

Newsletter

Winter 2025



CURATOR'S REPORT By Grace Armstrong



Grace Armstrong, Manager/Curator, October 2025.
Photo Courtesy of Anne Palfreyman.

We had a fantastic year at the Mahone Bay Museum. We welcomed roughly 4000 visitors, introduced a *Museum in the Community* talk series, a weekly summer kids craft, and a temporary exhibit on *Suttles and Seawinds*. We had success with our fundraisers, and the students greatly increased online engagement with their historical social media posts.

Looking forward, I will be processing the Bob Sayer fonds. This project is funded by the Nova Scotia Provincial Archives Development Program. Bob Sayer recently moved away but has greatly shaped the character of our town. He authored several local history books and was inducted into the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame for his contributions to soccer. Stay tuned to learn more about this important acquisition.

Reflections on LAMNS Conference

By Grace Armstrong

This October, I had the privilege of attending the LAMNS (Library Archives and Museums Nova Scotia) *Intersections* conference in Halifax. It's always fun to take a look at what other museums are doing.



While I suspect LAMNS is primarily a cost saving measure, there is nonetheless a large overlap between these three cultural institutions, whether with children's programming or collections databases. In the spirit of "intersections," many of the speakers at LAMNS spoke of projects that went outside the walls of their organization.

A small scale example of such a partnership, might be between the Acadia University Archives and Wolfville Baptist Church, wherein the organizers spread awareness of a 173-year-old shipwreck tragedy by hosting a memorial service. This collaboration encouraged participants to separate fact from myth by examining archival documents while also honouring the lingering emotional impact of the event.

This project was one of many that broadened the reach of a library, museum or archive through partnership. The key takeaway being that "intersections" invite multiple perspectives, leading to richer interpretive offerings.



Gift Shop

By Grace Armstrong

This year, we introduced model dory kits, following the recommendation of John Lyle from the South Shore Ship Modellers Guild. John has been a dedicated volunteer since he first took on the restoration of the museum's *Ethlyn* schooner model. After-which he set up a kiosk for weekly modelling demonstrations in the centre gallery.



Anne Palfreyman's homemade marmalade.

The 19" Lunenburg-style model dory kits sold slowly at first, but soon gained popularity. Maybe visitors did not expect to find products outside of our usual selection of books and postcards. At any rate, we were pleased to sell such a unique product that encourages visitors to appreciate the technical expertise of Lunenburg's wooden boat building traditions.



A completed Lunenburg dory model.

Another bestseller was Anne Palfreyman's marmalade, available both at the museum and through our friends at *Suttles and Seawinds*. In February, when these prized bitter oranges are in season, Anne prepared and carefully packaged over one hundred jars. We suggest enjoying the marmalade on a slice of toast or pairing it with cheese. Sadly, no photograph exists of the elaborate production that took place on her dining room table.

Thank you to everyone who contributed products to the gift shop this year. The museum wouldn't be the same without your efforts.

Scarecrow Festival

By Anne Palfreyman

The Mahone Bay Museum was open for all, with scarecrow fun for kids, free admission and activities. We made 300 scarecrow paper puppets with nail bags courtesy of Castle Building Supplies.



Anne Palfreyman, Chair of the Mahone Bay Founders Society, October 2025.



The Mahone Bay scarecrows en-route.

Our annual fundraiser for the museum, Annie's Attic Yard Sale, was held at St. James Parish Hall. We made just over \$4000.00. We thank our generous supporters for their donations of quality items that were sorted by the Annie's Attic team. A huge thanks to the wonderful volunteers who moved stock and worked at the sale, as well as the marvellous Scarecrow crew. We're also grateful to Jerry and Margaret Trite for the use of their barn over the past several years.

The museum also partnered with the festival to present Jubilee Park Day. There was I-spy fun exploring the park's two playgrounds. We provided home-made pumpkin cookies for participants. A perfect fall event for gathering family and friends!



The museum scarecrows feed their chickens.

Announcements 📣



QUILT RAFFLE

There will be a Museum Raffle beginning at the Father Christmas Festival. Pick up your tickets at the Night Market for a chance to win a handmade queen-sized quilt!



Homemade cookies that will be sold at our table at the upcoming Night Market.

NIGHT MARKET

On Friday, December 5, the Museum's bake table will be featured at the Season of Father Christmas Festival Food Banquet, offering a variety of homemade sweets.



FRIENDS CAMPAIGN

As we head into the giving season, keep an eye on your mailbox for our annual Friends Campaign. Your support helps us to continue to share local stories, develop new exhibits, and offer engaging programs for our community.