

CNSA Newsletter

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ARCHIVES



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Margaret Mulrooney

A huge thank you to Susan McClure for staying on as CNSA President for an additional year while I was on maternity leave. Susan was a dedicated President, and I hope that I can live up to her example. Despite the pandemic, 2020 was a busy year for the CNSA, and I am trying my best to get up to speed on the amazing work that has gone on throughout the year.

Thanks to the hard work of the Education Renewal Committee and Dr. Samantha Cutrara, the core curriculum, educational offerings have been reviewed and refreshed. In her new role as Archives Advisor, Sharon Murray, is continuing this work

and will be devoting much of her time preparing and delivering several virtual courses throughout 2021. We are excited for members to benefit from these educational opportunities and are looking forward to your feedback.

We are still living in our new normal, but I hope that despite the distance, we are able to support CNSA members any way we can. Looking forward to the days when we can see each other in person once again!



FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Susan McClure

I am very happy to be passing the torch to Margaret at a very exciting time for the CNSA! I was happy, too, back in 2017 when I returned to the Executive as Secretary, thinking that would be a manageable position to contribute and be involved in the CNSA. It has been quite a roller-coaster since, as the Executive navigated through several challenging changes in Executive members, staff, and funding expectations. Though I was reluctant to step in as President in 2018, I hope I helped in smoothing that navigation. I sure appreciated working through these challenges as part of a committed team.



Huge thanks to each of the Executive members I have served with. Thanks to CNSA staffers Jamie Serran, Sara Hollett, and Lisa Snider who had the demanding and difficult position of working for a volunteer Board - I wish I could have been there more for you. Thank you to my managers at HRM, Sheryl Briand and Stephanie Woods Stevens, for supporting my involvement in the CNSA and recognizing the importance of contributing to our professional and community organizations. To all the CNSA members who reach out to make our community better I say keep it up, as we work together on our common goals!

FROM OUR NEW ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Sharon Murray

For several years now, I've enjoyed being an active member of the CNSA, getting to know members, helping organize conferences, delivering workshops, and building the CNSA's social media presence. My love of archives began with my Masters and PhD research in photography but then grew once I had the chance to work 'behind the scenes' at archives in Montreal and Halifax. I then had the pleasure of working closely with many CNSA members during my years with *Historic Nova Scotia*. Now, with more archival training and education under my belt, I am honoured to have been chosen to serve as the CNSA's Archives Advisor. I feel very lucky to be able to devote my time and energy to an organization - and members - that I love!



Thankfully, me taking on this role does not mean saying farewell to Lisa Snider, who is staying on as our MemoryNS Coordinator. She had a very busy fall and winter as she delivered MemoryNS training session to members in every corner of the province. The knowledge and experience Lisa has with AtoM is invaluable to the CNSA, and I know that many of you have enjoyed working with her. I am especially grateful for all she's done in the past year to keep the CNSA ship afloat and make it easy for me to move into this new role. Thank you Lisa!

2021 likely has some tricks up its sleeve, still, but there's also a lot to look forward to. I am excited to launch the CNSA's first online course, Intro to Archives, in the coming months (stay tuned on the listserv), followed by other courses - our Core Curriculum version 2.0! I'm also looking forward to helping members with PADP applications, and, once it's safe to do so, resuming site visits and our full range of member services. Moreover, I hope I can offer support to members we all try to rebound from the pandemic, which I know will have its own set of challenges.

So, here's to brighter days ahead and being reunited once again!

SPECIAL FEATURE: 2020 CNSA AWARDS



Sharon Murray, outgoing Member-at-Large, Awards

Maybe because 2020 was a harrowing year, but we received only two nominations for CNSA Awards, both of which were for the Anna Hamilton Award. As both were very deserving, we agreed that this year we would give out two awards. So, the winners of the Anna Hamilton Award for 2020 are...

