



BEDEQUE AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Bedeque Area Historical Society

Newsletter 25: **Part 2**

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

Website: www.bedequemuseum.ca

Facebook: Bedeque Area Historical Museum

THE AGM OF THE BEDEQUE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the BAHS was held on Monday 25 July in the Community Room of the William Callbeck Centre. The speaker for the evening was BAHS Board member and secretary, Don Jardine, who gave a talk on 'The Settlement History of the Freetown Area' (*see below*). Four Board members had resigned during the year or did not put their names forward at the meeting: Danny McLure, Natalie McDonald, Lloyd MacCallum and Paul H. Schurman. We greatly appreciate the contribution made by these four members during their tenure. Three new members were elected: Randall Affleck, Peter Holman and Darlene Shea, along with eight members of the previous Board. The Board now consists of the following persons: **Percy Affleck, Randall Affleck, Valerie Curtis, Seymour Desroches, Peter Holman, Don Jardine, Susan Leard, Dawn Moase, Darlene Shea, Earle Smith and Doug Sobey**. At the August 2 Board meeting Doug Sobey was re-elected as President, Valerie Curtis as Vice-President, Don Jardine as Secretary and Susan Leard as Treasurer.

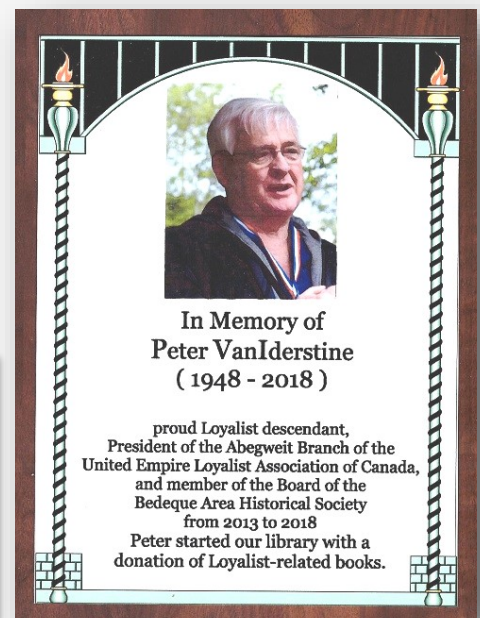
Treasurer Susan Leard presented **the accounts** for the year ending 30 April 2022. **Total income was \$69,027** (including \$35,978 for the moving of the Lower Bedeque school); **total expenditure was \$103,870** (including \$79,520 for the moving of the school); **the balance in accounts was \$24,865**. Major sources of income were government and Community Museum Association funding grants for student employees and museum development (\$12,821); government covid relief funding (\$7,500); fund-raising events (\$2,402), and donations (\$8,078). Museum entry charges brought in \$607 and memberships \$1,395. The major expenses were student wages (\$11,501), rent (including heat and light) (\$7,696), exhibit/archival and event expenses (\$3,180), and advertising (\$712).



Our new Board members.

Standing: Randall Affleck (on left) and Peter Holman. *Seated:* Darlene Shea.

A plaque has been placed in our library / archives in memory of Peter Vaniderstine, Board member from 2013 to 2018.



OUR SUMMER'S TALKS ARE REVIVED AFTER A TWO-YEAR LAPSE

After a gap of two years due to covid, we were able this year to revive our Monday evening talks as part of our summer program in July and August. One talk, as mentioned above, was that of Don Jardine on 'The Early Settlement History of Freetown'. Four of the other talks were also connected with this summer's new exhibits or with exhibits which opened last year but for which we could not hold talks because of covid: namely the 'Acadians in Bedeque' exhibit and Jacob Gould Schurman. The lone talk not related to any of the exhibits was on P.E.I.'s role in the Second World War. A total of 138 people attended the talks. Five of the talks have been recorded for the Society's records by Valerie and Barry Curtis using our recently acquired video recording devices. The one not recorded was on the Burns Family Farm.

