

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As always we continue to experience many challenges and successes...

Executive Director

In the last issue of the Newsletter, outgoing President Gene Goodrich praised the work of our Executive Director, Nora Williams, who has done so much to raise our profile, especially in the Acadian community. Unfortunately, Nora is no longer in a position to accept part-time employment. Since this is the only kind our limited resources allow us to offer, she regretfully had to make the decision to leave us. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank her again for all her hard work on behalf of the Westmorland Historical Society. We wish her all the best and hope to see her often

at our special events. The Executive and the Board are currently considering our options with respect to the position.

Properties

Our plans to repair the back wall of Keillor House, announced at the 2010 AGM, have been put on hold although we are submitting a formal Proposal to Heritage Branch providing details of the renovations we are planning (the wall repairs are part of a broader Proposal). We have already received a grant to study the 'wall problem' and met with encouraging responses from potential partners. However, recent government austerity measures have seriously impacted ACOA and other funding agencies, so

we may have to await better times. Fortunately, the problem does not at this time compromise the integrity of the building so we have time to work out a solution. On a positive note, the grant we received enabled us to carry out some repairs to the floor of the Dairy Room of Keillor House.

The Payzant and Card building has also developed a leaky roof, while the 'annex' (the long section pointing westwards) has some structural problems as well. Fortunately, the 'annex' is only used for storage. The Executive Committee has taken measures to buy time to work out the best course of action. Reports to the Board of Direc-

tors will follow as plans unfold.

Museum Attendance

It is disappointing to report a drop in museum attendance. This time, the culprit seems to be a general decline in New Brunswick tourism, caused by the difficult economic conditions of the last few years. However, while times may be tough, we need not be crushed by them. As members of the WHS, we can all help out. Why not make a resolution to visit our fine museums at least once during the coming season! Be sure to bring along family and friends and encourage others to do the same. If you can, use 'social media' to multiply the effect by

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KEILLOR HOUSE MUSEUM —SPECIAL EVENTS

Victorian Christmas Dinners

Saturday Nov. 26 & Dec 3. 6:30 to 10:00 pm. Elegant Four-Course Victorian Dinner. Live Entertainment. \$60.00

Reservations at 506 379-6620. Limited Seating.

Caroling at Keillor House

Sunday Dec. 11, 2:00-4:00 pm. \$5.00.

Enjoy Lively Christmas Music, Hot Cider & Christmas Cookies.

Dorchester New Year's Levee

Sunday Jan. 1, 2012 1:00-3:00 pm. After the Lions' Polar Dip. Free

Enjoy the Crackling Hearth Fire, Homemade Soup, Rolls & More.

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AMNB HONOURS W. EUGENE GOODRICH



Lynn Byrd presenting Merit Award to Eugene Goodrich

Each year the Association Museums New Brunswick (AMNB) grants up to six different Awards to individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to heritage and the museum community. At the 2011 Annual Conference held in Moncton, a Merit Award was presented to W. Eugene Goodrich.

Eugene is a Past President of the Westmorland Historical Society and Emeritus Professor of History at Mt Allison University.

Gene has provided many years of outstanding service to two very active historical societies in our region—the Tantramar and Westmorland Historical Societies. In both he continues to enthusiastically volunteer ‘cooking breakfasts’—annually for Tantramar, serving tables--whenever needed at Keillor House, and painting buildings—he recently painted the Bell Inn Restaurant by himself! He also participates actively in the many other fund-raising events for both Societies--and often provides anonymous finance help! (We may not receive *any* bills for materials on projects he is working on!)

From the Submission...

- Gene carries out original historical research on important New Brunswick subjects and produces monographs (e.g. *The Keillors of Keillor House*), articles (*See White Fence*, *WHS Newsletter*) and books (*Stagecoach Days on the Westmorland Great Road* (2010), *The Intellectual World of Josiah Wood* (2009) of great interest to students of New Brunswick’s rich ‘heritage. Revenue from the sales of these publications is assigned to the historical Societies.
- As Chair of WHS Publications Committee, he encourages publication of significant new historical works by others (e.g. Bob Cunningham’s *Fundy: Hidden Jewel of the North Atlantic Coast—A History of the Bay of Fundy*, Ed. & with Additional Notes by Margaret Eaton (2010). Gene’s continuing support made this difficult publication possible.
- He undertook to research, design, and have fabricated and installed historically accurate lanterns for Keillor House and historically appropriate signage for the Bell Inn. This involved a great deal of his time, working closely with Joe Bergeron on design, fabrication and installation
- He also participates regularly interviewing, transcribing and editing for publication ‘conversations’ with outstanding individuals as part of the Society’s ‘Interviews with Extraordinary People’ Series. Each interview takes many hours and transcription is often a challenging task.
- As well as ‘scholarly’ pursuits, Gene is always one of the first to volunteer for the Society’s less than glamorous ‘volunteer activities’. In the spring, he spent two weeks (many long days!) cleaning a ‘soot-filled’ restaurant (The Bell Inn) which was to open in three weeks! Typically, he quietly paid for the dry-cleaning required, and cleaned many items at home. Thanks to his hard work—and the work of many other dedicated WHS Members—the restaurant was able to open on time.

