

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

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Louisbourg and the Colonial Chocolate Society

Anne Marie Lane Jonah and Ruby Powell attended the eighth meeting of the Colonial Chocolate Society in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania on November 2nd and 3rd, 2008.

The goal of the society is to develop knowledge of the history of chocolate: how its use spread throughout the colonial world and evolved over time and as it passed from one cultural group to another. The society members are involved in many aspects of chocolate research and a related group, the Historic Chocolate Division of Mars, Inc. has developed a chocolate product based on this research. This product is available, on a not-for-profit basis, exclusively to museums that present the history of chocolate as part of their programs. The product is to function as a fund-raising tool for these museums.

The meeting included a “chocolate school,” giving Anne Marie and Ruby the rare opportunity to see the process of making chocolate from the fresh chocolate pod to the chocolate bar. There was a tour and discussion with Wendell Rittenhouse, who is in charge of the production of “American Heritage Chocolate.” The chocolate research group shared reports on the group’s progress and sites in the United States: Colonial Williamsburg, Fort Ticonderoga, and Historic Deerfield, reported on their programming with chocolate and the launch of “American Heritage Chocolate” at their sites. There was also a display of

chocolate-related artifacts that generated an interesting discussion on that subject.

There was a “hands-on” activity: making chocolate in the traditional manner, grinding it on a metate, using such rare historic ingredients as ambergris and musk. This project creates exciting opportunities for programming at Louisbourg as research has found many interesting examples of the use and distribution of chocolate in the colonial port of Louisbourg. Below is picture of Anne Marie grinding cocoa nibs to make the chocolate.



New Archaeological Discovery at Louisbourg!

In October 2006, archaeological rescue excavation on Rochefort Point revealed a communal burial site dating to the winter of 1745. Fieldwork was conducted by the Louisbourg Archaeology Unit with support from a Physical Anthropologist at Cape Breton University.

The site was originally discovered in February 2006 when a powerful storm exposed numerous cultural features along the Louisbourg coastline. Initially, this site consisted of the northeast corner of a stone foundation that was exposed on the beach. It was assumed to be related to one of the 18th century lime kilns built on Rochefort Point. However, subsequent excavation in 2006 revealed a 5 square-metre granite stone foundation containing evidence of burning, building collapse, and a winter burial event shortly after the building burned.

The archaeological evidence uncovered in 2006 correlates well with historical records from 1745. Records indicate that buildings around the fortress were burned by the French just prior to the siege of 1745 to clear a line of fire, and that hundreds of Louisbourg inhabitants, French and New Englander, died during the winter of 1745-46.

Historical records indicate that many people passed away daily during the terrible winter of 1745-46, but the records do not tell us how the community dealt with this stressful situation. We now know that they modified burial practices that winter to provide proper burials as best as possible given the desperate conditions of a sick population and burial in frozen terrain.

Another Fond Farewell

We said “Happy Retirement” again this month to another longtime employee of the Fortress - Linda Bartlett. Linda worked in Pay & Benefits for many years and will be really missed by all her fellow employees as well as management. Below are some pictures taken at her party.



Linda with her co-workers, Diane & Valerie



Carol telling stories about Linda



Linda loved all her gifts

New Employee

I would like you to join me in welcoming Margaret-Anne Gillam to the Cape Breton Field Unit. Ms. Gillam will be filling the position of acting budget officer. Margaret's duties will encompass budgeting for the field unit along with financial services for the Fortress of Louisbourg.

She has worked at the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority and at Computershare (a stock transfer company). Margaret has a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's University and is currently working on her CGA designation.

Christmas Luncheon

It's that time of the year again already!!!

We started the Christmas season off with a beautiful luncheon hosted by Cultural Resources and Heritage Presentation staff. We all enjoyed it immensely and it was for a good cause as well - money was collected and will be used to "Adopt a Family" this year.



Some of our staff enjoying the fare!!

Anyone wishing to submit an article to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye!, please email donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca.