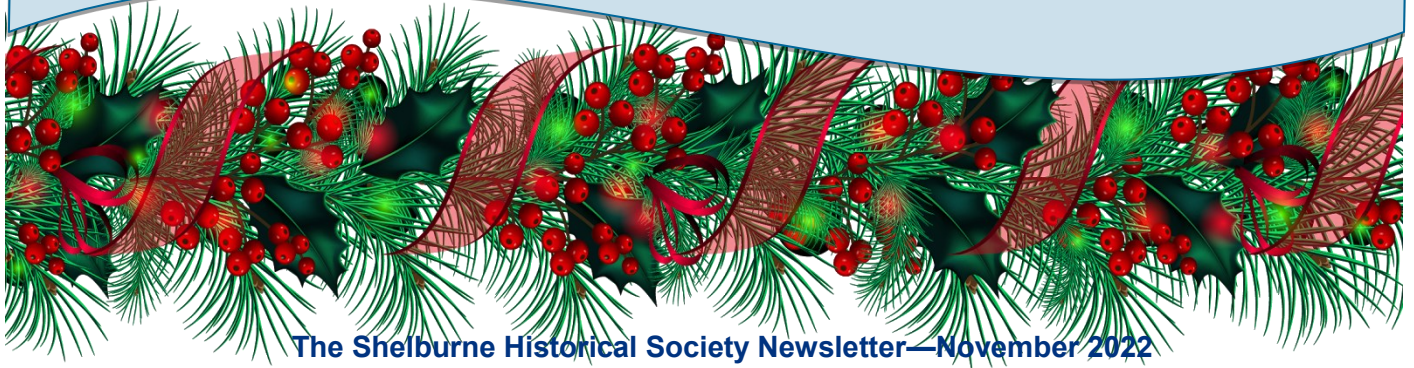
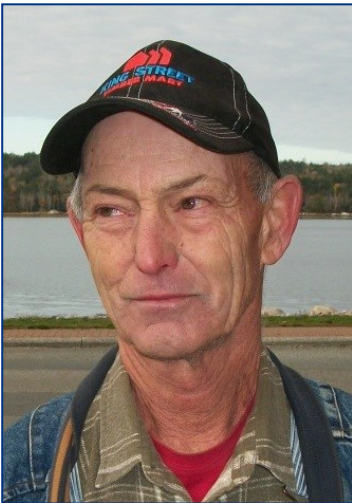


The Atlantic Anchor



The Shelburne Historical Society Newsletter—November 2022

From the President—Mike Hartigan



Well, here we are and the Christmas season is upon us again! Funny how that works, and while it is a time when we all want to look forward, it is also a time when we can look back in reflection! The onslaught of the COVID pandemic in 2020 presented us with many uncertainties. We have had to adapt to a new way of doing things, but due to our staff's innate resourcefulness and a very capable group they are, we have not only survived but progressed! Here is an update on some of our achievements since the start of this past summer's campaign.

The fiscal year started with a bang as we sold the Grand Banks dory our Master Dory Builder Milford Buchanan built last year. Since then, Milford has built and sold a picnic dory and Retail Manager Kim Walker continues to work her magic and retail savvy in the gift shop.

The replacement of 22 windows and two exterior doors at the Shelburne County Museum under a financial contribution by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) has been completed, with staff immediately noticing a significant difference in the level of street noise. This bodes well for our energy consumption and comfort levels in the coming winter months. Since this project came in under budget, ACOA is allowing us to include some additional items related to this energy efficiency initiative, such as covers for the five heat pumps, insulation of the building's water pipes and baseboards for the second floor once the last of the old water baseboard heaters are removed. All of these improvements over the past two years or so are giving this heritage building a new lease on life.

Early last year, we submitted an application for funding under the Community Facilities Improvement Program (CFIP) to undertake extensive repairs and renovations at Coyle House. Unfortunately, our application was denied as the number of funding requests received under the program far exceeded the available funds. Nonetheless, some immediate repairs to Coyle House need to be done if the building is to remain viable as many of the windows leak and are potentially resulting in damage to the walls.

