



# HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES ON CAPE BRETON ISLAND  
LIEUX HISTORIQUES NATIONAUX DU CAP-BRETON

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## *New Employee Orientation 2009 – Shawinigan, Quebec*

Parks Canada holds a New Employee Orientation week four times a year, twice in eastern Canada and twice in western Canada. It gives new employees a greater understanding of the Agency's role and its commitment to Canadians through hands-on case studies and helps to create a common vision for Parks Canada employees.

Two employees from the Cape Breton Field Unit attended an orientation week in June. Matthew Cook and Blair Cunningham of the Fortress of Louisbourg went to Shawinigan, Quebec, and while there, visited La Mauricie National Park and Les Forges du Saint-Maurice NHS.

During five very busy, jam-packed days, we participated in ten workshops, two on-site case studies, and a presentation on the exchange program between Parks Canada and Parks Victoria in Australia. The theme of the week was focused on leadership, visitor experience, public education, natural and cultural resource protection, relations with Aboriginal peoples, and the Agency's vision.

Throughout the week, we engaged in thoughtful, intelligent conversations with

passionate Parks Canada employees. We had an opportunity to meet and share ideas with employees from across Canada from a wide range of disciplines within the Agency. This is a rewarding week not to be missed and a unique experience unmatched by other employers. For more information, see Leadership & Learning on the intranet. *Submitted by Matthew Cook*



*Remains of the  
first iron works  
in Canada, 1730  
Les Forges du  
Saint-Maurice  
NHS*

## *Cod Returns to the Fortress!*

On Tuesday June 23, split and salted cod returned to the fisheries' interpretive program at the Fortress of Louisbourg. In a joint CR and VE initiative, 100 pounds of whole cod were purchased in Glace Bay and brought to the Des Roches house for processing. Brian Harpell reprised his former costumed role as splitter extraordinaire. The event created much interest with both visitors and staff.



Marlene Ivy and three of her staff from Highland Village Museum at Iona also took in the demonstration. Special thanks to Carl Boudreau who took over cutting and splitting, Lee Price for his assistance to Brian and Stanley Pink for ensuring the fish stayed on ice during their overnight stay in the park.

*Brian Harpell proudly displaying a 'Cod'!*



*Fish Talk!*



On a related maritime note, the chaloupe has also returned to anchorage off the quai, and a month earlier than last year. The earlier arrival is owing to the chaloupe being stored under cover this past winter, which enabled an earlier start by the painters. Thanks to Lawrence Campbell and Darren Price for their work on the chaloupe and in helping with the launch and its trip across the harbour. Once again, Lee Price was of great assistance to Brian Harpell in getting the

chaloupe to its anchorage. *Submitted by Sandy Balcom*

### *Fête-Dieu 2009 at Chapelle Saint-Louis - History comes full circle*

For the first time since 1758, “La Fête-Dieu” (Corpus Christi) was observed at la Chapelle Saint-Louis in the Fortress of Louisbourg. The last time the Notre-Dame-des-Anges parish observed “La Fête-Dieu” was in 1758, on the very day that the French noticed the English coming to blockade the harbour for what was to become the second and decisive siege of the French Fortress of Louisbourg. (See “Life and Religion at Louisbourg, 1713-1758” and “Endgame” by AJB Johnston.)



*Latin mass @ Chapelle Saint-Louis (Ian Harte Photo)*

The 2009 event was spearheaded by Cape Breton Island Acadians as part of an ongoing effort to rekindle and celebrate their ties to historic 18<sup>th</sup> Century Louisbourg through the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site.

Chapelle Saint-Louis was once again filled to capacity. Many travelled via motorcoach sponsored by the Chéticamp Knights of Columbus. A special delegation of about 15 Sisters of La Congrégation de Notre-Dame represented the very same order that so charitably

ministered to the Louisbourg community in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. They were accompanied by our very own newly retired Lorette Andrews, an associate member of that order.

Many of Chéticamp's early settlers had connections to 18<sup>th</sup> Century Louisbourg. Some were merely passing through Louisbourg from other parts of the colony en route during the 1758 wave of expulsions. Others, like Jeanne Dugas, were born and baptised in Louisbourg. She and her husband Pierre Bois escaped expulsion and eventually went on to establish the vibrant French speaking community of Chéticamp. This community is now home to innumerable Dugas-Bois descendants. Many were present for the recent 2009 Fête-Dieu celebration, including the celebrant himself, Rev. Daniel Doucet of nearby Belle-Côte.

