

The Atlantic Anchor



The Shelburne Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2017

From the President – Louise Lindsay

Exciting times! We have a new director, and the museums are all opening this week, so we're looking forward to another really great season.

In the fall newsletter, I said we were hoping to hire a museum director early this year. **Janet Maltby**, manager of rural sites with the Nova Scotia Museum, **Cathy Holmes** and I formed the hiring committee. It was a long process, with people from around the world applying and some extremely well-qualified candidates. We are pleased to announce that we offered the position to **Shauna Allen**, and she accepted! **Shauna** joined us at the beginning of April. She brings with her a wealth of experience and great ideas for the modern museum and its relevance in the community. You'll find more about her and what she's doing later in this newsletter. **Welcome, Shauna!**



As you will recall, last year the Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) was doing evaluations of all the community museums. This summer it is the branch museums' turn. Both the **Dory Shop Museum** and the **Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum** will be evaluated this summer. This is a very rigorous evaluation which is being done in two parts. The first deadline was May 5, 2017, 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 will take place on July 20, 2017, when a team of three evaluators will come to the museums and complete the evaluation by grading us on our answers to 180 questions on the same topics. We have been provided with the evaluation questions and know we still have a lot to do to be ready for it. It is critical that we do well, as our score will provide a baseline on which future funding may be based and lead to possible museum accreditation.

Tamitha Dolliver, our administrative manager, retired just before Christmas. Her replacement, **Lorraine Oake**, was supposed to start in April. Unfortunately, **Lorraine** contacted us in March to say she would be unable to take the position. In the interim, **Susanne Holland** was hired to do the administrative work until **Lorraine** arrived. **Susanne** has been a beam of sunshine in the office and a delight to work with. We offered her the position; however, she had another job offer and decided not to take our position. As a consequence, we are again hiring for our administrative manager position. Interviews are this week, so we should have someone in this position early in June. On behalf of all the staff and board, I'd like to thank **Susanne** for doing such a great job and wish her nothing but the best in her new position!

Thanks to an initiative led by our curator, **Allison Burnett**, our master dory maker, **Milford Buchanan**, will be making a dory to celebrate Canada 150 this spring. We're having an art competition to decorate this commemorative dory. Your design could be the one! Look for information later in this newsletter on how to participate.

Sue Deschene, who has been our communications committee chair for the last five years, has decided to retire. **Sue** is a professional writer and has raised the calibre of our newsletter to that level. On behalf of all staff, board members and society members, I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to **Sue Deschene** for all her hard work: producing beautiful newsletters, writing those great articles for the newspapers, taking photos and videos, tracking social media questions and comments, and the myriad other things she has done to help the museums and the historical society. **Thank you, thank you!** You will be missed.



Finally, this should be an exciting year at Shelburne's Museums by the Sea. Please enjoy this newsletter, and plan to come down and pay us a visit!

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 Museums by the Sea welcomes new director

By Sue Deschene

After starting her new job as director of Shelburne's Museums by the Sea in early April, Shauna Allen hit the ground running.

She's used to it. Taking on new challenges is just part of who she is.

"I've been working in museums for close to 15 years now," Shauna explains. "Museums started as just a summer job during university. I fell in love with it so much that it changed my career track."

Shauna earned her bachelor of arts degree in drama from the University of Alberta, with the goal of becoming a drama teacher.

Her job as an interpreter at a living history museum turned that plan on its head.

"I'm drawn to working in many different places," Shauna says.

Last year, Shauna earned her master of arts degree in museum studies from University College Cork in Ireland. After handing in her master's thesis this past September, she returned to Canada and started her job search. "I was literally applying everywhere, from coast to coast."

Shauna brings a wealth of experience, including:

- Museum school coordinator at the Royal Alberta Museum
- Education and interpretation program manager at the John Janzen Nature Centre, Edmonton Valley Zoo, John Walter Museum and Muttart Conservatory
- Head of programs and marketing/acting facility supervisor at the Oil Sands Discovery Centre
- Child/youth program coordinator at the John Walter Museum and City of Edmonton Archives

Shauna's new role encompasses all three Museums by the Sea: the Shelburne County Museum, Dory Shop Museum and Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum.

What drew her to Shelburne? "Most of my experience in museums has been in the education and programming side of things, so I've always been working with the public. But in a number of my more recent positions, I've (been) taking on more management and operational responsibilities."

Working with museums in their strategic planning and decision-making fueled her return to school to get her master's degree. She sees her position as director of Shelburne's Museums by the Sea as the ideal way to continue building on her professional experience and goals.

