



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

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

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Louisbourg Staff Contribute to the Nashwaak Review

The latest issue of the Nashwaak Review, volume 20/21, Number 1 (Spring /Summer 2008) published by St. Thomas University in Fredericton, has a number of articles and features with support from Louisbourg staff including Ruby Fougere, Heather Gillis, Becky Duggan, Sandy Balcom and Ken Donovan. The cover shows a Louisbourg painting, *Outbound From Louisbourg, 1744*, by Peter Rindlisbacher. Ruby and Becky provided the photography, Heather gave the necessary technical and archival support.

Ken has edited two historical articles. The first article is by Jean-Pierre Chrestien, the recently- deceased curator of Quebec archaeology at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. An archaeologist, Jean-Pierre loved the sea, Cape Breton and the Fortress of Louisbourg. He led his students in archaeological field school excavations at Louisbourg. After a number of summers of excavations on Scaterie Island, he published (posthumously) “First Contact With the Fishing Proprietors of Scaterie Island, 1714-1754”. Ken has written in the journal a memorial tribute to

Jean-Pierre’s describing his contributions to Louisbourg.

The second article by Sandy Balcom is entitled “Confrontation on the Labrador Coast: Herring, Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders, 1860-65.”



***Renowned Soprano Suzie LeBlanc
Collaborates with Louisbourg***

A native of Edmunston, New Brunswick, Suzie Leblanc spends her life touring the world singing early music. She is as much at home with anonymous medieval composers as with Mozart. Her repertoire is largely made up of renaissance and baroque masterpieces, and she has a particular enthusiasm for forgotten works that deserve to regain their place in the canon.

In that vein, Suzie collaborated with Ken Donovan to record “Chanson Nouvelle des Terreneuvriers, 1725” in a recent recording entitled “Tout Passe: Chants d’Acadie.” Ken had published Chanson Nouvelle, a song he had found in his research, in “After Midnight We Danced Until Daylight’: Music, Song and Dance in Cape Breton, 1713-1758,” *Acadiensis*, vol. XXXII No. 1 (Autumn, 2002), pp. 3-28.

Prior to 1713 the people of Louisbourg were settled in the fishing community of Placentia, Newfoundland. At least one song has survived that appears to have been written by three French fishermen prior to their emigration from Placentia to Louisbourg. Entitled “New Song of the Newfoundland Fishermen” and dated 1725, the song comes from a collection of manuscripts found locked in a secret drawer of a desk of a merchant family at Avranches Manor on the Normandy Coast in the 1960’s. All of the papers in the collection date from the mid-1720’s, so it is possible that the drawer had not been opened in more than 200 years.

The song described the life of a three-man fishing crew aboard a shallop in the inshore fishery at Placentia,

Newfoundland. Composed of 10 verses and written by several hands, the song described working conditions in the inshore fishery. The inshore fishery of Placentia had moved to Cape Breton in 1713 and thus the “New Song of the Newfoundland Fishermen”, although written in 1725, described a period prior to the emigration of the French from Newfoundland to Louisbourg. The song, arranged by David McGuinness, features seven musicians and plays for 6 minutes, 13 seconds.



Celtic Colours

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all those who were involved in making this year’s Celtic Colours events (both the afternoon workshop and the evening event) so successful. The interdepartmental cooperation and professionalism shown by all ensured that the event ran very smoothly. As a result the evening offered an extremely enjoyable experience for our visitors.

Special thanks are extended to the volunteers who gave so freely and unselfishly of their time. *Blaine Aitkens*

News from AGB

Excerpt from an article appearing in The Citizen of Ottawa, March 29, 1909.