Chéticamp was settled in 1785 and officially founded in 1790 when Jeanne Dugas' husband, Pierre Bois, along with thirteen others, secured a 7000 acre land grant from the King of England on the west coast of Cape Breton Island. There were 26 families living in Chéticamp at that time.

The community's first church, Saint Appolinaire, was built in the piquet style around 1800. By 1810, Chéticamp built its second church, this one a charpente construction. Jeanne Dugas (born at the Fortress of Louisbourg in 1731, daughter of Joseph Dugas of our Dugas house) helped lay the foundations for Chéticamp. While we ignore the exact date of Pierre Bois' death, we know by Bishop Plessis' account that Jeanne Dugas was widowed by the time he met her at Chéticamp in

1812. She died and was buried there five years later in 1817 at 86 years of age.

The monstrance, incense burner and prayer cards used in the 2009 celebration of Fête-Dieu at Fortress Louisbourg are relics from the early Chéticamp church. They were in use during Jeanne Dugas and Pierre Bois' time at Chéticamp, thus bringing this event full circle. *Submitted by Robert Deveaux.*



*Corpus Christi 2009, Blessed Sacrament procession coming up Rue Toulouse (Ian Harte Photo)*

### ***Health & Safety Day***

The fourth annual Health & Safety Day was held at the Fortress of Louisbourg NHS on June 24, 2009. The theme for 2009 was "Our Health & Safety".

Health & Safety Day was started with a welcome and remarks from Margaret-Anne Gillam, Manager, Corporate Services. Following this, she presented Safety Award Certificates to employees (see below) who were chosen by the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, for carrying out their duties in a safe and efficient manner, thereby ensuring the health and safety of their co-workers. Recipients included the Prescribed Burn Team for the successful planning and execution of the burn along Rt. 22 in May; the Roads and Grounds Crew for excellent winter roads and

grounds maintenance and the Stonemasons crew for safe work practices during the Forge chimney repairs.



*L-R Margaret-Ann and Ben Green*



*L-R Margaret-Anne and Philip Burke*

The Cape Breton District Health Authority, Public Health Unit set up a display with great information on nutrition and chronic diseases with lots of pamphlets and handouts available for participants. Along with the two staff from Public Health, namely Mary Daley, Nutritionist and Susan MacCormick, Chronic Diseases, there were three university students, Jonathan, Aaron and Jenna, who did blood pressure checks and helped calculate BMI (body mass index). All five were very helpful and eager to provide us with as much information and advice as possible.



*L-R Aaron, Mary, Susan, Jenna and Jonathan*

Information on Hearing Conservation and Protection was provided by Valerie White, Health & Safety Advisor. This included a video which covered the effects of noise on hearing and the importance of proper hearing protection, not only at work but around the home as well. The results of sound-level testing (dBA readings) carried out by Health Canada on various machinery and equipment in the Park was also presented, to make employees aware of what they could be exposed to in their daily work.

On behalf of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, I would like to thank management for their support of this event and a special thank you to the employees who attended our fourth annual Health & Safety Day. *Submitted by Valerie White Health & Safety Advisor*

### ***Safety Reminder!***

A reminder that as we enter the spring and summer seasons bees, wasps, hornets, etc are emerging and becoming more active. Many of our visitors and co-workers will be allergic to their stings. If you should happen to encounter someone experiencing a reaction remain calm, check for an 'EpiPen' and call for medical attention. *Submitted by Maura McKeough*



## ***News from AGB & Satellite Sites!***

### ***Beinn Bhreagh Tours***

As a continuation of the Silver Dart Centennial celebrations, everyone enjoyed a busy and rewarding 'Youth in Aviation Week' the highlight for our site being the Beinn Bhreagh tours. Thanks to the generosity of the Bell descendants we were able to offer Beinn Bhreagh tours each day Monday through Friday except Wednesday which was the Silver Dart Centennial Air Show day. The tours took place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and were given in the style of the early 1900's transportation modes. Visitors fortunate enough to get tickets (lineups began well before the 8:30 a.m. ticket sale time) were taken by boat across the Bay to Beinn Bhreagh where they took a horse and wagon ride to Beinn Bhreagh Hall. Staff were on hand to share the Bell story and family members participated as well really adding to this visitor experience.

