

THE INFORMER

December 2017

Issue # Four

imhs.ca

Isle Madame Historical Society
708 Veteran's Memorial Drive
Arichat, N.S.
P.O. Box 223, Arichat, B0E 1A0
TELEPHONE 902 226 9364
TELEPHONE 902 226 2880

From the Desk of the Editor S. Marchand - Terrio

2017 was an eventful year at LeNoir Landing. We celebrated Canada's 150th birthday as well as the 50th Anniversary of the opening the LeNoir Forge Museum. The museum opened to visitors on June 1, 2017. 4860 patrons visited the site 2017. They were attending special events, programs, visiting the museum, gift shop, genealogy room, and bookstore.

We were privileged to receive support from the Government of Canada to host a special photographic exhibit "Isle Madame From Confederation to Today". This project was a partnership between École Beau Port and IMHS. The students at École Beau Port were given 75 photos from the IMHS archives. After some reflection they went out and took 75 matching photos showing how the island has changed in the last 150 years and how it has remained the same. The exhibit opened on Dec. 8, 2017 and will remain on display during the summer of 2018. Summer programming included blacksmithing demonstrations and classes, weekly teas, and kid's days at the museum.

The Canada Post Children's Corner opened in September, it is a special area set up to provide hands on activities for children from ages 3 to 10. We are very grateful to the Canada Post Community Foundation for their financial support in completing this project.

The Isle Madame Historical Society's mission is to collect, preserve and exhibit artifacts and documents relating to the social, cultural and natural history of Isle Madame for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Arichat AA Hockey Team 1937 IMHS Ref. # AO 094



Poulamond IMHS Ref. # DO 076



St. Joseph's Church P.D.G.

From our Picture Archives

In September we also hosted our First Annual Show and Shine. We had 26 vintage and antique cars register. It was a community building afternoon with owners and visitors sharing experiences, stories and a common interest.

As for the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday as well as the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the LeNoir Forge Museum it was a wonderful afternoon. It included a blacksmithing demonstration by the Maritime Blacksmithing Association, speeches, entertainment by local artists, a Mi'kmaq Prayer Ceremony, a photo display and of course cake! This event was sponsored by the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, The Municipality of the County of Richmond, St. Joseph's CreditUnion and local business owners.

A few excerpts from the speech given by our Board Chair Anne Leavitt at our Anniversary celebration on Sept 17, 2017: *"The thing about people from Nova Scotia, and which seems to be doubly true of people from Cape Breton, and triply of Isle Madamers, is that as far away as they may roam, they never really leave this place. They carry it with them in their stories, in their souls, as an essential part of who they are, even if some of them don't know it. To be raised elsewhere by Nova Scotian parents, especially if one's maternal grandparents hail from Isle Madame, is to know this as a brute fact."*

"On its own, sitting there on Arichat's harbour, Thomas LeNoir's Forge is just an old building filled with a lot of old stuff. Its meaning and its importance comes, not from its stones and mortar, but from the stories that have been given to us about the man who built it, how it was used, and its central role in the local economy. The building itself means nothing without its stories and its

living place in our memories. Why did the people who delighted in the rebuilding of the Forge 50 years ago care about commemorating these stories? People like Marshall Bourinot, Harold LeBrun, Emile Benoit, Cites Babin and so many others? Well, I cannot speak for them but, as most of us know, no community simply pops out of an egg. The history of a community is one of its richest treasures, something we can all own, offering us glimpses of how things came to be the way they are now, for better or worse, and why. And local histories also offer us something quite delicate and rare, a glimpse of ordinary, and sometimes not so ordinary, very real lives lived from which we might draw a lesson or two, particularly if those lessons, like much of our own lives, aren't always clear cut"

"Isle Madame has been blessed with a long and rich treasury of stories filled with fascinating people who lived through and shaped some remarkable events. Stories die, though, if they are not preserved and retold. Fifty years ago, the people who gave us the Forge were committed to preserving the stories, not just of Thomas LeNoir, whose stories will always remain worth telling. They were also committed to preserving the treasury of stories of Isle Madame itself. They knew that researching, enriching, preserving, and commemorating that treasury would make demands on people's time and talents, and certainly on their wallets. But, forgive the pun, they forged ahead anyway. To do that, they must have had great faith that fifty or a hundred or even two hundred years later, there would be people to continue their work, preserving and remembering the ever growing treasury for others who would come later. Let's not disappoint them, but make sure that what we continue to treasure what they gave us and pass on it on, just as they did for us."

Board of Directors 2017-2018

- Anne Leavitt - Chair
- Ralph Mauger - Vice
- Brittany Benoit - Secretary
- Joan Clannon - Treasurer
- Susan Marchand- Terrio- Site Manager

Directors:

- Leslie Marchand, Lisa Berthier, Odilon Boudreau, Nancy Samson, Anita Marchand, Marg Herdman



IMHS Chair Anne Leavitt at Anniversary Celebrations

"Volunteers Corner"

Why should you become a volunteer with the Isle Madame Historical Society:

- * You are needed.
- * You love history.
- * You want to see the Isle Madame Historical Society offer great exhibits that tell our visitors the story of Isle Madame.

Volunteer opportunities are available in many areas.

If you are interested in a volunteer position please contact our office 902 226 9364 or 902 226 2880



Summer of 2017

Photos: IMHS

Top Right: Canada Day

Top Left: School Visit

Bottom right: Tea in the
Museum





Above: Show and Shine,
Right: Blacksmithing Class,
Below: Canada 150 Photo Exhibit
Below Right: Prayer Ceremony

Photos by IMHS