As a result, the Society's Board of Directors and the Tottie's Crafts Society have agreed to proceed with the replacement of all 23 windows at Coyle House and to share the cost of the project. The windows are expected to be delivered by the end of Jan 2023 and will be installed throughout the year by Bower and Son Carpentry. By this time next year, Coyle House should be sporting all new windows and it will be a first step in the refurbishment of this heritage building.

We just recently received word that we have been approved for COVID funding under the Museums Assistance Program, Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations Component. This is similar to the COVID funding we were fortunate to receive in 2020 and 2021, and is intended for not-for-profit organizations with a heritage collection, such as museums, archives and historic sites. This latest funding will allow us to move forward with improvements to the Shelburne County Museum's facilities and equipment to ensure we can continue to create and maintain quality exhibits in our community museum.

Dock Street Days, held 29 - 31 Jul, was a great success. The Society put on trivia at the Guild Hall on Sat, 30 Jul, and although we only had four teams, everyone enjoyed themselves. Turns out the live artefact segment of the trivia game was a crowd pleaser and staff are already planning next year's trivia game. As part of Dock Street Days and in conjunction with Journey Back to Birchtown and Emancipation Day, the Society hosted a lively and interesting talk by Graham Nickerson titled "The Maritimes and the Black Atlantic" on Fri 29 Jul, with 21 participants attending. Graham has promised to return for another talk in the future to keep us apprised of his ongoing research.

Graham Nickerson at the
Shelburne County Museum on
29 Jul 2022

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



On 24 Aug, we had a visit from South Shore-St. Margarets MP Rick Perkins and Shelburne County MLA Nolan Young. They and their assistants were provided with a full tour of the facilities, and we very much appreciated that they spent time at each museum, touring the exhibits and chatting with staff. A bit more on their visit further on in this newsletter.



Left—MP Rick Perkins and MLA Nolan Young at the Shelburne County Museum with Curator Cady Berardi
Centre—MLA Nolan Young, MP Rick Perkins, SHS President Mike Hartigan, Master Dory Builder Milford Buchanan and Heritage Interpreter Brian Ogilvie at the Dory Shop Museum
Right—MP Rick Perkins, MLA Nolan Young, Constituency Assistant Karen Mattatall and Heritage Interpreter Dorothy Peacock at the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum

Photos courtesy of Tyson Ross and Suzanne Mahaney

Museums by the Sea participated in this year's colourful Whirligig & Weathervane Festival on 17 - 18 Sep. In a new collaboration with the Society, the Shelburne Rug Hookers exhibited their rugs in all three museums, attracting numerous visitors and generating many favourable comments. Some of the rugs came back again in Oct and were hung in the Shelburne County Museum during the cruise ship visits in Oct and Nov, creating a uniquely-Maritime attraction for the cruise ships.



Rugs on display at the Shelburne County Museum, the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum and the Dory Shop Museum on 17 Sep 2022

Photos courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



And the big excitement this year was the return of the cruise ships to Shelburne Harbour. Although we were slated for five port visits, stormy weather caused one ship to cancel. However, that certainly didn't slow down the Shelburne Cruise Crew. As stated in a Saltwire article published on 7 Oct after the first cruise ship—the community nailed it! It was an amazing undertaking with special events and activities at the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre and Shelburne's Museums by the Sea, restaurants featuring cruise menus and specials, shuttle buses ferrying passengers around the area, and a lobster experience sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. All four port visits were deemed very successful, with the cruise lines already planning return visits in 2023 and 2024.

With the easing of COVID protocols and the four cruise ship visits, the number of tourists and visitors to Shelburne's Museums by the Sea increased, bringing with it a resurgence in requests for walking tours of the heritage waterfront. Earlier in the summer, in anticipation of this year's increased visitor traffic, Manager Suzanne Mahaney, Curator Cady Berardi and Retail Manager Kim Walker updated the Society's walking tours. In addition to providing tours to museum visitors and cruise ship passengers, Manager Suzanne and Curator Cady conducted nearly 20 walking tours throughout the summer for the Travel Media Association of Canada, the Municipality's Walk & Talk events, a UK travel media group, guests at the Cooper's Inn, a visiting blogger and local residents.

