



Fall 2021 Newsletter

Message from the Chair, Franklin Cardy

Thanks to our loyal supporters, we have had another productive summer and fall. Visitors to the St. Andrews Farmer's Markets may have encountered our volunteers hard at work selling our Heritage Tour lottery tickets, an attempt at a COVID-safe fund raising effort.

With donations from supporters like you, we are now invested in a full-time Archives Manager, Heather Wilson. We cannot cover regular staff costs from normally available grants, so your donations enable her to work on applications for the government and other grants that we can access, to enhance our facilities and get any extra help we need.

This summer, with these grants and donations and many volunteers' help, we have been able to install new interpretive signs on the Common and on the outside of the Old Jail. We have new lighting installed inside the Old Jail and new signage on the cell doors, greatly enhancing the visitor experience. We have completed the launch of our web site with many new features, including our new Education Modules. With other donations, we have begun improving the humidity control in the office and Old Jail and our landlord, the Town of St Andrews, is supporting improvements to working conditions in the building and planning to install a new roof.

With an internship funded by Young Canada Works, we now have Keith MacKnight working hard digitizing our collections to make them further accessible to the public. High school co-op student Jessica Mayo is with us until mid-January and our Young Canada Works student, Ashleigh Belyea, is with us part-time until early March. Mary Myers is working on a Council of Archives, New Brunswick grant and is busy accessioning the St. Croix Legacy collection. And we have just begun a project with St. Stephen High School to make a video based on a daily diary written in 1877 by a farmer in the Rolling Dam area. Please stay tuned for our Winter 2021 Speakers Series.



Pictured left to right are Heather Wilson, Ashleigh Belyea, Keith MacKnight, and Mary Myers. Missing from the photo is Jessica Mayo

We are a very active group, focused on preserving the precious treasures of Charlotte County's documentary and audio-visual heritage. Are you interested in local social history and genealogy? Will you help us conserve local history? Would you consider joining our Board? Come to visit us at the Archives in the Old Jail on the Common on Frederick Street in St. Andrews. Join a meeting of our Board to learn how we work/ what we do / how you could help. We are always looking for potential new Board members and other volunteers of all backgrounds. Please contact Franklin Cardy at fcardy@nb.sympatico.ca or Heather Wilson at contact@ccarchives.ca

Heritage Hunt Wrap-Up

On October 17, our first Heritage Hunt concluded with an exciting Grand prize draw filmed pro bono by Patrick Watt and Vicki Hogarth of CHCOTV. We are very grateful for their professional development of this five-minute video of the draw for the winning numbers: <https://fb.watch/9apEhW1bM1/>

We are also indebted to the vendors who sold tickets on our behalf and for the generous prizes donated to the cause. The winners were:

12-month family membership to Ministers Island — Vicki Ridgway

Huntsman's Marine & Aquarium family membership for 2022 — Sheena Townsend

Family membership to Kingsbrae Garden for 2022 — Krista Cooke

A free night at the Algonquin Resort — Terri Tweedie

We sold almost 300 tickets to people from across the County and beyond, who enjoyed hunting for heritage buildings and features in St. Andrews this summer.

Announcing our Speaker Series 2021-22

Take in our interview with Mary Conley on Facebook

From the Boer War, becoming an ordained minister, to the trenches of World War I, Alexander Grant led a fascinating life, which remained largely unknown. On November 22, 2021 Mary Conley speaks about uncovering her grandfather's story. Find us on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TheCharlotteCountyArchives>) or visit **our Charlotte County Archives Videos YouTube channel** to listen in any time after November 22nd

Look for our Christmas-themed virtual Speaker Series event

Our December video event will be based on the theme of "Memories of Christmas past." These will include short interviews (approximately 10 minutes in length) that will be recorded in advance and subsequently posted on our Facebook and YouTube accounts.



Love for Local

We were recently featured in *Huddle* magazine in an article that highlights the important work being done today by the Charlotte County Archives. Look for us at <https://huddle.today/category/nb365/> under October 29th!

Podcast with Alicia King

This summer we were approached by Alicia King of Franklin Walking Tours in Tennessee, who wanted to interview our dynamic ghost walks tour guide, Felicity Cooper, and Archives Manager Heather Wilson, for a new podcast "Ghost Tour" produced in partnership with Brandon Schexnayder of the popular Franklin-based history podcast "Southern Gothic". Alicia and Brandon typically focus on stories out of the American South, but word of our ghost walks reached them and they couldn't resist diving in. If you are interested in the spooky side of history, have a listen to Southern Gothic's Ghost Tour at: <https://www.southerngothicmedia.com/blog/gt002-pm4dy>

Exciting photographic donations

During the summer months, Barry Murray helped us secure the donation of the glass plate negatives of photographs taken around Charlotte County by D. Will McKay. These are believed to be the last privately held glass plates in New Brunswick. Through a partnership with the Provincial Archives their digital copies are now available to be viewed in our collections. McKay is responsible for many iconic photographs of Charlotte County, and there are many new treasures here, as well as a stunning array of portraits. We also received a photo album of workers and buildings at Old Norway, from the daughter of a woman who worked as a secretary there. We are thrilled with these new acquisitions.