In short, Professor Goodrich has contributed in outstanding ways over many years to the success of two historical societies, and his efforts are worthy of this important recognition by the AMNB.

Cole Morison

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

'tweeting' about the experience: "Thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Keillor House and St. James Textile Museum today. Had great lunch at Bell Inn/Swisscot..." This kind of interaction can make a significant difference in museum attendance.

Fund-Raising

While we certainly have our challenges and disappointments, the good news far outweighs the bad. The recent sale of the Visitor Information Centre improved our financial situation, while our success in getting various grants allowed us to hire a great staff to operate the museums and offer visitors a rich experience. In spite of some surprises, our financial situation is sound. And it will improve with your continued support.

Our special fundraising events have always been successful--and some of them are getting more so. As reported at the AGM in June of this year, the Mother's Day Tea in May was once again filled to capacity while the 2010 Haunted House Tour 'terrified' around 1000 visitors, nearly double the previous year's 665. This year, our hard-working 'ghouls' outdid themselves yet again, and were rewarded with an astonishing grand total of 1343 victims! Word has obviously gotten around that Keillor House is the place to come for 'the' authentic Halloween experience.

Another highly successful annual event is the Victorian Christmas Dinner, now hosted on two evenings, owing to popular demand. All indications are that both evenings will again be sold out. Hearty congratulations and sincere thanks to all who make this annual event a great success.

New Lanterns for Keillor House

It is also pleasant to report that the lanterns for Keillor House--funds for which were donated by Mrs. Ruth Stanley, are now installed and getting 'rave reviews' from everyone. Owing to an awkward placing of the wiring on the façade of the building it became apparent that it was necessary to commission custom-built lanterns--easier said than done! Fortunately, we were able to employ the services of a master craftsman, Joe Bergeron of Moncton, who executed to perfection a basic design 'cooked up' by Gene Goodrich and his 'lantern committee'. With these beautiful lanterns installed, the wall restoration project, which had been marred by the dangling wires, is finally complete, and Keillor House has never looked better. Again, thanks to all who were in-

volved, and especially to Mrs. Stanley.

Celebrating Notable 'Dorchesterites'

Following a suggestion by Helen Petchey at the 2010 AGM, a Committee led by Margaret Eaton with help from Susan Spence, is building a Dorchester "Wall of Fame"--a series of posters featuring Biographies of outstanding Dorchesterites to be displayed in the village library. The first one, featuring the famous author and editor--Douglas How, is already up and others are in the planning stage. Margaret did a beautiful job in writing up Doug's story and helping design the poster. More congratulations are in order!

Partnership with Westmorland Institution

Our partnership with Westmorland Institution has been a model of success that deserves a special article of its own--graciously supplied by Margaret Eaton. This is the story of a special relationship that has been developing for some years between the Westmorland Historical Society and the Penitentiary, thanks largely to the effort of two volunteers *par excellence*, Alice and Ritchie Folkins. From the painting of the Payzant-Card Building and the Sir Pierre Landry House to dozens of projects around Keillor House and the St. James Textile Museum, we have benefited greatly from the assistance of enthusiastic work release volunteers. Equally, they have benefited from the mentoring of Alice and Ritchie. This is a story well worth telling, and Margaret tells it well.

All in all, we have much to be proud of...thanks to your continuing support.

Greg Partridge

DORCHESTER MEMORIES—GARFIELD SPENCE 1923-2008— (PART 2)

MEMORIES OF A WORLD WE HAVE LOST

In interviewing Garfield, one of the things that surprised me most was how much of traditional Dorchester life still clung to existence during his younger years, and how quickly most of it vanished in the 1960s. Although already long since in decline, the main features of pre-industrial farming, fishing, boat building, lumbering and small scale family owned commerce were still very much in evidence, so that in 1960 the village and surrounding area were still closer to what they had been in 1900 than to what they would be in 1970. In the last issue, I said something about Garfield's memories of the farms, the woods and the lumber mills. We continue with those stories here.

