

Funding for Mantua Park going ahead

Wonderful things start to happen when people work together. Thanks to the Hants Regional Development Authority, Municipal Councillor Shirley Pineo, the ARHS Board of Directors, and the Provincial and Federal governments, funding towards a planning a park and interpretive centre at Mantua bridge has been approved.

The Mantua Bridge has long been a stopping spot for tourists and locals alike to view the tidal bore and the unique phenomena of the Bay of Fundy tides.



The tidal bore at Mantua Bridge

Did you know...?

The bore at the ARHS Museum is seen 1.5 hours before it reaches the Mantua Bridge. Visitors can witness the tidal bore at the Newport Landing wharf, enjoy a light lunch at the Lydia and Sally Café and still make it to Mantua Bridge to witness the bore there.

A new parking area set off the side of the road, a park with picnic tables, benches, signs with information pertaining to the tidal bore and Newport Landing are some of the initial plans for the project.

Sherman Williams updates his website monthly with the Mantua tidal bore schedule predictions:

www.glinx.com/~sherm

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Thanks to almost \$5,000 in funding jointly provided by ACOA and the Department of Health Promotion and Protection capital grant program, more will be done to increase the safety of visitors in addition to encouraging them to stay longer in our community by directing their attention towards, for example, the museum and Lydia and Sally Café at Newport Landing.

Did you know...?

When the bore reaches Mantua Bridge, the tide has been rising in the Minas Basin for about 4 hours. High tide is reached about 2 hours and 10 min after the bore arrives there.

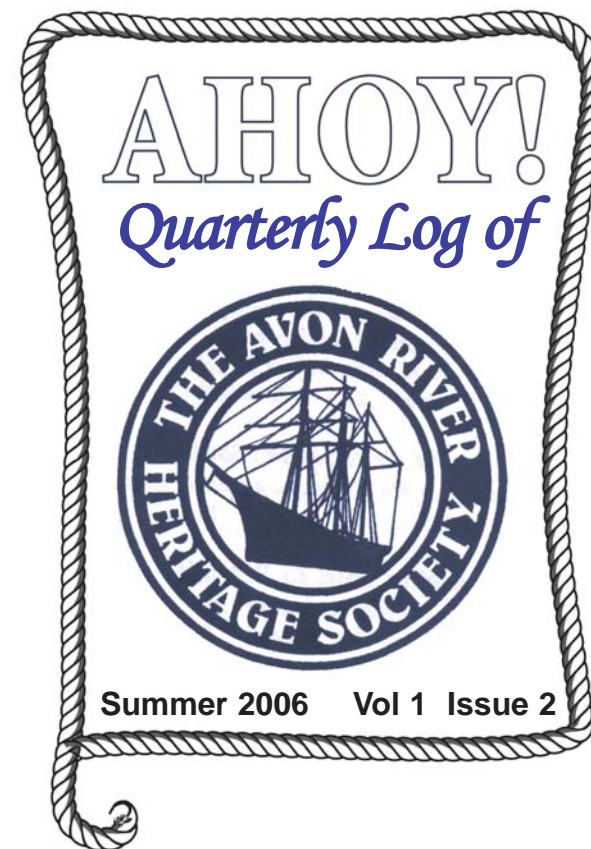
AHOY!

We welcome your letters, news and stories for future issues.



Please send your submission by email to:
editor@avondalemedia.ca

Handwritten contributions and regular society correspondence can be sent to:
Avon River Heritage Society
c/o 599 Belmont Road,
RR2 Newport, NS B0N 2A0



Captain's Message

~ Donald MacKinnon, President

As the Society's new president, I'm eager to jump aboard the exciting projects we have on the go, and even more eager to tell you how you can get involved.

The Society's new mission is "Our Living History ~ living it in the present, preserving it for tomorrow." All residents, new and old, have a place at the Avon River Heritage Museum at Newport Landing.

Inside, you can read about the special resolution we passed at this year's AGM. With it, we expanded the Society's membership to include everyone in the original Newport Township with no set membership fee.

The hope is that perhaps you can contribute in other ways, such submitting any known history of your house to our "Housetory" project. See inside - and hope to see you at the Jamboree!

*Living our history today,
Preserving it for tomorrow*



Ralph Lyon is one of the smiling faces to greet you at the Avon River Heritage Museum and Giftshop, where local hand-crafted gifts and books on local history can be purchased. The Giftshop, Lydia and Sally Café and the museum would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. If you would like to help out, please call our volunteer co-ordinator Alison MacNeil at 757-1718.

You can also visit our new website at
www.avondalemedia.ca/arhs

The Avon River Heritage Society presents a

Heritage Jamboree

Live entertainment ~ BBQ ~ cold plate ~ canteen and bar

Saturday August 12, 2006

4 - 9 pm

Fun for the whole family!

More info call 757-1718

Living Our history - submitted by J. Charles Trenholm

A Story of One Family and Their Arrival in the Newport Township

It was September 3, 2002 when our non-seafaring vessel finally pulled up to the property at 74 Avondale Road, Newport Landing. Nestled between huge walnut, maple, and lilac trees and situated within several feet of the road was a small one and a half storey cedar shingled house. The house was sitting on the downward slope of a hill and the view from the back was of rolling hills covered with fields of hay. Close by the tidal bore of the Minas Basin was making its way up the Avon River. Across the waters, the townships of Windsor and Falmouth could faintly be seen. It had been a search that had taken four years of joy and hardship to get here. The joy was knowing that a new home and a new community were waiting and the excitement of the search. The hardship was of the many disappointments and waits along the way. Well, we never did find it even though we searched most of Nova Scotia. It finally found us.

With my wife Eleanor and daughter Tara in tow, we stepped onto the land and took possession of it and the house that had been erected in 1860. The locals refer to the house as the Rick place. In 1998 the vacant house on the site was very close to reverting back to nature. It was rescued by Hugh MacNeil and his wife Alison. The house and property were restored and went through a period of transition waiting for the Trenholm family to arrive.

*Please send us your
'housetory' today!*

To help build our archives and the 'memory bank' at the museum, we are asking for residents in our expanded membership area to provide detailed information about their houses. Stories from the past can be attached to each property along with a list of the previous dwellers if known. In addition to displays on past history, we are hoping to have displays on living histories, and publish a collection. This way, we all become part of history today and are able to observe our place in that history. We may be a tenant or a landowner. Likewise, we may work in the community or outside it, but it is the river and the land which connects us all.

The Avon River Heritage Society (ARHS) and Museum is devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest. It also keeps a record of the history related to the original settlers of the Newport Township. Much of the details of this history have been lost due to the passage of time. Why do we wait so long to record our history? Are we not part of that history as soon as we settle onto the land? Does that not make us elite members of this history?



Nearly completed veranda of Capt. George Mounce House pre 1909

HOUSE TORY:
*Maybe the walls can't talk,
but you can!*

The most frequent questions asked by visitors to the museum are usually about the history of the older homes and community halls they see along the way. Many of the older members of our community still carry in their memories the stories told to them by family members or friends long since passed away. Andrew Fisher organized gatherings a few years ago where long-time residents would come and tell stories they remembered, and were recorded on tape. These sessions provided a preservation of some of the history - but is only a start.



To include this 'living history', the ARHS passed this special resolution at its AGM this past June:

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. Membership includes all residents 18 years old or those who are part of a family membership.
3. 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.
4. 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.

The Lydia and Sally Café

While our younger volunteers are so helpful in the day to day operation of the café, it's important to keep in mind that they require supervision with the kitchen appliances. They also cannot serve alcohol in those cases where wine may be requested. In previous years not being able to find an adult to volunteer alongside them has resulted in closing the Lydia and Sally Café earlier than we'd like. We also need volunteers to run the giftshop and guides to tell our local stories to our visitors.

While this year we applied for two grants for summer students, we secured only one. With it, we hired Acadia student, Sylvain Medina from Hantsport, to provide full-time assistance in the Café until the end of August.

If you have some free time and want to do something worthwhile, consider giving us a call. A few hours of your time really helps us out.



Sylvain will be pleased to serve you this summer at the Lydia and Sally Café.

Comments from a Guest Book

Very informative and so many old treasures here! Lovely caring and friendly volunteers."
(Mimi & Bill Borowy, Pompano Beach, Florida)

"Amazing little treasure."
(Joye & Dale Palmer, Wolfville)

"Great food, excellent service."
(Nancea Whitham, Toronto)

"Great food, service and scenery!"
(Scottie & Joan Simons, Montreal)

"This is real personal history coming alive."
(John Andrew Harvey, Brampton, Ontario.)

Lydia & Sally Café Menu

Seafood chowder ~ Planter's pockets
Curried pumpkin soup
Pizza ~ Beef chili ~ Rolls
Pies ~ Cookies ~ Cinnamon buns
Oatcakes ~ Date Squares
Tea ~ Coffee ~ Pop ~ Ice tea
Beer ~ Wine

Outside patio service available

“ **This is real personal history coming alive** ”