Mainstreet (Milltown Blvd) St. Stephen c. 1900

Reaching out to the schools

Following the hard work of volunteers like Caroline Walker, Muriel Jarvis, and Dr. Heather Richmond, we have launched an “education” section on our website, with three different modules now available to explore. Activities are freely available to download and use in the classroom or at home. Dust off your detective skills and investigate historical photographs. Get to know some busy bee workers. Or explore the tides of time in Blacks Harbour. Everything you need is here: <https://ccarchives.ca/photo-detectives/>

While archives are often associated with the past, we make it our mission to preserve the present as well. As the saying goes, “yesterday is history.” So much of today’s events are recorded on websites and social media, and are difficult to capture and preserve for our long-term social memory. We want to make sure this content is saved and have recently joined the Internet Archives’ Community Webs program, launching our web and social media archiving initiative. But with so much content online we need your help to start preserving our community’s online memories. If you have online content, a website and social media accounts for your local business, for example, or manage public social media groups based in Charlotte County and want your online presence preserved, we want to hear from you. We will capture your online content and make it accessible for the present and future. Don’t worry, this will have no impact on your day-to-day content; we will simply be saving a copy. Contact Heather at contact@ccarchives.ca if you are interested.

Bringing in more visitors

We are very excited to have put in place new signage outside and inside the Old Gaol. This is already attracting additional visitors to walk up to the door. Signage outside the Jail provides visitors with information about the historic building and about the Charlotte County Archives itself. We have board members Robin Burton, Sheila Blagrove and project lead, Caroline Walker, to thank for these signs, which have also been beautifully designed by Elaine Wilson.

Interpretive signage within the Jail tells the story of the Old Gaol cells, enhanced by new track lighting. Design on these panels was also done by Elaine Wilson, with illustrations created by Theresa MacKnight. Copy was written by board member Shirley

Brinkhurst. All signs were built and installed by Tye Barter of Barter Signs, and the installation of the exterior interpretive signs was overseen by Darren Colwell, Archeologist with the Heritage and Archeology branch of Department of Tourism Heritage and Culture.



Pictured left to right are Caroline Walker, Tye Barter, and Elaine Wilson.

Board members Jeff Holmes and Shirley Brinkhurst have, in co-operation with the Town of Saint Andrews and Branch Number Eight Royal Canadian Legion, mounted a display of memorabilia and artifacts belonging to the Legion in the Courthouse. It is the first time since the demolition of the Legion Hall that these items have had a home in a public venue. We have learned from town staff that the Jail roof will be re-shingled and consideration is being given to a number of much needed upgrades to ventilation, air quality, electrical improvements, and more efficient heating. Public Works staff have built new steps with a sturdy hand rail at the back entrance of the Courthouse, which will enable our volunteers easier access when we relocate our research team to the former Jury Room in the Courthouse. This move will relieve congestion in the Jail.

Do you have a flair for IT and want a volunteer challenge?

If so, we need you. We would love to have a volunteer with Information Technology know-how to help us out. We're able to handle basic day-to-day issues, manage software updates, and perform our own general troubleshooting. But we would welcome additional help and expertise for troubleshooting more complex hardware and software problems and assisting us in keeping our computers running smoothly. Please call 529-4248 or send us an email if you are interested (contact@ccarchives.ca)

Home Movies: we can provide a home for yours

We are looking for old home movie reels of life and events in Charlotte County, so please don't throw yours out before contacting us as they may contain film of public historic or social interest that could be conserved. Please contact Franklin Cardy at fcardy@nb.sympatico.ca or Heather Wilson at contact@ccarchives.ca

Donations Welcome

If you would like to contribute to the preservation of the documentary heritage of Charlotte County, you may donate by cheque or credit card; by calling our office at 506-529-4248; or through the Canada Helps link on our website (ccarchives.ca/donations). We are also able to accommodate e-transfers for the first time this year. To make an e-transfer, simply email it to contact@ccarchives.ca and fill in the password "Donation." Thank you for any gift you are able to make.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please contact admin@ccarchives.ca

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