

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
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Louisbourg Coin

The historic Fortress of Louisbourg is the subject of a new \$10 silver coin released by the Royal Canadian Mint.



The collectors' item features a depiction of the Dauphin Gate, a drummer and a sundial.

Bill O'Shea, Cultural Resource Manager for the national historic site, says the design does a good job representing the history of the fortress.

He says the gate was the main landward gate to the town during the 18th century and is the main gate visitors now use.

The drummer is a symbol that has been used by the fortress for many years.

The coin was launched in May, selling for about \$50, and will be sold this summer at the tourist attraction's gift shops and also at the Fortress Louisbourg Association Gift Shop.

CHA Conference

Anne Marie Lane Jonah was in Toronto May 29-31 to attend the conference of the Canadian Historical Association at York University. The conference, the CHA's largest yet, brought together more than 450 historians working in

universities, government, and independently in Canada. The central theme of the conference was the city. Anne Marie presented a paper on the links between Louisbourg and Acadia in the 18th century as part of a panel on North Atlantic communities. She also attended a business meeting for people interested in forming a Public History Association. There is a great deal of interest from across Canada in sharing research and experience in the field of Public History, which will be the theme of next year's CHA conference.

18th Century Wine Tasting

Saturday, June 17 a wine tasting was hosted at the Grandchamps restaurant. Anne Marie Lane Jonah and her sister Susan Lane, a sommelier certified with the Atlantic Institute of Sommeliers, had developed and tried out the idea of an historic wine tasting last winter at Lanes Privateer Inn, which Susan manages in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. The event was well received there and so this June the Fortress Louisbourg Association agreed to host another wine tasting.

The evening featured European wines, and one beer, from regions named in the inventory of Governor Duquesnel, 18th century recipes—some old favourites and

new dishes researched for the event—and a tour of Duquesnel’s apartments. Archaeology contributed a display case of wine-related artifacts for the evening and Ruby Powell reproduced a sample of Duquesnel’s wine list for each of the guests. The Grandchamps was beautifully set up with linens, candles and period wine glasses (and spittoons).



Ann Marie Pitcher and her staff worked hard to prepare and serve a variety of dishes to go with the wine. Ruby volunteered logistical support and helped things run smoothly. Forty-six guests attended and by all accounts it was a great success; the food and the evening received a lot of praise. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event a success. Another tasting is planned for July 22, and places are already filling up.

Fort Lingan

For two days in early June, a team from the Heritage Conservation Directorate in Ottawa, Chris Ouimet and John Gregg, was in the area making a photographic record of a WWII observation tower that was part of the Sydney harbour defense network.

The team then moved on to Louisbourg for some additional work establishing monitoring stations in the postern tunnel near the barracks. Chris was here several years ago recording the lighthouse ruins.



Shown above is Rebecca Duggan, Archaeologist and Heidi Moses, Collections Manager with Chris and John.

CBU Historical Archaeology Course

The Cape Breton University historical archaeology class, taught by Jean-Pierre Chrestien from the Canadian Museum of Civilization, was at Louisbourg from June 17-28th. The first two weeks of the month-long course was taught at the university. In Louisbourg, the 10 students assisted with the excavation of the eroding lime kiln on the north side of Rochefort Point.

This is the second year for the course. Last year, in May, the students helped excavate the back yard of the de la Valliere property as part of the planning for the Public Archaeology programme.

Health & Safety Day - June 14, 2006

The first annual Health & Safety Day was held at the Fortress of Louisbourg NHS on June 14, 2006. The theme for 2006 was “Your Health” and focussed on personal health issues. Guest speakers for this event were Mary Daly and Anne McMullin.

Mary Daly, a nutritionist with the Cape Breton District Health Authority, spoke on the role of the Health Authority in promoting healthy eating in the community and schools and also provided some enlightening facts about the fat and calories in some of the foods we eat and how it can affect our health.

Anne McMullin, from Health Canada, Workplace Health & Public Safety, presented information on infectious diseases, how they are transmitted, immunization and other precautions to take to help in the prevention and spread of infectious diseases such as Hepatitis A, B & C.