OUR SUMMER TALKS

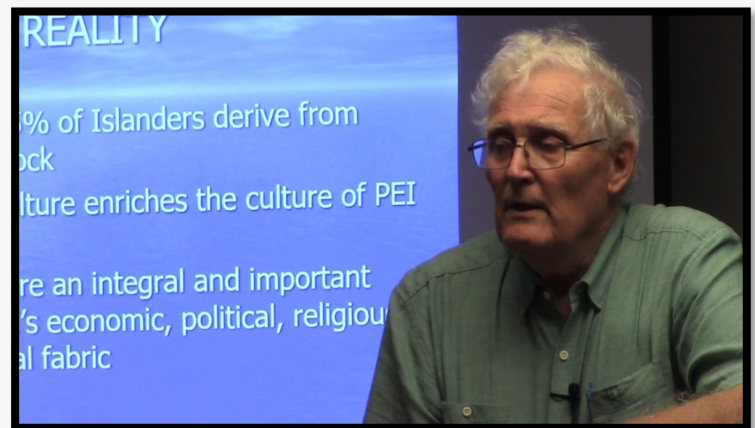
TALK: Monday July 11. *'The Story of the Mizuno Family in Bedeque'*.

To coincide with one of our exhibits, **Wayne MacKinnon**, author of many historical articles and books on Prince Edward Island history, especially political history, told the story of the Mizuno family, a Japanese-Canadian family who lived in Central Bedeque from 1946 to 1952. His talk was based on his article in the 2019 issue of *The Island Magazine* "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed me: The Story of the Callbeck Sisters and the Mizunos".



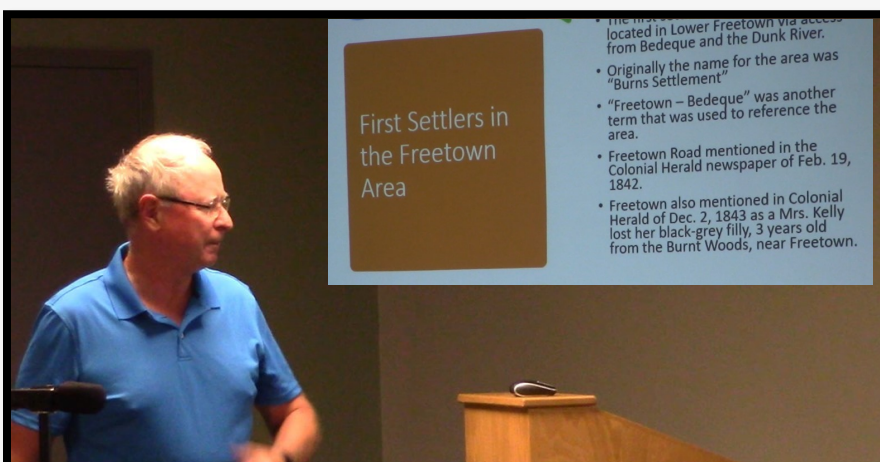
TALK: Monday July 18. *'The Deportation of the Island Acadians in 1758'*

To coincide with our exhibit on the 'The Acadians of Bedeque', marking the 300th anniversary of the beginning of French and Acadian settlement on the Island in 1720, **Earle Lockerby**, the author of numerous books and papers on the French period in the history of the Island, told the story of the deportation of the Island's Acadians in 1758, concentrating in particular on the timing and logistics of the event, including details of the ships used by the British at the time.



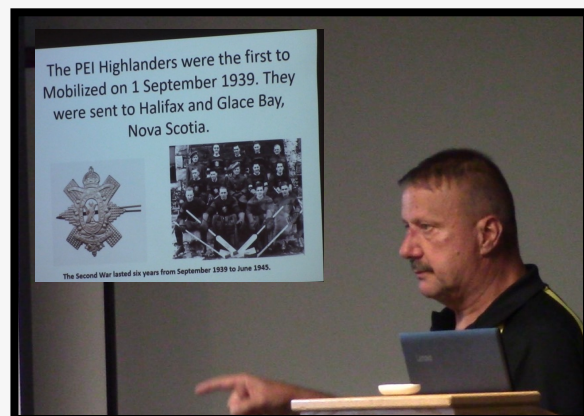
TALK: Monday July 25. *'The Settlement History of the Freetown area'*.

