

Mahone Bay Founders Society

Report of the Board to the AGM June 12, 2018

Submitted by: Anne Palfreyman, Chair of Mahone Bay Founders Society

The Mahone Bay Founders Society's main function is operating the Mahone Bay Museum. The Mission of the museum is this: The Mahone Bay Museum serves and engages residents and visitors through the preservation, interpretation and celebration of our local history and culture. This report is on how the Founders Society achieved this mission during the past year. Each of our committee chairs has provided a year-end report of their activities, which have been available online and tonight copies are available at the door.

The Museum continues to thrive under the capable management of Lyne Allain, Manager and Curator of the museum. We invite everyone to visit and see the new look of the exhibit areas and especially the research room upstairs. Lyne Allain, with a professional approach has identified the areas of collection management and exhibits needing change to meet museum standards and bring service to our residents and visitors. Lyne has achieved many of her goals. This spring, Lyne designed the new shelving for the archival boxes in the Research Room. The shelving was built and installed and the boxes moved and organized in their new home. This will bring a whole new service to our visitors who ask to see items we have in the collection.

We also congratulate Lyne and John Bell, our Archival Consultant, for being awarded the Dr. Phyllis Blakeley Award presented by the Council of Nova Scotia Archives for archival excellence for the work completed last winter on the photo collection. Libraries and Archives Canada funded this project.

We thank Gary Silliker and John Perry for the work they have done inside the museum to refresh the exhibit spaces. This year John painted the museum's Gift Shop room and these improvements continue to improve the quality of the visitor's experience. Gary repaired and repainted the museum's front steps and Jenny Sandison has designed a garden plan for the front of the museum, adding to the attractive and inviting streetscape. Michael O'Connor takes great care of the grounds and building.

The museum looks good, feels good and provides a public space for visitors and residents. Last year we had about 7000 visitors. There are activities always available for the children so they can have fun in a museum and learn. We acknowledge all the efforts of the summer student staff under Lyne's direction to give our visitors a good experience when they visited.

Lyne has also developed a plan to keep the museum open 5 days a week in the September and October. Volunteers are scheduled to host for 3 hours shifts and visitors have a chance to meet local people. Many of our hosts are very knowledgeable about our history and visitors benefit from the opportunity to talk to someone local. We are also open for Scarecrow and Father Christmas offering

children's activities and seasonal exhibits, particularly appreciated by families. A great deal of thanks goes to our volunteer hosts for this work at the museum.

This past year, our fundraising events and campaigns continued to be successful and reached our targets in our budget and we depend on the support of our members, volunteers and supporters who attend events. Last year's Heritage Award Dinner, Our Best To You Food Sale, The Home & Garden Tour and Granny's Attic Yard Sale proved to be popular attractions and were well attended. The museum hosts Gingerbread Decorating and Charlie Brown Christmas at the Mahone Bay Centre during the Father Christmas Festival. We thank Sherry Hobson for her long-standing commitment to this important children's event. We would like to thank Karen Pinsent for leading the Mahone Bay Home & Garden Tour and for organizing the summer raffle - Gourmet Picnic for 4 at Capehouse Vineyard. Also, we thank Anne Ruel for organizing Granny's Attic Yard Sale. Also, both the Membership and the Friends of the Museum campaigns brought in well-needed funding and many thanks to Denise Perry, our Treasurer who manages these 2 campaigns, the finances and getting the bills paid so the Society can operate of the museum. Another important and growing fund comes from the donation box at the museum as our visitors show appreciation for the quality of their visit. These events engage the community by celebrating our local history and culture. At the same time the funding generated by the programs and events support the museum and help to keep the museum doors open.

The current board members from last year are willing to continue serving this year and we look forward to some new members to share the responsibilities of operating the museum. We have a good relationship with the Town and we thank our Mayor Dave Devenne for his wonderful energy hosting the Heritage Awards Dinner. We also work with Bayview Community School inviting students to show the Heritage Fair Projects through the summer at the museum. We acknowledge the support of the 4 levels of government, municipal, district, provincial and federal for their support through grants, and sponsorship programs.

As chair, being involved with the work of the museum is very interesting. I sense many people have the interest in history judging from the popularity of the social media posts of the photo collection. We would welcome people who like what they see about the museum to step up, become involved and volunteer for a position on the board, join a committee, and help do the work of the museum. If you are interested in serving, talk with our current board members for details how you can become involved.

As the museum evolves and progresses we hope you will renew your membership, be a visitor, a volunteer or a supporter. Thanks to the Society members and volunteers for their dedication and hard work to keep the museum operating.

Anne Palfreyman

On behalf of the Board of the Mahone Bay Founders Society