

Sylvia Jean Monies Yeoman C.M., F.R.S.A.

ARTIST, TEACHER, HISTORIAN, HERITAGE PRESERVER, VOLUNTEER

Sylvia Yeoman was invested with the Order of Canada by Governor General, Hon. Edward Schreyer on April 11, 1984. Her citation states: *“Sylvia Yeoman deserves her reputation as ‘amiable steamroller’ in her efforts to preserve the New Brunswick heritage. After a period as teacher and fashion designer she vigorously campaigned to restore historic buildings in Dorchester, NB and helped to develop museums, libraries and historical societies.”*

Sylvia and Mark Yeoman, Q.C. moved to Dorchester in 1959 after purchasing Rocklyn (1831) as a home for their family: Elizabeth, Alan (d. 2008), Ann, Sheila, Katie, James and Edward. Built by Father of Confederation Edward Barron Chandler, the house was declared a National Historic Site in 1976.

On November 6, 1960, the Yeomans became Charter Members of the Westmorland Historical Society, a non-profit, charitable organization mandated to collect, preserve and promote cultural history.



Mark & Sylvia Yeoman, Rocklyn, 1981

Sylvia served as vice president of the society and led the Museum Committee (Dorchester Historic Properties), while Mark provided *pro bono* legal services and later served as president.

As a result of their passionate efforts, five historic buildings have been preserved beginning with the 1967 Centennial Project to restore Keillor House (1813). It now includes an outstanding collection of period furnishings, a costume collection, the Graydon Milton Library & Genealogical Centre, the Penitentiary Collection and underwent a major structural restoration in 2005. The other buildings house a textile museum, restaurant, public library and residential apartments.

Sylvia is a Member of the Order of Canada, an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a recipient of the Association of Museums of New Brunswick Merit Award, the Freedom of the Village of Dorchester and the Queen’s Gold and Diamond Jubilee Awards.



Sylvia Yeoman, 1983

Mark died in 1989 but Sylvia remained active with WHS until 1997, when she moved to Nova Scotia and joined the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Annapolis Royal.

**Dorchester
Historic Properties**

KEILLOR HOUSE
1813

ST. JAMES TEXTILE MUSEUM
1884

BELL INN
c.1811

SIR PIERRE A. LANDRY HOUSE
c.1872

PAYZANT & CARD BUILDING
c.1838