



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

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

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And the anchor moved ...

In early July, the large anchor on display at the Visitor Reception Centre was moved to front of the building. It has provided the front with a much-needed focal point. It also recalls the importance of the Louisbourg's maritime roots and a time when the harbour was busy with large merchant and naval sailing ships.

The metal part of the anchor is made of wrought iron and was retrieved from Louisbourg harbour in 1926. The wooden stock is a reproduction made by our Artisan Shop. As anchor design remained relatively unchanged for many years, it is impossible to precisely date this anchor. It has been identified as the sheet (or main) anchor of a large sailing ship.

To quote *Falconer's Marine Dictionary*, (1780), "[anchors] are composed of a shank, a stock, a ring and two arms with their flukes. The stock, which is a long piece of timber fixed across the shank, serves to guide the flukes in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the ground; so that one of them sinks into it by its own weight as soon as it falls, and



Picture by H. Moses

is still preserved steadily in that position by the stock, which, together with the shank, lies flat on the bottom. In this situation it must necessarily sustain a great effort, before it can be dragged through the earth horizontally. ... Every ship, has or ought to have, three principal anchors, with a cable to each, viz. the sheet, *maitresse-ancre*, ... the best bower, *second ancre*, and the small bower, *ancre d'assourche*, so called from their usual situation on the ship's bows. There are besides smaller anchors, for removing a ship from place to place



in a harbour, or river, where there may not be room or wind for sailing ...”

In the above description, please remember that in the 18-th century, a ship referred to a three-masted vessel with square rigging on all three masts. In consequence, the writer was referring to the large merchant and naval ships of the day having three large anchors, and not to the numerous rigs of smaller vessels.

Thanks are due to the Groundskeepers, Masons, Operators and Artisans for their work in site-preparation and the move of the anchor and to Conservation and Archaeology for their advice.

Sandy Balcom

Health & Safety Day

The second annual Health & Safety Day was held at the Fortress of Louisbourg NHSC on July 11, 2007. The focus this year was back health.

Marg Martell, from Health Canada, Workplace Health & Public Safety, presented information on Back Health and ways to prevent back injury by practising good posture, stretching and proper lifting techniques.

The presentation was followed by a game of “Safety Jeopardy”. Participants were placed on two teams (Team “Cars” and Team “Trucks”) and given five categories of questions to test their knowledge of WHMIS, the Canada Labour Code, the Fortress, Stands For (Acronyms) and Safety Symbols/signs. Congratulations to both teams for answering all but one of the 25 questions correctly. (Team “Cars” won!!)

Thank you to management for their support of this event and a special thank you to the 35 employees who were able to attend our second Health & Safety Day.

Tall Ships



Picture by J. Adams

Four tall ships arrived in Louisbourg Harbour Wednesday morning, July 18th as part of the Cape Breton Festival of Sail 2007 celebrations.

Festivities were held at the boardwalk with tents and games set up. The theme for the festival was pirates - no doubt a real hit with the very young. Four Parks staff were in attendance for the opening ceremonies—two soldiers carrying the 18th century French colours, a drummer, and a fifer.

Record crowds of visitors were in Louisbourg during the stay of the Tall Ships. It was great to see so many visitors on the streets of Louisbourg!

“an inconvenient truth”

Our local Green Committee has received copies of this incredible film and anyone wishing to borrow the DVD can do so by contacting Donna MacNeil.

Compostable Material Now Banned From Landfill

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality composting facility is now up and running. As a result, the CBRM is no longer accepting compostable material in the garbage collection system.

Although FOLNHSC already has a comprehensive “back yard” composting program in place, much of the material now considered compostable is not suitable for these units. Currently all grass clippings, garden waste, animal manure, vegetable peelings, coffee grounds etc. go into the compost stream. The material is collected from various locations and put into large piles where it turns into compost. This material is then used back on site in the gardens program. To make the collection of material easier, biodegradable kitchen compost bags have been provided by Asset Management and are available from Stores.

The challenge now is to capture the remaining compostable material that is currently going into the waste stream. Compostable material like table scraps, food waste, used paper towels, fish, bones, and meat and dairy products from lunchrooms, site restaurants, day use areas and beaches must now be diverted to the compost stream.

Recently, representatives the CBRM Solid Waste Management Committee and ACAP Cape Breton gave a presentation on the new CBRM Composting Program to Fortress site supervisors. Later, the three met with members of the FOL Green Committee to discuss the challenges associated with

complying with the legislation. The group toured the restaurant and met with manager, Anne Marie Pitcher, to come up with some solutions and plans for action.



Parks Canada, ACAP and CBRM staff meet with the FLA restaurant manager to discuss composting requirements.