To coincide with this year's Freetown Reunion, **Don Jardine**, a member of the Board of the Bedeque Area Museum, gave an illustrated talk on the early settlement history of Freetown. Don was born in Freetown and was involved in the research and writing which led to the production in 1984 of *Freetown Past and Present*. The contents of his talk coincide with that of two of our new posters on the early history of Freetown.



TALK: Monday August 1. *'Jacob Gould Schurman, An Outstanding Islander Ahead of His Time'*

In connection with our exhibit on Jacob Gould Schurman, **Doug Sobey** of the Bedeque Area Historical Society, gave an illustrated talk on Schurman, one of the Island's most eminent native sons, who was born in Freetown in 1854 and went on to achieve a brilliant academic and diplomatic career in the United States. He described Schurman's background and outlined his active support for many 'progressive' causes, not as fashionable in his day as they have become since.



TALK: Monday August 8. *'Prince Edward Island and the Second World War'*

Captain **Greg Gallant** of the P.E.I. Regiment, and curator of the P.E.I. Military Museum in Charlottetown, gave an illustrated talk on many different aspects of Prince Edward Island's participation in the Second World War. Greg showed the many photographs he had collected showing places, persons and events connected with the war effort on the Island.

TALK: Monday August 15. *'The Story of the Burns Family Farm, Freetown's First Farm'*

Doug Sobey in an illustrated talk told the story of the Burns Family Farm which came into being in 1810 when James Burns from Perthshire in Scotland bought 1000 acres of land in what was to become Lower Freetown. His descendants still occupy part of the farm he created. A new panel in the Museum tells the story of the farm and its owners.



Doug (in middle) poses with Donald Burns and his cousin Shirley Burns, both descendants of James Burns. Shirley still lives on the original farm site.

OUR SUMMER STUDENT WORKERS

Our two summer student employees this year were **Lucas MacDonald** of Summerside (on right) and **Hayden Hardy** of Victoria. This was Lucas's second year working for the Museum. Both have just completed Grade 12 and are going on to higher education. They were employed under the federal 'Young Canada Works' and the provincial 'Jobs for Youth' programs.



The BAHS BLUEBERRY and ICE-CREAM SOCIAL – SUNDAY AUGUST 14

The weather gods were not with us for the BAHS's second annual Blueberry and Ice-cream Social: it poured out of the heavens and so we had to hold it in the Community Room in the William Callbeck Centre. Even so, 109 people came out in support. Musical entertainment was provided by Tim Menees on the keyboard. The event, which was sponsored by 21 local businesses and individuals, proved to be a successful fund-raiser for the Museum, raising over \$3,250 from the sponsors and \$661 in ticket sales.



The Dairy Farmers of P.E.I. donated the ice-cream and we picked our own wild blueberries.



Tim Menees entertained on the keyboard.



THE SPONSORS OF THE SOCIAL:

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Jean Probyn
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OUR SECOND SEAFOOD RAFFLE RAISES FUNDS FOR THE MUSEUM

Throughout the summer, members of the Bedeque Area Historical Society have been selling tickets for our second seafood raffle (the first was held in 2019, but because of covid we did not hold a raffle in the last two summers). The draw took place on the free open day on Sunday August 28, with Ron Rayner, the former Mayor of Bedeque and Area, drawing the winning tickets from a Mi'kmaq potato basket. The first prize (\$250 of lobster donated in part by JMK Fish Mart in Summerside) was won by Jeanie Affleck of Lower Bedeque. The winner of the second prize (\$100 of premium choice oysters donated by Future Seafoods of Fernwood) was Marlene Boily. The third Prize winner (a \$50 voucher from Captain Cooke's Seafood in Borden) was Trevor Smith. We thank all those who bought the 371 raffle tickets sold, thus contributing to a successful fund-raising event for the Museum (\$1,245 was raised).

