

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton  
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## ***Celtic Colours***

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all who had a hand in making the Celtic Colours event held on-site last night a resounding success. Its success is a testament to various departments who pulled together to the event happen.

A very special thanks to all those who volunteered. The event would not have happened without you.

## ***A Fond Farewell***

On October 12, 2006, colleagues from the Fortress of Louisbourg, the Fortress of Louisbourg Association and friends gathered at the Grandchamp Inn on site to wish Bill O'Shea well on his impending retirement. Helen, his wife (and also a long-time Louisbourg employee) joined him in this celebration of his career.

Bill has been a driving force at Louisbourg for over 30 years. Since his arrival from Castle Hill (Placentia, Nfld.) in 1972, Bill has dedicated his life professionally, and personally, to both historic and modern Louisbourg.

Starting as Visitor Services Officer, Bill soon became the manager of Visitor Activities (now Heritage Presentation) and then Manager of Cultural Resources. In consequence, he has dramatically influenced both the site's

presentation and its preservation and has provided staff in all departments with a vision of the excellence that Louisbourg can be.

Both Bill and Helen will be missed as well for their involvement in many community activities. Bill served with many societies and groups, perhaps most notably the Louisbourg Heritage Society. He also tested the political waters with terms as town councillor and deputy mayor.

It is with regret that Bill and Helen leave Louisbourg after so many years. They are moving to Cornwall, ON where they will be close to their eldest son and his family (ie. four grandchildren).

Many presentations were given to Bill on this special day and pictures taken are shown at the end of this newsletter.

## ***New Employees***

We would like to welcome two new employees to the Fortress of Louisbourg. Virginia Schonhoffer is our new Budget Officer for the field unit. Virginia is replacing Colleen while she is off for an extended period. Virginia is a former DND worker and brings much to her new position.

Sean Cox is our new Electrician replacing Wayne Lahey who recently retired. Sean hails from Baddeck where he worked for many years as a private contractor. We welcome both Sean and Virginia to our team!

### **News From AGB**

Excerpt from Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell at Baddeck Bay to her father Mr. Gardiner Greene Hubbard- 1886 (speaks of a different day in the cod fishery!):

*"... I have so many things to thank you for, I don't know where to begin. The books, the Cambridge paper and your letters they were all very welcome as will be the grapes when they reach us. I hope you won't object to our offering some of them to our friends here, they are so very kind and generous and there has not been anything we could do for them. We are now just wondering if we can possibly accomplish the eating of an enormous codfish Mr. William McCurdy sent us yesterday. It was caught at the Narrows and Alec measured it and found it to be four feet long from tip of the tail to the nose. 2 feet 10 inches in the girth and the head one foot long and the mouth six inches from side to side. Did you ever see such a monster, I think it must be the same weight as Elsie, 63 pounds, but of course cannot tell."*

### **Visitor Season Ending**

Our "visitor season" will draw to a close with motorcoaches from Sea Princess, the final cruise ship of 2006 along with the daily trickle of independent travellers.

The last day of Heritage Presentation service and fee collection is October 31<sup>st</sup>. From November 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup> visitors have access to Orientation, Home and Discover only. Other than that it is site visits by arrangement.

### **Special Visitors**

Participants from Scotland in the "Scottish Enterprise – Learning Journey to NS and PEI 2006" were pleased to have time in their busy itinerary to learn about their native son with a visit to our AGBNHSC on their way to Halifax to catch their flight home. Individuals in the group ranged from Scottish Enterprise, Scottish National Park staff, business owners, craftspeople, and those in the restaurant/accommodation/visitor attraction sectors. Some of their goals during their stay were to identify ideas/practices to share with local businesses and other agencies, how the existence of a national park and strong outdoor product can attract visitors and a look at how other areas bring businesses together to generate new ideas.

To this end, they attended the October 25<sup>th</sup> "Cabot Trail Working Association" conference at Island Sunset in Belle Côte. Sharon Morrow attended the conference on behalf of AGBNHSC and it was a bonus to have input from this group. Over 60 Cabot Trail tourism operators attended the conference – area updates were provided. Guest speakers shared information about Parrsboro and its development efforts, the idea of spring lobster festival (Lobsterpalooza) to begin after the Cabot Trail Relay Race, and the new Cabot Trail website was unveiled

([www.cabottrail.travel](http://www.cabottrail.travel)).

The National Park staff from Scotland mentioned that Scotland designated its first national park in 2002 and the park includes many communities. After all, you need a pristine water supply for those whiskies and friendly farming practices to produce quality food so there are many ways to tie in ecological integrity.

### ***Outreach Program***

We secured funding for the creation of a Lesson Plan under the Parks Canada in Schools outreach initiative and the Terms of Reference have gone out. The lesson will link with the Grade 6 Atlantic Science unit on flight. Bell's experimental work in the field of aviation is an excellent subject for inclusion in the curriculum and timely with the centennial anniversary of Silver Dart's flight in 2009.

And we are submitting a Personal Interpretation Innovation Fund Application. Our proposed project would allow us to continue to engage visitors in the speech recognition technology that we worked on with CBU and IBM.

### ***Book Signing***

Mr. Bell Theatre was the venue for an evening presentation on October 30<sup>th</sup> by author Charlotte Gray. She discussed her new book *Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Bell* and was available for book signing.

Another book, *The Bell Family in Baddeck: Alexander and Mabel in Cape Breton*, written by Judith Tulloch is now on bookshelves as well. This book is a project of the Alexander Graham Bell Museum Association.

### ***Congratulations!!!***

Milton and Ellen Cross are our newest grandparents! Their daughter, Lyndsey and Evan Perry had a beautiful baby boy, Joseph Evan on October 11<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 9 pounds, 1 ounce. WOW!!!

### ***Condolences***

Our sincere condolences to Philip Burke and family on the death of his mother, Sarah Burke on October 27th.



*Anyone wishing to submit an article to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye!, please email [donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca](mailto:donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca).*

*Bill O'Shea's Farewell Party*



*Bill and Carol clapping at cannon salute done in Bill's honour*

*Carol and Bill - Bill is telling another funny story!!*



*Employees, current and past came to salute Bill*



*A gift of the foundation medals presented by Anne Marie from staff will be treasured by Bill*



*Ruby presenting Bill with the chart of the deck of 18<sup>th</sup> cards- they are finally ready for sale!!*



*Everyone loves to get our 18<sup>th</sup> Lanterns*

*Photo by Ian Harte of the Camperdown Elm Tree in the Stella Maris Cemetery was also presented to Bill from the Watchstaff. (His favourite tree!!)*



*Fortress Louisbourg Association presented Bill with another Ian Harte picture of the Fortress along the Quay as well as porcelain bowls.*

*Becky Duggan and Alicia Samson made the cake representing Wolfe's Redoubt! It was tasty as well as historically correct!!!*

