



**BEDEQUE AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

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## **Bedeque Area Historical Society**

### **Newsletter 25: **Part 1****

**September 2022**

*Because of the large size of this Newsletter it has had to be divided into two separate parts and sent in two emails to members.*

**Email: [bahsmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:bahsmuseum@outlook.com)**

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**Facebook: Bedeque Area Historical Museum**

## ***Members and Friends of Bedeque Area Historical Society,***

We are pleased to send you our end-of-summer Newsletter for 2022.

The Museum was open from June 28 to September 4 (for six days each week), staffed by our two student workers, Lucas MacDonald and Hayden Hardy (pictured on a later page). The museum has recorded **1,001 visitors**, which is a record for us and is much higher than the equivalent figure of 658 in 2019 (our last normal summer before covid struck). The 1,001 visitors includes the 261 coming in on four free days during the summer, who were mostly local.

Two new exhibits were on display this summer: one on the **Mizuno family** of Central Bedeque and another on the **early settlement history of Freetown**; and there were expansions to our exhibits on the **Acadians of Bedeque**, the **Freetown Royals hockey team**, and **Jacob Gould Schurman**. We also displayed some paintings and hooked mats by the late **Eleanor Wheler** of Bedeque and Fernwood. Other exhibits continued from previous years, including the **Bedeque Harbour Loyalists**, the **Borden Ferry 100** exhibit, the **Mi'kmaq Culture** exhibit, and our core displays on **Callbecks Store** and on the **Red Barn Collection** of Howard Clark.

A highlight of our summer was the official opening of the **L. M. Montgomery Lower Bedeque Schoolhouse** by **Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry** on July 16. The school is now operating as part of the Museum and inside the school are new displays on L. M. Montgomery's time in Bedeque and on her romance with Herman Leard; also, on her Loyalist ancestry and its connection with her writing; and on schooling in Bedeque in the early 19th century.

We hosted **six talks in July and August** which attracted 138 persons. We held our second **Blueberry and Ice-cream Social**, which along with sponsorships of the social proved to be a successful fund-raising event.

We've generated quite a bit of publicity this summer in the print media (the *Guardian*, *Journal-Pioneer*, the *Buzz*, and especially the *County Line Courier*) and also on CBC radio and television, all of which helped to publicize the Museum and its exhibits, contributing to our visitor numbers.

**A REMINDER: Your membership was renewable this past July. If you haven't already done so, you can renew it by posting a cheque made out to the Bedeque Area Historical Society to the postal address on the first page of this newsletter, along with your name and contact methods, including email.**

**Or, you can pay by e-transfer online by setting the Museum up as an e-transfer recipient in your online banking by using our email: [bahsmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:bahsmuseum@outlook.com) When the message box appears, record that the money is for a membership and include your name.**

**The annual subscription is \$20 for individuals and \$25 for families or households. These subscriptions are an important source of our income enabling us to carry out our programs, and we thank all those who have already renewed their memberships for this year.**



## THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR NEW SUMMER EXHIBITS

On the morning of July 2 we held the official opening of our new summer exhibits. Seventy-one people attended, including Hon. Jamie Fox, Minister of Fisheries and Communities and MLA for Borden-Kinkora, and Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Opposition in the P.E.I. Legislature. Everyone had a chance to view the new exhibits and then after the ribbon cutting we went into the Community Room across the hall where they were welcomed by Doug Sobey, President of the Bedeque Area Historical Society and addressed by the invited guests.



Doug Sobey , President of the Bedeque Area Historical Society, addresses those attending.



Catherine Callbeck cuts a ribbon, held by Bill Callbeck (left) and former Chief Justice Norman Carruthers, to open an exhibit on the George and Kamiyo Mizuno family, a Japanese-Canadian family who had been interned in British Columbia during the Second World War and then came to live in Central Bedeque from 1946 to 1952. Catherine and Bill's Aunt Louise, who had been a missionary in Japan, brought the family to Bedeque, and they farmed on land belonging to Louise's father, William Callbeck, while Norman knew Norris Mizuno when they were both students at Prince of Wales College. Paul Mizuno of Toronto had hoped to attend the opening but was not able to hire a car on the Island and so could not come.