Further to an initiative begun in 2020, Curator Cady submitted a proposal to Nova Scotia Museum recently to review the interpretation at Ross-Thomson. This would be done with assistance from African Nova Scotian Affairs and the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, and would see a change to the exhibits and displays at the Museum, as well as a revised narrative that would acknowledge the Ross brothers were slave owners, traders and catchers, and that they traded in goods procured through enslaved labour. During a 24 Oct visit, Nova Scotia Museum staff Janet Maltby, the Manager for Rural Sites and Christine Sykora, the Manager of Interpretation, were very receptive to the new narrative and we hope to get this initiative going in 2023.

Over the years, the crane located on the third floor of the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum facing Charlotte Lane had sustained water damage and was showing definite signs of rot, to the point that we feared it might come crashing down in a windstorm this winter. Consequently, Bower and Son Carpentry were hired by Nova Scotia Museum to replace the crane with a new one. Following a fruitless search for a beam of the right thickness and length, our Master Dory Builder Milford Buchanan offered to laminate the appropriate beam using lengths of spruce that had been drying at the Shipyard Mill on George Street. The spruce was to be part of a new wooden fence to run along the front of Coyle House and the Shelburne County Museum on Dock Street and alongside the



Museum on Maiden Lane.

Determining the crane was the priority, Milford quickly set to work laminating the planks and within a week or so, a new crane was put into place, to the relief of many neighbours.

As for the new fence, that will now be a project for 2023!

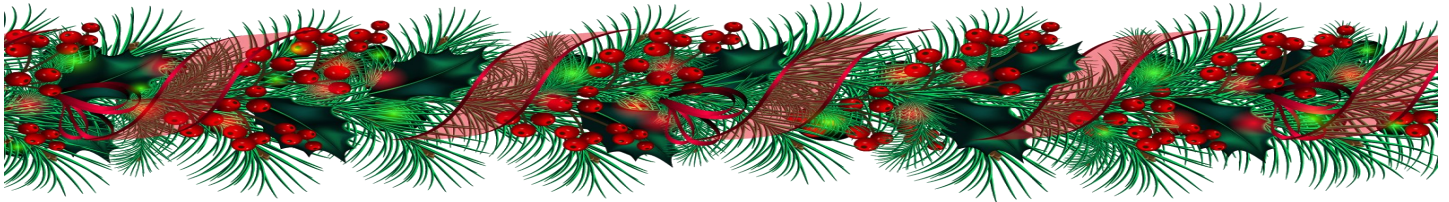


Top right—damaged crane
Top left—laminated beam at the George Street Shipyard Mill
Above—work in progress
Left—new crane

Photos courtesy of Milford Buchanan and Suzanne Mahaney

At the beginning of my message, I used the word campaign. You may wonder why, for it is an old word out of common use. If you look it up in a dictionary however, one of the definitions is a thrust or an effort towards a common or social goal. So, as we approach the holiday season and enter the winter months, you may think Shelburne's Museums by the Sea are slumbering. But I can assure you that they are not! The staff are hard at work creating a new campaign for the 2023 season!

On behalf of the Shelburne Historical Society, I wish you all a merry holiday season and a very happy new year!



New Director — Christopher Arisz



Christopher arrived in Shelburne in Jun 2021 after completing studies in his hometown of Fredericton, NB earlier that year. His family roots are of Upper Canada and include recent immigration from the Netherlands and Austria, though much of his immediate family has been centered in New Brunswick.

Christopher was taken on as a clerk at the law office of Celia Melanson in town and now works as an associate of her practice.

Shelburne called with the promise of a good sailing harbour, which Christopher intends to explore fully if he could only fix up the wooden boat he bought last winter. Now mostly settled in the community, Christopher has joined the Shelburne Re-enactment Association and the local curling club to keep himself occupied.

Christopher does have a keen amateur passion for the study of history, and explored late British imperialism and colonialism as a large part of a minor at Mount Allison University. He recognizes the lens for looking at this aspect of our history has changed considerably even in the few years since his studies, and is grateful for the invitation to now be involved in the work of the Shelburne Historical Society.

