THE INFORMER

January 2025 Issue # Seventeen 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

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.

From the Desk of the Editor

S. Marchand - Terrio

Happy New Year! Welcome 2025! The museum closed for the season mid October and the remainder of 2024 was spent filing reports and applications for the coming year. The beginning of the New Year is always a time of reflection for us. Did we accomplish our goals? Did we engage our community? What will 2025 bring for the society and the museum? How will we meet new challenges? There is a lot to reflect upon! January brings meeting time for the planning committee as the schedule of events for 2025 starts to come together.

During 2024 we were lucky to have Victoria Bowen as our Site Manager, Emily Samson our museum interpreter, Ginette Therrien & Lauren Marchand as our part-time staff. They catalogued artifacts, cleaned exhibit spaces, assisted with programming, weeded flower beds, did tours, assisted with research questions, served tea and greeted visitors!

There was a lot to celebrate in 2024! With the help of a grant from Access Nova Scotia we were able to install a new door and ramp making the Boat Barn (our programming space) wheelchair accessible. We also applied to the Dept. of Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and were accepted into the Community Museum Assistance Program (CMAP). This was a major accomplishment for our board as we have been working on being re-admitted to this funding program for over 15 years. The financial support that we will receive through this program eases the fundraising burden. It will cover about 25% of our operating costs which is substantial in our goal of financial sustainability. A big thank you to our board members and our greater community for their support in reaching this goal!



D'Escousse IMHS Ref. # DO-239



Petit de Grat IMHS # JAMC-520



Arichat, IMHS, AO-141



Photos: IMHS Archives

In 2023 & 2024 we partnered with Telile Community Television and recorded 8 group interviews with local Seniors on several topics. The series is called “In Our Day” and can be viewed on YouTube at **https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=telile+community+television** These conversations have been well received and applauded. A big thank you to Telile Community Television for helping us to record these memories of Days Gone By!

I’d like to take this opportunity to mention the passing of two long time members of the Isle Madame Historical Society, Claire Doyle and Marie DeWolf. Our condolences to their families and friends.

To all our members we thank you for your support! Membership fees ($10.00 per year) support all of our programming in some way, whether its new sidewalk chalk for Kids Day, milk and cream for afternoon tea or plants for the flower beds, your yearly support is appreciated! Being able to show that we have a substantial number of members is a tangible way to prove community engagement and often helps when applying for grant funding. IMHS is also a listed charitable organization and can issue tax receipts for donations. If when paying your membership you have the means to make a donation as well, we would be happy to issue a tax receipt for that donation. Well, let’s be honest we would accept your donations at any time of the year!

All the best for 2025!

Susan

The Year In Review

As we prepare for the coming season, we cannot help but look back to 2024! It was a busy season with lots of special projects. As already mentioned we were admitted to the Provincial Community Museum Program. One of the requirements is participation in the TRACK Program which is administered by the Association of Nova Scotia Museums. This program kicked off in January with information sessions. This is a yearly assessment project which looks at how your museum is moving forward and developing to meet the needs of your community. It involves information sessions on different aspects of museum practice as well as one on one peer coaching to assist with areas you have identified as improvement goals. This was an overarching component of all of the events that took place in 2024 and will continue every year.

Work continued on a new permanent exhibit “Celebrating Musical Roots” which was funded by a Strategic Development Initiative grant from the Province of Nova Scotia, The Community Development Fund at St. Joseph’s Credit Union and the Isle Madame Historical Society. More information about the exhibit opening to follow.

Our first event of 2024 was a Mother’s Day Cup & Saucer Sale. It was a fun day and we re-homed many tea cups that had been donated for this event. The funds raised covered some of our share of the cost of the new ramp! In June we held a Volunteer Appreciation Tea to thank our volunteers for the time and energy they had given to the society in 2023. We also launched our Summer Learning Series with a workshop “In Deed: Who Lived Where and When” with Anne Leavitt. Our Annual Used Book Sale took place in June as well. The funds raised were used to support the Kids Day Program which took place during the summer.