Ships and Boats

The 'Great Age of Sail' had long since passed by the time Garfield came into the world, but he nevertheless saw some small remnants of it. He particularly recalled the last big sailing ship to leave Dorchester Island. It was the *Liliborn* out of Hamburg, Germany, and the year was 1939, just before the outbreak of the war. It took on pulpwood and Garfield helped to load it. He even remembered that they had to make a berth for it so it wouldn't list over at low tide.

A ferry was still running from Dorchester Cape to Hopewell at that time. Garfield didn't remember when it closed, only that one day it was gone, without any warning. It was actually a rowboat and was operated by a Mr. Cole and later by his son, Edgar, who afterwards worked at the penitentiary.

Another type of boat Garfield remembered that is no longer seen in these parts was the scow, a long flat bottomed vessel used for hauling bulky freight in rivers and shallow waters. Several of them, along with a number of fishing boats, belonged to Bill Solas who lived on Dorchester Cape. Among other things he regularly hauled beach sand from Apple River, which he loaded by wheelbarrow, for use in construction; apparently it was free of salt. In spite of being a master seaman who had been all over the world, he was drowned when his scow fetched up on a mud bank in the Petitcodiac and was overturned by the onrushing tide. He left behind a family of at least fifteen, several of whom Garfield could still name.

The old shipbuilding days were also gone long before Garfield's time, but lobster boats, some up to forty feet in length, were still being built on Palmer's Pond well into the 1940s. Garfield said they were sail boats and that there was a bridge on the creek, owned by Palmers and Hickmans, that could be turned by men with poles to let boats go in and out on the tides. The tides, incidentally, were much stronger on the Memramcook and Petitcodiac before the causeways tamed them and destroyed the salmon runs. Boats could only be docked at the Dorchester wharf when the tide was right; a mistake could carry you right up to Memramcook. Garfield remembered driving a number of fishermen back to Dorchester when this happened to them.

Fishing

When Garfield was young, people mainly fished for salmon and shad. Although no doubt a far cry from earlier times, there were still five or six fishing boats operating regularly in the bay below Dorchester Cape, and it was not uncommon for them to catch fifty salmon on a single trip. Before the two causeways and the aboiteau at the mouth of Palmer's Creek stopped them from going upstream to spawn, salmon were still relatively abundant in the Petitcodiac, the Memramcook and even Palmer's Pond. There were also large numbers of cod in the bay, and Garfield told an interesting story of how they were fished. Lines, with ten hooks baited with salt pork attached to each line, were strung from poles set in the mud flats at low tide. Then a shingle was placed over the bait to protect it from gulls and other uninvited guests. The incoming tide washed the shingle away and left the salt pork, together with its hook, to tempt the cod. "Them old people were quite smart," he observed.

DORCHESTER MEMORIES—GARFIELD SPENCE 1923-2008— (PART 2)

The bay was also full of shad in the summer; indeed Garfield claimed that it still is. The fishermen pedaled their fish locally and he used to sell them in his store. Ten dollars would buy a pail full. He remembered one fellow who operated a weir that sometimes trapped ten feet of fish. He hauled them away with a two-wheeled cart. Such was the abundance that once was.

Some Memories of Village Life

What came across repeatedly in the course of the interview was how much traditional life there still was in Dorchester right down to early 1960s, when it succumbed at last to 'progress'. As Garfield said, "it was a going place when I came here, now I don't mean maybe." There were still four or five stores besides Garfield's, including Payzant and Card, H.C. Palmer, Margie Cummings and Bishop's Hardware, the latter a popular spot for the older men to gather and reminisce about the good old days—Garfield said it was nothing to see twenty or more at a time. A Mrs. Gaugin had a small stationery and notions store in the Bell Inn, where she also sold hamburgers and hot dogs.

Although in decline, the Windsor Hotel was still in business until the early 1950s. When Garfield came to Dorchester it was owned by Bill Tait who also had a big farm on the marsh below. Besides supplying the hotel, he sold vegetables in Moncton—Garfield particularly remembered large quantities of rhubarb and garlic. He also raised upwards of a thousand Barred Rock chickens behind his house, still known as Swisscot; like Garfield's it was also built by Edward Barron Chandler for one of his sons. In addition to the eggs and meat, he sold the feathers for fly tying—apparently Barred Rock feathers are particularly suited for that—and got more money for them than he did for the chickens.

Sometime after the war, the Windsor was acquired by Sam Greenberg, and during its last days it served as a boarding house for people who worked at the prison. Before that, its mainstay was business from the court. Judges and lawyers would come from all over and stay for weeks at a time when the courts were in session. Travelling salesmen were another source of business. They would come to Dorchester by train and take a suite of rooms for a time, where they would display their wares. Others came to enjoy one of the largest covered ice rinks in the Maritimes, located just down the hill from the hotel. Whether they came to skate, sell or litigate, all could find good food at the restaurant and good company at the longest bar east of Montreal. Other entertainment included live music and dancing—as Garfield put it "everything you have today."

