

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
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Happy New Year!!

Another year is upon us and unfortunately this year did not start off as well as we would like.

Some time early in the morning of New Year's Eve a person or persons broke into several of the buildings on site. Little damage was done to any of the buildings and very little was stolen. At this time, no arrests have been made and police are continuing the search for the culprits.

Heritage Presentation News

Traditionally this is the time of year that everyone is planning and revising events for the upcoming visitor season. One of the events that we are working on - with the curatorial and marketing staff, is a presentation at the Savour Show being held in Halifax March 1. This wine and food show will allow us to network directly with wine sellers and demonstrate our products to the general public. We will have an exhibit of our evening wine tasting and chocolate programs with 2 costumed staff in attendance.

Another show FOL staff will be attending in conjunction with staff from the National Office is the Rendezvous Canada Travel Trade Show in Quebec in April. We will be doing demonstrations of chocolate and focussing on enhanced programs at the Fortress.

We use attractive programs like chocolate and wine tasting to engage the visitor - at which

point we have the opportunity to expand into our regular programming and messaging!.

Financial Processes

There will be some changes in cheque distribution (excluding salary cheques) commencing March 1, 2007.

When completing a travel claim or request for reimbursement of any kind for such things as boot allowances, etc you must ensure that your mailing address in on the form as all cheques (excluding salary cheques) will be sent to the employee's address.

Everyone is reminded that when you are submitting claims either for travel or other reimbursements that original receipts are required and if an original receipt is not available then a copy can be used (if available) and it is accompanied by a declaration that states it is a true copy, that the original is not available and it has not been submitted in an earlier claim.

News from AGB

Dr. Mabel Grosvenor passed away on Monday, October 30, 2007. She was the last surviving grandchild of Alexander Graham Bell. Dr. Mabel, as she was affectionately called, travelled from Washington to Baddeck every summer and dearly loved

everything about Baddeck. She will be sorely missed.

Book Launching

Judith Tulloch, retired historian with Parks Canada has written a wonderful book entitled, ***“The Bell Family in Baddeck”***. The book was officially launched November 19th at the Bell Museum. The book contains details about Bell’s work and family life and also has about 100 pictures.

In Memory of Sandy....

Sandy Ferguson, of Alexandra Street in Sydney died on January 26, 2007. She was a former employee of the Fortress of Louisbourg and for much of that time she was the Superintendent’s secretary.



The last time Helen and I heard from her was at Christmas when she was off to mail her cards from Christmas Island. Sandy had red hair and a formidable personality. She was not at all shy in expressing herself, and always spoke her mind.

Her loves included reading, gardening, recording wild plants, birding and recording gravestones in Cape Breton cemeteries. For at least one season she worked as curator of gardens on site. For more than 20 years, on her own time, she travelled the length and breadth of Cape Breton recording grave markers. Her research, much of it the only record available, is housed in the Beaton Institute of Cape Breton University.

Sandy volunteered to work on the garden at the Rectory in the town of Louisbourg for the Louisbourg Heritage Society. Her aim was to create an old fashioned garden and friends of

hers from all over Cape Breton donated plants from their gardens.

Unfortunately this project would not succeed, because the Society couldn’t afford to keep up the building, but Sandy always hoped Louisbourg would eventually get the flower garden she dreamed of.

On one Saturday many years ago, she and I led the Old Sydney Historical Society members on a tour of churches and cemeteries in the Margarees. We did a reconnaissance the week before and in one cemetery met a local man who knew a great deal about the families buried there. After about 5 minutes it became obvious to him that Sandy knew as much about his ancestors as he did and they got along famously.

Sandy was the Cape Breton co-ordinator of the spring Plant Watch in which we recorded the first flowering of certain plants. For a variety of reasons my recording for 2006 was not as thorough as in the past 10 years. “Don’t worry,” she said, “you’ll do better next year.” Little did she realize that neither of us would be at home for the 2007 Plant Watch. *Bill O’Shea*

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Richard Dobson and his family on the death of his mother, Edna Dobson on January 22, 2007.

Our sincere condolences to Terri Dunphy on the death of her mother-in-law, Joyce Marshe also on January 22, 2007.

Our sincere condolences to Harry Kennedy and family on the death of their mother, Lucy Kennedy on January 23, 2006.