## SOME MORE PICTURES FROM THE OPENING.



Clayton Mill, one of the few surviving members of the famous Freetown Royals hockey team who were the county league champions in the late 1940s and 50s, declares the exhibit on the team open, while Lloyd Reeves (a Freetown Royals player of a later era) and Mary Rogers Mill hold the ribbon. Mary played for the Freetown Royal Sisters, the women's equivalent of the men's team.



Marlene Boily, the chair of this summer's Freetown Reunion committee, cuts the ribbon to open an exhibit on the history of Freetown, held in conjunction with the reunion. Holding the ribbon are, on left, Shirley Burns (a panel in the exhibit tells the story of the Burns farm in Lower Freetown which has been occupied by Shirley's family since 1810), and on right, Katherine Dewar (Katherine has loaned her Freetown signature quilt dating from 1928, for the exhibit).



## MORE PICTURES FROM THE OPENING.



Invited guests, Hon. Jamie Fox, Minister of Fisheries and Communities and MLA for Borden-Kinkora (*left*), and Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Green Party and of the Opposition, both praised the museum's work.



Seventy-one people attended the opening.



## SOME VIEWS OF THE NEW EXHIBITS: THE MIZUNO EXHIBIT

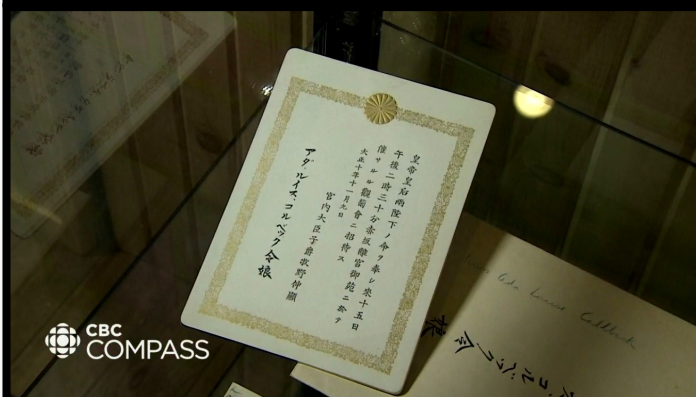


Left: Two panels tell the story of the Mizuno family.

Below: Objects and photographs connected with Louise Callbeck's time in Japan in the 1920s and 30s.



Below (from upper left, clockwise): The silver tea-set given to the Mizunos by the people of Bedeque on their departure in 1952; George Mizuno's tool chest from his time in Bedeque; one of the many ceramics brought from Japan by Louise Callbeck; an invitation to Louise from the Emperor of Japan to a reception in the Imperial Gardens. All four photos are as shown on CBC Compass.





# SOME VIEWS OF THE NEW EXHIBITS CONNECTED WITH FREETOWN



Left: Two panels on the early settlement history of Freetown, plus a third on the Burns family farm.

Below: The Freetown Royals exhibit.



Above and below: Parts of the Jacob Gould Schurman exhibit.





# THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LOWER BEDEQUE SCHOOL

**Her Honour, Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry officially opened  
the L. M. Montgomery Lower Bedeque Schoolhouse.**

On Saturday morning July 16 the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island the Honourable Antoinette Perry declared the Lower Bedeque Schoolhouse officially open at its new site in the Loyalist Monument Park in Central Bedeque. It had been moved to the Park in 2021. It was a beautiful summer morning and, miraculously, the mosquitoes stayed away! Apart from the official dignitaries and the general public, twelve former pupils of the school were present. Since its opening, the school has been attracting many new visitors to the Museum, and especially L. M. Montgomery enthusiasts who would otherwise not have visited us.



102 people gathered 'in the shade of the old apple tree' to participate in the official opening of the schoolhouse.



Lieutenant Governor Perry speaking to the audience, before declaring the school officially opened.



## THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LOWER BEDEQUE SCHOOL



Everyone stands as Faye Pound opens the proceedings with the singing of the Island Hymn. Appropriately, the words of the hymn were composed by L. M. Montgomery – in 1908, just before the publication of *Anne of Green Gables*.



Lieutenant Governor Perry presents Mary Kendrick of the Friends of Lower Bedeque School with the 'Volunteer of the Year' award of the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation for single-handedly keeping the school open between 2009 and 2019. Emcee Doug Sobey looks on.



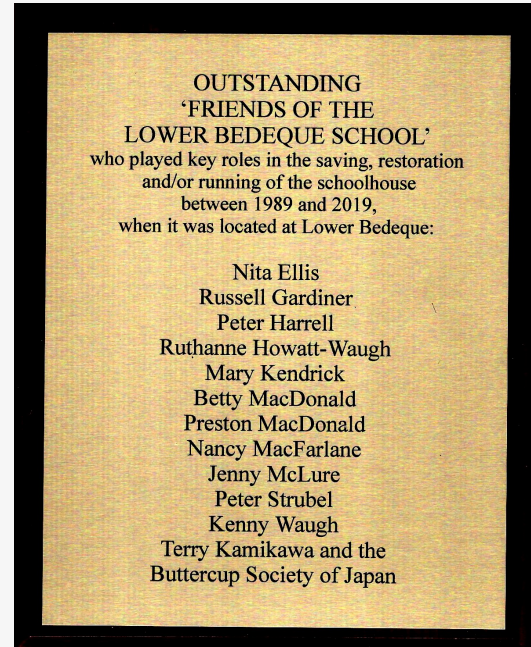
Eleven past pupils of the Lower Bedeque School pose with Lieutenant Governor Perry, MP Heath MacDonald, and MLA Jamie Fox in front of the schoolhouse. The school closed in 1962 after serving the community since 1886, though there had been a previous school building on the site since 1840. In the photo are (left to right, married names in brackets): Katherine Jeffery (Bell) [*seated*], MP Heath MacDonald, Ruby Arsenault (Jurkowski), Joan Affleck (Linkletter), Lieutenant Governor Perry, Betty Arsenault, MLA Jamie Fox, Nancy Arsenault, Percy Affleck, Ann Leard (Leard), Daniel McLure, Diane MacCallum (McLure), Stuart Affleck, and Melvin Affleck. Also present was Edna MacDonald, whose photo has been added on the far left .



# THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LOWER BEDEQUE SCHOOL



Two plaques were unveiled during the opening ceremony.



The contents of the school are mostly the ones that were collected during its restoration in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and so it retains much of the ambience that it had when it was in Lower Bedeque. We have, however, added elements from Howard Clark's Red Barn Museum, most of which come from the Chelton school.



In a corner, panels and a display tell the story of Maud Montgomery's year in Bedeque and of her romance with Herman Leard, with whose family she was staying. The original memorial portrait of Herman is on the wall and the Leard family portrait and Herman's original calling card are in the display case.



Herman Leard's calling card was a fortuitous donation to the Museum. It was found in a Victorian style photo album for tintypes, which once belonged to the Leonard Schurman family in Bedeque. Presumably the card was kept as a memento of Herman, in lieu of a photograph, after his early death at age 29 from appendicitis.



## THE LOWER BEDEQUE SCHOOL POSTERS 'ATTEND' UPEI CONFERENCE



The six posters now set up in the Lower Bedeque school visited the 15th Biennial L. M. Montgomery Conference held at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown from June 22 to 26 where they were viewed by many of the conference attendees (*above*). Also, Doug Sobey, president of the Bedeque Historical Society, gave a conference paper entitled 'Maud Montgomery, Herman Leard, and a Re-vision of the Lower Bedeque School-house' (the theme of the conference was 'L. M. Montgomery and Re-vision'. Also, the portrait of Herman and his calling card were on display at the conference (*left*).



Several conference delegates visited the Lower Bedeque school either before or after the conference. One of these was Carolyn Strom Collins (*left*) of Wisconsin, editor of the *Kindred Spirits* magazine.