Entertainment was not confined to the hotel. There were several halls in town, including one above Garfield's store (the Masons), where dances were held and movies shown. Garfield remembered that the film was forever breaking, but people enjoyed them anyway. Square dances were probably the most popular, played for by a local fiddler. Garfield particularly remembered Murray Cook who, he said, only knew one tune. If he was asked to change it, he just speeded up a bit.

Another popular dance event was the box social. As the dances went on all night, there was always a pause for refreshments. For this, the ladies would make up attractive boxes filled with sandwiches, cakes and other goodies and the men would bid on them for the privilege of eating with the lady whose box he had bought. Of course there were other refreshments as well, overindulgence in which sometimes led to little misunderstandings among the lads that ended in a bout of fisticuffs. Some clans (Garfield remembered the Towers and Actons) made this a regular feature on the calendar of events. No one got seriously hurt, though, and the next day they were all the best of friends—at least until next time.

In the summertime people could look forward to the harness races, for Dorchester had its own racetrack, as did Sackville, Memramcook, Port Elgin and indeed just about every other Maritime town of any size. Dorchester had only one horse, owned collectively by a number of local people, and Garfield even remembered his name: Signal Senator. He raced in Sackville, Amherst and Port Elgin, but was apparently not fast enough to compete in Moncton. Admission was ten cents and

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there were five or six races during an afternoon—cheap entertainment indeed. Prizes were given, but Garfield thought there was a gentleman's agreement among the owners that no horse in the league would be allowed to either win or lose all the time. The horses were expensive to keep and people had very little money. Ensuring that every horse won some money at least once in a while allowed all the owners to stay in the game and thus maintain the track and its buildings.

Summer was also the time of the annual fair. Livestock would be shown, goods of all kinds displayed and prizes given. Of course there was always a midway with its rides, side shows, cotton candy and all the other unhealthy but delicious treats that went with the scene. Garfield particularly enjoyed the horse pulls and chuckled as he recalled one of the common tricks contestants used to give their a team a competitive edge: black tea mixed with half a gallon of oats. Apparently, it really 'jazzed them up', but without harmful effects.

Entertainment had to be local in the days before everyone had a car. In other parts of North America and Europe the automobile was already transforming even rural and small town life during the 1920s but it did not arrive in Dorchester in a big way until after the Second World War. When Garfield came to the shiretown only two people had a car: Mrs. Teed and the Warden of the Penitentiary. Everyone else walked or drove a carriage in the summer and a sled (called a pung) in the winter. Garfield said that most of the ones in Dorchester came from the Campbell Carriage Factory in Sackville. Virtually every house in the village had a carriage house and barn, the latter not just for the horses, but also for a couple of milk cows—and the inevitable cats.

Sometime in the late 1940s a car dealership opened up near the Windsor Hotel. It was owned by Emory Lane who sold Dodges and Plymouths. Later, Sam Greenberg took it over. The first new car Garfield remembered was a Ford, and it cost \$568. Some of the first people to own one were the penitentiary staff. They were paid \$90.00 a month, a very good wage at that time, and could afford it.

With the car came a different form of public entertainment that, while new in aspect, rested on a long tradition of hi-jinks that had long since earned the village square its sobriquet 'the devil's half acre'. Garfield even remembered who did the first 'doughnut', but in the interests of discretion, perhaps that should remain unrevealed here. Suffice it to say that, whoever he was, he did his trend-setting work well, as the sport is popular to this day in Dorchester.

THE END OF AN ERA

These, then, were some of the sweeter memories of Dorchester life that Garfield cherished until his dying day. Others, however, were sadder, in particular those occasioned by the loss of so many of the shiretown's beautiful old buildings. "It's a far cry from what it used to was," he lamented tearfully. "I seen the best of it torn to hell."

One of the first to go that Garfield witnessed was the skating rink. Sometime when he was still in school—he couldn't remember the exact year—a heavy snow load cracked one of the rafters. A local group raised some money to repair it, but it was not enough, and Bill Tait, who owned it at the time, didn't want to spend any of his own money on it so it was allowed to fall down.