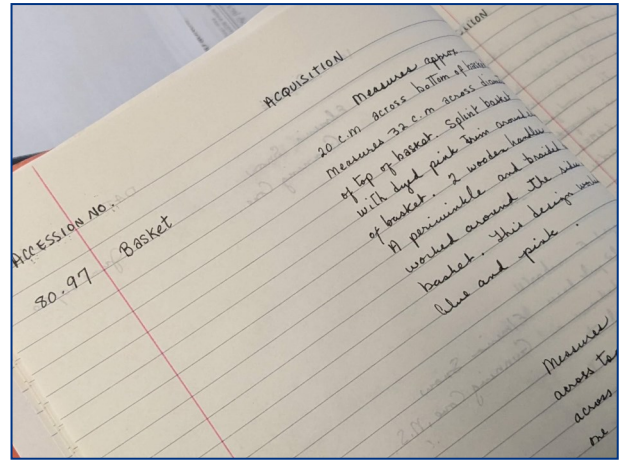
Welcome aboard, Christopher!

Curator's Corner — Cady Berardi



In the spring newsletter, I wrote about the museum aphorism that less than 10% of our collections are on display at any given time. So how do we keep track of the other 90%? Having 'intellectual control' over your collection - knowing what you have, where it is, and being able to retrieve that information readily - is crucial for healthy museum function. This is especially important because museums hold these objects in the public trust, responsible to our donors and the public at large to be good stewards. As standards of

record-keeping change over time, we are constantly working to improve our intellectual control over the Shelburne County Museum collection.



Accessions register entry for a Mi'kmaw fancy basket.
Photo courtesy of Cady Berardi

The earliest format of museum record-keeping, still used today, is the accessions register. This generally constitutes a ledger book (and, over time, a series of ledger books) in which is recorded each object coming into the collection, accompanied by a description and other information, including donor, dimensions, and storage location. Crucially, it is in the register that an object is assigned its unique identifier, a number which is applied to the object itself so that it can always be connected back with its information. The strength of the accessions register is that it is a complete chronological record of incoming collections. A weakness, however, is that it is not easy to edit over time. It is not uncommon in our registers to have extra information stapled to a certain page, or for storage locations to be crossed out and replaced multiple times. At some point you run out of space in the margins! Although it is easy to find an object's entry if you know its unique identifier, it is difficult to search the registers to discover objects with certain qualities. Attempting to find all the baskets in the collection, for example, would necessitate flipping through thousands of pages.



The same basket in the "Object Retrieval File" card catalogue, one of several developed by long-time Curator Finn Bower, staff and volunteers.

Photo courtesy of Cady Berardi

To make it possible to search the collection, card catalogues were developed. Index cards with a basic set of facts about each object were sorted into categories or arranged by donor. Using the card catalogue, it is much easier to discover an object, but only if the collection manager has anticipated the nature of your query beforehand. Referring back to the above example of finding baskets, this becomes quite easy when all their records are grouped together. But what if you are looking for objects in the collection associated with a certain shipwreck? Or any material having to do with one individual? Card catalogues are seldom able to accommodate specific searches like that. The expertise of the Curator and their deep familiarity with their collection would have to bridge the gap.

Since the 1990s, the computerised database has been the main way museums manage collection information. Each object has a record which can hold a large amount of information and is infinitely editable. The records are linked to one another by donor, storage location, category and many other factors. They can be browsed by those factors or searched using keywords. Successful retrieval, however, depends on the quality and completeness of the information entered in the system.

At the Shelburne County Museum, we continue to work towards a database that captures our full collection. Of the estimated 25,000 individual objects we hold, fewer than 6,000 had records entered into our database as of 2018. These represented the majority of our three-dimensional objects, but excluded most of our photographs and archival documents. We have been actively correcting this omission in recent years and have 15,587 objects recorded at the time of writing. More than 5,000 of those were added just this summer by our returning summer students, Soren and Elsi Himmelman. Among the documents they created records for were 390 deeds and a massive collection of business papers from Shelburne Shipbuilders Ltd., which are now searchable on the collections database. I owe a great deal of thanks to these two, whose diligence and attention to detail made for a very successful summer here in the research room.

