

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
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Special Visitors

On August 18th, I had two sets of visitors to the Costume Department. First, was Claudine Blondeau, who is with the Société Compagnies Franches de la Marine, Stewart Museum in Montreal. The second, was Missy West, who is the costume supervisor with the San Diego Opera. Both were very interested in our costumes and the source of our materials and footwear.

Elizabeth Tait

Fort Chambly Visitors

Sept 8 - David Ledoyen, from Sir George-Étienne Cartier NHSC and Louise Brazeau from Fort Chambly NHSC spent the morning in the archaeology collection having a tour and searching out artifacts that were of interest to them.

Visit to Chapel Island

On Thursday September 15, staff from the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site visited the newly designated Chapel Island National Historic site. The visit was expertly organized by Marilyn Perkins of the Atlantic Service Centre and Margaret Johnson of the Chapel Island First Nation. They had some more powerful help as well, as we enjoyed a perfect warm sunny late summer day for our visit.

The group was greeted by Lindsay Marshall CEO of the Potlodek (Chapel Island) First

Nation, who shared his hopes for the newly designated site and a bit of its history, and how to pronounce its name (bodlodek). Lillian Marshall and Thomas Sylliboy of Eskasoni took the group to see the new monument, made of Louisbourg stone, installed by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

They then took the group on a boat tour around part of the island and on a visit to the island.



Their stories and the history they shared were greatly appreciated by Parks staff. This visit was followed by a traditional Mi'kmaw lunch, including moose, eel stew, and local baking, and then talks on treaty and Indian Act history from Norah Ward and Joe B. Marshall.

Our hosts invested an enormous effort to make our visit informative and memorable and they certainly succeeded. The goal of this day was to improve cross-cultural awareness of First Nation communities among Park staff. The staff in attendance found the experience very worthwhile and a pleasure.



Experiential Product Development Workshop

On September 19th, Parks Canada staff and the training team loaded themselves onto a bus in Halifax to take part in a travelling workshop designed to provide knowledge, understanding, and experience of tour travel and tour participants.

The goal of this training was to stimulate program innovation and diversity and collaboration with the tourism industry so that parks and sites can optimize their time and investments in developing new enhanced experiential and/or learning programs. An example of such a program is the Public Archaeology Program offered at Louisbourg this summer.

The jam-packed bus load experienced all the joys and challenges of tour travel and learned about a diverse range of topics - from what the industry needs and what the visitor wants to how to cost your idea and get it into the market. Most of this training took place on board the bus!

The bus stopped at various locales along the way to Louisbourg, including AGB and returned to Halifax Thursday evening. Participants enjoyed their time spent in the CBI Field Unit and are to be commended for their acceptance and patience of such a unique method of training.



The participants enjoying dinner at AGB

News from AGB

Food for Thought - Pondering the Merits of Oatmeal and Cornflakes

...for years he ate Scotch or Irish oatmeal, never rolled oats if he could avoid it. His oatmeal was put on overnight and cooked to the consistency of heavy cream, this was served with brown sugar and cream. If the weather was warm, the oatmeal was cooked and put into a deep dish, allowed to cool and put into the refrigerator over-night. The next morning it was turned out of the dish upside down on his oatmeal dish for the tray, it then appeared like a delicate jelly of some kind. Mr. Bell delighted in eating it in this way. The two escolloped eggs, toast, butter and coffee, or eggs one side with bacon.

...I remember one morning the thermometer was hovering around 80 degrees in Washington. Mr. Bell had not been very well, the heat affected him quite a bit. The Doctor advised a change of diet; I carried up a dish of cornflakes. Some time after nine o'clock five bells rang; as I entered the study Mr. Bell was critically examining the dish of corn flakes.

He looked up and said, "Charles, what's the matter with you?" "Nothing, sir, only warm." "Are you trying to play a prank on me?" "What's that Mr. Bell?" "Well, I see you've brought me a dish of shavings for my

breakfast.” “That is not shavings, sir, it is corn flakes, a new breakfast food.” “Then flake it away and bring me oatmeal and brown sugar.” “But Mr. Bell, the Doctor said to give you light breakfast foods for a few days, that the oatmeal was too heavy and very heating to your blood.” “B a h for the doctor, bring me my oatmeal; whoever heard of oatmeal hurting a Scotchman.”

Excerpt from: Notes (reminiscences) from Charles Thompson, Mr. Bell's Former Butler, February 23, 1923.

Bell's Beautiful Mountain

And, speaking of oatmeal, we have delivered two “Bell’s Beautiful Mountain” enhanced programs to passengers from the cruise ship ‘Silver Whisper’ and anticipate delivering three more during the ship’s upcoming visits to the Port of Sydney in October. The program consists of a power point presentation highlighting a day in the life of the Bells at Beinn Bhreagh with many images, historic and current, that are not available in our exhibit areas. It is followed by oatcakes, tea and raspberry punch (modelled after Bell’s Raspberry Vinegar cordial). We also provide a tetrahedral pin keepsake and recipes.

Harvest Home

Our annual Harvest Home event was held Saturday, September 17th from noon to 3 p.m. with plenty of fun filled activities including Celtic music with fiddler Rachel Davis accompanied by her grandfather Clarence Long on guitar, Klutzy the Clown doing balloon modelling, and Master Magician Patrick Drake. There was a variety of activities provided by Site staff, a food service courtesy of Baddeck Academy Playground Committee, an RRFB Recycling Display, and our ‘Foyer Folks’ (see picture above) brightened up the museum entrance along with beautiful vegetable, fruit and floral displays.



Telecommunications Hall of Fame

We supplied French/English captions to go with the 29 historic images we provided to the ‘Telecommunications Hall of Fame’ project which is launching its website at a gala dinner in Toronto in October.

Dr. Bell is one of as many as 9 individuals to be inducted this year. We look forward to a first hand description of the gala events from Aynsley MacFarlane who is representing this Site at the event.

Special Visitors

Warren Gordon was here for two photo shoots recently gathering images to be used in a book he is working on that will feature the Village of Baddeck.

About 50 students from Glace Bay High School visited September 27th to experience our Site and to learn more about Parks Canada and its offerings on Cape Breton Island. This field trip was part of their full credit Tourism course semester

Hours of Operation

AGBNHSC is open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until October 16th when hours of operation change to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fees are charged until October 31st. November 1st to April 30th – Site visits by arrangement.

And lastly, Marconi and Canso Islands National Historic Sites of Canada are now closed having completed their June 1st to September 15th season.

Run for the Cure



Thanks to all those who were generous with their financial support in 2005. This October will be the 6th year that this event to raise funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation takes place in Sydney.

Helen O'Shea

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to David Hillier and his family on the death of his brother, Silas Seymore Hillier on September 15th

Anyone who would like to submit an article to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye! please forward to Donna MacNeil at donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca

