

THE INFORMER

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From the Desk of the Editor

S. Marchand - Terrio

It's summer and what a strange world we live in! Covid-19 has changed many things and has had an effect on our daily lives at the Society. Our summer programming has been cancelled, the hours we are opened are reduced to Tuesday to Thursday 1:00 - 4:00. The museum which is opened during those hours, can only be accessed with a guide. The research area is closed for this year, however research & genealogy requests can be sent by e-mail or dropped off to the office and requests will be attended to in a timely manner. On the positive note we are working on cataloging new artifacts, photographing and updating information from our existing collection and uploading enriched data to NovaMuse, the online data base where our collection can be accessed. Visit our collection at <http://novamuse.ca/> We have been working on refreshing our displays and creating new display areas that tell specific stories about our island. One project which continues to evolve is our schoolroom. With the help of community volunteer Earl Doyle and the research of our student Laurier Fougere the plan is coming together! Displaying new artifacts and archival material throughout the site is planned. Plans for an online art auction are in the works, check our website and Facebook page for more information.

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.



Former Municipal Building IMHS Ref. # JAM-251



Cap LaRonde Making Hay- IMHS # RBCO-064



IMHS D0-011 Vessel that ran between River Bourgeois & D'Escousse

From the IMHS Photo
Collection





Summer Students

Thanks to the Federal Student Employment program we have been able to hire a local student Laurier Fougere. As usual Laurier is tackling the backlog of projects waiting for attention.

Walk Through Time: History Tidbits

The S.S. Arrow by Anne Leavitt

The first major oil spill in Canadian ocean waters occurred on February 4, 1970 when the 11,000 ton SS Arrow, en route to Point Tupper in a strong gale, ran aground on Cerberus Rock, a notorious navigation hazard in Chedabucto Bay. Carrying 10,000,000 litres of Bunker C fuel oil that had been loaded in Venezuela, she was a mere 23.5 kms from her destination when she went aground.

While her crew was successfully evacuated late that night, gale-force winds and poor visibility impeded attempts to free her and to empty her cargo tanks. On February 8th, she split in two, her bow and stern ends sinking into the waters of the Bay. As she went down, two thirds of her oil cargo escaped into the Bay, while the remaining oil in the tanks of the sunken wreck posed a threat of future contamination. Within a week of her sinking, the spill covered over 300 kms of the Cape Breton shoreline, threatening numbers of seabirds and animals, and the fishing, shellfish, and tourism industries central to the area's economy. The cleanup took months and cost various levels of

government millions of dollars. 2500 seabirds died.

Although weather was a factor in the wreck of the ship, it was determined that navigation aids on the Liberian-flagged Arrow were not working properly, and that she was sailing too fast for conditions. At the time, however, there existed no regulatory framework under which her owner, a company registered in Panama, could be held responsible for government cleanup costs and compensation for losses incurred by local residents. In response to this regulatory vacuum, the Canada Shipping Act was amended in 1971, putting in place one of the first national, comprehensive regulatory regimes for ocean oil spills in the world. In addition to establishing liabilities for ship owners, the new framework also established the Marine Pollution Claims Fund to cover claims in excess of ship owners' liability for ocean oil spills.

Despite the fact that ocean oil spill cleanup techniques and technology were in their infancy in 1970, millions of litres of remaining oil were successfully pumped out of wreck of the Arrow in 1970. The environment in and around Chedabucto Bay was restored more quickly than expected at the time, and the wreck itself quickly became, and remains, a popular recreational dive site. In 2015, forty-five years after she sank, when an oil leak was spotted by aircraft, the last remaining 30,000 litres of Bunker C oil was pumped out of the Arrow.

Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Leslie Marchand, Jarrod David, Odilon Boudreau, Nancy Samson, Marg Herdman, Susan Marchand-Terrio

Photo by Al Eastman IMHS



“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



Heritage Property:

A building doesn't have to be a stately mansion or a quaint farmhouse to be historic and worth preserving. There are many properties on Isle Madame that contribute to our heritage. In this edition of *The Informer* we feature the **Terrio/Benoit/Samson House** situated on the Arichat waterfront.

This house was built by Constant Pierre Terrio (1840 - 1931) and evidence points to a construction date of 1870. Although this property changed hands it remained in the Terrio family. It was however, connected to the family of Simon Forest as well. Emilie Forest the daughter of Simon Forest and Barbe LeNoir was married to Constant Terrio. The first evidence we have of the property changing hands is on April 13th, 1847. At this time Victor & Ester (also a daughter of Simon Forest) LeBlanc, and Felix & Virginia (another daughter of Simon Forest) Terrio sell or give the property to Amelia (Emilie)

Terrio wife of Constant. In 1867 the property changes hands from Amelia (Emilie) Terrio to her son Constant Pierre Terrio. He is believed to be the builder of this lovely Gothic Revival style home. The property changes hands again in 1877 becoming the property of Constant D. Terrio son of Constant Pierre. In 1929 it is sold to J. Alphonse Benoit by the wife of Constant D., May Jamison. In 1972 it is sold to the Samson Family.

The house embodies many of the basic elements of a typical Nova Scotian Gothic Revival home. However, it displays a few uncommon features including Scottish dormers on either side of the central gable dormer. It is one and a half stories, with a stone foundation and wood construction. It originally had two chimneys that were used to heat this home, however at some point one chimney was removed. The house contains a central hallway with 4 rooms on each floor and appealed to the love of symmetry of the Victorian era. We hope this lovely home will grace our village for many years to come.

Summer 2020

Photos:

Top Left: The Terrio/
Benoit/Samson House
1970's, (IMHS Photo
Collection)

Top Right: The Terrio/
Benoit/Samson House
2020
(Photographer Laurier Fougere)



Summer 2020

Top left: The Schoolroom

Top right: Sign of the Times

Bottom left: The Schoolroom

Bottom right: Photographing collection

Photos by IMHS

