



Mahone Bay Settlers Museum Newsletter

September 2005

From the Chair:

Another summer season is drawing to the close. Our summer staff – Vicky, Jenna, and James – will be heading back to their studies. Volunteers will take over their guiding duties until the museum closes to visitors on October 2nd.

In addition to guiding, the staff has worked on a number of different projects under Wilma's guidance. Vicky, Reid, and Ron prepared a presentation on local history that was made possible by a grant from the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). This will appear on the Canadian Heritage website, as well as our own. James completed our "Herbie" display, which is now on exhibit in the museum. Jenna is finishing a CD containing information on all aspects of Fannie Ernst that will go on sale early October.

Our volunteers have been busy as well. New board member, Anne Ruel, helped gather and display the Fannie Ernst collection of paintings and photographs. Many thanks go to the people who loaned the museum their favourite

Fannie piece(s). Anne also prepared a display on local band history.

Barbara and Gary Wuertz have been adding detail to our website display. Vaughn and his committee held another successful "Paint Mahone Bay" event. Jean supervised the reprinting of our popular cookbook. Barbara Miller and her energetic Jams and Jellies group have been busily preparing and marketing their products. Barbara has also supervised our retail display at the museum where there are many great Christmas gift ideas.

The drop in tourism numbers provincially has been reflected in attendance at the museum, but we still have welcomed a significant number of appreciative visitors through the summer months. Sherry has been shifting our advertising efforts to make us known to a wider circle of potential users.

In closing, I offer sincere thanks to retiring board members Isobel Crossland, Annette St. Onge, Ron Hall, and Roxanne Lindsay. We will surely miss their generous contributions over the past years and hope they will continue to support our society in other ways.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor

Volunteers Wanted:

The Museum is continuously looking for energetic and dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Wilma Stewart-White at 624-6263 or Jean Ramsey at 624-9608.

The 250th Exhibit:

After a lot of hard work and planning, the second installment of the 250th Exhibit has made the Museum its home. The case includes deeds and documents from the early 1700s and 1800s, a Zwicker Family Bible from 1837, and a seal from King George II, and much much more.

Jams and Jellies and Pickles... Oh My!!

The group of dedicated volunteers making the jams, jellies, and pickles has once again been busy. Early this summer, the booth at the Lunenburg Craft Festival had great sales. This group will be selling their product the last weekend in November at a craft festival in the Lunenburg Curling Club where they will have both jars and gift baskets.

New volunteers are always needed and there is no experience necessary. To get involved, contact Barbara at 624-8202. We would like to thank all the dedicated members of the jam and jelly group for their endless contribution.

Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Festival:

The end of July brought the Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Festival and its renowned parade. This year, in coordination with the *Tales of the Sea* theme, the Settlers Museum float was based on Lewis Carol's classic children's story *The Little Mermaid*.

Pictured below are Jenna Hirtle as *The King of the Sea*, James Cheverie as *The Handsome Prince*, Vicky Hirtle as *The Seawitch*, Robbie Stewart as *The Sea Captain*, Bendy Girl as *Arial*, *The Little Mermaid*, and Jack Stewart as *Nemo*

(Not quite the right story, but cute just the same).

The weather provided a beautiful day for a parade, and the Museum hopes that next year is as beautiful and fun!



Community Memories Project:

In August, the Museum's Community Memories Project, A Virtual Tour through Mahone Bay, with the Canadian Heritage Information Network was completed. This will soon be available online for anyone with Internet access to view. We would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.

Winter at the Museum:

While closed to the public, our volunteers work hard during the winter months. We will be researching and preparing exhibits for the 2006 season. Our curator will be doing research and creating a database for the Inglis/Quinlan Collection – she will be on a reduced schedule. If you need information leave a message at 624-6263 or email us at mbsm@ns.sympatico.ca. Both will be checked weekly. In a hurry? Call Wilma at home 624-9995. See you in 2006.

Exhibits:

This summer the Museum put on quite a show with displays on lustre ware, Ottis Langille's vintage clothing, commemorative China, et cetera. However, the biggest attraction of all was 'Fannie.'

