



Correspondence

Dear ARHS

staff & volunteers,

On behalf of the Elms Residents, I'd like to say thank you for making the residents feel so welcome! The food was so good, the bus trip back was all talk of their visit. Thanks, and keep up the wonderful cooking. You were all great, and we hope to visit you another year! - Anne Parks, Windsor Elms

Correction:

Dear ARHS ~

On behalf of my children and myself, I wish to thank you for the memorial tribute to my late husband, Stanley T. Spicer, in your quarterly log for Summer 2007. It brings back many happy memories of association and events with the society and its members. A very small point: it was Stan's grandfather, not his father, who sailed on the Amazon. Please find enclosed a cheque as a donation. I would very much like to retain my membership in the society.

Sincerely,
Gwen Spicer, Parrsborro

2007-08 ARHS Board of Directors

Volunteers always welcome. Please contact one of us to find out how you can get involved!

Daryl Sheehy (President)	757-2004
Doug Crossman (VP)	757-1967
Heather Desveaux, (Treasurer)	757-1933
Shelley Lake (Tea Room)	757-3843
Ralph Lyon (Gift Shop)	790-1730
Alison MacNeil (Volunteers)	757-1869
Madeleine Curry	757-1718
Andrew Fisher	757-2787
Simon Forsyth	757-1718
Fred Horne	684-9682
Nicholas Hughes	792-1457
Mike MacNeil	757-2475
Jim Simpson	429-4348

Dear Board Members,

My daughter Chelsea had a wonderful summer experience at [the museum]. She managed the gift shop, worked in the tearoom, and researched various topics used for museum displays. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity and the positive community experience for her. I also thank your board for providing fun, delicious food, entertainment and a sense of community in our beautiful little part of Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,
Lexie Barkhouse, Belmont

“
How privileged I was to work with, spend time with, laugh and learn from this Board & all those involved with the Museum! ”
.....
Madeleine (Maddy) Curry, ARHS Summer Student

MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION JUNE 2006:

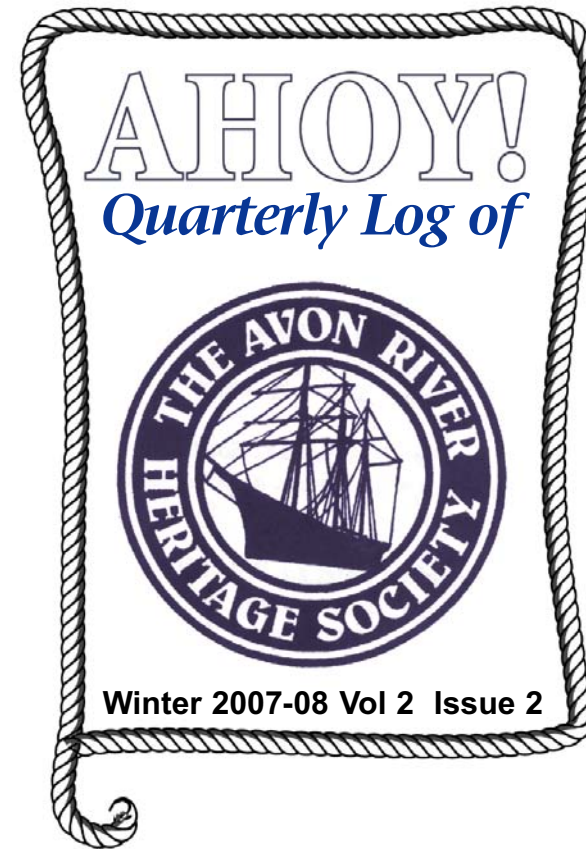
1. "All residents living within the boundaries of the original Newport Township shown on the Hallyburton survey of 10 April 1775, and as shown on the Church map of 1871, shortly after the change in Nova Scotia to a Municipal form of Government are automatically considered as full members of the ARHS. These areas include the modern community names of: Avondale, Belmont, Brooklyn, The Burlingtons, Cogmagun, Mantua, Mosherville, Newport Landing, Poplar Grove, and Scotch Village.
2. There is to be no set membership fee. All members would be invited to make a donation to further the work of the ARHS All donations of at least \$10.00 (or \$25.00 per family) would receive a receipt for federal income tax purposes.
3. All persons who do not reside in the areas within Newport Township, and who support the objects of the ARHS are welcome to apply for membership and are requested to make an annual donation to the Society which if \$10.00 or more per person, would be eligible for a tax receipt.

AHOY!

We welcome your letters, news and stories for future issues. Contributions and regular society correspondence can be sent to info@avonriver.ca or

Avon River Heritage Society
c/o 599 Belmont Road,
RR2 Newport B0N 2A0

Visit us on the web: www.avonriver.ca



Captain's Message

~ Daryl Sheehy, ARHS President

This past year has witnessed the most visitors to the museum since the launching of the Avon Spirit in 1997. While we did not have the thousands like we did that summer, we did exceed our numbers considerably from previous years thanks to increased promotional efforts and additional events for visitors to attend, such as the [NSEN Annual Retreat](#) and our community's flagship event, [Avondale Wharf Days](#).

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank again our committed supporters and volunteers who help us with these events and with the day to day running of the museum complex. We are one of the few tourist attractions in "the county" outside Windsor, and it is so important to keep the momentum going for all local business in West Hants. Tourism is an industry we know our rural local economy can benefit from considerably, especially in Avondale and "up the shore." Businesses in the area are also starting to notice more tourist traffic in the area.

Where many museums are provided at least a full-time manager or curator, keeping the museum operating to standards a tourism destination requires is truly a labour of love for our volunteer Board of Directors. I'd also like to thank the Board for their hard work to help me run the ship. May she sail another year. From all of us to you and your families this Christmas, we wish you peace and prosperity for the New Year.



Mishra's Dream from Antigonish delighted visitors and locals to a special performance in the Avon Spirit Shipyard during the NS Environmental Network's annual retreat held in Newport Landing, Avondale in August. More on the NSEN retreat inside.



Great Little Art Show enters 10th year!

2008 marks the 10th year of our biggest fundraising event, the Great Little Art Show. Mark April 18-20, 2008 on your calendars! Artists will be sent information and applications in the new year. It will also be posted on our website, www.avonriver.ca.

What's New at the Museum?

School Days Gone By

This past summer there has been a growing interest in our collection of old school photos. A scrapbook made by Winnifred (Fader) Benedict was kindly loaned to us by her daughter Madeline (Hunter) Coolen. This record from the past formed the start of our display of the school photos. The discovery that we had photos and information to add from Paul Webb within our own files was exciting. Then one day an envelope arrived with more from Mildred McCallum. Her sharp memory for names faces when the people were identified was a great help! With the addition of a wonderful old photo album, a gift from Elinor Malcom (Poplar Grove), came the idea to have a larger album just for these enlarged school photos. These photos will be on a stand in the museum so visitors can leave through the pages by the area their school was located. We are so appreciative of this sharing of records from the past. We welcome whatever photos anyone can lend us to copy – and do come by next summer and help identify or find your family members, relations and friends of school days gone by. ☞

- Submitted by Alison MacNeil.



ARHS Summer Fine Art Camp participants with artist and camp teacher, Janet Draper.



Treasurer's Trove

Two years ago, the ARHS opted to eliminate official memberships and resolved that all residents within the boundaries of the original Newport Township were entitled to free membership. The goal then became to rely on donations from our faithful supporters as well as from our new, expanded membership base. It was a risky move, but I am pleased to report one that has paid off, at least so far. We have raised several hundred dollars more in donations than we previously had in memberships. It is thanks to our fundraising efforts and these donations we can afford to support our programs and provide local employment to faithful volunteers on a part-time basis to assist in running the museum or special events. This past summer we were able to hire two local part-time employees – two people we simply could not do without.

Thanks to the federal Department of Heritage's [Young Canada Works](#) Program, we hired a second university summer student to help us out with managing the museum this year. Our students were not only a pleasure to work with, their contributions resulted in many significant improvements to our displays, including the addition of some creative new ones, such as those on local ecology, genealogy, school photos, a fossil dig, and a children's activity table. While we would be lost without university summer student employment, it is becoming imperative **all** levels of government step up contributions to the museum for capital project needs in addition to a year round, permanent position. Capable and able management will ensure the museum's continuity, which benefits our rural area significantly. We increasingly must do more and be more in order to survive. Community volunteers simply cannot be expected to shoulder these responsibilities for much longer, despite a strong desire to keep it open. One might not realize it is a year-long endeavour to keep a summer operation functioning even for a few months. *This Christmas, please remember the important role the ARHS plays not only in preserving our heritage but also helping to shape our future in rural West Hants. Donations over \$10 received prior to December 31, 2007 will be eligible for a tax receipt for income tax purposes for this year.* ☞ - Submitted by Heather Desveaux

NSEN Retreat

About forty people from across the province visited Newport Landing and Avondale when the [NS Environmental Network](#) held their annual retreat here mid-August.

The theme was "Landscapes of the Future: Creating Sustainable Options for Nova Scotians". The weekend featured great guest speakers on issues of sustainability and food stability as well some of the area's local flavour, including a tour of [Newport Landing](#), the [Bennett's Vineyard](#) and a stop at the [Tidal View Farm](#) to see the tidal bore. One evening guests and locals were treated to an intimate performance in the shipyard by candlelight courtesy of acoustic gypsy-jazz band [Mishra's Dream](#), who mentioned it was one of the best and most unique venues they'd ever played in.

Many of our guests remarked on the area's stunning beauty and its huge tourism potential with its proximity to Halifax. Others commented while they have traveled throughout Nova Scotia, this area in particular was "relatively unknown" to them. "We will definitely be back," several said. Indeed, we recognized more than a few faces who returned to the area before we closed for the season.

It was all hands on deck in the community as the Brooklyn Anglican Parish, the United Church Ladies' Auxiliary for the Parish of Newport and the Belmont Hall Association hopped on board to assist the ARHS and the APWPS host this unique event. Partnerships like this makes our community stronger in addition to generating an economic boost for the area and the participating groups. ☞

In Memoriam...

Ruth Knowles

A sad loss to our team of volunteers at the Museum was marked by the passing of Ethel Ruth Knowles in September of this year. Her wealth of local knowledge and memory for names and faces was extensive and very helpful for updating our collection.

Always ready to be called to help out, her smiling face will be missed by so many. Both Ruth and her husband Gordon were founding members and constant supporters of the Museum since its beginnings in 1993-94.

Comments from our Guest Book

“Our favourite summer stop over!
Mike & Helen Parker, Dartmouth

3:00 pm entry: Excellent! Beautiful spot.
Thanks for the stories. We'll have to stop for lunch the next time we're cycling out this way.

4:00 pm entry: Actually we couldn't resist.
Loved the food and the view of the tide.

Thanks again!

Gerharda and Josephine Hermoller,
Victoria, BC

A hidden gem!

Dave Chandler, Wolfville NS

A treasure – our first visit, and undoubtedly, not our last. The café has a delicious menu, and staff & volunteers made our visit both informative and delightful. Thank you!

Julie Benson & Philip Longmire, Kentville

What a wonderful museum! A fascinating collection of artifacts. Very well curated and results of an impressive body of research.

We are so glad we stopped. ”

James F. and Lauren Moriarty,
Massachusetts and Hawaii, USA



NSEN Class of 2007, ARHS, Newport Landing.