



The Old Train Station News

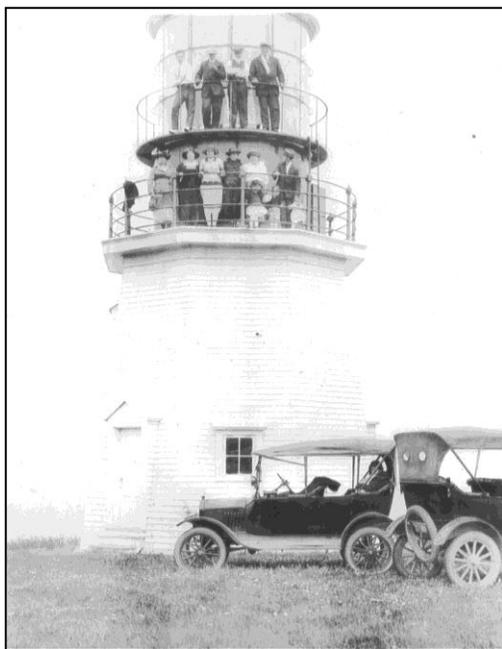
Newsletter #17

July 2010

It's summertime and what better way to wile away a lazy afternoon than head out for a nice Sunday drive. Where to, you ask? Why, there are so many wonderful places to discover in beautiful Antigonish. The folks of yesteryear certainly had little difficulty finding locations to explore around and about the town and county. While we can't (and obviously don't



want to) turn the clock back to the time of our grandparents, we can surely spend an afternoon enjoying one of their favourite pursuits – a drive in the countryside. But wait! Don't forget to pack a large picnic basket with a portable feast. Nothing says summer like a picnic basket.



Back in Grandma and Grandpa's heyday, a popular drive was, of course, around Cape George. The Mini-Trail is still a highlight with tourists and locals alike. The view along this coastal route is spectacular and, in places, reminiscent of Cape Breton's Cabot Trail. The little communities sprinkled along the way have distinct flavours, even today – from the idyllic pastoral setting of Lanark to the quaint fishing communities of Cribbon's Point and Ballantynes Cove. The summer resorts of Jimtown and Mahoney's Beach clearly contrast the rugged forested countryside of Georgeville and Morar. The landscapes are diverse but the shoreline is constant throughout the entire route. While the drive itself is a memorable experience, stops along the way merely present more memories. The Cape George lighthouse has always been a great attraction as can be seen in this 1920s photo.

Contact Information: Antigonish heritage Museum antheritage@parl.ns.ca or 902-863-6160



A drive to one of our local beaches might be in order on a hot summer day. Hopefully you've packed a bathing suit and a large towel. Antigonish County boasts many lovely sandy beaches that stretch all along the coast of St. George's Bay and all along our north shore. Perhaps you'll explore the dunes at Pomquet Beach, dig some clams at Bayfield or build a sandcastle at Cribbon's Beach. Stay and watch the sun set at Arisaig or build a bonfire at Malignant Cove. Who knows when the ghost ship will next appear?

If you have an adventurous spirit, you may be more inclined to hike the trail to the falls at Arisaig as these folks did back in the mid 1920s or early 1930s. The James River Falls are also a "must see" – but this venture is not for the faint of heart. The hike is quite challenging as you make your way down steep trails to the base of the falls but the effort is truly rewarding.

Beaver Mountain, Keppoch Mountain and Brown's Mountain all provide a network of roads and trails for hikers, runners, bikers and nature lovers of all ages. The scenery is breathtaking so, hopefully, you've packed your camera.

Lochaber Lake has always been a favourite destination for the Sunday driver. The view is spectacular and the atmosphere is both charming and peaceful. This drive will certainly prove to be a delight.



Don't forget to stop and enjoy your picnic lunch. Afterwards, stretch out in the shade of a great old hardwood tree and have a "cat nap" in the fresh outdoors. This photo dates back to somewhere between 1910 and 1920. The gentleman appears quite dashing in his summer suit and the ladies are, without a doubt, very fashionable in their summer whites but I'm sure that you can find something

slightly more comfortable for the drive. Today we cover up with sunscreen.

A sail out on the Antigonish Harbour or on Lochaber Lake could prove to be quite refreshing, don't you think? The water may be a tad choppy out in St. George's Bay or in the Northumberland Strait but sometimes the ocean is still too. This old photo, dated about 1915, proves that boating was quite a popular activity back then.



