

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
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News from AGB

“The days of handwriting have gone forever. They belong to the 19th century. The 20th century will not tolerate script.”

With the advent of the typewriter Alexander Graham Bell was inspired to say this in 1899.

Heritage Presenter Competition

Following more than 20 years of contracting out the guide service at AGB, we are pleased to note that a 2 year pilot project is underway which will see our heritage presenters being hired directly by Parks Canada this year and next. Interviews took place March 29th and 30th. All should be set for the first day of visitor services on May 1st.

New Point of Sale

The first stage of Point of Sale training took place March 22nd. Those participating in the training say it looks like a great system and that is what they are hearing from others who are using it.

Outreach Education

Our outreach education lesson plan, which focuses on Bell’s aviation work has been translated into French and is ready for graphic design. When the graphic design is completed around mid-May, it will be converted into html and posted on the Parks Canada website.

Sound & Silence Exhibit

Work is underway to prepare the Sound & Silence exhibit area for the return of the exhibits which were removed at the end of October 2006. Leaks in the roof created significant damage to the ceiling in that area of the museum. The drop ceiling has been removed and will not be replaced. For the time being it looks like we’ll still require a ‘bucket brigade’ when it rains.

Friends of the Bell Museum

Our museum association, Alexander Graham Museum Association, is now going by the name “Friends of the Bell Museum”. Among their projects for 2006 were launching a book they sponsored, called *The Bell Family in Baddeck* written by Judith Tulloch along with continuing development of the Site’s Tea Room and the Gift Shop. This year they will look into having *The Bell Family in Baddeck* translated into French and will begin work on a new publication about Bell’s Aerial Experiment Association. Gift Shop and Tea Room Manager, Norma MacMullin, reported that while museum visitation was down in 2006, their revenue was up. The ‘Friends’ hope that a deck will be added to the tea room providing patrons with a view over Baddeck Bay toward Beinn Bhreagh.

Louisbourg at Savour Food and Wine

Ruby Fougère (Powell) and Anne Marie Lane Jonah represented the Fortress of Louisbourg's chocolate program and the Louisbourg Association's food and wine evenings at the Savour Food and Wine show at the Westin Hotel in Halifax, March 1, 2007.



<http://www.savourfoodandwine.com/show.asp>

The show, organized by the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia, brings together restaurant operators, vineyards, and wine and beer distributors from all over Nova Scotia to showcase their special events and new offerings. The event was sold out weeks in advance, with six hundred and fifty in attendance (at \$69 a ticket), as well as approximately one hundred media and VIPs who had a tour of the show before the doors opened. Louisbourg made many positive media, industry, and consumer contacts at the show.

Louisbourg's food and wine and chocolate programs and the history of chocolate were very well received. Lisa Gautreau, Moncton CBC's food columnist, loved our booth and enthused, "You are the best story at this show!" We also made contact with Jost, who were delighted that we had made such a happy pairing of chocolate with their raspberry wine. They brought us a few bottles of their wine, and we gave them some of our chocolate, so that we could promote each other. Ruby and Anne Marie, with the volunteer help of Anne Marie's sister Cathy Lane, had a busy and very positive evening at Savour.

Education Program

Heritage Presentation staff and volunteers of the Fortress of Louisbourg have been busy with outreach school presentations since January. We delivered 15 in-class presentations to english and french-immersion schools in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality reaching approximately 400 students ranging from grades primary to six.

We bring 18th century Louisbourg to the classroom in an interactive way. Students get to handle reproduction artifacts, dress in period costume and volunteer to join the artillery.

Pictures are from Brookland Elementary School, in Sydney. Greg Joyce and Troy Allen gave this presentation.



Announcing A New Committee At Louisbourg

The Fortress of Louisbourg has a new committee. Officially known as the Communications and Incentive Committee

(yes the C.I.C. and if that makes you laugh - “good, that's what we want to do”), this committee is made up of Georgina Leslie, Sandy Balcom, Ruby Powell and Karen Pink.

