

# Smith's Cove Historical Society Newsletter

## Fall 2024

### THE POINTER

#### Museum:

The Temperance Hall was a hub of activity again this summer. The gardens are looking better than they have in a few years thanks to volunteers Susie Turnbull, Diane Clapp, Donnie MacBeath, and Honey Shields. We want to thank Harold and Diane Clapp for donating and delivering mulch. We also want to thank Pat Grandy for donating his time and equipment to keep the lawns at the Temperance Hall mowed throughout the summer.

We were successful in obtaining a grant through the Nova Scotia government's Summer Works Program to fund part of the costs for employing a summer intern at the Museum. Alyssa Chitty was a marvelous summer intern. She kept the Museum spotless, was great with our visitors, ran the What Nots store and helped with our annual Strawberry Tea. The Hooked Rugs display was hung thanks to Barb MacBeath and Alyssa and we were off with the Museum opening to visitors on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Strawberry Tea:

Our annual Strawberry Tea in early July saw a large turnout with 2 full sittings and we had to expand our service into the garage. The Strawberry Tea consisted of a selection of sandwiches, tea served in antique china and fresh shortcake which is the consistent hit. This event raised a whopping \$1500 toward our operating expenses at the Museum.



Your volunteers for this event were: (Left to right sitting)

Donnie MacBeath, Honey Shields, Julie Moore, Anna Hawkins, Standing from left to right: Julie Schwingbeck, Barbara MacBeath, Alyssia Chitt, Martin Mundry, Amanda Cox, Roberta Heembrock, Diane Theriault, Doreen Leighton, Susie Turnbull, Aoife McCauley and Ted Leighton.

#### Smith's Cove Summer Singfest Choral Group:

Julie Schwingbeck organized and hosted a learn to sing choral group for six weeks at the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evenings with a wrap-up performance at the Baptist Church. It was a huge success

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with upwards of 35 participants on most evenings. Visiting instructors/coaches from other communities in NS provided support and instruction.

**Hooking at the Museum:**

From May through October on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM until 1:30 PM the Smith's Cove hookers gather to hook, punch needle, stitch and knit while sharing in conversation, friendship and delicious treats. Anyone is welcome to stop in for a cup of tea/coffee and learn all about hooking.

**Community Hour:**

This summer the Smith's Cove Historical Society hosted the Fire Department's weekly coffee hour every Thursday during July and August. It was wonderful way to get to catch up with neighbors and introduce folks to the Museum.



**COMMUNITY COFFEE**

**Annual General Meeting:**

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's speaker was David Turnbull who discussed the history of Harbourview. David's dad Charles Turnbull wrote the first edition of 'The Harbour View Story' which was published in 1994. Thirty years later the Harbour View Cottager's Association published 'The Harbour View Story Continues' in 2024 which involved the participation of every cottage owner along with others connected with the Harbour View story. David helped coordinate the project and shared a wonderful review of Harbour View story. The new book is still available for ordering through the Museum, through the Harbour View Cottagers Association, or at the Harbourview Inn.

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**Smith's Cove Lighthouse Park Opening :**

This summer with signage installed and flowers planted, we had an official opening for the Smith's Cove Lighthouse Park and dedication of the Bear River Lighthouse as a Municipal Heritage Property on Saturday July 20. Many local officials and Smith's Cove residents attended. It was a lovely afternoon celebration of the successful completion of the project. Greg Turner provided a great presentation on the history of the Lighthouse and its impact on the community. We were honored to have the family of Dorothy Gray (who worked so hard to save the Lighthouse for the community) present for the dedication ceremony. We also had the Warren family in attendance who were the last Lighthouse keepers for the Lighthouse before it was decommissioned in the early 70's. Thank you to Robert Hersey, Donnie MacBeath, Sandy Rudolph and all the volunteers who helped make this event such a huge success and to everyone who came out to join in the celebration.



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***Save your Seeds!* Our landscaping work at the Lighthouse Park will continue next spring so when you are closing down your gardens, please save any extra seeds of bulbs for our gardens at the Park**

**United/ Methodist Church Activities:**

**Renovations** This year the Society undertook renovations to the exterior of the United/Methodist Church at 660 Highway 1. We replaced the roof, repaired dry rot on the Steeple and the windows, and scraped and painted the exterior. The repairs to the entrance stairs and landing proved to be extensive so in the end we removed the existing stairs and landing and built a new entrance which will hopefully serve us well for years into the future. We were able to secure funding from the Municipality of Digby and the Nova Scotia government's Communities, Culture, and Tourism funding for heritage properties which has covered about a third of the cost but we continue to fundraise to cover the costs of the project to date. Future phases of the project include making the Church accessible and bringing power back into the building so that it can be available to the community.

To assess the possible use of the Church we hosted Time Outs two mornings a week over the summer and a musical afternoon in addition to our Annual Heritage Service. Next summer we hope to extend our activities at the Church with story times and other events. Any donations to the project costs are greatly appreciated.



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On August 11<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual Heritage Church service with Reverend Mark Cress officiating. The service was well attended with over 35 people present.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 we hosted a great afternoon of Irish & Scottish Tunes, songs and a few jokes at the Church coordinated by Ted Leighton. It was fun and educational. Thank you to Ted and his fellow musicians Aoife McCauley, Alexa Jaffurs Scott Henderson, and Steve Klein. We had Irish pipes, whistles, fiddles, drums and a standup Bass.

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**Up Coming Events (Mark Your Calendars!):**

To round out the year the Society will be participating in two further events. We will lay a wreath in remembrance of those from Smith's Cove who have served, at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day at 2 PM during the Remembrance Service.

On Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our Annual Christmas Tree lighting at the Temperance Hall (590 Highway 1) with the Smith's Cove Fire Department. We will have hot chocolate, treats and candy canes for the kids, carol singing, lighting of our Christmas Tree and a special visitor sure to delight the youngsters. Festivities will be again at 5 PM and we hope to see you there.

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**Donations and Memberships:**

The Smith's Cove Historical Society does a wonderful job of programming for the community with many hours of volunteering by board and community members and a very, very limited budget. We can only do what we do with your support through donations and membership dues.

Your donation right now will help pay the costs of the recently completed United/Methodist Church exterior renovations. We have a fund matching opportunity where every dollar raised is matched up to \$10,000. So, make your donations count double.

Annual Membership fees in the Historical Society help to keep our local Museum open and operating (electricity, water, Wi-Fi, summer student, etc.) The dues are \$20 a year.

If you wish to make a donation or buy a Membership you can provide a cheque payable to the Smith's Cove Historical Society and send it to the Society at 590 Highway 1, Smiths Cove, Nova Scotia, B0S 1S0 or alternatively you can do an e-transfer to the Historical Society at [schsdonate@gmail.com](mailto:schsdonate@gmail.com). Please indicate if the e-transfer is for a Membership or Donation and provide a mailing address for donation tax receipts.