A partial view of the basket's record in our collections database. This is the 'back end' that only authorized staff may access. (The object's number was changed at some point in time but, since the change is noted in the record, the object remains findable using the original number).

Photo courtesy of Cady Berardi

While the records added this year require some cleaning up before we are ready to make them available to the public, most of our records can be found alongside those from other museums in the province on NovaMuse.ca.

The basket's record as it appears on NovaMuse, the 'front end' of our database that allows the public to search and browse collection records from museums across Nova Scotia.

Photo courtesy of Cady Berardi

Dory Shop Museum

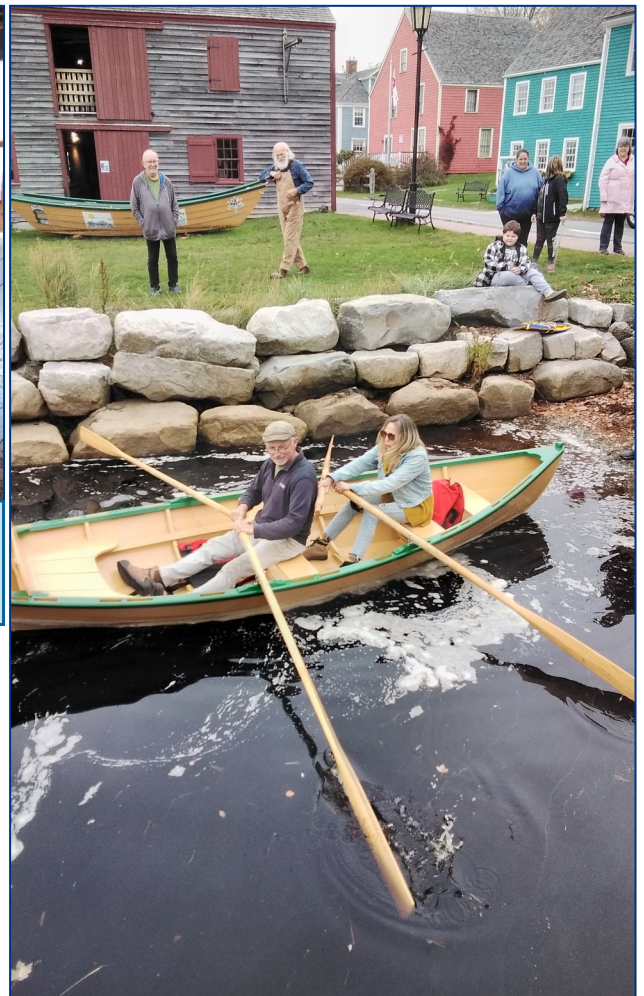
It was another busy and successful season at the Dory Shop Museum, always a favourite spot to visit while on the waterfront!

Our Master Dory Builder Milford Buchanan was kept busy in the Dory Shop this summer, building a picnic dory for waterfront neighbours George and Beerta van der Meer, owners of the Shelburne Barrel Factory. This is only the third picnic dory built at the Dory Shop Museum and the first one in nearly 12 years. Construction of this type of dory is a little more tedious as the ribs are steamed and laminated pine strips are used rather than the usual standard oak and metal clips. As well, the planks are riveted together instead of using traditional square nails. But as Milford put it, "it's a pretty little boat". And George and Beerta certainly seem pleased with their purchase.



Picnic dory built by Master Dory Builder Milford Buchanan this season.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



First row by owners George & Beerta van der Meer, owners of the Shelburne Barrel Factory.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



Launch of the picnic dory on 14 Oct 2022.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney

Two new students joined the team at the Dory Shop Museum this year — Mary Thomas and Josiah George. Under Brian's mentoring, they quickly learned the history of the Dory Shop and its contents, and in short order were capably giving guided tours to our visitors. We were especially proud of them when they confidently and competently answered various questions from South Shore-St. Margarets MP Rick Perkins and Shelburne MLA Nolan Young during their visit to the complex on 24 Aug!



