THE INFORMER

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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

Spring greetings! The days are lengthening and the warmer temperatures are welcomed! The daffodils that are growing in our flower beds bring colour and hope to our days.

The office and used bookstore opened on Tuesday May 6th. Our spring hours are Tuesday to Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 until the end of May. Tuesday June 3rd the museum opens and our hours change to 10:00 - 5:00. The first week of July we increase our days again to Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 - 5:00.

Winter and early spring are a busy time filled with planning for the coming season. More details about programs and events can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

IMHS will be publishing a photo calendar for 2026! The calendar will be sold in 2025 as a fundraiser to offset the operational costs as we continue to care for our collection as well as the LeNoir Landing site. The calendar will be available shortly and a notice will be sent to all members. Please consider supporting this fundraiser, the calendars will make lovely gifts for anyone connected to Isle Madame.

The society was also given an opportunity to participate in the Halftime 50/50 in support of Heritage Organizations in Nova Scotia. Tickets are purchased online. Participants select the organization of their choice to receive proceeds from their purchase. Draws take place weekly, every Tuesday at 7:30pm, in person at the Halifax Forum Bingo Hall. I realize there are many lotteries such as this one in Nova Scotia that we are all asked to support however, if you can purchase tickets even once or twice a month don't forget to select *Isle Madame Historical Society / LeNoir Forge Museum* from the drop down menu. We will be promoting the weekly draw on our Facebook page but you can play by visiting: https://nsshf.com/nova-scotias-halftime-50-50-draw There are some rules however, you must be a resident of Nova Scotia. Nothing ventured nothing gained!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that you get an opportunity to visit us sometime between May and October!



Arichat IMHS-JAMC Ref. # -251

Petit de Grat IMHS # JAMC-256

Poulamon, IMHS, DO-292

Photos: IMHS Archives

Getting Started With Your Family Tree

By: Anne Leavitt

At the IMHS, we assist people with discovering their family lineages and stories. As much as possible, we encourage people to ground what they think they know and what they want to find out in actual evidence, namely documents made at the time of the events they describe (e.g. birth, marriage, and death certificates; census and newspaper records) and created by reputable sources.

Not that long ago, finding such records could involve a lot of time and expensive travel which is why many people relied on oral history and family lore for much of what they knew or thought they knew. Today we are blessed with easy access to records from all over the globe that have been digitized and made readily available to anyone with a computer. While not everything has been digitized, it's astonishing how much has and these records are often free.

Copies of Nova Scotia government birth, marriage and death registrations are available at: https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/ Canadian census records can be found at: https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/censuses/Pages/censuses.aspx For those looking for local church records from Isle Madame, visit Jeanne Joyce-Stone's fabulous website: https://sites.rootsweb.com/~islemadamelistserv/parishrecords.html It includes Catholic and Anglican records which have been painstakingly transcribed and carefully indexed. A Google search will easily lead you to collections kept by other Canadian provincial and US state archives as well as genealogical groups in locations that may interest you. Find-A-Grave can also be a useful resource: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/Canada/Nova-Scotia/Richmond-County/Arichat?id=city_253584

Also free to access is one of the largest set of genealogical record collections in the world. With billions of digitized records, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/) is a favourite among professional and experienced genealogists, especially those interested in finding North American records. A great number of its collections have been indexed which means that simply typing in an ancestor's name and any other details you may have into their search engine can produce a series of links to original documents which you can view and save to your computer. You need to set up an account to access the records at FamilySearch. It costs nothing, and the organization will never use the limited information it collects from you to contact you.

FamilySearch also has a large number of record collections which, while digitized, have not been indexed. You find these by clicking on the "Search" button at the top left of your screen and selecting "Images". From there, you enter the geographical area you're interested in (e.g. Nova Scotia or Richmond County, Nova Scotia). Links to digitized volumes of deeds, wills, school, parish and other records will appear, many with their own indexes. It can take a bit of playing around to figure out how to navigate these large collections, but the results are well worth it.

Recently, FamilySearch launched a sophisticated tool for searching through these collections, and it has been a complete game changer. Currently, the tool can be used to search, for the most part, deeds and wills. It will, no doubt, be expanded to cover other collections in the future. To access the tool, go to the FamilySearch Labs page: https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/ After signing in with your account, a new page will open. Scroll till you see "Expand your search with Full Text" and click on the button. A fairly simple search box will appear. Enter the information you're looking for. The results will include not only copies of documents you'll find useful, but AI-generated transcriptions will make reading the documents easier.

FamilySearch, like other genealogy sites, also offers family trees that have been created by people who use it. Be very cautious with these trees or any others you find on the internet. Unless they are supported with good and reliable documentation, they can be based on errors and, in some cases, amount to no more than fanciful speculation. These errors are often copied all over the internet.

Also, when using FamilySearch or any other site offering original records, be open to using creative, alternative spellings for what you're looking for. Original documents can be hard to read and so indexes and transcriptions may fail to record the names of people and places accurately. Original records too, may have errors. Informants on death certificates are sometimes incorrect when offering the names of parents of a deceased, and those giving information to census-takers may be neighbours or children who are not fully informed. Scores of our ancestors were illiterate and may have had no idea how to spell their names and, even within literate families, the spelling of names can be inconsistent especially the further back one goes. Many of our ancestors used nicknames or middle names on some records (but not all), and many weren't exactly sure of their birthdays. Be prepared to use careful judgement when evaluating some records.

Happy hunting!



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



Blacksmithing: Tue. & Thurs. July & Aug



Living History Month (Fridays 2-4, Aug. 2025



Vintage Tea Cup Sale May 10th

Photos: IMHS

Events 2025

Saturday May 10th from 11:00 - 3:00: Mother's Day Vintage Tea Cup Sale Treat your Mom or yourself to a pretty tea cup and support our summer programs.

Volunteer Tea: Sunday June 8 at 2:00

Summer Learning Series:

Sunday July 20, 2:00 pm. - **Book Reading & Signing - *"We Are Who They Were" A Samson & Bourque Families Pictorial Genealogy"*** by Garvie Samson

Sunday Aug. 23, 2:00 p.m. - "The Dash - Stories from Our Lady of Assumption Cemetery " - facilitated by Odilon Boudreau

Tea in the Museum:

Every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 - 4:00, **July 2 to Aug. 27** Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, treats and conversation. $8.00 per person, $6.00 for members

Blacksmithing:

Demonstrations: Tuesday & Thursday afternoons, July & August 2:00 - 4:00

Full 2 Hour Workshops: available by request. Adults: $85.00, Youth $35.00 Materials included, all participants will produce a forged piece to take home. *Pre-registration required.*

Concerts By The Sea:

July 17th, 31st & Aug 14th 6:00 - 7:30

Kids Days at the Museum:

Friday mornings from 10:30 to 12:00 July 4, July 11, July 18, July 25 & Aug. 1 Cost $5.00 per child, family rates available, Limited spaces, pre-registration recommended.

July 4 - "A Bugs Life" - Join us for an exciting time exploring the insect kingdom! Games, crafts and cool facts. Ages 4 to 10

July 11 - "Under the Sea" - What lives in the ocean around us? Join us as we take a deep dive into the magical world under the sea! Ages 4 to 10

July 18 - "Artful Antics" - Get ready for a morning filled with creativity, fun, and new friends. Join us for a hands-on art experience like no other. Let your imagination run wild as you explore different art mediums and techniques. *Ages 4 to 10*

July 25 - "Raiders Of The Lost Artifact" Adventure awaits! Get ready for a thrilling morning filled with treasure hunts, obstacle courses and activities that will spark your imagination and sense of discovery! *Ages 5 to 10*

Aug. 1 - Robotics Camp - If you like science and technology join us for a morning of creativity and learn more about robotics! *Ages 7 - 12*

August is Living History Month - Join us Friday Aug, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th from 2:00 - 4:00 as four community interpreters bring four areas of the museum to life. Visit four displays set in different time periods and experience the concerns and daily existence of former island residents!

Annual Book Sale:

Saturday Sept. 6 10:00 - 2:00 - in the Boat Barn on the Lower Site, 708 Veterans Memorial Dr. Arichat

Summer 2025

Photos:

Top Left: Blacksmithing Demonstration

Middle: Living History

Top Right: Tea Cup Sale







Up Coming Events 2025

Top Left: Our Annual Book Sale - *Sept 6, 10:00 - 2:00*
Top Right: Blacksmithing Classes *(call to register)*
Middle: Kids Day at the Museum *Fridays July 4 - Aug. 1 10:30 - 12:00*
Bottom Left: Book Talk *Sunday July 20th at 2:00*
Bottom Middle: The Dash - Stories from the OLA Cemetery *Aug. 23, 2:00*
Bottom Right: August - Living History *Fridays Aug 8 - 9, 2:00 - 4:00*