In July our weekly “Tea In The Museum” began and continued Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer. Local residents and visitors gathered for refreshments and conversation. We are grateful to all who supported this fundraiser which generated a portion of the funds to cover the salaries of our student assistants. Also in July, we opened a new summer exhibition celebrating the work of local potter Jack Ouellette. We sent out a call to the community and their response was heartwarming. Within a short time we were able to develop a full exhibit of his work. We were blessed with a wonderful crowd of family and friends who gathered for the opening, sharing stories and memories of Jack.

Continued next page.



Board of Directors 2024-2025
Anne Leavitt - *Chair*
Renee Samson - *Vice Chair*
Brittany Benoit - *Secretary*
Joan Clannon - *Treasurer*
Directors:
Laurier Samson, Odilon Boudreau, Nancy Samson, Marg Herdman, Susan Marchand-Terrio, Ian MacKinnon, Melody Bedard

“ 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







Photos: IMHS

The Year In Review *(Continued)*

The exhibit was in place until closing in October when those treasured items went back to private collections.

In August we celebrated Living History Month on four Friday afternoons we had community interpreters bring four areas of the museum to life. This was such a fun project! The schoolroom was set in 1849; the teacher Mr. Thomas Wilson (portrayed by Earl Doyle) shared his experience teaching in Rocky Bay. The store was set in 1946 where shop keeper Doris LeBlanc (portrayed by Emily Samson) chatted with shoppers about her life in D'Escousse after World War II. The kitchen was managed by Elizabeth MacKay Cutler (portrayed by Paulette Boudreau) and set in 1920. Mrs. Cutler shared her experiences growing up at the lighthouse on Crichton Island and her life running a family inn, the Commercial House. The Boat Barn became Cecile Boudrot Forest's Tavern, set in 1820. Cecile (portrayed by Ginette Therrien) shared the struggles of a woman running a public house on the water front in Arichat. We had 131 visitors join us on our time travel experience, and the community interpreters did an amazing job of remaining in character and answering questions about the time period they were living in. August also saw a vey special celebration on Aug. 15, National Acadian Day an outdoor concert was held at LeNoir Landing sponsored by the Municipality of the County of Richmond and La Picasse, centre communautaire culturel. We were so pleased to work with these wonderful partners in creating a memorable event.

In September the highlight of our year was the opening of a new permanent exhibit entitled "Celebrating Musical Roots". This year we honoured the life long careers of Robert Bouchard & Corneila Boucher MacLeod Sutherland. The opening was the beginning of a week long celebration which culminated with a wonderful sold out concert at the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Hall. This project was supported by the Province of Nova Scotia, Destination Cape Breton Association, St. Joseph's Credit Union, Telile Community Television, La Picasse and IMHS.

October was a whirlwind of Celtic Colours Blacksmithing Classes, and our semi-annual Art Auction which was our major fundraiser for the year! Thank you again for purchasing items and supporting this event.

We try our best to keep our Facebook page active, sharing information and photos. We have had many photos from our collection identified on "Mystery Monday" and "Throw Back Thursday". Starting on Nova Scotia Heritage Day, the third Monday, in February we have shared our Heritage ABC photos which generate many visitors to our Facebook page. You can follow us at : **https://www.facebook.com/IsleMadameHistoricalSocietyLeNoirLanding/**

Summer 2024

Photos:

Top Left: Poster from Jack Ouellette Exhibit Opening

Middle: Living History Aug. 2024

Top Right: Tea Cup Sale 2024







Snapshots of the Summer & Fall

Top Left: Our Annual Book Sale *(IMHS)*
Top Middle: Blacksmithing Demonstration *(IMHS)*
Top Right: The Jack Ouellette Exhibit Opening *(IMHS)*
Middle: Celebrating Musical Roots Exhibit *(IMHS)*
Bottom Left: Robert & Cornelia Exhibit Opening *(IMHS)*
Bottom Middle: Poster for Celebration Concert *(IMHS)*
Bottom Left: Celebrating Musical Roots Exhibit Opening *(IMHS)*







