

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
Vol. 7, No.10 October - Octobre 2005

Celtic
Colours



Visitor Experience Workshop

Heartfelt thanks go out to the volunteers and staff who made this year's Celtic Colours concert a resounding success. Congratulations were extended from Joella Foulds (Celtic Colours Organizer) and Her Honour Myra Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, to all involved for a very well executed, smooth-running event.

These accolades must go first and foremost to the 14 volunteers who gave of their time, as well as the operational units (Ruby at Furnishings, the E&W staff, Watchmen, Wardens, Cleaning Staff, and Heritage Presentation staff) who worked above and beyond to make the event a success. It could never have happened without you all.

So to all of you, I express my sincere gratitude. Thank you.

Blaine Aitkens

On October 18 and 19, a cross-section of staff members from the Fortress of Louisbourg, including a member of the Fortress Louisbourg Association, met to discuss visitor experiences at our site. The meeting came about from our site's Management Plan review process and from a new Agency direction to become more pro-active in creating memorable visitor experiences.

Participants began by relating memorable personal visitor experiences and what factors made them so. With this information at hand, participants then reviewed current visitor experiences and barnstormed about potential future ones.

The mix of participants from seasonal to full-time and from front-line to behind-the-scenes to management resulted in an open and invigorating exchange of ideas and possibilities. Everybody enjoyed the discussion and the opportunity to participate in developing our site's future. We are all involved in creating memorable visitor experiences and this workshop provided a welcome forum to discuss new directions.

As part of the Management Plan review, there will be a second gathering in November of external stakeholders and interested parties to further discuss the visitor experience at Louisbourg. Stay tuned for further developments.

Sandy Balcom

School Visit

Ruby Powell from the Curatorial Section was asked by Brendan Edwards, a Grade 6 student in Coxheath Elementary School to visit his class and to talk about Louisbourg as part of his history project. Ruby, along with Troy Allen, went to the school on October 24th. This class has been studying Louisbourg history for the past month and also visited our site in September.

Troy talked about the two sieges and was impressed with how much the children knew about them. Ruby talked about 18th century chocolate and gave them a piece of it. Ruby and Troy got to see all of the posters and photographed a few of the presentations (see back page).

In keeping with the Visitor Experience Workshop Ruby took part in last week, she asked the students if any of them had memorable experiences in Louisbourg. Some of the comments received were:

- One boy loved the cannon firing (loud noise)
- A little girl was fascinated with the Ice House
- Another little boy told of being chased by a soldier for admitting to being a 'spy'
- The dancing and singing was liked by all.

The teacher, Margaret Dicks, was one of the writers of the grade 6 textbook co-written by Parks Canada historians and several teachers in the Cape Breton District School Board. in the early 90s.



Ruby and Troy with the entire class.

News from AGB

Sunday, October 28th, 1894, Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to (her mother) Mrs. Gardiner Greene Hubbard. (Excerpt from the Letter Books, Binder # 85)

“The foliage here continues beautiful. Here and there bare branches show themselves and we see much more of Baddeck than formerly and the red leaves have turned a rich russet brown, but I think the colours are even stronger and handsomer than before. I do love this home of mine and I know how you hated to leave beautiful Twin Oaks. After all isn't this world a very beautiful place. Would it not be a worthy and philanthropic deed to establish a professorship on natural beauty and teach people the beauty of all around them. They might be more willing to remain at home and not crowd into cities. It seems to me that trying to keep people in the country is a far more hopeful work than trying to reform the dwellers in the slums and induce them to go into the country.”

October 27th, 2005 and the scene is much as Mabel Bell portrayed it in 1894.

Season Winding Down

A busy month but activity is winding down and staff numbers are much reduced.

Monday, October 31st is our last day of fee collection this year.

Cruise Visitors

We delivered more enhanced programs this month to cruise visitors travelling on 'Silver Whisper' and look forward to delivering more 'experiential' programs in 2006.

Canso Town

Canso Town found itself in the news recently with the announcement that a nearby island, adjacent to Grassy Island National Historic Site, now known as the Maharishi Island of World Peace, was to be the site of a ceremony on October 12th to raise the flag of the Global Country of World Peace and break ground for the first building of the Global Parliament. The Global Country of World Peace was conceived and founded in 2000 by His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi together with scientists, educators, doctors, lawyers and peace-loving citizens of more than 100 nations.

It was founded to provide a global home for peace-loving people everywhere. It is a country without borders whose purpose is in part to reduce the divisive influence of nationalism and national borders which arbitrarily separate humanity from humanity.

Telecommunications Hall of Fame

Alexander Graham Bell had the honour of being the first "laureate" to be inducted into the (virtual) "Telecommunications Hall of Fame" at a gala black tie dinner in Toronto on October 17th. Aynsley attended the occasion representing this Site and, with Brian Wood, Curator of the Bell Homestead National Historic Site in Brantford, Ontario, presented the AG Bell laureate award to Edwin Grosvenor who accepted on behalf of the Bell family.



Author Charlotte Gray gave the introductory talk on AGB and a video based on interviews done here in July with Bell family members Hugh Muller and Dr. Martin Myers and staff member Madeline Harvey was shown.

Categories for inductees are: Inventors and Innovators, Servants of the Public, and Icons of Business and Advocates and Academics. As well, a Special Recognition Award was given this year to recognize Canada's Telephone Operators. Almost 400 people attended this event.

Travel Writers

Among the travel writers visiting this month was Monte Burke who writes for Forbes Magazine as well as a number of writers who traversed the Island with Celtic Colours International Festival as their focus.

Media Relations Workshop

A Media Relations Workshop was held at the Fortress with staff from the three sites attending. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the 3 year marketing project the Fortress is included in and as always a chance to share ideas. Monique Charette provided results afterwards by email of a focus study on some existing marketing material which gave some insight as to what is meaningful or not in terms of photography and writing used to get our info out there.

Heritage Presentation Meeting

Alexander Graham Bell was the venue for a Field Unit Heritage Presentation & Client Services meeting. Information on the visitor season was shared and the next meeting will follow soon.

Presentation

On October 11th Sharon Morrow gave a presentation to about 40 veterans/members of RC Legion Branch 12 in Sydney during their afternoon meeting. It was an opportunity to highlight our Field Unit with a focus on the Bell Museum.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to Eddie, Stewart and Debi Kennedy on the death of their brother-in-law, Richard Aucoin, Margaree Harbour on October 2, 2005.

Our sincere condolences to Diane MacLeod and her family on the death of her brother Donald on October 21, 2005.



Did you know.....

....Sandy Balcom told ghost stories from the Fortress of Louisbourg during Fright Night at Two Rivers Park on Friday, October 21 and did a very good job I am told.

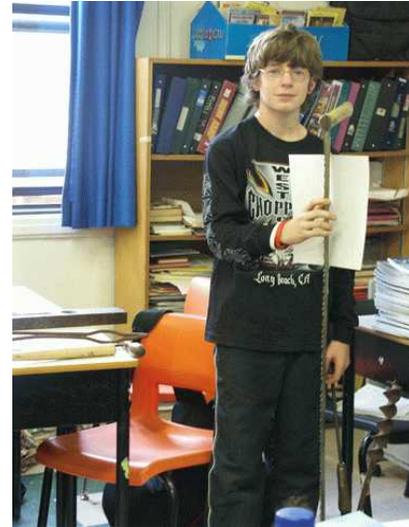
...Becki Duggan was one of the scary people at Fright Night as well - I believe she was a Mummy!!!!

***Happy
Halloween Everyone!!!!***

Anyone who would like to submit an article to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye! please forward to Donna MacNeil at donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca



These students wrote an interactive poem about Louisbourg!



This young man talked about 18th century tools and carpentry.



This is a board game about Louisbourg that was created by other students - if you land on the ? you would be asked questions about Louisbourg, get the answer right - you get a feather!



This young lady not only wrote a song about Louisbourg but also made the guitar she is playing!!