The Windsor Hotel was staffed by local girls and women, many of them Acadian. They were paid only \$7.00 a month plus board, which is all the owners could afford during the dying days of Dorchester's hotel business. When pressures to pay higher wages mounted and business further declined with the multiplication of cars in the post-war years, making it easier to get to Moncton to shop, the Windsor closed its doors for good and soon fell into disrepair. Again, Garfield did not remember the exact year (it was 1956), but it was torn down to make way for an Irving gas station and he vividly remembered the event, as of course did every other Dorchesterite who witnessed it. Some fellow from Amherst did the job and made a pile of money salvaging the wood and fancy furnishings. Garfield said that there were beams eight inches square and seventy feet long, a poignant reminder of the magnificent forests that once were.

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The Court House was next to go. In 1965 it fell victim to a fire that Garfield felt was deliberately set by a prisoner trying to make his escape. He appears to have doused the hallway leading up to the stairway with gas or kerosene and set it ablaze. "It was just like a flu," Garfield said. "You couldn't put it out if you had the Bay of Fundy up there." As a fireman, he was in a position to know. Like a lot of other people, he suspected that there was more behind it than a simple prison break. Moncton had apparently been trying for years to get the county court house and jail moved over there and, to say the very least, was not nearly as upset by its loss as was Dorchester. Of course there was no proof of a conspiracy, but Garfield could not help disburdening himself of a few unkind sentiments regarding the jewel on the Petitcodiac.

Another victim of a deliberate fire, set this time in order to collect the insurance (at least according to rumour), was 'Brookside', one of the largest and in its day most elegant of Dorchester's wooden *grandes maisons*. Built by one of the prominent Chapmans (William Keillor), it stood proudly on Robb's Brook (on the site of present day St. Edward's Catholic Church) and was admired by visitors and locals alike. Two widowed sisters and a brother lived there in genteel poverty during Garfield's younger years. After they passed on it was acquired by someone in the garage business who subsequently fell into financial difficulty.

The destruction of two other Dorchester landmarks was little short of bizarre. One was the row of handsome white frame houses on Guard Row, earlier used to house prison staff. They had not served that purpose for some time, but were still in excellent shape; in fact they had just been recently renovated, complete with new furnaces and floors. Their demolition was the brainchild of a Mrs. Rideout who had recently been appointed *pro term* to the seat in the legislative assembly vacated by her deceased husband. Lots of people wanted to buy them, but their requests were simply ignored—in the time-honoured manner of entrenched bureaucracy. Even the new furnaces were bulldozed into the hole and burned along with the remains of the houses. The excuse was that people selling furnaces would complain if they were undersold. Apparently, the only reason the brick houses did not go as well was that it was deemed 'too expensive' to demolish them.

Even more perverse was the demolition of the telephone office, a handsome brick building on the village square and once a prime source of local information and gossip. The wrecking crew had actually been sent to tear down another building, but the foreman had gotten it into his head that this was the one, and no one could persuade him otherwise. That's what was on his order papers, and that's what he was going to do. And so it went.

During the interview, Garfield was often close to tears as he recalled the many ways that Dorchester's traditional life gradually ebbed away, or was taken away by senseless acts and short-sighted decisions. Yet, there was much more joy than sorrow in his reminiscences. Over and over he remarked what a wonderful place Dorchester was to live and, much as he loved its old buildings, in the end it was its people that made it that way. At one point Judy asked him about relations between the 'English' and 'French' and also how the few native and black families were perceived. "You never knew if someone was an Indian or a Negro or an Acadian—we were all in the same boat," he insisted. Asked who his friends were, without hesitation he replied "all of them." There can be no more powerful commentary than that on Garfield's sense of community.

Above all, he loved his family. Bereft of his beloved first wife, Clemmie, when she died suddenly at age thirty-nine, he raised his five children by himself for a number of years until he met and married "an angel," Betty, the daughter of a crusty old sea dog who had been shipwrecked four or five times during the war. (Asking him for his daughter's hand was, he said, the hardest thing he ever did). With her he raised three more children to adulthood and one who died tragically at age sixteen. Garfield felt very blessed by his family, and also very blessed to have had Dorchester as a place to live and bring up his children. And no doubt they have been blessed for having Garfield as a father—and also much enriched for having seen the world of Dorchester go by in Garfield's store.

Gene Goodrich

WESTMORLAND INSTITUTION AND WHS

Inmates from Westmorland Institution Perform Community Service

“It makes us feel part of society again,” says one offender.

By Margaret Patricia Eaton

*This article has been reprinted with permission from the September 1st, 2011 edition of **This Week**, a Brunswick News publication. Updated: November 11, 2011.*

While some people might view having not one, but two, federal penitentiaries in their midst as a negative situation, it turns out there's a positive impact, or at least this is the case in Dorchester. The village is home to two federal penitentiaries managed by Correctional Services Canada (CSC); the medium security Dorchester Institution dating from the 1880's and housing up to 393 offenders and the campus style minimum security Westmorland Institution built in 1975, with a capacity for 228 offenders. Both offer a variety of personal development, educational and vocational programs to men who are serving sentences of two years plus a day, or longer.

In addition, The Westmorland Institution offers a unique program of Community Engagement to offenders who have completed all of their required programs. It's really a win-win situation as the community benefits from the volunteer work provided by the inmates on an escorted temporary absence while they learn soft skills, including the value of teamwork, which will enable them to successfully reintegrate into society upon their release.

Warden Lynn Chaplin says “We see a marked improvement in the men who choose to take part in this program. It builds their self-esteem and sense of accomplishment and the interaction really helps them to return to the community. Westmorland and this particular program is their final testing ground and our statistics show that most of these men don't return to the correctional system.”

One of the earliest projects, begun approximately 15 years ago, involved the restoration of the old Methodist cemetery located at the corner of Main Street and the entrance to Dorchester Institution, where early Yorkshire settlers are buried. Many stones were broken, others had fallen, while still others were found buried under the grass. As a result of their work, which included a binder documenting all of their findings, Westmorland Institution received a Canadian Heritage National Award. One inmate, scheduled to be released the day the project was completed, was given a reference by United Church minister Rev. Margaret Outerbridge which led to a job in Ontario that could be a career for him until he retires. In past years they've also worked on projects sponsored by a variety of non-profit community groups including clearing the trail at Moncton's Mapleton Rotary Park, maintenance on the Pointe du Chêne wharf and weekly clean-ups as campers rotate at the Easter Seals Camp near Pugwash.

Frank Landry, Social Programs Officer, who's been with CSC since 1981, is currently responsible for twenty-four inmates who are involved with Community Engagement programs in Amherst and Shubenacadie, N. S. and in the village of Dorchester. “I have a real passion for working here,” he says. “I see the offender coming in at the beginning of his sentence in Westmorland and for those who make the right choices, I see changes taking place and that's what I call a miracle. Where I've seen the most miracles is when I escort them on one of the Community Engagement Programs.”

While Frank's position involves “paper work”, he's clearly a people person who takes pride in the personal growth of the offender. But before an offender can be admitted to the program, Frank needs to establish goals with the non-profit group, recruit and train community volunteers and citizen escorts, select inmates through case management meetings and then seek approval from the Warden and parole officers to ensure they do not pose a risk to the community, before finally matching inmates with the job requirements.

Then the enjoyable part of Frank's work begins. “It's exciting to see the enthusiasm of the offenders who really want to work in the community. What seems to strike them the most is how much people trust and appreciate them. It's like a high because they feel they have accomplished something. Some have never worked before or been part of anything. One had never used a hammer and then he couldn't stop hammering in nails as it was such a pleasure to hold a small tool.”

“Some have never heard the word ‘Thanks’,” Frank says, “and they hear it here for the first time. I remember one who broke down and cried after a community supervisor had thanked him. He said, ‘Nobody in my whole life ever told me thank you.’ What we take for granted is really important for them. They're amazed that people trust them once

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they've proved themselves."

One of the longstanding and successful partnerships has been with the Westmorland Historical Society (WHS) which maintains a number of heritage properties in the village of Dorchester. Here offenders have done extensive work which included exterior scraping and painting and replacement of windows and rotten woodwork on the St. James Textile Museum, the Payzant & Card building (which houses the public library), and the Sir Pierre Landry House. They also do grounds maintenance at the Keillor House Museum and help set up and take down decorations for the annual Haunted House Tour and the Victorian Christmas dinners and teas.

"Whenever I ask them if they want to do some work for Alice (Alice and Ritchie Folkins are community supervisors), their faces are illuminated with a smile," Frank says. "They say they love working there because they're treated like human beings. Alice is a great influence on them because she's genuine and treats them well. They work as a team and it really benefits them when they see their work is appreciated."

Alice is indeed extremely appreciative of their work. "I don't know how we ever survived without them," she says. "We would not be able to offer the programs we have and would never have been able to accomplish the extensive work needed to maintain our buildings which date from the early to mid-1800's. I do know one thing for certain and that is we are the envy of all the museums in the province who would dearly love to have access to the successful partnership we've enjoyed."



An 1888 clock from the Keeper's Hall in Dorchester Penitentiary is installed in the Penitentiary Collection in the Carriage House at Keillor House. "It's nice to do a positive instead of a negative and interact with people who aren't criminally oriented," they say. Both of these men maintain a garden plot at the institution and donate the produce to the Moncton Food Depot, have donated to Toys for Tots and a mission to the Congo and built rocking chairs for the hospital nurseries and Crossroads. Upon their release Alice Folkins will write letters of recommendation for both men as they seek work, one as a cabinet maker and the other as a plumber.



