

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
Vol. 7, No.7 July - Juillet, 2005

Parks Day July 16, 2005

The Fortress of Louisbourg helped celebrate Parks Day in conjunction with Mira River Provincial Park. Staff have taken part in this event for the past three years but this year was even better than the excellent celebrations that we had in the past.

This years events included our contribution of soldiers, militia, aboriginal scout, drummer and fifer as well as helicopter water bombing display from the Provincial Dept of Natural Resources, tepees and drummers/dancers from local aboriginal communities, and a contingent from the Canadian Armed Forces. The highlight of this years celebrations was planting a maple tree as a memorial to Canadian veterans (in honour of the Year of the Veteran). This dedication included an honour guard consisting of Veterans, Legion representatives, Canadian Forces personnel, and the Fortresses Military interpreters and representatives from the Mi'kmaw community.

The celebrations lasted from mid morning until late afternoon with 18th century drum and musket demonstrations, 18th century field camp style living, and aboriginal displays being provided by the Fortress staff as well as all the activities provided by the many other participating groups. The Provincial Park had the day full of entertainment for both young and old, from demonstrations, interpretive talks, ghosts stories by campfire, to treasure hunts,

games and a family barbeque, the highlight of which was the planting the maple tree in honor of the Veterans.

Public Archaeology

Harkening back to February's Hear Ye ! Hear Ye! the Public Archaeology Program is soon to begin. We are anxiously awaiting this new approach to combining cultural resource management and attracting visitors to Louisbourg.

Puppet Theatre

The puppet shows are being run to the delight of children of all ages. Shows run Tuesday to Saturday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. in English with a French show at 1 p.m. in the Bigot Theatre. Below are some pictures of our new friends!!



Weekly Barbeques

Wayne Flynn, our Informatics Specialist has generously purchased a tabletop barbeque for staff's use during lunch times. He even provided the first week's meal! The food and laughter were enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks so much Wayne and also you are a terrific cook!!!

News from AGB

"and the day is coming when telegraph wires will be laid on to houses just like water or gas - and friends will converse with each other without leaving home." - Alexander Graham Bell, 1876

AGBNHSC participated in the annual July 1 parade in Baddeck. As 2005 was declared "Year of the Veteran", we decided to incorporate this theme in both our window display and our parade entry.



Fire Extinguisher Use Training

Saturday, July 9 saw 5 AGBNHSC staff head on up to the staff parking lot for a fire extinguisher training session with local Fire Chief, Ernest Roberts. He explained extinguisher information such as size, use, inspections, maintenance and replacement. He then allowed the staff to practice some hands on fire extinguishing using different size extinguishers. Chief Roberts explained the "PASS" theory of using extinguishers which means Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, Squeeze the handle and Sweep the fire!! When done properly, the fire (which he kept setting!) would be out in less than two seconds. Connie won the prize for getting the fire out the quickest. The newly trained team was rewarded

for their efforts when Chief Roberts took all for a ride around the village of Baddeck in the new fire rescue vehicle. An informative, educational and fun morning!

Farewell to Francine

Francine Garnier, who has been employed at AGB the past 12 years as an attendant, heritage presenter and most recently guide services manager has departed to Ontario due to family responsibilities. A BBQ was held in her honor and as seen by the photo Connie will have "big shoes" to fill! All the best Francine.



Farewell to Julie

Julie Morand has been a valued assistant in the planning of the Historic Sites and Monument Board ceremonies at our Site. She will complete her internship on Friday which gave us a good excuse for yet another BBQ. Julie was presented with a few mementos of her time with us at AGBNHSC. She will spend a few days with her parents visiting Cape Breton Island before returning home to Montreal. This will be a grand opportunity to "Awaken her Spirit and Renew her Soul."



Baddeck Showcase

The Baddeck Showcase is officially a working entity at AGBNHSC! English Powerpoint presentations now feature real-time captioning, and thanks to the hard work

of the Cape Breton University/IBM team that was here last week, we are beginning testing with handheld computers that will display written text as it is spoken by interpreters wearing wireless mics. Once staff has put the handheld units through their paces, they will be offered to visitors for presentations and tours. Development of French voice profiles is ongoing as well, and should be available in the near future. Come see how we're doing - we think you'll be impressed!



Back row: Standing: Jimmy Nicholson, Valerie Mason
Seated: Madeline Harvey, Sarah Conrod, Alex Faisman

Marketing News

National Geographic has just released a Destination Scorecard ranking which rated 55 national parks in the US and Canada. Cape Breton Highlands was tied for second overall:

"Cape Breton Island retains its charm despite changing demographics." "Spectacular coastline, villages seem authentic, and the area is fairly unspoiled." "Tourism is built on the Celtic and French heritage of the island." "The park's Audubon-certified golf course is a model for collaborative action between conservation

and recreation."

More info at the National Geographic website:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/features/nprated0507/nprated2.html>.

Travel & Leisure Magazine has just ranked Cape Breton Island third in its listings of top US and Canadian Islands. Cape Breton has risen from fourth to third and PEI has fallen from first to fourth. See www.travelandleisure.com for more info.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to Wayne Flynn and his family on the death of his mother, Betty Flynn on July 5, 2005.

Sincere condolences to Greg Joyce and his family on the death of his father, Joseph Rudolph Joyce on July 5, 2005.

Dave Perry, the first construction superintendent at Louisbourg recently passed away. He was in his mid 80s and living in Ontario at the time of death.

Anyone wishing to submit an article, please send to donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca