THE INFORMER

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From the Desk of the Editor

S. Marchand - Terrio

Spring has sprung! The daffodils that are growing in our flower beds bring colour and hope to our days.

Our plans to open the office and book sale on May 4 were affected by Provincial Covid Regulations. We are hopeful that changes in active case numbers will soon decrease and we will be opening our doors again. The opening of the museum and the summer events that are planned will take place when it is safe to do so!

At the monthly board meeting in April the IMHS Archival Policy was approved which officially creates **The Isle Madame Community Archives**! This policy puts into place how the Society deals with its archival collection. IMHS has been collecting and cataloguing archival documents and photographs for many years however, this policy will allow us to apply for funding to support our collection. In the last couple of years we have received several large donations that we are looking forward to cataloguing and sharing with the community.

As some of you may already know we have a new membership chair. Board member Nancy Samson has taken over the duties of membership. If you have not renewed your membership for this year she will be the person contacting you!

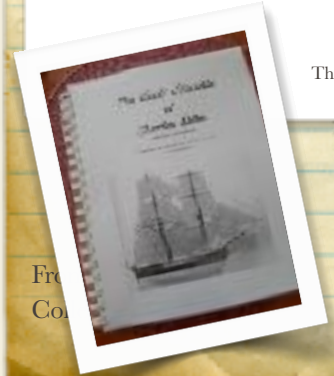
IMHS has decided to publish a Calendar for 2022! The calendar will be sold as a fundraiser to offset the loss of revenue due to Covid restrictions. The calendar will be available shortly and a notice will be sent to all members. Please consider supporting this fundraiser, the calendars will make lovely gifts for anyone connected to Isle Madame.

We also have available *The Early Journals of Charles Robin*, Transcribed and Edited with Foreword and Notes by Anne Leavitt.

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.



IMHS Fundraising Calendar 2022 - $20.00



The Early Journals of Charles Robin - $25.00

History Repeats Itself
By: Odilon Boudreau

My grandmother Maria played with gold coins in the sand when she was a child. She was raised with many of the comforts and amenities of life. As a child she ate from barrels of tropical fruit brought to port on her father's ship.

She married Helaire Samson on August 8th 1892. As was often the custom, they began their married life living with Helaire's mother Elizabeth Martel and second husband Jerome Landry. Jerome was the postmaster in Petit De Grat for more than 30 years. Elizabeth's first husband Desire Samson, Helaire's father, had drowned on the ship *Lenoir* in 1870. In 1905 Maria's father Capt. Remie Boudrot, drowned on the ship *Rembrandt*, moving coal from Louisbourg to Yarmouth for Dominion Coal. Both fathers of this young couple had lost their lives at sea.

The Spanish Flu pandemic which infected one-third of the world population in 1918/19 was transported by sea to the shores of Petit De Grat on the schooner *Athlete* from Gloucester. The schooner was bringing a load of salt for A. L. Comeau and J.H. Balcom Sea Foods and arrived in port unknowingly carrying the dreaded virus. A man, Frank Poole, was sick on board, he died and is buried in Petit De Grat. The men who unloaded the ship inadvertently spread the disease within the community.

My mother's large and close knit family was devastated by the event. The Spanish Flu was introduced into the house because they had the only community phone. Whenever someone needed to call a doctor, they came to their house. There was a little sliding shutter on the door. They would ask if it was about the flu; if it was, then they would make a phone call for them. A man from Sampsons Cove came to make a call because his wife was ill. He denied it was about the flu and came into the house. Once inside he revealed that it was likely the flu. Three of the young adults living in the house would lose their lives along with an unborn child.

In the household were my grandparents and their 11 children. Their daughter Lena, was married to Andrew Samson and had one child Elizabeth. Lena was born October 17th 1894, she died October 25th 1918, she was 24. She died from Spanish Influenza. At the time of her illness she was pregnant with her second child. She was sick for 6 days. After Lena's death her daughter Elizabeth was raised by my grandparents. She married Joe Marchand and lived in Pondville.

Helaire and Maria's son Leon was born September 23rd 1900, he died November 1st 1918. He was 18 years old. Leon was sick for 6 days.

Their daughter Cecilia born Sept 17th 1896, died November 5th 1918. Cecelia was 22 years old. She worked as a housekeeper for the priest in L'Ardoise. She came home to help nurse her siblings. She was sick for 4 days.

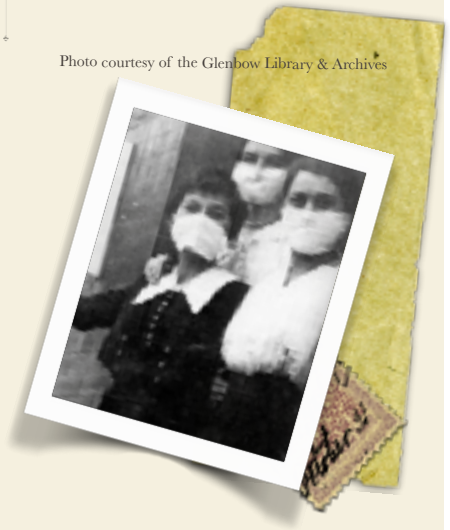
My Mom and her brothers and sisters never forgot the siblings who died young. She frequently talked about the loss. It had a deep emotional impact on her and tears would flow down her cheeks whenever she recalled the experience. Written in mom's address book were the names of the members of her family and when they were born. The three who died during the flu had a special place in her heart and in her book.

Remie Boudreau was the undertaker in Petit de Grat, he buried most of the dead during the pandemic of 1918. He was offered 200 dollars by the parish priest and business men to do this task. When he went to collect the money they had promised him they said that they did not have it. He told the priest that he wanted his money by midnight or he would unbury some of the dead and would deposit them on his doorstep by morning. He had his money before midnight.

I met Remie when I was a young boy. He was making a wooden pine box, a coffin, in a shed when I visited him with my dad. It was an experience I have never forgotten.

In 2020/2021 many people throughout the world have been devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic just as my family was over one hundred years ago. The spread of this virus is quick and silent, the people who carry it as they travel are unaware of the devastation that travels with them. Be safe!

Board of Directors 2020-2021
Anne Leavitt - *Chair*
Ralph Mauger - *Vice Chair*
Brittany Benoit - *Secretary*
Joan Clannon - *Treasurer*
Directors:
Leslie Marchand, Jarrod David, Odilon Boudreau, Nancy Samson, Marg Herdman, Susan Marchand-Terrio


Photo courtesy of the Glenbow Library & Archives

" 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 Events

Covid Regulations will be observed on The LeNoir Landing Site. Events will only take place if it is safe to do so.

Summer Learning Series:

July 11 - "Ships, Mariners and Historic Photos" a book talk and slide show presented by Merrill Boudreau from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. *Admission by donation*

Aug. 22 - Our Lady of Assumption Cemetery Tour presented by Odilon Boudreau from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. This tour will start from the parking lot of the church. *Admission by donation*

Sept. 11 - "Climbing Your Family Tree" a genealogy workshop presented by Anne Leavitt and Susan Marchand-Terrio from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. Cost: $20.00

Kids Day at the Museum:

Thursday July 15 - "Inventors Workshop" Join us for a workshop that is all about having fun with science. Bring your curiosity and imagination and we will provide the materials! Ages 6 - 8, 1:30 to 3:00 Cost: $5.00 per child, family rates available.

Thursday July 22 - "Let's Build A Boat" Become the builder of a boat and go home with your very own! Ages 7 - 10, 1:30 to 3:00, materials provided Cost: $10.00 per child, family rates available.

Thursday July 29 - "Spy School" Learn to solve mysteries, send coded messages, dust for fingerprints; all part of regular day at Spy School! Ages 7 - 10, 1:30 - 3:00 Cost: $5.00 per child, family rates available.

Blacksmithing:

Demonstrations - Tuesday & Thursday afternoons July & August 2:00 - 4:00. (Free)

A One Hour Walk - In Blacksmithing Experience - available Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 throughout July & August. Space is limited. This is a first come-first served event. Cost: $35 Adult, $15 Youth (8-14) Participants must wear long pants and closed toed shoes.

2.5 Hour Blacksmithing Class - Produce a handmade metal project that teaches basic blacksmithing techniques. All materials and safety equipment is provided. Class dates: **Sunday July 18, Sunday Aug. 8, Sunday Sept. 19** (12:00 to 2:30) (2:30 to 5:00) Cost: $70. Adult, $35. Youth (8 - 14) Pre-registration is required. Email: islemadamehistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call 902 226 9364 *Participants must wear long pants and closed toed shoes.*

Tea in the Museum:

Join us for tea or coffee, treats and conversation. Every **Wednesday** afternoon starting July 7 to Aug. 25 at 2:00 pm Cost: $5. per person.

Knitting Knots:

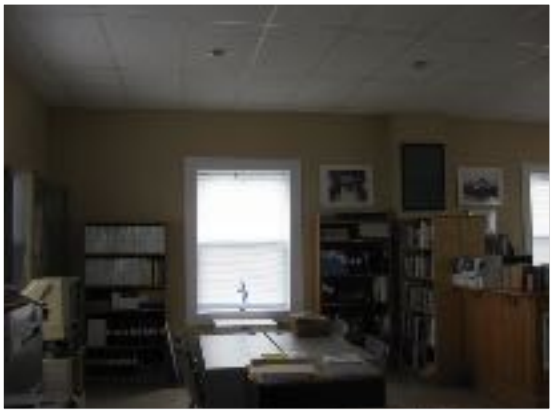
Join the knitting group Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:00 July 6 to Sept. 7 Beginners welcome!

Spring 2021

Photos:

Kids Day, Summer Learning Series & Blacksmithing

(IMHS)





Spring of 2021

Top left: Research Area cleaned & ready for visitors.

Top right: Waiting for door paint and signs, appreciating new siding, windows and doors!

Bottom left: Book Sale refreshed and ready for visitors!

Bottom right: Cleaning and preparing for opening!