L to R—Student Heritage Interpreters Josiah George and Mary Thomas, Shelburne MLA Nolan Young and South Shore-St. Margarets MP Rick Perkins.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



Rick Perkins lending a hand with the construction of the picnic dory during his visit to the Dory Shop Museum on 24 Aug 2022.

Photo courtesy of Tyson Ross

While touring the Dory Shop, Rick Perkins also spent some time in the workshop with Milford, helping him install another side plank on the picnic dory.

In addition to their daily routines at the Dory Shop, Mary and Josiah also learned to row a dory this summer, under Brian's expert tutelage. They might have been a little rough at the beginning, but they were both quick studies and in no time at all, became very good rowers — allowing Brian to sit back and enjoy a smooth ride around the harbour every morning.

Summer students Mary Thomas and Josiah George getting an early morning dory rowing lesson from Heritage Interpreter Brian Ogilvie.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



Since the reopening of the Dory Shop in 2021 and following extensive repairs in 2020, the staff have been working on refreshing the interpretation at the Museum. Part of that has included updating and improving our exhibits. One of the displays that needed a lift was the fishing exhibit in the southwest corner of the building, where cardboard fish have been hanging as a backdrop for at least three decades. Although very well done, the fish were nonetheless cardboard that was showing wear and tear from years of use and humidity. Heritage Interpreter Brian Ogilvie, a man of many talents, took the initiative over the winter of 2022 to carve large wooden fish to replace them. The details and colours are amazing, adding texture and new interest to the exhibit. Thank you, Brian!

You will recall that throughout the summer of 2021, staff and students researched and compiled new interpretation for the Museum. We are very pleased to report that our Dory Shop Museum Interpretation Renewal project has now been approved by Nova Scotia Museum, with funding to be provided through Support4Culture. This will mean revised interpretation panels that will expand on the story of the Dory Shop to include not only its most famous dory builder, but all the other dory builders and tradespeople as well. Over the winter months, the new interpretation panels will be digitized by local graphics designer Lorin Hesse and printed by Passage Print & Litho Ltd. in Barrington. All of the work related to this project will be done locally, which was one of our goals. The plan now is to have the new panels in place for the reopening of the Dory Shop on 1 Jun 2023 and in time for the Museum's 40th anniversary celebrations next summer.

Also in the works for the 2023 celebrations are plans for an audio clip that will be part of the fishing exhibit at the Dory Shop Museum. The script for the clip was composed by Brian Ogilvie and based on the 1955 book *The Roving Fisherman* by Frederick William Wallace. It will be produced by local talents Peter Healy, Pat Melanson and Jay Pilzer. And preparations are also underway for an American team led by Brad Dimock of *Fretwater boatworks* in Arizona to spend two weeks at the Dory Shop Museum in late spring to assist our Master Dory Builder Milford Buchanan in building a Grand Banks dory and documenting the process on film. We also hope to stage some special activities in partnership with a few local organizations. And, of course, there will be cake!

Look for all the details of the Dory Shop Museum's 40th anniversary celebrations in the spring newsletter.



Wooden fish carved by Brian Ogilvie on display at the Dory Shop Museum.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



Ross-Thomson House and Store Museum

Their first season working together at the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum, Heritage Interpreters Kimberly George and Dorothy Peacock soon discovered that they worked well together as they developed a game plan of activities for the yard that included workshops, demonstrations, local community groups and music. Summer student Clara Jurgenliemk was a wonderful addition to the team, eagerly learning a variety of crafts, contributing her musical talents in the yard and even providing bilingual tours of the Museum!



**Heritage Interpreters at the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum this past season —
L to R: Kimberly George, Dorothy Peacock and Clara Jurgenliemk**

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



Some of the many fun and colourful activities that took place in the garden this year included candle dipping, wool dyeing, rug hooking and rope mat workshops.

Photos courtesy of Dorothy Peacock

The table and benches installed in the northwest corner of the yard in the spring proved to be very handy, used daily for demonstrations by Kimberly and Dorothy, and popular with local craft groups who used them weekly for their gatherings. It also provided the perfect spot for staff to share lunch together throughout the summer!