BEDEQUE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEAFOOD RAFFLE

DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 28, 2022, AT 4.00 PM

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

FIRST PRIZE: \$250 SEAFOOD VOUCHER
SECOND PRIZE: \$100 SEAFOOD VOUCHER
THIRD PRIZE: \$50 SEAFOOD VOUCHER

FUNDS TO BE USED TO SUPPORT THE BEDEQUE AREA MUSEUM
IN CENTRAL BEDEQUE

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME:
CONTACT 902-887-3009

TICKETS: \$5 OR 3 FOR \$10.00



Ron Rayner, former Mayor of Bedeque and Area, draws one of the winning tickets from a Mi'kmaq potato basket held by Hayden Hardy, one of our student employees.



Glenda of Future Seafoods in Fernwood presents Marlene Boily (on left) with \$100 worth of Premium Oysters donated as the second prize in our Seafood Raffle.



Jeannie Affleck of Lower Bedeque receives the first prize from Doug Sobey, President of the BAHS, (\$250 worth of lobster donated in part by JMK Fish Mart in Summerside).



Dawn Moase of the Bedeque Historical Society presents Trevor Smith with a \$50 voucher donated by Captain Cooke's Seafood of Borden.

A NEW ADDITION TO THE MUSEUM HAS COME ALL THE WAY FROM ISRAEL.



Percy Affleck, centre, a member of the Board of the Bedeque Area Museum, receives the miniature chest of drawers from Ari Dale and her brothers Norman Dale (*on left*) and Peter Dale (*right*). Also present was Wendy Green (*above*), another Dale family member, who missed out on the main photo.

A miniature chest of drawers made a century or more ago has returned to Prince Edward Island after having spent many years in Israel. Ari Dale, an Islander who now lives in Israel, had decided that the time had come for her to bring the chest home. Having been unable to travel to the Island for two years because of covid, she returned this year with the chest packed in her luggage. Ari said, "I am so happy that cousin Percy Affleck was there to receive Uncle Stewart Affleck's little bureau and to give it rest from its long travels; I've loved and enjoyed it for 63 years, but it is time for it to come home". Ari descends from the Afflecks through her mother, and she had gathered together members of her family for the presentation.



John Stewart Affleck, the maker of the chest, was born in 1869, the oldest child of Alexander Affleck and Margaret Crockett of Searletown. Stewart was a farmer but also, it seems, a hobby cabinet-maker. He died in 1962, having been predeceased by his wife Pearl MacLean in 1918; they had no children. About 1959 Stewart held a sale of his household furnishings before moving into a nursing home. It was at that sale that his miniature chest of drawers was purchased by his relatives, the Dales, who have owned it ever since.

The miniature chest is a welcome addition to the collection of the Museum and has been on display since it was donated on 29 July. It is very finely made and Stewart Affleck has inscribed his name as its maker on the back of one of the drawers (*see below*).



ROAD SCHOLARS CYCLING TOURS RETURN AFTER TWO-YEAR COVID BREAK



Three times in 2018 and 2019 a cycling group, mostly of retired Americans, called the Road Scholars Cycling Tour, stopped in at the Museum for a rest and a visit. However, they missed the last two summers because of covid. But the tours have resumed again, and so this summer we welcomed three tours in July and August, totalling 49 persons.

MONTGOMERY ENTHUSIAST DONATES 15 NOVELS TO BEDEQUE MUSEUM



Nita Ellis of Summerside and MacCallums Point has long been an L. M. Montgomery enthusiast. Nita also played a major role in the early 1990s in gathering together many of the items that are now in the Lower Bedeque school. And now Nita has donated a collection of fifteen of L. M. Montgomery's novels to the school including several first editions. We very much appreciate this welcome addition to the collection.