



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

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

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Assignment – Heather Davis

The Cape Breton Field Unit has a familiar face in a new position. Heather Davis has accepted a one-year assignment in Environmental Management for the Field Unit. Though there are many aspects to Environmental Management, Heather will be focussed on our energy consumption of electricity, fuel oil, gasoline and diesel, and she will be recommending various ways to improve our efficiency in this area. The Field Unit's energy use translates to close to \$750,000 in expenditures annually. We need to be innovative and find ways reduce our impact on the environment and on our budgets.

Heather will be travelling throughout the entire field unit to talk with staff, look through buildings, consult with managers, collect and analyse data. Her findings and recommendations will be submitted to the management team for consideration.

All staff are encouraged to pass on their ideas to Heather, and watch as our workplace becomes a much brighter shade of green.

Affectation – Heather Davis

Quelqu'un que nous connaissons bien occupe un nouveau poste au sein de l'Unité de gestion du Cap-Breton. En effet, Heather Davis a accepté une affectation pour un an à la gestion environnementale de l'Unité de gestion. La gestion environnementale comprend de nombreux volets, toutefois, Heather s'attaquera particulièrement à notre consommation d'électricité, de mazout, d'essence et de diesel, et recommandera divers moyens de faire des économies dans ce domaine. La consommation d'énergie de l'Unité de gestion représente chaque année une dépense de près de 750 000 \$. Nous devons innover et trouver des moyens de réduire les pressions que nous exerçons sur l'environnement et sur notre budget.

Heather se rendra dans tous les lieux de travail de l'Unité de gestion pour rencontrer les employés, visiter les bureaux, consulter les gestionnaires et recueillir et analyser des données. Ses conclusions et ses recommandations seront présentées à l'équipe de gestion.

Nous vous invitons tous à communiquer vos idées à Heather et à être les témoins de la transition vers un milieu de travail beaucoup plus vert.

Chip Bird



The Big Dig!

Work has been taking place to install lines to provide emergency power from the sewage treatment plant so power is always available to run security equipment and fire alarms.

Before any digging took place, Alex Campbell had to detect underground power sources, 600 volt and communication lines. When this was completed, digging began with our archaeologist Becki Duggan watching over the excavation. Artifacts were actually discovered during this dig.

Congratulations to General Works staff on a job well done – Stanley Pink, Tracey MacDonald and Brian MacLeod.



Line completely installed.



Pictured above is the work in progress

Christmas in 18th Century Louisbourg: French & British Perspectives

Christmas in Louisbourg, as in France and New France, was a high holy day, a religious feast that celebrated the birth of Jesus. It could be both joyous and solemn, a time for devotion. Christmas meant attendance at midnight Mass and perhaps a special meal. The French, however, were not always pious. One traveler to Paris during Christmas noted: “The populace stays out all night, and from mass they go to the cabaret, where they revel until dawn.” So it was in Louisbourg as well, a mix of religious fervour and sometimes excess. We know, for instance, that on Christmas Eve 1752, a priest was preparing the church for midnight Mass in the Chapelle Saint-Louis in the King’s Bastion. On another Christmas Eve, this time in 1736, a guest at the L’Epée Royale ordered an expensive tart for the main course.

The British, in contrast, celebrated Christmas in the 18th century by giving treats and presents and decorated their churches and houses with laurels, rosemary, and other greenery. Thus, the New Englanders and British celebrated Christmas at Louisbourg. Nathaniel Knap, a soldier from Newbury, Massachusetts, was typical. On 25 December 1759, he wrote: “This day it being Christmas Day the Governor gave our Company ye Day for to Divert ourselves. Ye forenoon I went a gunning. It is a fine Pleasant Day, had a good dinner of Roast Beef.”

New Year’s Day, rather than Christmas, began a period of jubilation throughout France and New France. The carnival lasted until the beginning of Lent. The French, unlike the British, did not celebrate Christmas with gifts, decorations and merrymaking and these cultural differences were part of a separate worldview, one Catholic and one Protestant.