ANNA HAMILTON AWARD WINNER, GLORIA STEPHENS



Gloria Stephens at Government House

The CNSA also gave an Anna Hamilton Award to **Gloria Stephens** from the **Victoria General Hospital Nurses Alumni Archives**, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020! Gloria was nominated by Joyce Baxter, who wrote:

"Since returning to Halifax in 2000, Gloria reconnected with colleagues at the VGH Nurses Archives located in the Bethune Building of the VG Hospital. Since then, Gloria has devoted much volunteer time and effort to managing this hidden gem of artifacts and archival materials. Among many other projects, Gloria has been the driving force behind collecting a biography of each graduate of the VGH. She's also in the processing of publishing a history of VGH Nurses and their role in many historical events of the past 100 years, and recently gave a talk on the subject at Government House. Gloria is an exceptional individual whose passion for history and all-things VGH is commendable."

“Gloria has devoted much volunteer time and effort to managing this hidden gem of artifacts and archival materials.”

ANNA HAMILTON AWARD WINNER, WARREN ERVINE

An Anna Hamilton Award was posthumously given to **Warren Ervine** from **Scott Manor House** and the Fort Sackville Foundation in Bedford. Warren was nominated by Francene Cosman on behalf of the Fort Sackville Archives Committee. Francene Cosman wrote:

“Warren worked for eleven years as a dedicated volunteer archivist at the Scott Manor House in Bedford. Words cannot do justice to his lifetime contribution let alone the years spent with us at the Scott Manor House. He had presence. He had dignity. He had integrity. He had enthusiasm for life and nature. He had an outstanding work ethic and never refused to take on the many tasks of a volunteer. He was an inspiration and helped our organization to be the committed volunteer community that we are.”

Warren’s many archival projects for Scott Manor House included:

- Creating a map database for the more than 250 historic maps in the collection, for which he photographed, generated metadata, and designed and created storage folders for each and every map.
- He also photographed and accessioned all 2000 items in the Manor’s collection.
- Dressed up in his top hat and tails and greeted the hundreds of people who passed through the doors of Scott Manor House for their Olde Fashioned Christmas.

Warren was a vital leader and member of the Fort Sackville Archives Committee. He is dearly missed.



Warren Ervine at Scott Manor House's
Olde Fashioned Christmas, 2018
Photo by Snapd.Halifax.

**“ Words cannot do justice to his lifetime contribution
let alone the years spent with us at the
Scott Manor House**

'DESPITE 2020' AWARDS



Sharon Murray, (former) Awards Member-at-Large &
Heather Adams, Membership/Nominations Member-at-Large

Given that we received so few CNSA Awards nominations, we wanted to find another way to recognize members for the work you do, especially given 2020's many challenges. So we cooked up a plan to award members for noteworthy activities and fun social media posts this past year! Here are the 'Despite 2020' Award winners:

MVP Award – Mary Flynn for Chairing the CNSA's first virtual conference

Noteworthy Community Outreach & Education – Carmen d'Entremont

Best virtual tour of a Christmas Village –

Queens County Museum and Archives

Best Advent social media series –

Nova Scotia Archives

Best Remembrance Day social media series –

St. Mary's Genealogy Research Centre

Creepiest Halloween social media post –

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

Best 'Then & Now' social media series –

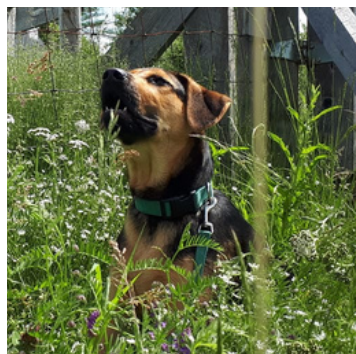
Colchester Historium

Best social media Storytelling –

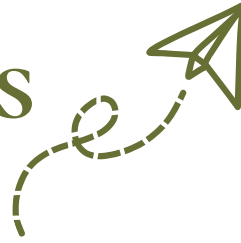
Chestico Museum and Archives

Best social media pet presence

A tie between pup, Watson, from Eastern Shore Archives, and cats, Mary Margaret & Anne Katherine from Highland Village!