Frank Landry, (right) Social Program Officer at the Westmorland Institution, supervises a blueberry picking operation on CSC property, which will see the berries used to produce jams and baked goods to sell at the Keillor House Gift Shop and at their teas, along with a cookbook featuring blueberry recipes from Dorchester cooks, printed and bound at the Westmorland Institution.

Photo Credits M.P. Eaton

WESTMORLAND INSTITUTION AND WHS

Update

At time of writing for the newspaper, Alice was supervising a team of four inmates working on a project in the Carriage House on the grounds of Keillor House which saw the interior redesigned to accommodate a replica of an original prison cell with a barred door produced in the hobby shop. In the 1800's, inmates spent up to 23 hours a day in cells whose width could be measured by a man standing in the middle and touching the walls with his knuckles on either side. The collection includes a clock from the Keeper's Hall and display cases made in the hobby shop to accommodate memorabilia –both official and unofficial, including a selection of “shivs”. When The Penitentiary Collection opened formally on September 10th, a number of CSC representatives were on hand along with the four inmates whose work made it all possible. Alice presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation.

To present a clearer picture for the Newsletter of all of the work accomplished by the inmates under the supervision of Alice and Ritchie, I asked Alice for more detailed information and here's what she told me has been accomplished over the years through the CSC Community Engagement Program.

Methodist Pioneer Cemetery – This information is included in the original newspaper story.

St. James' Textile Museum – The inmates painted this building with \$5,000 worth of paint supplied by Benjamin Moor and the Heritage NB. As a result, Heritage NB provided a grant which matched dollar for dollar for in-kind labour, allowing WHS to pay for a completely new roof.

Grounds – When volunteer Ted Nicholson turned 70 in 2006, he felt that mowing five acres, once and sometimes twice a week, was just too much. The vol-

unteer inmates, through the Community Engagement program took up the challenge, with Ritchie Folkins supervising. They also designed a new archway for our rose garden, built garbage boxes for tenants of the rental properties and completed other maintenance tasks such as replacing broken windows and rotting boards.

Payzant & Card – In 2009 the paint was peeling and the building needed new rain gutters and trim boards. Since in-kind labour was provided, WHS could tap into Heritage funding for paint and supplies.

Landry House – Again, because the inmates provided labour to paint, replace sills, rotten boards, rebuild some of the exterior walls and complete repairs on part of the roof, funding was available to complete work on the mansard roof portion by a hired contractor.

Keillor House -- The inmates have helped with decoration, storage and clean-up for Haunted House and Victorian Christmas Dinners, created quilt frames for the Inner Journey program and, most recently, assisted in helping set up the Gift Shop in the side ell, which accomplishes two things – frees up space in the kitchen for food service and requires visitors to walk through the gift shop as they exit. As a member of the Board of Directors, I was volunteering in September when the guides had returned to their studies and watched the inmates, working under the direction of Alice and Kathy Bowser, undertake the arduous task of moving an enormous bookcase that housed the Josiah Wood Library from the ell and back to the parlour, its original location. Because it was too large to go through the interior doorway, it had to be taken outside and around the front of Keillor House, in through the front door and then to the parlour. I was very impressed by the care the two inmates took with this heavy piece – there was not one scratch on it as a result of the move. Not only did they take excellent care, they managed to maintain good humour and work cooperatively with each other, through what was obviously a difficult and at times frustrating task.

Margaret Eaton

NOTES FROM MARLENE'S SCRAPBOOK

In the course of her researches into the history of the Hickman family, Marlene Hickman has collected many interesting items pertaining to Dorchester and the surrounding area. Several of these have appeared in previous issues of the Newsletter, and we intend to bring you more from time to time. Thanks for sharing them with us, Marlene.

About Rockland:

August 11, 1865 – The Borderer

“Oil Mines – Extensive preparations are now being made in Rockland about four miles from Dorchester for the manufacture of oil from oil stone. Large buildings are in course of erection for the company. The second cargo of oil stone has been shipped from here for the United States.”

August 2, 1877 – Chignecto Post

“Brick making has been commenced by R A Chapman Esq. at his shipyard, Rockland, for the St John Market. The facilities for making a good article are said to be excellent.”

January 2, 1879 – Chignecto Post

“Belliveau Items – A new siding and platform has been made by the Intercolonial Railway at the crossing near the new bridge over the Memramcook which is named “Rockland”. This name is approved by all the leading business men on this side of the River for whose accommodation the siding, etc. has been granted, but the singular part of it is that several of the residents on both sides of the River who have no business connection with the railway are very much opposed to the name and propose having it changed to “Upper Dorchester” or Dorchester Bridge &c. but none of them is as appropriate as Rockland.