The group recognized the efforts of FOLNHSC staff and extended a “thank you” to staff members who reduce, reuse, recycle and compost. These efforts will result in a reduction in tipping fees and a cost saving for the Site. Money saved can then be spent on the infrastructure and operation of the Site. Please do your part to keep compostables out of the garbage.



CBRM and ACAP staff members inspect the period recycling barrels.

News from AGB

Excerpt from a letter written by Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to her mother-in-law Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell, sent from Baddeck, July 21st, 1887:

“It is a perfectly lovely day here and Alec is happy and busy all day long, rowing, fishing or working in his kitchen garden. His arms have grown so strong now that he can row all day long without fatigue ...

Alec is full of plans for this place, and so well and vigorous it would please you to see him, and he is longing to show himself and his home to you and his father. Your room is ready for you whenever you will come and we want you very much. Alec, Mr. Sumichrast, Mr. Kiezel and Mr. McCurdy have gone to Margaree for a couple of days fishing and hope to bring back a salmon. I'm rather glad he is away for it gives me a chance to get my house in order, a pretty difficult feat with him around.

Alec has had his yacht Alexandria repainted and it is as pretty as possible and the pride of his heart, and he and Mr. Kiezel are going off in it for a few days cruise next week.

Goodnight. I find weeding in the kitchen garden steadily for nearly four hours this afternoon has left me tired and quite ready for bed. Come soon and see how nice everything here is.

*Your affectionate,
Mabel*

Silver Dart Centennial Association

The Silver Dart Centennial Association (SDCA) was very pleased to learn that a national level secretariat has been

established to coordinate and facilitate the 2009 Centennial of Powered Flight in Canada under the leadership of Gaston Cloutier, a retired general officer of the Canadian Air Force.

The SDCA is working toward a calendar of events for the 2009 centennial as well as a legacy project to build a ‘Hall of Flight’ at AGBNHSC to house a full scale replica of Silver Dart and other flight related exhibits.

On July 9th, the SDCA met with Mr. Cloutier; Don Pearsons, Director of Air Force Heritage and History and past president of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute; John Orr, formerly of the Canadian Air Force; and Bryan Nelson, Curator of the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum. This information session provided the opportunity for the SDCA to update Mr. Cloutier on their many efforts and plans so far to celebrate the centennial of flight in the Baddeck area, the birthplace of Canadian aviation. It was also a chance to provide a FAM tour focusing on the existing flight exhibit.

Linden Singers of Victoria

The Linden Singers of Victoria performed at AGBNHSC on July 12th as part of their Atlantic Canada tour.



An important part of the Victoria cultural scene, the Singers are an award winning choir and our visitors and local

folks enjoyed their concert very much. They contacted us early in the new year to arrange for this concert and their museum visit.

One of the songs in their repertoire was called 'Ononyatakaka' which is Mohawk for the word "rock". The work portrays the sound of a rock reflecting off the surface of cliffs. The singers were delighted to discover during their museum visit that Alexander Graham Bell learned the Mohawk language after arriving in Brantford, Ontario in 1870.

Visitors

On July 6th, Jason Silliker of Ottawa began a weekend 48 hour experiment to measure the pull of gravity at this Site setting up equipment in the tunnel area at the back of the museum. The data collected will be entered into the national grid. The project is related to GPS.

Christian Heynen and his crew from 'Film GMBH' in Germany were here July 16th to film for a documentary on Alexander Graham Bell and the telephone and his later work will be aired on public television in France and Germany.

EQ News

AGBNHSC has started its Explorer Quotient Demonstration Project. Our concierge have set up their station and on Wednesday, July 18th our first participant discovered he was an Authentic Experiencer.

New Book

Image selection is underway for the book Judith Tulloch is writing about Bell's work with kites and airplanes. The publication is a project of the Friends of the Bell Museum.

"Judique on the Floor Days"

On July 7th, AGBNHSC staff travelled to Judique to do a Kite-making Workshop as part of the community's annual "Judique on the Floor Days" celebration.

Marconi & Canso Islands

All is well at Marconi National Historic Site of Canada. The volunteer radio operators are frequently on site making contact with other radio operators throughout the world to the delight of visitors.

Canso Islands and Grassy Island National Historic Site saw 410 visitors on Friday, July 13th, a record setting day of visitation since its opening in 1990!

Many people were in the area for a memorial dedication ceremony for three search and rescue crewmen who died when their Cormorant helicopter crashed into Canso Harbour during a training exercise a year ago.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Donald Boudreau and his family on the passing of their father on June 16th.

Anyone wishing to submit an article to "Hear Ye Hear Ye" please contact Donna MacNeil at donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca.