

2021



# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**2021. The year in brief.** Despite the pandemic restrictions our Archives management was able to make good progress with support from the Board and other volunteers working mostly from home. Board meetings were held successfully on Zoom with the advantage of retaining a recording of the proceedings. The AGM was also on Zoom with the advantage of being viewable by members across the country. We also had a very successful fundraising campaign in the Fall. The restrictions did prevent our usual public summer activities such as the Heritage Home Tours and the Archives was only open during the summer on a limited basis as we had only one summer students to conduct tours and the Courthouse was closed. With limited visitors, however, good progress could be made on our core archiving business (see the Archives Manager's Report). Our major fund-raising campaign in the fall raised over \$20,000 from individuals and an additional \$20,000 for our Endowment Fund, thanks to members' enthusiastic response to John Clark's challenge (see the Financial Report).

**Bylaws.** We carried out an in-depth review of our Bylaws, led by Marie La Forest and Donne Smith. The goal was to clarify, simplify, and achieve consistency, so the Bylaws were made easier to read and understand. After careful consideration, the Board approved the revisions, and they were approved by the membership at the AGM on June 10, 2021. (see the Minutes of the AGM))

**Facilities.** The home of the Archives in the Old Jail building belongs to the Town of St Andrews, and they have been an attentive landlord carrying out various minor improvements at our request and committing to replacing the roof in 2022. The indoor facilities in the Old Jail were gradually reorganized and improved through the year and by the end of the year the Photographic Lab had been moved downstairs to provide a dedicated space for the volunteer Photo Ladies who work so hard through the year. Board members led by Vice-Chair Jeff Holmes and Charles Carson installed air conditioners in the offices during the summer and a de-humidifier in the jail itself. They painted the outside door, improved conditions in the cells, constructed new shelving and reorganized the Research Library.

**Out-reach and communications.** Sheila Blgrave, coordinator of our communications and social media outreach, was another of our key Board members preparing our public communications such as the spring and fall newsletters and various press releases, as well as working with Heather on social media releases. Sheila was always available as an expert reviewer and editor, so essential for our organization. Our Facebook and Twitter sites were regularly updated by Heather Wilson. These

reached a total of 110,205 viewers during 2021. Heather, as well as members of our Board and volunteers, were interviewed by the *Telegraph Journal* and CHCO-TV for newspaper and TV features, as well as podcasters as far away as Tennessee. Love for Local NB 365 also produced an article on the CCA, which appeared in *Huddle Today*.

**The New Horizon for Seniors Program.** The intent of this program – to reach out and involve seniors across the county – continued to be impeded by the pandemic. Consequently, a re-orientation of the remaining funding was approved to enable the development of a new Oral Histories program, providing all that is necessary to help seniors interview their friends and neighbours. The project funding runs to March 2022 but the program will continue with the products from the project.

**Educational Project.** This was launched by board member Caroline Walker with a team of volunteers including Heather Richmond, Muriel Jarvis, and cooperating teachers across the County. The team developed educational modules for middle school students that focus on elements of local history. These have been prepared to the point where it is as simple as possible for teachers to incorporate them into their busy curriculum schedules or adapt them to their own local community. The modules are available on the Archives web site ([www.ccarchives.ca](http://www.ccarchives.ca)).

**Interpretive Signage.** Another group of volunteers including Robin Burton, Caroline Walker and Elaine Wilson created interpretive signage beside the driveway to the historic jail and courthouse. They also designed and installed information panels inside the jail sharing stories of some of the infamous former inmates. These, combined with new spot lighting installed in the jail, add significantly to the visitor experience. The new logo was installed beside the repainted front door of the Old Jail.



## St. Andrews 2021 HERITAGE HUNT

A stroll through time  
and a chance to win a  
prize.

**Summer Events.** In place of our Heritage Home Tours this year, because of Covid, we developed and launched the “St. Andrews 2021 Heritage Hunt” which extended through to the Thanksgiving weekend. This combined the enticement of a chance to win a grand prize, with the interest of a scavenger hunt on a short walk or drive in your own time around four downtown blocks. It had the potential of being a new fund raiser for the Archives and also a method of bringing people to the Old Jail when they brought their completed entry forms to our Office. We are very grateful to the Algonquin Resort, Ministers Island, Kingsbrae Garden, and Huntsman Marine for donating the grand prizes and for several businesses in Town and elsewhere selling the tickets for us. This summer-long effort was a modest success as a fund raiser but proved to be very good for raising our profile, as Board members and other volunteers staffed a stall at the Farmers Market almost every week through the season.

**Winter Speakers Series.** Hosting a speaker series on topics related to the history of Charlotte County was a traditional summer event for the Charlotte County Archives pre-Covid. To revive this type of event we posted videos on our Facebook page in November and December, including Mary Conley speaking about the process of researching for her book *A Wild Journey with our Grandfather Alexander Grant*; Jane Garnett speaking about her Christmas memories as a child in St. Stephen; and a traditional Charlotte County Christmas story read by author David Goss.

The talk with Mary Conley was matched with Remembrance Day, as the interview not only touched on Alexander Grant's experiences as a soldier in World War One, but also on Mary's experience learning more about her grandfather, whose story had become largely forgotten. The other two Speaker Series videos coincided with the 2021 Christmas season and were intended to be uplifting talks that would inject some positivity into a very difficult year for many people. For David Goss's talk, he brought with him his strong speaking voice from years of experience telling stories in a public setting. The talk with Jane Garnett was split into two parts, during which she discussed memories of family traditions and food around Christmastime and what she remembers St. Stephen being like during that time of year. This interview sparked an animated discussion of shared Christmas memories. Overall, the response to our Speaker Series was very strong, reaching over 10,000 viewers.

**Charlotte County Archives Videos** is a new YouTube channel established in early 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzsuLID79Vfa4il1z3ioKeA> This Channel includes an illustrated talk on Smugglers in the Passamaquoddy Bay in 1800, the story of the Grimmer cousins in World War One told by John Cunningham, an original film of "sports" on the St. Croix River at Loon Bay Lodge in the 1950s, with fishing among the log drives, remembered by our former Secretary Jane Garnett, who grew up there. The Winter Speaker Series talks are also now on this YouTube channel. Work continues on postproduction/editing of a long list of videos for release in 2022 on this channel. The Archives purchased a digitizer for old 8 mm and Super 8 films so we can now rescue any films that may remain in people's attics. Franklin Cardy who runs this audio-visual program for the Archives needs to find others to help or take it over from him.



**Digital photographic collection,** Thanks to our volunteer Photo Team, parts of the collection were made accessible online through the Gallery page of the new website. Our Curator of Photographs, Irene Scarratt, and her team Lila Haughn, Donna Walsh, and Mary Myers continued to work very productively in their "bubble" through most of the year, when the Archives was often closed to the public. Our photographic archive has around 25,000 digitized and indexed photographs and continues to grow. Two notable acquisitions during the year were 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,

they have been preserved and digitized and their copies are now available to be viewed in our collections. We also received a photo album of workers and buildings at ‘Old Norway’ or St. Andrews North, from the daughter of a woman who worked as a secretary there. We are thrilled with these new acquisitions. A new research desk station was arranged to make it convenient for visitors to browse our digital collection.

**Supporters.** A very big **THANK YOU** goes to more than 100 individuals who helped us surpass our Fall Fundraising goal of \$20,000 for operational expenses. Particular thanks go to John Clark who, in the midst of our campaign, challenged us to raise another \$10,000 in December for our Endowment Fund, promising that his John Clark Family Foundation would match it. Thanks to the very positive additional response we got from our loyal supporters we were able to meet this challenge also. We are striving to grow the Endowment Fund, currently at about \$35K invested with the FCU, to the point where income from it can cover our operational expenses and we no longer need frequent fund-raising appeals.

Thanks are also due to our institutional grant supporters, including the Council of Archives New Brunswick (CANB); Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program; Young Canada Works; Canada Summer Jobs; Canada Museum Assistance Program; Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations; NB Dept of Tourism and Heritage Museums Operations Grant; the Fundy Community Foundation (FCU); the Kiwanis Club of St. Andrews; the Towns of St. George and St. Andrews; as well as the Community Webs Program, the Sir James Dunn Academy, Archives Board members and volunteer fund raisers, and many others for their generous additional contributions and support of the Charlotte County Archives. The core archiving work supported by these funds is described in detail in the attached Archives Manager’s Report for 2021.

**Volunteers.** Volunteers are at the heart of our business as we are essentially a volunteer organization. None of these achievements would have happened without the many hard-working volunteers on and off our Board. They are very greatly appreciated. Special mention is due for Robin Burton, our Treasurer and *de facto* Office Manager, who continued to be the primary work horse of our organization. She was involved with numerous innovative activities and designed and brought about substantial improvements in working arrangements and facilities in our offices in the Historic Jail.

Three Board members retired at the end of their terms in June 2021. Barb Rayner, our excellent Secretary, resigned to run and was elected as a Councillor and became Deputy Mayor in St. George. Ernie Depatie, our longest serving member by far and our ever-willing tech support, resigned to move to Halifax; he is much missed, and we are still searching for a tech-savvy replacement. Geoffrey Knight resigned owing to increased pressure of work at his day job. We were sorry to lose them all.

Three new volunteers (Margo Emrich, Robert Charlton, and Charles Carson) were elected to the Board at the AGM. No sooner was Margo elected than she kindly agreed to assume the role of Secretary. Bob Charlton resigned at the end of the year when he decided to move to Fredericton and so Dr. Heather Richmond was appointed, subject to confirmation at the AGM, in June 2022.

Felicity Cooper (“a.k.a. Miss Demeanor”) continued to play a huge role in publicizing and supporting our Archives through her Ghost Walks and related publicity. She managed to continue these through the summer despite Covid constraints and kept up a steady flow of social media posts through the year and generously donated half her proceeds to the Archives.

Shirley Brinkhurst and others continued work on transcribing old handwritten documents. The daily diary written in 1877 by a farmer in Rolling Dam area was used as the basis for a class project video by a student at St. Stephen High School and is being further developed, using additional imagery by our one-man video production unit.

We are always looking for others to join this active and energetic group. Volunteers are also needed to help staff the office and act as tour guides in the shoulder seasons. Volunteers are needed to help researchers and to work on recording and editing videos for the Archives. And we are in urgent need of someone with broad experience of maintaining the office digital network. If you have an interest in community heritage or know of others who are interested, please get in touch.

**Employees.** Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to maintain our full-time Archives Manager Heather Wilson on a regular salary. Heather is a tremendous asset and has been successfully taking over core tasks that were previously handled by the Board members or other volunteers. Keith McKnight, supported by the Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage internship program and other grants, continued to help us with our accessioning and cataloging throughout much of the year and also conducted limited tours during the summer. Keith also produced the Mary Conley and Jane Garnett video interviews. Research requests and enquiries were attended to through the year, despite pandemic restrictions, because Heather and Keith were in the office most days, and masked visitors were allowed by appointment when the restrictions were eased in the summer. Despite the pandemic restrictions limiting travel and access for visitors, the Archives received 1,240 recorded visitors last year of whom most (917) were from New Brunswick.

Franklin Cardy.  
Chair, Charlotte County Archives Inc.

BOARD MEMBERS 2021		
Name	Role/Responsibility	Elected
Franklin Cardy	Chair (& Audio/Visual)	May 2017
Jeffrey Holmes	Vice-Chair (Facilities)	May 2018
Robin Burton	Treasurer & Office	Mar 2019
Shirley Brinkhurst	(Volunteers)	May 2018
Sheila Blagrave	(Marketing)	May 2018
Marie La Forest	(Legal & New Horizons)	Mar 2019
Caroline Walker	(Signage and Education)	June 2020
Donne Smith	(Planning & Development)	June 2020
Robert Charlton	Board member	June 2021
Margo Emrich	Secretary	June 2021
Charles Carson	Board member	June 2021