One of her goals is to get people to the museums, not just as a tourist attraction, but as an active part of the local community.

"Part of my passion in museums, as it's grown throughout my career, is how we are community hubs. We need to be working with our neighbours and engaging with our communities in meaningful ways. That's all very, very important for me. It's not all just about objects in cases and dusty old stuff. There's a very vibrant community piece to what we do."



Shauna Allen

Shauna was also inspired by the findings of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With "Reconciliation and Social Justice in Museums" as the title of her master's thesis, she believes this is one of the most vital functions museums can serve today.

An issue she addressed in her thesis is how history can potentially pose conflicting stories. "One of the ways that museums can inspire reconciliation is to find ways to share those opposing perspectives and present those differing accounts of history, and give all people a perspective and a voice in telling the story, so we aren't looking at things through one lens.

"I think that's an important part of what we do, and I think museums are well-positioned to take on that role in times of reconciliation."

Shauna is already working closely with the community, as well as museum staff members and volunteers, to find out what the community wants and needs from its museums.

One new development is a Seniors Community Engagement Council, which will consist of a core group of seniors who will use their knowledge and skills to guide the museum in creating opportunities to connect with the community. The museum has hired Samantha Brannen as a volunteer program coordinator to facilitate the establishment of this council, as well as aid in the creation of a general Museum Volunteer Program for all ages.

"Museum Secrets" is a new program in which museum artifacts will be brought out of storage, and staff members will be on hand so that people can learn more about the artifacts and possibly even handle them. Shauna is also working to reinstitute guided walking tours along Shelburne's waterfront in July and August.

Originally from a small hamlet about two hours north of Edmonton, Shauna grew up with small-town life similar to Shelburne.

After living in Ireland twice, first as a between-jobs adventure and then to get her master's degree, she finds herself drawn to the seaside. That was another point in Shelburne's favour.

"I really like to do things outdoors," Shauna notes. "I like to enjoy my surroundings, nature and scenery, and I think I've got a lot of that to enjoy here."



Scenes from the Nov. 12th Christmas Crawl: Rosemary Cheetham at her Roundbird studio in the south side of the Cox Warehouse, and Shahed Hendawi (left) and Abby Lynne Peterson animating the Ross-Thomson House and Store.

Women's underwear reveals century's worth of changes in fashion, functionality

By Sue Deschene

Our clothing tells a story about us.

Underwear is no exception. As with our outerwear, underwear reflects the cultural conventions of the people wearing it.

"Underneath it All: 100 Years of Underwear and Lingerie in North America, 1860 to 1960," an exhibit devoted to women's underwear from 1860 to 1960, opens June 15 at the Shelburne County Museum.

Curator Allison Burnett collected donations or loans of undergarments from local residents, to give the exhibit a Shelburne County focus.

Undergarments from the museum's collection are included in the exhibit. The additional donations, featuring the history of each item, expand its scope.

"Everyone tends to associate museums with objects," Allison explains. "But it's the information that goes with those objects that's the most valuable to us, because if you don't have any information, then you can't use it for research, interpretation or putting it on display."

People who donate old clothing to museums often leave out the underwear, Allison notes.

"If you find a trunk full of old clothes in your attic, you might find a neat dress and donate it to the museum. But if you find some old underwear, then it's possible you might think we wouldn't want something like this. But that's our job, to document everything."



This fine cotton camisole with filet crochet straps, part of the Shelburne County Museum's collection, is circa late Victorian or Edwardian era.



Allison says these garments offer insight into the values, beauty ideals and gender roles of the society in which they were produced and worn.

"You're starting in the 1860s, with bulky bustles and tight corsets, just this really restrictive sort of clothing," she explains. "Then you see women's roles start to change in society, so they need to start dressing more pragmatically. World War I happened, and women were called into the factories. Corsets were not practical at all, so they had to change."

"Underneath it All" was originally created by the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, where it was first displayed. Panels from that exhibit were used last summer in a similar exhibit presented by the Chester Heritage Society.

"Underneath it All" continues through Oct. 15 at the Shelburne County Museum.