The main function of the committee is to work on increasing communications amongst staff at all levels and sections, to ensure such things as having long service awards given out promptly, and to hopefully give people incentive by recognizing that everyone contributes to making this Fortress such a great place.

We need your help to make this committee work so the committee invites you to send(email addresses listed below) us any suggestions and/or comments, and keep us aware of what you would like to see happen or take place. The committee already has a few items on their agenda and will keep everyone updated through the Hear Ye! Hear Ye! newsletter as well as the Hussier once the summer season begins.

Until next time, Keep Smiling!!!!!!

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 Sandy sandy.balcom@pc.gc.ca
 Ruby ruby.powell@pc.gc.ca
 Karen karen_pink2003@hotmail.com

ICM Training at Louisbourg

On March 27 Anna Marie Cormier and Anne Marie Lane Jonah jointly conducted a course in Informal Conflict Management (ICM) for 24 Parks and Fortress Louisbourg Association staff.

The one-day course provided information about Parks Canada’s ICM policy and services available as well as sessions on managing conflict and developing communication skills.



Participants commented that they appreciated the opportunity to practice the skills discussed. The feedback was very positive, many stating that they thought they would be able to apply ICM and better communication practices in their work.



The training was held upstairs at the Visitor Reception Centre and many took advantage of the beautiful day to visit the Mi’kmaq trail and enjoy the view at lunch.

More sessions in ICM will be offered this year. Stay tuned!



Schedule for 2007

- Opening May 15 - 31 - self guided walks in the upper half, few buildings open
- June 1 - full service, though reduced animation building up through the middle of June
- July 1 Canada Day -free entry
- July 26th Fete de Ste Anne - this date is constant
- August 18th Fete de St Louis- always the 3rd Sunday in August
- Closing October 1 - reduced animation
 October 16 - same as May

Hours of Operation: May 15 - June 30

9:30 - 5:00
July and August 9:00 -
5:30
Sept and Oct 9:30 - 5:00

Special dates:

Wine tasting evenings: July 14, Aug 4, Aug 11,
Sept 22

Archaeology program: Aug 13- 17 and 20 - 24
DeLaValliere property

May - archaeology students from CBU.

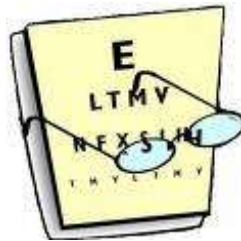
Celtic Colors: Oct 7

Race Thru Time: Aug 18

Murder Mystery: every Thursday in July and
August- to be confirmed

USED EYE GLASSES

If you have an old pair of used eye glasses kicking around at home or here at the office, you can now drop them off at Central Registry. These glasses will be sent to Marie Cantwell at CBH and Marie, through Lions International, sends these glasses to third world countries.



Did you know....

...Aubrey Harris is our resident clock doctor. He is the only one who can repair our clock tower. Other staff can wind the clock, and start it again but only Aubrey can repair it!!!! This year we are moving forward to install a camera that will allow visitors and staff to see the inner workings of this clock.

...Louisbourg has its very own "wood

whisperer". Maura McKeough was featured in an article written by Clare Mellor, Chronicle Herald reporter. Maura's job here at the Fortress is as a wood conservator .

...The Rita MacNeil special that was filmed mostly in CBHNP in June 2005 will be airing on Easter Sunday (April 8th). There is some beautiful footage shown when she was singing out on Middlehead. Don't miss it!!

...We have a family of three deer living in our park. Picture taken by Ian Harte.



Congratulations!!!

Harold and Irene Antle are our newest grandparents. Their son, Stephen and wife, Stephanie had their first child, a little girl, Katie Rae on March 25th.

Here she is with Mom - isn't she beautiful!



Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Steve MacPhee and family on the death of his father-in-law, Lloyd MacDonald on March 9, 2007.