### ***Carpet Bed Garden***

General Works staff have the grounds looking beautiful and are about to begin a 'carpet bed' project near the museum entrance. They will be creating a Silver Dart airplane image from flowers. The flowers just arrived and the sod has been lifted for the planting.

### ***New Visitor Experience***

The rooftop decking and gardens have undergone improvements so visitors soon will be able to enjoy a rooftop view of Beinn Bhreagh with refreshments (tea, raspberry punch, oatcakes, scones and cookies) and heritage presentation given by a staff member in costume taking on

the persona of a member of the Young Ladies Club of Baddeck in 1920.

### ***Collaboration with Cape Breton University - The Reading Habits of Alexander Graham Bell***

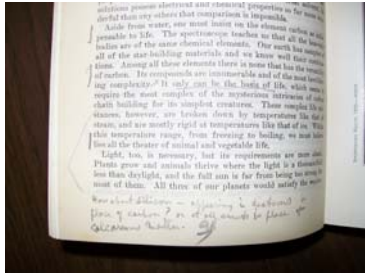
This summer Lou Duggan, (*seen below*) Systems Librarian at Cape Breton University, has begun a new study at the Bell Museum that will examine evidence surrounding the reading habits of Alexander Graham Bell.



The history of reading has recently emerged as a unique and important sub-discipline of the history of print culture. This area of study is of interest to academics in the fields of history, communications, philosophy, librarianship, literature and psychology, in part because of the widespread nature of reading activity in western culture. Add to this that the current study will examine AG Bell, and it also becomes of great interest in the history of science, as the Victorian era was a time of professionalization in science, and an explosion of scientific publication.

The initial study is being funded through a grant from CBU's Office of Research and Academic Institutes. Work this summer will include the creation of a comprehensive bibliography of Bell's published works, and an analysis of the

works he cited when writing them. At the same time, a close examination of Bell's private library is revealing evidence of the publications he collected, and how he used them. Marginal notes are in many cases the only clear evidence that the books and journals were read, and may also show evidence of the thought process of the reader. These various kinds of evidence can begin to give a picture of Bell's reading habits, by showing what he collected, where (or who) he received his books and journals from, and how he used them in his work.



Other forms of reading evidence in the Bell archives that may be examined in the future include the family letters, the home notes and the extensive lab notes that were kept by Bell and his colleagues and family. Examination of the extensive photo collection may also provide some unique evidence of the importance of print culture to life and work at Beinn Bhreagh. Given the breadth and variety of possible evidence, this is expected to be just a beginning to a lengthy study that may continue for many years.

***St. Peters Canal NHSC***

The Visitor Experience program is underway with 3 FSWEP staff on strength and 1 more to begin in early July. Sandy Balcom and Anne MacRae delivered the historical and operational training. The site is working with the Nicholas Denys Community Museum by offering a tour that begins outside the museum

overlooking the canal. The tour continues to the canal where visitors are given a demonstration of the lock operation unless the timing works so well that a boat is actually passing through. This month brought 3 school group visits.



*A school group enjoys a visit to St. Peters Canal NHSC.*

***Canso Islands NHSC***

Sandy Balcom and Anne MacRae delivered the historical and operational training for the staff of 5 at Canso Islands and the site opened on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Prevention training was delivered by Troy Allen (*shown below*) and Brent Baker.



Boat tours to Grassy Island Fort are underway and the site is hoping to see increased visitation from the large numbers of people in the area for the annual Stan Rogers Festival.

### ***Marconi NHSC***

Jim Candow and Anne MacRae provided the historical and operational training and Marconi opened its doors on June 1<sup>st</sup> with 3 FSWEF students on staff. A radio operator from the Sydney Amateur Radio Club is on site daily adding greatly to the visitor experience by demonstrating the sending and receiving of radio messages and use of Morse Code.

On Marconi Heritage Day, July 8<sup>th</sup>, the site is collaborating with the Table Head Development Society which is hosting activities on site including a tower contest (participants build replicas of the Marconi towers from wood, recyclables, etc with lights), Duncan Wells kid's concert, kite flying, facepainting, BBQ, radio display by Signals 725<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron and possible unveiling of the new call badge for the Signal Corps of Victoria Park.

### ***Condolences***

Our sincere condolences go to Debora Chew and her family on the sudden death of her sister, Judy Rejniak, on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

*Anyone wishing to contribute to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye! please contact Donna MacNeil at [donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca](mailto:donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca) or telephone 733-3551.*