MEMBER UPDATES



EASTERN SHORE ARCHIVES

Thea Wilson-Hammond, Archivist & Executive Director

The Eastern Shore Archives is wrapping up a PADP-funded project to digitize, in-house, the entire Lena Ferguson fonds, consisting of 137 audio reels and 71 cassettes of interviews primarily from the Chezzetcook area of the Eastern Shore. The Lena Ferguson fonds was transferred under the Cooperative Acquisition Strategy in 2017 from the Nova Scotia Archives to the Eastern Shore Archives. The original recordings were carried out between 1971 and 1988 and submitted to the NSA in the late 1980s for duplication and the creation of preservation copies on audio reels.

The Eastern Shore Archives chose to digitize the reels in-house as a means to utilize the skills of a local audio technician while also taking advantage of real-time audio transfer to create an audio log of the contents of each interview. The audio logs and an updated fonds description will soon be available on MemoryNS and access copies of the interviews, many of which are with Acadian residents, will be available in MP3 format.



Rusty digitizing from the reel-to-reel recorder

The most difficult aspect of this project was sourcing a professional quality reel-to-reel recorder! These are obsolete machines hoarded by sound recording collectors, and very difficult to obtain, especially in Pandemic times. The machine requires frequent servicing and often hourly cleaning, as well as a few engineering feats to create missing and broken parts.

The Eastern Shore Archives is proud to make these valuable recordings fully accessible and grateful for the PADP funding that allowed this project to take place. This project is part of the Eastern Shore Archives' goal of assembling all known Eastern Shore oral histories and making them available in either audio or transcript format. With the addition of the Lena Ferguson fonds recordings, we will have assembled over 200 oral histories!

MINUDIE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Naomi Kirkbride

The Covid 19 pandemic has been a real, worldwide challenge for sure. As we read about how this virus was attacking innocent victims in other countries, we quickly came to the realization how very real it was on our own doorstep.

In April, we learned how to "Zoom." All of our in person monthly meetings ceased and we were thrown into the newest technology of which we became quite proficient.

Our fundraising ceased for the months of July and August but in September, we figured out how to have a yard sale using social distancing, arrows to control the movement of people, and limitations on the number of people entering our community hall. Masks and hand sanitizer were the number one priority.

Our school museum was closed this summer due to renovations, so in a way, it was perfect timing for the virus to come calling. Of special mention is that the CBC came to the community and did an article on the Acadian settlement that once was alive and well in Minudie.



Members of the Minude Heritage Association

MUSÉE DES ACADIENS DES PUBNICOS ET CENTRE DE RECHERCHE

Bernice d'Entremont, Program Director

What a year! We had a late start, opening July 6th, after we put Public Health measures in place for the Research Center and Archives along with the guidelines for the museum. We got through it by government assistance programs for COVID-19. We had a decrease in the tourists visiting the Museum, sales in the Gift Shop were down, plus we had no lottery and no big fundraiser. Our rentals of tables and chairs and hall space went up, however, and we looked for other ways to earn revenue.



Summer students in costume

We hired two students through federal grants. The students worked to update the data bases, made videos, helped with activities, and also catalogued museum artifacts. Our activities this year were all outdoors – a quilt show and celebrations in our founder was very well attended (keeping 6-ft apart and sanitizing a lot). We partnered with the Village historique de la Nouvelle-Écosse for Canada Day and August 15th. On Friday July 17th, we celebrated 367 years of history of the Barony of Pobomcoup, when Charles de la Tour appointed Philippe Mius d'Entremont as Baron of the Barony of Pobomcoup. Actors represented the descendants, we had a Powerpoint presentation of photos of the 2993 Pageant, and a collection of artifact reproductions and documents were on display.

We received a grant to study the partnership between the Village historique Acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse. We are also entering into partnership with the Municipality of Argyle for the construction of a library on the land owned by the Société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest. In 2024, our region of Argyle and Clare will be hosting the Acadian World Congress. We are certainly looking to ameliorate our services, experiences, products, culture, history, and heritage for the Congress, plus volunteers are continually entering genealogical data in our data base.



Père Maurice LeBlanc (1924-2021) and the Barony of Pobomcoup celebrations, July 17th, 2020

LA SOCIÉTÉ SAINT-PIERRE

Lisette Bourgeois, Executive Director

As all others, we at La Société Saint-Pierre (Les Trois Pignons) in Chéticamp have had to adjust our ways of doing things in a very drastic way. We lost over 80% of our visitors and even more in revenue. With the assistance of the federal government, we were able to remain open and assure that our seasonal staff were able to return. Just preparing the building to meet the requirements of NS Health took some time and adjustments.