Photos courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



On the afternoon of 12 Aug, we had a magical visit from children's author Lana Shupe who read her latest book, *The Lonely Little Lighthouse*, to a very appreciative audience. The book is a delightful tale based on the true story of Nova Scotia's Sandy Point Lighthouse.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



This summer, we issued uniform shirts to staff at the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum. Although the Heritage Interpreters still wear 18th century costuming most days, it was decided that short sleeved shirts would be more comfortable for staff on very hot days as well as more practical when conducting certain activities in the yard.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney

Thank you to our Volunteers!

In early spring, as our volunteer gardeners began cleaning up the vegetable and herb gardens at the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum, they realized that the wood edging the gardens was rotten and needed to be replaced. Rather than purchasing finished wood, it was decided to use lengths of slab wood to keep the look of the gardens more rustic and in keeping with the age of the building. Before we could even confirm a local source for slab wood, Society members Wanda and Bob Guay had already picked up and delivered donated lengths of slab wood to the yard at Ross-Thomson. We thank them for their time and their kindness!

Our gardening volunteers did a wonderful job keeping the various gardens looking great all summer. While cleaning the flower beds along the fence on the west side of the yard, they discovered that the beds were overrun with goutweed and consequently, no

Wanda and Bob Guay delivering slab wood at the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum in May
Photo courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney



amount of weeding would prevent a re-infestation. It was decided to cover the beds with plastic sheeting for the next year in an effort to kill all the vegetation—including the goutweed! Once the sheeting is removed next fall, grass will be planted along the fence and historically accurate plants will be installed in large half-barrels along the length of the fence, with identification, background and 18th century use provided for each plant. This will make future weeding and maintenance of these flower beds much easier. If successful, the procedure will be repeated on the remaining flower beds on the west side.



Top left—Patricia deMolitor, Chris Sharpe, Evelyn Ogilvie and Joan Preston

Far left—staff members Kimberly George and Dorothy Peacock, volunteers Joan Preston, Patricia deMolitor and Diane Bennett

Left—Hoping to kill that goutweed!

Photos courtesy of Suzanne Mahaney

We would also like to acknowledge Mick Fearn and Anne Poirier, our dedicated volunteers at the Dory Shop. Thank you to Mary Ayer and Brooke Slauenwhite, our youth volunteer at Ross-Thomson House. And special mention goes to Isaiah Butler, our youth volunteer at the Dory Shop who worked on the picnic dory with Milford this past summer. He's pictured here rowing the dory with Heritage Interpreter Brian Ogilvie at the launch on 14 Oct!





Join us on Shelburne's beautiful waterfront this coming Sat, 3 Dec from 6 - 8 pm as we celebrate this year's Miracle on Dock Street!

There will be stationary parade floats, Christmas lights, carollers and decorations and the Hillcrest Academy Choir will be performing at Atlantic Park on Water Street at 6 pm. The art studio at 135 Water Street will be open from 3 - 7 pm, featuring locally made art jewelry, paintings and refreshments.

On the waterfront, the Shelburne Guild Hall Market on Maiden Lane will be holding a special winter market from 5 - 8 pm with over 25 local vendors, the gift shop at the Shelburne County Museum at 20 Dock Street will be open from 3 - 8 pm, and Tottie's Crafts at 24 Dock Street will be open starting at 11 am. The Shelburne Reenactment Association will have their Orderly Room open at 10a Ann Street and will have a firepit to warm your fingers and toes.

Santa will be at the Dory Shop Museum at 11 Dock Street starting at 6 pm. He'll have his special rocking dory with him and Mrs. Claus will be handing out candy canes.

Fireworks will begin around 7:45 pm on the waterfront!

From 5:30 - 6 pm, all streets in the heritage waterfront will be open to one-way traffic in order to allow anyone with mobility issues to view the stationary floats and Christmas decorations from their vehicles. From 6 - 8 pm, streets will be closed and will remain closed until after the fireworks on the waterfront.



The Shelburne County Museum and the gift shop are open on Tue, Wed and Thu, or by appointment. The Dory Shop Museum and the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum are closed for the season.

We will be closing for the holidays on Thu 22 Dec and reopening on Tue 3 Jan 2023.

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