Ken Donovan

News from AGB

Excerpt from a letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to her daughter Mrs. David Fairchild written at Beinn Bhreagh, November 22, 1905 (Letter Book, Binder 101, page 12):

My dear little girl:

That was a very nice letter you wrote Daddysan. But it was a very womanly letter, and makes me feel as if my little girl had grown up very much indeed since I saw her... I am glad that David's two articles were accepted, and that you will accomplish something in the fight for pure food. How true it is that "we have the poor ever with us" and there is always fighting to be done for the Right whether by sword or other means. Don't grow cranky or faddish though - you will accomplish much more by remaining fashionable, keeping in touch with fashionable society, and making it evident that is possible to be an elegant woman of society, and yet be interested in things like pure food. Yet it is true that most of things that cost are the unnecessary ones which are expected of one, and I don't want you to go in for things beyond your means ... Papa had very little money when I first met him, but he was young then, and convinced that he would neither live long or marry so there was no need to save beyond his own willingness to put aside money for emergencies ..."

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Continuing our collaboration with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Linda Watson and Madeline Harvey delivered tetrahedral kite-making workshops at the gallery during its weekend children's festival. The festival was part of its "Flight Dreams" celebration which continues until March 2, 2009. A number of AGBNHSC artifacts continue to be part of the gallery's exhibits for the duration of Flight Dreams.

Museum Roof

Work is underway to replace the disintegrated tiles on 2 of the museum's roof areas so they will be safe for use during the 2009 Silver Dart Centennial celebrations. These areas provide an excellent view of Beinn Bhreagh and Baddeck Bay and will provide prime viewing for the fly pasts scheduled in February and June. They will work well during visitor season for Heritage Presentation regards Beinn Bhreagh and Baddeck Bay where history was made by Bell and his associates. In the spring, the roof garden areas will be planted with plants that were grown in the Beinn Bhreagh gardens.

The surface area around the Silver Dart monument on the lower roof level has been repaired with new wooden decking to provide much improved access and appearance to the monuments honouring the Aerial Experiment Association's work. (*See photo*)



Deryck Chapman and Gary Pierrard put the finishing touches on the new decking around the Silver Dart monument.

Meeting with Local School Board

Eddy Kennedy, Anne MacRae and Sharon Morrow met with Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board staff Curriculum Coordinator, Cathy MacNeil to discuss ways teachers can share the stories of Bell/Marconi/Canso Islands/St.Peters Canal, NHSCs with their students in the classroom. Ms. MacNeil will be looking into curriculum connections related to our stories so we will

know the grade levels for which to prepare materials that teachers can use without Parks Canada staff doing the delivery.

HP/VS Meeting

On Tuesday, November 18th Heritage Presentation / Visitor Services staff from all sites within the field unit met at AGBNHSC to discuss matters of common concern, share best practices and summarize their individual visitor seasons. For the past 2 years HP/VS staff have met at the start and finish of the visitor season and everyone finds it very useful and informative. Highlands Links joined in for the first time and it was much appreciated.

WATER Exhibit Area

Work continues on the project to replace the severely deteriorated exhibit panels in the WATER exhibit areas. The goal is to have the new panels in place for the February 2009 Silver Dart centennial celebrations.

Cabot Trail Working Association Meeting

Sharon Morrow attended the recent Cabot Trail Working Association meeting in Belle Cote. It was a well-attended brainstorming session to come up with ideas for future projects and further development of the Trail. It was also an opportunity to consider the suggestions made by Roger Brooks in his assessment of the Cabot Trail delivered in October.

2009 Centennial

Valerie Mason and Madeline Harvey are working on activities related to the 2009 centennial - one of which is to prepare aviation related decorations for the site's Christmas tree and the launch of the 2009 celebrations on New Year's Eve. Students at Baddeck Academy are also creating decorations for the tree.



Madeline Harvey and Valerie Mason preparing aviation decorations for the New Year's Eve launch of the 2009 flight centennial celebrations.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: A holiday celebration at the Fortress of Louisbourg

The Fortress Louisbourg Association is presenting a Christmas Concert featuring the Richard Burke Quartet on December 18th. The concert will take place in the Chapel. A Holiday Dinner is also available that night. Anyone wishing a ticket, please call 733-3548.

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/nhscbnews.htm>