

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton  
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## *Fête de Saint Louis*

This year's Fête took place on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Once again, it went off like clockwork with plenty of activity on site for visitors.

As Blaine Aitkens quotes one of the guides:

"Feast days are good for our staff because they take us out of our normal routine - and allow us to show how special days very well might have been celebrated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century."



## *Special Guest from Missouri*

Tuesday, August 1, Jim Baker, Site Administrator of the Felix Valle State Historic Site in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri visited Louisbourg and gave a talk on French Colonial architecture. Several people from Asset Management, Heritage Presentation, Cultural Resources and a few very interested visitors attended. His talk, "To learn the trade, art and mystery of a carpenter and house joiner..." : Traditional French-Colonial Architecture of Ste. Genevieve," gave the history of the development of the particular style of architecture found in Missouri.

The talk was illustrated with examples of many buildings still standing, some museums and some private homes, in Ste. Genevieve. Ste Genevieve has numerous significant buildings dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, built in both the poteaux-en-terre and poteaux-sur-solle styles. These distinctive French colonial styles are also used in many of the buildings at Louisbourg, such as the fisherman's house and the Grandchamps Inn and restaurant. This architecture provides a concrete example of the link, through French colonial history, between Louisbourg and the American south.

As well as giving the talk Jim took the time

to visit Louisbourg twice during his stay. He was very impressed with the construction details of our buildings and our presentation of the site. He enjoyed his time in Nova Scotia (he was also speaking in Chester) tremendously.

-Anne Marie Lane Jonah

### ***Common Moorhen Sighting***

The Common Moorhen, which rarely gets this far north - Connecticut normally being the nearest it gets to Louisbourg. It was seen in the second small pond on the right, along the road out to Rochefort Point. It is a marsh/pond bird that looks a lot like an American Coot, but smaller - it is blackish with a bright red bill, white under the tail and a line of white along its side. It pumps its neck back and forth as it swims. Becki Duggan saw it at the end of June but didn't know what it was until Susann Myers identified it for us.



Ordinarily, the Fortress might expect to get 20 to 30 visitors coming just to see this bird, since so many birders from all over North America are here to see the Western Reef Heron in Glace Bay.

### ***Notices - Seasonal Staff***

It was decided at the last Union Management Meeting that bulletins, newsletters, etc will be sent to seasonal staff beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> and running through to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Anyone with an email address that would like to receive this mailout and did not respond to the letter sent to them last winter, please let Donna MacNeil know. Also anyone who had requested the information be sent via Canada Post will also begin to receive their mail once a week

beginning this September.

### ***News from AGB***

An undated letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. David Fairchild (daughter Marian who was fondly known as Daisy):

*Darling Day:*

*Discovered depths of iniquity and deceit in my husband undreamt of during 36 years of marriage. He complains of indigestion. We are all in despair, worried to death over chicken curry. Husband absolutely quiet about surreptitious luncheon on ham and bad eggs! Guilt detected by egg spots on waistcoat!*

*What will your perfect one do?*

*Lovingly,  
Mamma*

Domestic bliss! After all he was only human.

### ***August Events***

August is drawing to a close and we're all amazed that the visitor season is two-thirds over.

August 31<sup>st</sup> marks the end of daily kite workshops and experiment programs. Students who worked with us this season are excitedly preparing to head back to school.

Our Aviation Day & 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations went very well with great attendance by people of all ages. The tetrahedral kite workshop was full, 48 rockets blasted off in DISCOVER, 3 Baddeck folks who were here at the 1956 opening of the museum were here to talk with visitors for the 50<sup>th</sup> and one of them is over 90 years of age. Fiddle music filled

ORIENTATION as cake and raspberry punch were served to a few hundred visitors.

Aviation enthusiasts enjoyed George Haliburton's model airplane display and the Crown Jewel Resort in Big Baddeck hosted a 'Young Eagles' program at their runway where youth were given a free airplane ride. Around 4 pm, five of the airplanes did a fly past over the museum and Baddeck Bay. CTV, The Chronicle Herald, The Victoria Standard and CJCJ were here. CTV ran a spot on the 6 pm news and the Herald and Standard ran stories with photos. CJCJ promoted the event throughout the day.

### ***Books & More Books***

We are in the process of "vetting" an illustrated children's book called *Listen Up! Alexander Graham Bell's Talking Box* for Random House/Golden Books Young Readers Group.

Charlotte Gray's book about A.G. Bell, *Reluctant Genius*, is being launched in Canada and the United States. It looks like the author will be here around the end of October to do an evening presentation, reading and book signing. Our Co-op Association will look after book sales that evening.

Judith Tulloch's book, *The Bell Family Album*, which is a project of our Co-op Association, is at the printers and it too will likely be launched in October.

### ***Outdoor Concert***

Our visitors enjoyed a free outdoor concert on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. About 40 young musicians performed on fiddle, keyboard and guitar. They were part of a YMCA exchange

program between youth from Victoria, BC and Cape Breton Island. Great 'wow' experience.

### ***Harvest Home Celebrations***

We are starting preparations for our annual Harvest Home event which is held the third Saturday of September – September 16<sup>th</sup> this year.

### ***Marconi & Canso, NHSC***

Replacement parts were purchased for the antenna system at Marconi National Historic Site of Canada so volunteers from the local amateur radio club could send Morse Code messages all over the world as an enhanced visitor experience from time to time.

All is well at Canso Island and Grassy Island Fort National Historic Sites of Canada. Both Canso and Marconi remain open until September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Condolences***

Our sincere condolences to Maura McKeough and her family on the death of her father, Dr. Liam McKeough, after a lengthy illness. Dr. McKeough passed away Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our sincere condolences to Louise Johnston and her family on the death of her mother, Catherine Anne Johnston, on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Anyone wishing to submit an article to Hear Ye! Hear Ye! please forward to Donna MacNeil at [donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca](mailto:donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca)*