

**Heritage/Archives Newsletter**  
**May, 2007**

Here it is the final day of May and one wonders how the month passed so quickly and now, it is time for another newsletter.

May was very busy with the usual visitations both from locals and people from farther afield with varied inquiries about local early policing in the area to genealogical inquiries from Australia.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Council of Nova Scotia Archives and the Canada Council of Archives conferences in Halifax. Both were very informative and worthwhile. It is really great to get together with people who are working in the same line of work and share ideas, successes, problems, etc. It makes us feel that we are not alone and that help is always available from someone in the archival community. We are very pleased here in Cape Breton that the new president of CNSA is Pauline MacLean the Collections Manager and Genealogist at the Highland Village in Iona.

The article which was featured in the "Victoria Standard" for May was the MacLeod/Kerr house in Goose Cove, St. Ann's. That house is now one hundred and twenty-five years old, the original part having been built in 1882. First owned by the MacLeods' and latterly by the Kerrs', it has only had two families in possession of the house and property. The house has appeared on many postcards over the years and also was included in a Cape Breton photographer's calendar. It is not uncommon to see people stopped by the side of the road admiring the view and taking pictures with this house in the background.

A very special event took place on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> May in Baddeck. A ceremony was held for the designation of St. Mark's Masonic Lodge as a Municipal Heritage Property at 2:00 p.m. in the Masonic Hall. Approximately 50 to 60 people were in attendance for the unveiling and presentation of the heritage property bronze plaque. The plaque was presented by Deputy Warden, John Graham MacInnes who is also the chairman of the Heritage Advisory Committee. Following the ceremony which also included presentation of long service awards to several members of the lodge, a buffet lunch was served which had been prepared by lodge member, Rev. Louis Ihasz. The Masonic Hall has been an integral part of Baddeck and surrounding areas since it was erected in 1898. Countless events and activities have been and are held there on a regular basis each week of every year. I know people must remember the music festivals which were held there every May for many years along with the movies, dances, stage productions, private parties, concerts, variety shows, etc., etc. – the list goes on and on. Because of its importance to the community not only as its intended purpose as a Masonic lodge but for its use by the general public, it is definitely one of Baddeck's landmarks. For a time, it also housed the replica of the famed airplane, The Silver Dart built under the direction of Gordon MacRae of Big Farm.

I think that is about all the news for May – the month is ending with a beautiful sunny day – let us hope that June will be a bit more favourable weather wise. I am looking forward to an upcoming busy month and will be back in touch with the newsletter next month.