We took advantage of the extra time and slower traffic to address tasks that we normally did not have time to do. We took our time to do a full inventory of our collection, sorted out files, painted most of the interior of the museum and the offices, made some changes in the museum to accommodate some new acquisitions, and organized our storage space. We also took advantage of more online courses being offered from the safety of our offices.



Our volunteers

We also offered virtual programming by organizing events for Mi-carême, Canada Day, Festival de l'Escaouette and National Acadian Day. This was very much appreciated by locals and families whose planned trips home were disrupted because of the pandemic.



Hooked rug of Les Trois Pignons



Les Trois Pignons with renovations complete

YARMOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

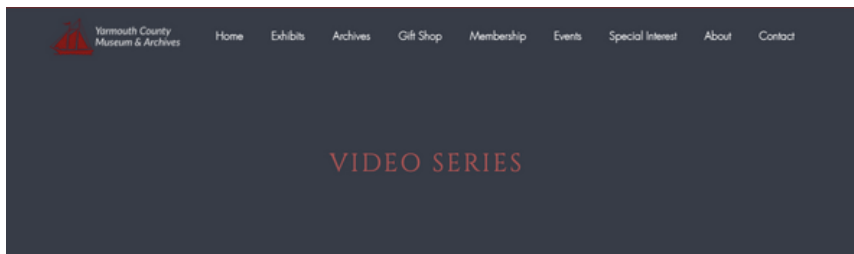
Lisette Gaudet, Archivist

Much like everywhere else, the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives was affected by the current pandemic. However, we have adapted, and while things are slightly different nowadays, we have made it work. We moved many events online and have been able to work on, and complete, many projects. As everyone knows, there's always work to be done in archives, and these past few months we've gotten a lot done. Some projects we've worked on have been: creating digital archival packages; a 10-part video series featuring archival and museum items; and the conversion of our publications to e-books. All these projects can be found on sale through our new website: www.yarmouthcountymuseum.ca.

While we worked from home from March to May, we still provided research services for individuals and upon reopening in June, we did so with a new



Summer student, Zoe



appointment-only format that has been working wonderfully. Researchers enjoy that material is ready upon arrival, and staff enjoys the ability to schedule our days. Other guidelines we have in place are the standard – mandatory masks, hand sanitizing, limiting the number of people in our research room, etc. Our priority from the start has been to keep our staff, visitors, and volunteers safe while still providing access to our collections.

TAKE NOTE

News & Announcements

It's that time of year again! Applications and guidelines for **Provincial Archival Development Program** funding for 2021/2022 are now available at:
<https://archives.novascotia.ca/padp/>

All CNSA institutional members in good standing are eligible for a maximum of \$15,000 from the \$50,000 available funds. Please carefully review the Guidelines and Scoring Guide for Adjudication as you prepare your application.

Contact CNSA's Archives Advisor, Sharon Murray at advisor@councilofnsarchives.ca, (902) 424-7093 for advice and guidance as you formulate your project and write your application. Please contact Sharon at least 2 weeks before the deadline to give her time to provide feedback.

The deadline for receipt at the Nova Scotia Archives is 4:00 p.m. 16 April 2021 to submit an electronic copy. Signed paper originals must be mailed to the Nova Scotia Archives, postmarked no later than midnight 16 April 2021. No extensions will be given.

This is a great opportunity to get a provincial funding contribution for a project at your institution. Apply now!

New members needed for two CNSA Committees!

CNSA's **Preservation Committee** and **Reconciliation Working Group** are both in need of new members. Being part of a committee is a great way to get involved and help support member archives and archival practice in the province. All committee meetings are held via Zoom, so no travel is required. For more information on the goals and objectives of each committee, please visit the CNSA website:

<https://www.councilofnsarchives.ca/preservation-committee/>
<https://www.councilofnsarchives.ca/cnsa-reconciliation-working-group-ad-hoc/>