GUILD HALL



Be sure to visit the beautiful new Guild Hall this summer! Besides the Shelburne Farmers' Market, held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Guild Hall is hosting a summer arts series. All events are free and open to the public. Here's the schedule:

- Saturday, June 3, 3 p.m. – **No Mothers, Vancouver, BC** (Fiddle Folk Rock)
- Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m. – **Max Marshall and Thom Coombes, Windsor, ON and St. John's, NL** (Singer-Songwriters)
- Saturday, June 17, 3 p.m. – **The Acadians, Yarmouth, NS** (Country and Decades)
- Friday, June 23, 7 p.m. – **Shelburne Pit Band, Shelburne, NS** (Latin, Decades and Classical)
- Friday, June 30, 7 p.m. – **Mike Elliott Band, Shelburne, NS** (Rock)
- Saturday, July 1, 3 p.m. – **David Burbine and Traditional Country, Shelburne, NS** (Country)
- Tuesday, July 11, 7 p.m. – **Mersey Concert Band, Liverpool, NS** (Classical and Contemporary)
- Saturday, July 15, 3:30 p.m. – **Dulaman, Digby, NS** (Celtic)
- Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m. – **Kenneth and Marion MacLeod, Inverness, NS** (Cape Breton Celtic and Originals)
- Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. – **The Chester Brass, Chester, NS** (British-style Brass Ensemble)
- Saturday, Aug. 5, 9 p.m. – **The Shadow Band, Bridgewater, NS** (Shadow Puppetry and Live Music)
- Sunday, Aug. 13, 3 p.m. – **Mersey Swing Band, Liverpool, NS** (Swing and Jazz)
- Monday, Aug. 14, 1 p.m. – **Gregory Samek, Vancouver, BC** (Percussion)
- Monday, Aug. 14, 4 p.m. – **Jazz Dabblers, Shelburne, NS** (Jazz)
- Thursday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. – **Gregory Samek, Vancouver, BC** (Percussion)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THIS SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM COMPLEX:

Come by the waterfront and visit the **Shelburne County Museum, Dory Shop Museum** and **Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum** ... our Museums by the Sea! Please visit www.shelburnemuseums.com for dates and times of all our daily programs.

2017 MUSEUM EXHIBITS:

Underneath It All: 100 Years of Underwear and Lingerie in North America

Shelburne County Museum

Thursday, June 15 to Sunday, Oct. 15

Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission: \$4

We're giving you a peek at the evolution of fashions in women's unmentionables, from 1860 to 1960. From corsets and petticoats to girdles and brassieres ... objects from the Shelburne County Museum's collection and private pieces from your great-aunt's

underwear drawer are on display in this temporary exhibit.

1860s Shelburne

Shelburne County Museum

Saturday, July 1 to Sunday, Oct. 15

Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission: \$4

This exhibit features snapshots of Shelburne County during Canada's Confederation era. We will exhibit and interpret artifacts and heritage from 1860s Shelburne.

2017 MUSEUM PROGRAMS:

Whirligig Workshops

Dory Shop Museum

Unleash your inner folk artist and bring home your very own whimsical creation. Join us each Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. for a whirligig-making workshop. Workshops are for ages eight and older. Cost is \$15 to 20 per person. Register online, in person or by calling 902-875-3219. Drop-in participation based on availability.

Afternoon of 18th Century Living

Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum

Ready, set, churn! Join us at the Ross-Thomson House for an Afternoon of 18th Century Living.

Happening throughout the summer, this drop-in program will feature various demonstrations such as butter-churning, candle-making, traditional games and children's activities. Costumes available to dress up like a Loyalist.

Museum Secrets

Shelburne County Museum

Uncover the secrets and stories behind some of the Shelburne County Museum's most interesting and curious objects. Museum staff will have a variety of artifacts on hand for you to examine up close. You may even get to put on a pair of white gloves and handle pieces of the past.

Museum Kids*Shelburne County Museum*

Join us for our exciting new "Museum Kids" program! All summer long the Shelburne County Museum will be offering a variety of drop-in kids' activities, include crafts, games and story club.

Historic Waterfront Walking Tours*Shelburne Waterfront*

Learn about historic Shelburne with one of the Shelburne Museums by the Sea's animated heritage interpreters. Beginning in July and August, we will be offering guided walking tours of Shelburne's historic waterfront!

2017 SPECIAL EVENTS:**Shelburne County Lobster Festival***Thursday, June 1 to Friday, June 4***Dress Like a Lobsterman Photo Challenge**

Thursday, June 1 through Sunday, June 4
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Lobster Whirligig Workshop

Thursday, June 1

1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20

**Museum Secrets: The Story Behind the Object – Lobster Edition**

Friday, June 2

1 to 2 p.m.

Little Lobsters Crafts and Games

Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4

1 to 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 15**18th Century Loyalist Encampment**

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Museum Kids – Crafts and Games

1 to 4 p.m.

**Whirligig Painting Workshop**

1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20

SUNDAY, JULY 16**Museum Kids – Crafts and Games**

1 to 4 p.m.

