

**Heritage/Archives
Newsletter
September, 2006**

It is difficult to believe that autumn has arrived already. The summer has just flown by as the weeks turned into months, and now suddenly a new season has arrived.

As was the case in August, the month of September was also an extremely busy one with visitors along with telephone and e-mail requests from people looking for information. The many visitors who came to the Archives this past month were from “all over” – England, Scotland, New York, Pennsylvania, Ontario, New Brunswick and New Zealand.

John McLean and his wife, Jacquie McLean paid a visit at the end of September. John is a direct descendant of one Donald McLean of Baddeck who left Cape Breton in May of 1852 on the brig “The Highland Lass” out of Big Bras d’Or with Capt. M. MacKenzie. John is the fourth generation of McLean’s living in New Zealand.

A lot of time was taken up this month with the Special School Board Election for South Victoria. The heritage and archives clerk was also acting as the assistant returning officer as well as attending to archival duties. The election was held on Saturday, 9th September. There were three people running for the seat on the school board. They were: John Berk, Stewart “Stemer” MacLeod, and Cathi Pierrard. The victor was Cathi Pierrard of Baddeck with a total of 450 votes.

The Iona Connection held a board meeting in Baddeck on Monday, 25th September. The Board is hopeful of receiving an S.D.I. grant to hold a board governance seminar in the latter part of November. If successful, this seminar would take place in St. Peters and would be of three days duration. Also, final plans were made for the annual Fall General Meeting which will be hosted by the North Highlands Community Museum in Cape North. Everyone is quite excited about going up north and getting the opportunity to have a tour of their new museum. The date of the meeting is Saturday, 21st October at 11:00 a.m. Those arriving early will get a guided tour of the museum. We would encourage everyone in heritage/cultural/archival groups or individuals to plan on attending. Lunch will be available at a nominal fee.

I was pleased to be able to attend the book launch for the newest in a series of volumes portraying genealogical sketches of the early pioneer people who settled the areas all around St. Ann’s Harbour. This book which was produced under the auspices of the Victoria County Historical Society (of which I am a board member) and authored by well known local genealogist, Bonnie Thornhill is entitled “The Road to North River”. On Thursday afternoon on September 7th, the St. Andrew’s Church Hall at North River Bridge was full to capacity with people eager to get a glimpse of the latest book. Bonnie was on hand to launch the book and also to autograph the copies. This book is available at the Cap Site in St. Ann’s (at the Gaelic College), and also through Bonnie Thornhill. It covers the areas from Goose Cove through to North River and includes the Meadow, the

Oregon, Timber Brook, and the Murray. Also included in the book is the history of the North River lumber industry.

The newspaper article for September featured an old home in Goose Cove which was once owned by Roderick “Rory” Morrison and his wife, Ann MacKenzie. The genealogical history of the Morrison family is contained in the above mentioned book, “The Road to North River”.

Well, that about sums up the activities and happenings in the Municipal Heritage and Archives Department for September. The fall colours are well underway and soon the leaves will be dropping – the perfect time to start work, once again, on the built heritage inventory. Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend.