



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

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

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Open House Series *Coastal Erosion Management Strategy*

Increasingly Parks Canada and adjacent communities are recognizing that there is a wide range of common goals that they share. Protecting their heritage values, providing a high quality of life for residents and employees, developing a quality experience in the tourism sector, and sharing the significance and pride of place to Canadians. When gateway communities like Louisbourg and Parks Canada recognize each other's common goals and respect each other's strengths and commit to work with each other, incredible gains can be made.

Building community relationships and engaging communities and individuals in our site represents a fundamental approach to how we achieve our mandate. It represents the shift from doing things ourselves within the confines of the Fortress' boundaries to actively working with others to manage the site and being an active participant in the community. It's about building trust.

The Open House format is a vehicle through which trust can be built. By inviting residents to come out to learn and exchange ideas on occurrences at the Fortress we begin the process of developing a long lasting and mutually respectful relationship. On February 22 the first Open House, in what is hoped to become a series, was held at the Community Centre on the topic of the Coastal Erosion

Management Strategy. Willis Stevens, Manager of Cultural Resources, Cape Breton Field Unit presented information on coastal erosion and then hosted a discussion on the topic. If you have any suggestions for future topics please drop us a line.

Germaine LeMoine

Old Sydney Society Series

Matthew Cook spoke at the February 25th meeting of the Old Sydney Society at the Centre for Heritage and Science (the Lyceum). The title of the talk was: "Murder or Suicide? The Mysterious Death of Edie Brailsford, Dominion, 1923". Below is a brief summary of Matthew's presentation.

At the time, the case was called "one of the most baffling in the criminal records of Cape Breton." On the evening of November 23, 1923, in the busy Cape Breton coal mining town of Dominion, an young English immigrant was found shot to death in her fiancé's house. John Doucette was immediately accused of the murder of his fiancé, Edie Brailsford.

The grand jury and trial that followed in the winter of 1923-24 heard the testimony of the local doctor and many neighbours. Rumours and hearsay were brought before the court. Testimony and newspaper articles revealed the rocky relationship for which



Brailsford left her previous fiancé, Charles Higginbotham, who paid her passage from England.

The doctor claimed that Edie could not have killed herself; a letter to her uncle in England suggested she had no intention to harm herself; but everyone in the house at the time was nowhere near the girl when the shot was heard. Each was an alibi for the other. A mystery worthy of an Agatha Christie novel, the death of Edie Brailsford, ruled a suicide, remains a mysterious event that is now revisited after more than eighty years.

Matt presented a good paper that discussed numerous social and cultural issues surrounding the case in both England and Cape Breton.

Ken Donovan

Youth in Motion

This local group of young citizens of Louisbourg presented Chip Bird with a token of their appreciation for his assistance and cooperation in their many adventures over the last year. In particular the Fright Night that was held last September.

Pictured below with Chip are left to right, Quentin Durnford, James Taylor, Chip Bird, Becky Price and Savannah Power, all students at George D. Lewis School in Louisbourg.



(Ian Harte photo)

News from AGB

Marconi NHSC

The first 2010 Marconi Connection meeting was held on February 11th at the Glace Bay Heritage Museum. Dr. Mary K. MacLeod, Cape Breton University, gave an overview of her December trip to Stockholm where she represented the University, Parks Canada and the Cape Breton Wireless Society at the conference honouring Marconi and the 100th anniversary of his Nobel Prize in physics. She thought the trip was extremely beneficial in terms of presenting the Cape Breton/Canada Marconi connection and networking opportunities.

Cape Breton University is considering developing a Marconi Institute and Sweden's National Museum of Science and Technology indicated it is willing to co-operate as is Ericsson which bought Nortel and the Marconi Company, and Marconi's family. The Sydney Amateur Radio Club once again will participate in International Marconi Day in April.

Discussion regarding ways of involving Glace Bay schools in the early history of wireless communication continued.

St. Peters Canal NHSC

Aynsley MacFarlane attended a meeting in the Village of St. Peters with community members who are looking at improvements to the Nicolas Denys Museum and possible development of the Lockmaster's house at St. Peters Canal National Historic Site.

Canso Islands NHSC

Efforts to facilitate repair of storm damage to the wharf adjacent to the Canso Islands visitor centre continue.

**Alexander Graham Bell, NHSC -
'To Do' List**

Many of the projects on the winter "to do" list for AGB are in 'underway' or 'completed' status. The windows overlooking our view of Baddeck Bay in the Orientation area have been replaced; the carpet in the library and adjacent office space has been removed and replaced with tile; renovations to the gift shop floor space are underway; the upper roof deck drainage improvement project is well underway; brush clearing and removal of trees that have succumbed to the bark beetle continues, a project which is also restoring the Site's view of Baddeck Bay and Beinn Bhreagh; and the Smart Screen has been installed in the library/meeting area.



Pictured are the new windows in 'Orientation' providing a much clearer take on beautiful Baddeck Bay.



AGBNHSC's Smart Screen now graces a wall in the library thanks to Sean Cox, Amelia Donovan and AGB General Works

HSMBC Plaque Installation:

Another major installation that took place recently is one everyone can enjoy as they arrive and depart from Cape Breton Island. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque commemorating the Canso Causeway has been installed near the gazebo/park area at the causeway bridge at Canso Canal. The plaque has been most appropriately mounted on a rock taken from Cape Porcupine which was the source of the rock used to build the causeway in the 1950's.

The Canso Causeway Anniversary Society members are delighted to see the plaque in place and Rilla MacLean, one of those who advocated for the HSMBC designation of the Canso Causeway wrote on the day it was installed:

Hi All,

Thanks to Danny and Deryck for installing the HSMBC plaque for the Causeway. It's actually there now! We checked on Boxing Day to see if it had been installed as a Christmas present. However, a Valentine's gift is truly appreciated. Jim had to cross the Causeway this afternoon so he took some pictures on route.

*Cheers,
Rilla*



Photo courtesy of Jim and Rilla MacLean (Canso Causeway Anniversary Society) taken on the day the Canso Causeway Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque was installed.

Cruise 2010:

Destination Cape Breton Association hosted a session at its Sydney office on February 15th that focused on the upcoming cruise season. While there are fewer calls to the port of Sydney in 2010, the ships arriving are larger so this year will bring the most passengers ever to Sydney. The meeting was well attended by tourism operators from around the Island.

Tourism Town Hall:

A Tourism Town Hall was held at St. Ann's Gaelic College on February 23rd providing an opportunity for more tourism operators to meet Destination Cape Breton Association's (DCBA) new CEO, Mary Tulle. Ms. Tulle provided an update on some of the Association's 2010 initiatives which included an overview of the social media/ecommerce conference she attended in Montreal; the goal of the Cape Breton Technology Committee to develop the DCBA website as the central Cape Breton port with lots of links; an update on plans for the Cape Breton Island presence at Saltscapes; and information on the Summer Trekker Program which employs grade 11 and 12 students in tourism, especially in event related activities, where this year they will conduct exit surveys and will have 'mobile' devices on which they will twitter event information for visitors.

Ms. Tulle said that DCBA will embrace an Island wide approach in its activities so everybody is a stakeholder. She mentioned that the goal will be to find out why visitors are coming to CBI and work toward an increase visitors to CBI and revenue.

Silver Dart Centennial Association:

The Silver Dart Centennial Association hosted a centennial wrap-up evening event on February 23rd, the 101st anniversary of the flight of the *Silver Dart*. Memorabilia from the 2009 centennial year celebrations were on display and the Association gave special thanks to Parks Canada and to Eleanor Anderson who managed their centennial activities.

SDCA Legacy Committee Chairperson, Bruce Morrison, said that while the centennial year events have drawn to a close, the work of fundraising for a hall of flight addition to AGBNHSC to house the *Silver Dart* replica and an innovation centre, is just getting underway for his Committee and they expect to soon receive the report from the group that did the feasibility study and is presently engaged in the stakeholder interview process.

Purple Friday -- Thanks!

Parks Canada involvement in Purple Friday was strong across the Cape Breton Field Unit. Thanks to all those who participated by wearing a purple ribbon, pin or purple clothing and to those who generously donated. The Cape Breton Field Unit raised \$122 which will help with family violence prevention activities in our communities. All donations will be given to the Cape Breton Interagency on Family Violence which represents more than 30 member organizations across the island.

A special thanks to John Cann, Helene Robichaud and Sharon Morrow for coordinating efforts at FOL, CBH and AGB.

Thank you again for your involvement in Purple Friday!

Maria O'Hearn

Did you know.....

Congratulations go out to former drummer/fifer, Jody Harpell, who recently became Dr. Harpell after successfully defending his PHD thesis at the University of Calgary. Brian and Millie Harpell are very proud to have a Doctor of Psychology in the family.

Best wishes to Robert and Kelly Deveaux on the birth of their daughter, Adèle Rosemarie Jeanne weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces born on February 3, 2010. She's a real cutie!



Proud Mom & Dad with Baby Adèle!

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Terri Dunphy and Cecil Dunphy on the death of their father, Cecil, on February 2, 2010.

Fire Extinguishers – Buying & Maintaining

Extinguishers come in a dry chemical, foam, carbon dioxide, water or Halon form. Whatever type you buy, it should be labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

The higher the number rating on the extinguisher, the more fire it puts out. High rated extinguishers are often (not always) the heavier models. Ensure you can hold and operate the one you buy comfortably.

Ask your dealer how to have your extinguisher serviced and inspected. Recharge it after ANY use. A partially used extinguisher might as well be empty.

Extinguishers should be installed near an escape route and away from potential fire.

Learn How to PASS

- ***PULL*** the pin
- ***AIM*** the extinguisher nozzle at base of fire
- ***SQUEEZE*** or press the handle
- ***SWEEP*** from side-to-side at the base of the fire and discharge the contents of the extinguisher.

Excerpts from 3minutedrill.alberta.ca (Government of Alberta).

Safety Bits



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