



Fredericton North Heritage Association

Remembering Our Past

Newsletter

Volume 2, May 2010

The FNHA has been very active since our last newsletter and we wish to update our members and the public on past activities and our plans for the fall and winter.

Additional history articles, minutes of meetings, and notices of events can also be found on our web site www.frederictonnorthheritage.com.

Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

Location: St. Mary's Anglican Church Hall, 770 McEvoy Street, Fredericton

No regular meetings in July and August.

Our Annual General Meeting in March 2010 elected the following Executive and Directors:

Executive:

- ❖ Ernest R. MacFadzen – President
- ❖ Jill Hargrove – Past President
- ❖ David M. Neill – Vice President
- ❖ Shirley Hovey – Treasurer
- ❖ Fred White – Secretary

Directors:

- ❖ Robert Mabie
- ❖ George A. Crawford
- ❖ Marjorie Hughes
- ❖ Ian Robertson (Alternate)

In addition, our current Membership includes Eleanor Kierstead, Bob and Jean Mabie, Bob and Ann Corbett, Carol Randall, Robert McNeil, Mary Murch, Eleanor Allen, Albery D'Amour, George Wood, Koral Lavorgna, Ruth Allen, Peter Malmberg, Rowena MacFarlane, Frank MacLoon, Joanna Price, Wayne Gunter, Florence Gilby, Sherrie Evans, Judy Bird, Rowena Bartlett, Peter Pacey, Andrew Gunter and Pam Monahan.

Friends of FNHA include Pauline Mountain, Jim McElman, Eric McGarrity, Walter Long, Elizabeth Earl, Ted Jones and Anita Jones.

On behalf of our organization Eleanor (Ebbett) Allen researched and wrote an article on the background of her childhood home in St. Mary's Ferry. Her father ran a store, which was later remodelled to a 3-unit apartment building. It was burned in a major fire in the area. Her article was

published in the *Riverside Neighbours* newspaper section of *the Daily Gleaner*.

Heritage Events

This was the fifth year we held heritage events for the public. They have been held at the Kinsmen Club quarters at 141 School Street. They are held in February during Heritage Week (usually around Valentine's Day) as proclaimed by the New Brunswick Department of Wellness and Heritage.

LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR: "Together - Remembering Our Past" had over 20 partner exhibitors, who were provided the facility by the Kinsmen Club. Exhibitors included our colleague historical groups such as Marysville Heritage, Keswick Ridge Historical Society, York-Sunbury Historical Society, School Days Museum, Douglas School, UNB Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Conflict, Provincial Archives of NB, Model Railway Association's operating trains, Railway Historical collection of George Crawford, Bruce Atkinson's Local History of Aviation, 8-10 Scrapbook and Antique Collection displays from our members, and a few service clubs. We had about 700 visitors, who mainly came to see the exhibits, but ended up staying longer as it provided an opportunity to sit, talk and renew or create friendships. All available members of the FNHA participated in organizing and operating these events.

NEXT YEAR - FEBRUARY 19, 2011: We will be doing it again, but with a few twists to keep it interesting, so plan on visiting, renewing acquaintances, revisiting and **remembering our past** through exhibits, talks, and maybe music. Only nine months away!

In addition to heritage events, we have a special project for 2010. It is the establishment of a Virtual Museum. The VM is a computer-based design that allows residents to take their valued artefacts to a given address, have them processed (by scanning photos and documents or digitally photographing antiques) and immediately returning them to the owner. The scans and photos are used as part of a computerized exhibit we are making. This whole project will cost in the \$5,000 range. This means that

fundraising will be needed to get the projected completed.

Regular Meeting Topics for 2010:

The regular meetings start with a 35-minute presentation by a speaker and then a refreshment break and socializing. Some members bring items such as scrapbooks for attendees to informally view and discuss during this time. Then around 3:00 p.m. we have a 45-minute business meeting, which is not mandatory to attend. We recruit speakers to come to our meetings with a prepared program of their special talents.

This year's presentations included:

January 2010

Koral Lavorgna (FNHA Member) presented her research project – "The Fires of St. Mary's Landing," 1880 to 1915.



February 2010

Brian McCain (electrical engineer) presented the various aspects of electrical transmission lines and other aspects of electricity, including an opinion on the NB Power sale.

March 2010

Debra Wybou (Managing Director of the New Brunswick Multicultural Council Inc.) gave an interesting presentation of their various programs in New Brunswick.



April 2010

Jim M. Whalen (a retired archivist) presented an interesting program on Rachel Martin, the first woman to win the right to attend the Normal School of the Province of New Brunswick. It was not easy.

May 2010

"DEVON REMEMBERED" was presented by Carol Randal and Robert McNeil (FNHA Members) who will have Volume IV of their community history books printed and available in the fall.

These four books give a house-by-house-by-house history up to 1945 for each street that they cover. Almost every house shown includes something on its construction, the

owner's family history, and often interesting historical family tidbits that they obtained through personal interviews with the homeowners over their 10 years of research. For one example, in the telling about the homeowners of the homes in the old Bridge Street area, you find out about the arrival and establishment of the Lebanese community in Fredericton, plus how their family names got anglicised and changed. The research and interviews with most of the homeowners of these homes is what makes this collection of four books one of the most informative and finest local history books in Canada. The FNHA is proud to count the two researchers and authors among our strongest supporters.

Carol and Bob put together and gave their slide show presentation to the FNHA in May and they would be willing to do it again for social groups that are looking for interesting speakers.

The "*Devon Remembered*" books may be purchased by calling Carol Randall at 472-7150 or by e-mail at carolr@nbnet.nb.ca.

If you have any level of interest in the history of your community, the FNHA provides an opportunity for you to increase your knowledge through interesting talks, heritage fairs, book launches and special events.

At minimum you can be a supporter by attending either

- our annual Heritage Fair at the Kinsmen Centre on School Street in Devon, or
- our monthly meeting on the second Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, McEvoy Street.

Our members are making this effort to REMEMBER THE PAST and increase the interest of the community in their past because they enjoy both the subject and the collegiality of the work.

So why not join us as a paying member by contacting Ernie MacFadzen at 450-7607 or by e-mail at info@frederictonheritagenorth.com and he will sign you up. The cost is only \$10 per year.