Due to operational requirements, many of our staff were unable to attend Health & Safety Day, so the literature that was handed out during the presentations will be distributed to the lunchrooms at the Fortress site on July 5th.

The Health & Safety Day committee (Ruby Powell, Jim MacIsaac and Valerie White) would like to thank management for their support of this event and a special thank you to the 30+ employees who attended our first Health & Safety Day.

News from AGB

Letter dictated by Graham Fairchild to his grandfather, Alexander Graham Bell, and taken down verbatim by his father, David G. Fairchild. (Beinn Bhreagh Recorder XIII, page 353, August 18, 1913)

Dear Gampie,

We have two frogs in the swimming pool. Mother saw one jump in and I caught the other one.

The biggest bull-frog has kind of goldish brown on its back, green specks and stripes. I found him at the grating by the front door, croaking. I had a time with him down in the study. We were looking at him

by the foot with the microscope to see the circulation of the blood.

He got away from me twice, but I got him again. I went down into the cellar and caught him first grab – at the first grab, rather, and cried the second time he got away from me.

I'll tell about the blood now. The veins of blood were awfully funny, and full of little red specks kind of tumbling through the veins of the frog.

The frog that Mammie saw jump in and scuttle under the raft, and we couldn't tell whether he was frog or a toad, or a bull frog. Neither of us knew.

Cannot tell any more now, Loving, or love, rather, from

Your grandson,

Alexander Graham Bell Fairchild

Kites and Airplanes and 2009

Aviation artist, Geoff Bennett, Canadian Aviation Artists Association, visited our site with thoughts of the centennial of flight in Canada on his mind. The Association is considering holding its annual meeting here in June 2009 and, with or without the meeting, there is a possibility that the CAAA could mount an art exhibit for up to a 6 month period during 2009 here at AGBNHSC.

Gary Mark, President, Canadian Kite Federation based in Ontario, visited Hugh Muller at Beinn Bhreagh and then visited AGBNHSC to learn more about AGB's tetrahedral kites and left inspired.

Discussion with his peers includes ideas such as developing an educational program, an A.E.A./Cygnet Centennial celebration and a kite symposia in Baddeck on Bell's kite experiments.

FAM Tours and Trade Fairs and more

Destination Cape Breton travel counsellors participated in a Trade Fair at the Gaelic College on June 2nd. Along with many businesses from the area and in particular, the artisans of St. Ann's Loop, AGBNHSC set up a table display along with the appropriate solo panels.

We provided an early morning Fam tour for 35 Provincial VIC travel councillors on June 9th. Their tour included a 20 minute presentation courtesy of Tom Wilson, Director of Tourism and Recreation for Victoria County. Baddeck Area Business and Tourism Association participated as well.

Golf Development Officers from Scotland Fam enjoyed their visit on June 14th after a round of golf at Bell Bay. They were amazed at all of AGB's accomplishments and pleased about the Scottish connection. Their info packages included our enhanced program oatcake recipes plus some photocopies from Bell's Home Notes regards golf at Beinn Bhreagh.



Decorating for Canada Day is underway and we will have a float in the parade as well as provide some children's activities on the waterfront in the afternoon. Baddeck Area Business and Tourism Association has included our free admission that day in their Canada Day promotion.

All is well as we settle into the July/August

programming. Canso and Marconi are open daily until September 15th.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to Wendy and Bill Bryan on the death of Harold Wilson, brother-in-law to Bill. Harold was a former employee of the Fortress and worked for 24 years in the Finance Section before retiring in 1984. Harold's wife, Jessie, also worked here in the early years as a costumed interpreter.

Our sincere condolences to Minnie MacLeod and her family on the death of her brother George Bussey. George passed away suddenly on June 10th

Did you know.....

....July 26th is the Feast of St. Anne

....There is free admission to all Parks Canada's sites on Canada Day!

....Every Thursday night in July and August there is a new murder mystery taking place on site. Call 733-2208 to reserve your ticket!