August 28, 1879 – Chignecto Post

“From Rockland Station: Mr. A. W. Edgett’s new store is about completed. His first installation of goods have arrived. An hotel is to be built here this autumn by one of St. John’s monied men. A steam grist and flouring is in prospect in the very near future by one of our prominent mill owners. The Boudreau Stone Quarry Co. are making some large shipments to New York.”

Animal Stories:

September 23, 1869 – The Borderer

“Bear Story – At Dorchester Cape, a man named Cook had one of his hands badly gnawed a few days ago by a bear that seized him. On the arrival of some neighbours, his bearship was dispatched with a pitchfork.”

August 17, 1876 – Chignecto Post

“Snipe shooting at Cole’s Point and Grand Anse is above the average and local sportsmen are bagging them by the hundred.”



Donations, Memberships and Newsletter
Submissions to:
4974 Main Street, Dorchester, NB
E4L 2Z1

Keillor House Museum
Tel.: (506)379-6633
Fax: (506)379-3418
E-mail: keillorhouse@nb.aibn.com
www.keillorhousemuseum.com

Museum Hours 2012

June 9 to Sept. 15
Tuesday to Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The Westmorland Historical Society is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1965 with the mandate to collect, preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Westmorland County, NB. For four decades the WHS has worked with local partners to apply this mandate in a unique *entrepreneurial way* by encouraging *self-financing historic sites* attracting visitors from across North America. The historic Sir Pierre Landry House, the Bell Inn, and the Payzant & Card Building, contain apartments or businesses that help off-set the costs of preserving these historic buildings.

The Society's stellar museums—the Keillor House Museum (1813) housing the Graydon Milton Library and Genealogical Centre— and the St. James Textile Museum, contain remarkable collections attracting genealogists, researchers and visitors from across North America.

How to become a WHS Member?

Contact Judy Morison, our Membership Secretary, at 4974 Main Street, Dorchester, NB, E4L 2Z1. Tel: (506) 379-6682.

Annual Fees 2012

(Includes Newsletter)

Individual: \$10.00
Family: \$15.00
Sustaining: \$25.00
Life: \$150.00

Board of Directors

President	Greg Partridge
Past President	Gene Goodrich
Vice-President	Cole Morison
Secretary	Kathy Bowser
Treasurer	Bob Bowser
Mary Balser	Cheryl Feindel
Norma Boudreau	Shirley Oliver
Eddie Bowes	Theresa Simpson
Genie Coates	Susan Spence
Margaret Eaton	Nancy Vogan

SALUTING OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

We always like to thank our many volunteers for their unstinting devotion to the WHS and its work in the community. In this Issue, we pay special tribute to those who made the Haunted House Tours such an outstanding success. Thanks for a truly 'terrific' job!

Ann Marie & Ron LeBlanc, Stephen and Janet Ward, Betty Adams, Colton Copp, Dee Milligan, Mark Istanffy & son Ezra, Donna Keiver & son, Breanne Keiver, Cheryl Feindel, Susan & Peter Spence, Joanne Corey, Claudette Shea, Linda van Zuyien, Wendy Hunter, Warren Folkins, Mike Shea, Debbie Colwell & nephew Alex, Troy MacLean & son Dakota, Jody Allan, Megan Shea, Kelsey Ward, Patrick Ward, Dorothy Amour, Mike Cormier, Teresa Simpson, Rolly McIssac, Marilyn MacIssac, David Barns, Troy White, Nicole White, Shelby White, Chelsea White, Mary Balser, Greg Partridge, Tanya

Read-Folkins and daughter Jenna, Tom Ellis, Pat Jones, Teddy & Marilyn Wheaton, Hayley Wells, Robb Cann, Allie Wilson, Nichol Sears, Bernie Melanson and his students.

Hearty thanks are also due to those who staffed the museums during the shoulder season: Claudette Shea, Helen & Jean Cole, Anne Henrickson, Deanna Crossman, Eddie, Bowes, Cheryl Feindel.

Then, of course, there are our 'regulars':

For planning & maintaining Keillor House gardens again this year: Bernie Melanson and his student volunteers from Mathieu-Martin.

For volunteering at the St. James Textile Museum again this year: Betty Adams and Dee Milliken.

For supervising work release and lawn maintenance at the museums & historic properties again this year: Ritchie Folkins.

For designing and supervising the construction of new lanterns for Keillor House: Gene Goodrich.

For continuing contributions too numerous to list — the central pillar of this organization: Alice Folkins.

The Executive