Dory Rides

1 to 3 p.m.



In addition to these scheduled activities, we are excited to be celebrating **Canada 150!** Museums by the Sea, the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Town of Shelburne have partnered to commemorate this special event. We are hosting an art contest, and the winning art will be reproduced on the side of a special commemorative Canada 150 dory, which will be launched on July 16 as part of Founders' Days.

Shelburne Founders' Days*Friday, July 14 to Sunday, July 16***FRIDAY, JULY 14****Museum Kids – Crafts and Games**

1 to 4 p.m.

Whirligig Painting Workshop

1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20

18th Century Loyalist Encampment

5 to 7 p.m.

Discover the Wonder – Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta

Monday, Aug. 14 to Tuesday, Aug. 15

This summer, tall ships from around the world will drop anchor in a place like no other. They'll land at ports around Nova Scotia, including Shelburne. Visit www.shelburnemuseums.com for updates on the museum programming we will be offering during this exciting event.

Shelburne Whirligig and Weathervane Festival

Saturday, Sept. 16 to Sunday, Sept. 17

Museums by the Sea is excited to, once again, be participating in Shelburne's annual Whirligig and Weathervane Festival. Stay tuned to our website, www.shelburnemuseums.com, for more details on our whirligig workshops and other museum programs.

Canada 150 Art Contest

In celebration of Canada 150, Shelburne Museums by the Sea, the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Town of Shelburne have partnered to commemorate this special event. We are hosting an art contest; the winning art will be reproduced on the side of a special commemorative Canada 150 dory built by Milford Buchanan, master boatbuilder and dory maker at the Dory Shop Museum.

The dory will be launched on July 16 as part of Founders' Days.

The art submitted should incorporate the themes of Canadian confederation, Shelburne's heritage as a ship- and boat-building centre, and the cultural diversity of our county.

Artwork should be no larger than 11x14 (roughly half the size of a piece of Bristol board) and needs to be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on June 5. Art can be submitted directly to the Community Economic Development Office, located on the second floor of the Shelburne Town Office, 168 Water St., or at Shelburne Museums by the Sea – Shelburne County Museum, 20 Dock St. in Shelburne. All school submissions will be picked up prior to or on the June 5th due date.

The submissions will be posted online, as well as on display at Museums by the Sea – Shelburne County Museum, where you will be able to vote for your favourite. Voting both online and at the museum will be open June 7-12.

The winners will be chosen by June 13.

If you have any questions, please call Robin Walker at 902-875-2991, Ext. 7, or e-mail her at eventscoordinator@town.shelburne.ns.ca.

Dear Members,

Thank you for your support! As members of the Shelburne Historical Society, you can take pride in being part of an organization that continues to grow and invest in community development through the preservation and promotion of heritage.

It is our hope that you will continue to support the Shelburne Historical Society by renewing your membership this June and offering the gift of membership to family and friends. To renew your membership, please stop by the Shelburne County Museum. Or you can bring your membership fee payment to the June 28th Annual General Meeting.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Members of the Shelburne Historical Society and the general public are invited to attend the Shelburne Historical Society's Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28 at the Shelburne County Museum. Our 2017-2018 membership dues are as follows: Individual (\$20), Family (\$30) and Business/Organization (\$30). Membership dues are payable at the AGM or at the museum.



To find out more about our Museums by the Sea, visit our website at <http://www.shelburnemuseums.com>. We also provide regular updates on all our activities on our Facebook page, so be sure to visit and "Like" us at [http:// www.facebook.com/ Shelburne-Museum-Complex-364893103570881](http://www.facebook.com/Shelburne-Museum-Complex-364893103570881).

The Atlantic Anchor is published twice yearly, in May and October, by:

The Shelburne Historical Society
20 Dock St., P.O. Box 29
Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0
902-875-3219

<http://www.shelburnemuseums.com>

Credits & Contributors

Newsletter Editor/Designer:
Sue Deschene

SHS Board of Directors:

Louise Lindsay, President
Valerie Martin, Treasurer
Wayne Butler
Sherry Irvine
Adam Roscoe
Doug White

Senior Staff:

Shauna Allen, Museum Director
Allison Burnett, Curator
Doreen Guy, Maintenance Manager
Leona Ringer, Retail and Website Manager

Honourary Lifetime Members:

William Cox
Lewis Jackson

Master Boatbuilder and Dory Maker:

Milford Buchanan

Heritage Interpreters:

Leona Ringer
Ashley McDaniel
Greta Mossman
Kim Walker