The main case display on Fannie Ernst was popular from the moment it was conceived. After the promotional article in the Bridgewater Bulletin/Progress Enterprise, people from Lunenburg County and Beyond came to the Museum looking to put their 'Fannie's' on display. Before long, the main case was full, and Fannie's art was spreading to the walls of the main room, on top of other cases, in the parlour - everywhere! Since Fannie's grand opening in June, people have come to the Museum specifically to see her pieces and admire her photographs.

If you are a 'Fannie' fan...then you are in luck. Over the summer, our resident computer wiz and interviewer extraordinaire Jenna Hirtle has been working hard on putting together a Fannie Ernst CD. The disc is a compilation of Fannie's life, detailing her time in Blockhouse and Oakland through stories of those who remember Fannie, and of course, her artwork and photographs. This will be available for sale in the coming months. You can call the museum at 624-6263 to place an order. Leave a message including your name, telephone number, and the number of CDs you would like. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner!!

We would like to thank all of those who allowed us borrow their treasured Fannie pieces. Without them, this exhibit would not have been possible.

Fannie works will be returned to their owners on October 5th and 6th.



Summer Staff:

If you have visited the Museum this summer, James Cheverie, Jenna Hirtle, or Vicky Hirtle, The Mahone Bay Settlers Museum Summer Staff Team, would have greeted you.

These university students have worked hard through the summer months to complete many exciting projects. James interviewed friends of 'Herbie' Hyson to complete this exhibit now being displayed in the museum. Jenna did everything 'Fannie.' Through conducting interviews with Fannie's family and closest friends, Jenna has compiled a detailed CD of Fannie's life and art that will go on sale within the next few months. Vicky was in charge of the Community Memories Project that highlights the heritage of Mahone Bay. This will be accessible on the Canadian Heritage website (www.chin.gc.ca) and our website (www.settlersmuseum.ca) soon.

With the end of the summer, these students are back to school for yet another year. James is attending St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish where he is studying his Bachelor of Education. Jenna is spending her third year of university in Strasbourg, France through an exchange program offered at

Mount Allison University where she is continuing her Bachelor of Arts in French and Canadian Studies. Vicky is in Fredericton at the University of New Brunswick for her third year of Bachelor of Art with an honor in English and a minor in History.

Share our Publications:

During the 250th anniversary year, several publications were produced which celebrated our town and its people. We think of them as treasures of the past and the present. **Dear Old Mahone**, a look of Mahone Bay and surrounding communities through early 20th century photographic images, and the yummy **Anniversary Cookbook**, which includes historic family recipes donated by community, as well as local favourites!

These books continue to be available for purchase at the Museum, Joanne's, The Pharmasave, and The Seawitch. These publications are an important part of our ongoing fundraising efforts. Share them with your friends and family...don't forget the holiday season!

Jingle Bells....

This Christmas, Mahone Bay is celebrating in style with the Father Christmas Festival. This will be taking place the weekends of November 19th & 26th and December 3rd & 10th. The museum will be open on Saturday on these weekends with a special Christmas exhibit. Come join in the festivities and check out the Christmas exhibit at the museum. Watch for the Father Christmas publicity for further information.

Looking to become a member?

The Mahone Bay Settlers Museum welcomes you to become a member. You can do so through the Friends of the Museum Campaign where you automatically become a member. You can also purchase a membership for \$5 a person or \$10 a family. All members receive quarterly newsletters about museum news and events.

Paint Mahone Bay:

The second annual painting festival took place July 16-17th. Many people came to St. James Church Hall to purchase artwork that so wonderfully captured Mahone Bay's beauty and tranquility. The Museum considers the event a success, and would once again like to thank all those who made the event possible. We look forward to even great success next year.

Upcoming Events:

Scarecrow Festival
September 30th – October 2nd

The Rum Runners Ball
September 30th – October 2nd

A 45-minute show at the Suttles and Seawinds Quilt Barn that tells the story of rum running in Mahone Bay in the 1930s. There is music, comedy and local characters. Suitable for all age groups. There will be five performances: Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10/person on sale soon at the Visitor Information Centre.
