six ship hasty notes. Our very own Brenda White produced the line drawings on two of these cards, the dory and the Cape Island Boat. The buoy baubles and key chains can be custom ordered.
- Southwest Shore Development Authority, beginning in December and ending in April of 2005, placed orders for 232 models, which they gave as gifts to their staff and clients. Each year they choose the craft that they would like to have reproduced. Milford does the research or goes to see the actual boat if possible and creates a scaled model of it. After approval from SWSDA the quantity ordered are produced.

J.C.WILLIAMS DORY SHOP



These two little beauties are 5' bottom Shelburne dories, which will be going To Williamsburg, MA

- As soon as the Dory Shop opens work will commence on a 3 ½' coffee table in the shape of a dory and a 14' Shelburne dory with a centerboard, motor well, rudder and mast and sails.
- Beginning on Monday, July 11 and ending on Saturday, July 16 Milford Buchanan, Sr. Dory Builder, will be instructing a Dory Building Workshop at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic at 1675 Lower Water Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It is promised that during this hands-on workshop the participants will learn how to draw lines for a dory bottom, bevel the knees, set and clinch cut nails, install planks, gaskets, the gunwale and more. They will find out why the reliable dory was the backbone of the east coast fishery and the most popular small craft in Atlantic Canada for almost a century. Together participants will build a 13' bottom Shelburne dory based on plans used in 1880.
- For further information on this and any other summer workshop get in touch with Eamoon Doorley at 902-424-8794, fax 902-424-0612 or e-mail him at DOORLYE@gov.ns.ca.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Complex. Along with raising awareness of the J. C. Williams Dory Shop and the fact that we build dories to order it is also a great fundraiser for us.

ESTATE PLANNING

The work of the Shelburne Historical Society relies heavily on the generous donation of our members and benefactors. When considering estate planning please consider bequests to the Shelburne Historical Society. In Memoriam donations may be made to the Shelburne Historical Society or the Shelburne County Museum in memory of your loved one. This is a continuing way to honour friends or relatives, and is a much-appreciated assistance to either of the above noted.

- Charitable Tax Receipts are available for all donations.

MONTHLY MEETINGS of the Shelburne Historical Society are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm with the exception of December (Christmas Party) and January (Potluck Supper). The meeting times and places are well advertised by e-mail, local newspaper in the Coming Events, Liverpool & Yarmouth newspapers Coming Events, CKBW and CJLS.

SHELburne COUNTY MUSEUM

HOURS: Winter Hours Monday to Friday

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Summer Hours Monday thru Sunday

9:30 am – 5:30 pm

THANKS

I would like to express, on behalf of the Board, Betty and Finn, a heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers who came out last year in one way or another to help us out. Also a great big thank you to the businesses that donate items as prizes for our events and our auction every year.

GOOD SAMARITAN

One day the first of this week Robert Enslow, our Caretaker, and I were transporting the panels of the Dory Story from the Ross-Thomson House where they are stored for the winter to the Dory Shop. We were also taking the benches from the Dory Shop where they were stored for the winter to their summer home in the Ross-Thomson House yard. Perhaps I was looking peeked but for whatever reason a young man named Greg Morash stopped on his stroll down Dock Street and asked if he could be of assistance. I bet you can guess that there were no negative responses, especially from me. Kudos to this young man for so willingly offering his services.

Excitement at the Complex

Two weddings have been booked to take place at the Complex this summer. I believe somewhere in every Newsletter I have noted “isn’t life grand” .

CONFERENCE

On May 28, 29 and 30 this writer attended the Annual General Meeting for the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage which was held at the Cornwallis Naval Base in Cornwallis. The workshops put on by the Federation were interesting and informative.

At this Conference the Deputy Minister of Tourism announced that the Provincial Government would give \$80,000 to the Federation to manage the process of creating a Heritage Strategy for Nova Scotia. This announcement is the culmination of many months of “behind the scenes” work by the Federation, working closely with the Heritage Division.

Shopping at the Museum

Are you looking for that special gift for that special person? Have you tried everywhere else and still nothing? Why not try one of our Museum Shops. We carry so many varied items between the four museum shops that I’m sure you could find just that correct thing that you have been looking for.

Remember – buying something from our gift shops is another way of supporting the museum complex.

When we buy a new car or most any other product or when we attend workshops as I did this weekend there is always a survey at the end so that the facilitator’s work can be measured and you can express how you would have liked to have seen things done or what else would best benefit you.

Please take a few minutes out of your busy day to complete this survey and either mail it in or pass it to one of the Board Members listed on the first page.

- 1. Why did you join the Society?**
- 2. Has your reasons for joining been fulfilled?**
- 3. Where would you like to see the Society in one, two or three years?**
- 4. An AGM is a must, but how many other meetings during the year would you like to see? Would you attend?**
- 5. Where would you like to see meetings held?**

- 6. Would you like to see more Guest Speakers at meetings? If so may we please have some suggestions of those you would like to have as speakers.**

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am going to close this Newsletter the same way that I have the last couple with the hopes that reading it again will spark interest once again in our Society. The President along with her Board work very hard to promote, keep our Society one to be proud of and one that functions well for all the Members and workers involved. For several of our meetings of late we have not had a quorum (fifteen members present). Without a quorum motions cannot be made or passed and necessary business (some perhaps that you Members have expressed a wish to see dealt with) cannot be addressed. Due to the fact that a quorum was not met at several of our recent meetings the April and May meetings have been cancelled.

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and will be held on Wednesday, June 22nd, 2005 at the Nova Scotia Community College, Shelburne Campus, Lake Road at 7:00 PM, Room M2.

DUES ARE DUE - \$10.00.

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. I know that you all would like a voice in the Society, now is your chance. Please come out, and let your opinions be heard and have a voice in who sits on the Board for the following year.

HOW TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY

We would be most pleased to accept new members into our Society, with new members comes new and fresh ideas. To become a member call Gloria Beuree at 902-875-2316/902-875-3141 Fax 902-875-4141
E-mail: superbug@ns.sympatico.ca

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE

If you are or know of a local artisan who makes crafts that pertain to the history or period of any of the four Museums please ask them to get in touch with Betty Stoddard at 902-875-3219. We always welcome items to sell on a consignment basis, this helps both the artisan and us.

A VERY FAMILIAR PLEA

On August 22nd, the second day of our Museum Complex Fun Weekend we will again be holding our auction.

This weekend along with Tag Day are our two best fundraising events.

On behalf of Betty and Finn I ask that during your housecleaning spree you keep out those things that you are not using any more and drop them off at the Museum or call 875-3219 for pickup. After the auction we will also be having our now famous baked bean, brown bread and ham supper under the Guild Hall.

Mr. Bill Cox, one of Shelburne's colourful and interesting octogenarians, was a Guest Speaker at one of our Historical Society Meetings and spoke on his memories of Shelburne in the 50s. I am attaching his write-up which I am sure you will find interesting. This write-up is attached separately.

Have a great summer and be sure to come to pay us a visit.

Perhaps you would consider buying a Complex Pass for only \$10.00. This pass lets you into all four museums for the complete summer. Bring along your visiting family and friends.