Following an address given by Alexander Graham Bell at the “Canadian Club”, Ottawa, March 27, 1909 the Governor General, His Excellency Earl Grey, said the following:

“every part of the British empire is watching with interest and hope the experiments in Baddeck Bay. We are all growing conscious of the fact that that nation which has the best airships – the best ‘dromes’ – will obtain supremacy in the air which the British empire today possesses, and will, I hope, possess for all time upon the seas. We have heard that Canada can boast of the honour of having invented the principle of the telephone. Canada can boast of the honour of having been the first country to apply that principle. We also know that it is owing to the liberality of the Canadian government that Mr. Marconi was enabled to continue the experiments as a result of which he had given to the world the advantage of the wireless system of telegraphy. I believe that every single person whose life was saved upon that sinking ship a few days ago owes the enjoyment of his life to the liberality of the Canadian government. It only remains for Canada, which gave the world the telephone and wireless telegraphy, to complete her services to the British Empire and to civilization by giving to the world the best aerodrome, the possession of which will make the nation that is fortunate enough to own it, to quote Dr. Graham Bell, the foremost nation in the world.” *(Letter Book Binder 2, Pages 10 & 11)*

St. Peter’s Canal NHSC

St. Peter’s Canal NHSC interpretation will now be the responsibility of AGBNHSC so to learn more about this heritage canal, staff from AGB did a site familiarization that included time spent with Parks Canada staff at the canal, a Department of Natural Resources/Battery Provincial Park

representative and representatives from the Nicholas Denys Community Museum. A tour of the park, the museum, the lockmaster’s house (built in 1876) and the canal area showed the diversity of the site, possibilities for further development and collaboration and its links to the St. Peter’s community.



L-R Pictured during their recent familiarization visit at St. Peter's Canal NHSC are Sandy Balcom, Linda Watson, Sharon Morrow, Eddie Kennedy, Anne MacRae and Danny Kaiser.

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia – Flight Dreams

Outreach staff from the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia were at Baddeck Academy earlier in the month to lead art workshops with 20 high school students. The students created 3D flight related objects that will be on display at AGNS for the November children’s festival and beyond along with a small number of AGB flight related artefacts including a tetrahedral kite.



L-R Deryck Chapman, Gary Pierrard and Kathy Kerr prepare a tetrahedral kite for shipping to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Silver Dart Centennial Association

At a recent meeting with the Association, Eleanor Anderson, Manager, updated us on progress regarding event development. Many activities are planned for February 20th – February 23rd including an HSMBC plaque unveiling ceremony to commemorate “The First Airplane Flight in Canada”. To learn more about the year long celebrations and events you can visit www.flightofthesilverdart.ca for local events. The national website address is www.firstflight2009.ca

Celtic Colours - Bell Series 2008

Our second annual Celtic Colours collaboration by way of the educational program the “Bell Series” brought a total of 595 participants over 5 days. On October 13 to 17 at 1 – 2 p.m. daily a performance/demonstration took place in our WATER exhibit area. The series included Celtic musical traditions from Cuba, Scotland, Canada, Wales and Denmark. As you may know, Alexander Graham Bell, along with all his other accolades, was an accomplished musician with a Celtic connection - he was born in Edinburgh, Scotland - great reasons for our Celtic Colours ‘Bell Series’.



Performing during the Celtic Colours Bell Series are 'Gaiteros de La Habana' from Cuba

School Visits

On October 22nd, Linda Watson and Valerie Mason travelled to Brookland Elementary in Sydney and delivered the flannel board story and sled kite workshops to 5 classes (123 students) of Grade Primary and Grade One students.

Rooftop Gardens

Work has started on revitalizing the gardens on our rooftop areas to include plants that were grown at Beinn Bhreagh in Bell's day. The deteriorating walking surface of this area will be repaired for safe use by visitors. These improvements will allow for interpretive programming that focuses on gardening at Beinn Bhreagh. There is also great viewing of Beinn Bhreagh and Baddeck Bay where so much of our story took place which will also allow for more interpretation.

Did You Know.....

....the popular TV show, Land & Sea, will be featuring a story on November 9th on Beaubassin. Charles Burke, a former resident of Louisbourg and archaeologist with Parks Canada will be featured.

....Bill and Helen O'Shea, former employees of the Fortress are pleased to announce the graduation of their son Kevin from the University of Ottawa with his Bachelor of Education degree, Magna cum laude. Kevin is living in Kobe, Japan and teaching at Akashi International School. Kevin and his fiancée Mai Haruoka, will be married in Osaka, Japan on November 15th at the Sumiyoshi Shrine.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye!, please contact Donna MacNeil at donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca or telephone 733-3551.

All newsletters since 1999 are available at <http://fortress.uccb.ns.ca/parksproject/nhsbcnews.htm>