Kayaking and canoeing have become a common sport on the Antigonish Harbour. Why not set off and explore one of the many islands? Early settlers at Town Point believed

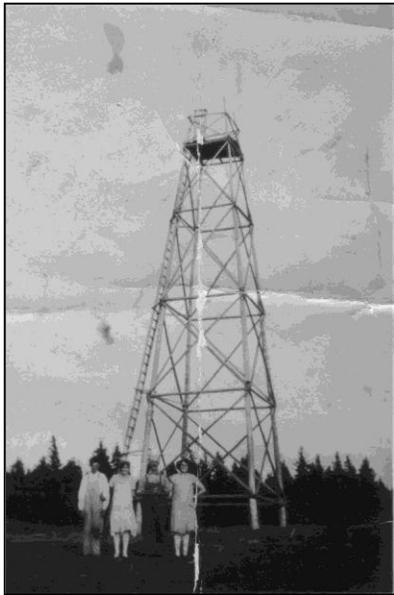
that an under-ground tunnel once ran from an old dilapidated Mi'kmaq chapel out to the shore. No one has ever been able to find it – but that doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. Keep your eyes wide open!



The county offers something for everyone. For those who enjoy the simple things in life, a trip down to the brook or the old fishing hole may be entirely satisfying. While our fishing tackle may be a bit more sophisticated than that shown in this 1920s or 1930s photo, I'm sure that these folks had just as much fun as the avid fisherman today. If my eyes don't deceive me, it looks as if they already have a start on supper.

The Sunday drive doesn't have to be an elaborate affair. Why not meet a few friends at a favourite location out in the countryside? This old photo was obviously treasured for its happy memories.





The Maryvale Wind Farm has been a big attraction this year. Folks from all parts of the town and county have taken a drive out to see Antigonish County's first windmills. In much the same way, folks drove out to Fraser's Grant to see the fire tower in the early 1930s. Hector Rogers was the fire ranger back then. He also served as Municipal Councillor for the area *and* he was the game warden. In this old photo, Hector is shown posing with his three children.

What a way to spend a summer afternoon! This snapshot of an outdoor dance at Lismore is dated June 30, 1899. Folks from the north shore communities of Antigonish would most likely have been in attendance. Dancing to the bagpipes was a favourite pastime back then. I suppose we could imagine one of the MacLeod pipers from Lismore playing the music. (Note the spruce boughs used to protect the dancers from the sun.) Was the occasion a picnic? Was it the last day of school? While we don't know for certain, I'm sure they had as much fun as our young people have at Evolve each year.



Not everyone wants to head out for a Sunday drive. A quiet afternoon, relaxing at the cottage, may be just what the doctor ordered. This photo, dating back to somewhere between 1910 or 1920, conjures up images of a lazy summer day spent with a good book or an old friend. An uninterrupted snooze in a hammock, listening to the wind in the trees, the birds calling back and forth, or the lap of the ocean against the shore, sounds wonderful too. Some Antigonish families summered at Jimtown back then. Other families rented homes at Arisaig and spent their summers at the shore.

Our grandparents and great grandparents certainly knew how to make the most of a summer day but, of course, this area had lots to offer – even back then. An old brochure dating back to 1936 portrays Antigonish as “a town noted for its beautiful setting, neighboring fishing waters and educational institutions, many scenic drives in the neighborhood and excellent sand beaches. The country around Antigonish will delight the lover of unspoiled nature.” Who could resist a visit or a tour after reading that?

Tourists and visitors, of course, require hospitality and accommodations. A 1948 tourist brochure, *Where to Stay in Nova Scotia*, advertised lodging of all types in and around the town and county of Antigonish. The Royal George had forty rooms to let, twenty-eight with running water and twelve “with bath”. Situated “one-half mile from golf course, 5 miles to sand beach, 5 miles to sport fishing”, rates were \$2.00 per day for a single accommodation and \$3.50 for double. Crystal Farm, at Antigonish Harbour, advertised ten bedrooms, bath, bathing beach and an interesting colony of cormorants on the property. Rates were \$4.50 and \$5.00 per day. The Lincoln Inn on Main Street charged fifty cents for breakfast and supper, seventy-five cents for dinner, \$2.00 for a single bed and \$3.00 for a double bed. The Cornish Arms Lodge on St. Ninian Street had seven rooms but only two with running water. Their rates were “\$1.25, \$1.50 single per night.” The Tara Hall on Hawthorne Street had eight bedrooms with “ample bathroom facilities; some with private toilet and basin.” The Hawthorne House served breakfast “if desired” and charged \$1.25 and \$1.50 per person. The Dingle Lodge and Cabins at South River had fourteen rooms in the lodge and fourteen cabins, “all hot water heated, hot and cold water, shower and flush toilets.” The Chestnut Lodge, on Chestnut Street, operated during the spring, summer and fall months only and charged \$1.50 for a single room overnight. Rates have gone up just a bit since then.

A few private homes promoted their services too. In fact, it wasn’t unusual for homes in the countryside to advertise accommodations and a bite to eat. Notes kept on file at the museum indicate that, back in the 1920s or 1930s, the folks who operated the Post Office at Malignant Cove also had a sign posted on their home inviting travelers to “Stop and Rest.” Meals and rooms were readily available. An added attraction was the local store across the road. Its owner, Willie Angus MacDonald, lived in the upstairs of the store. Willie Angus was a piper who was often seen playing and marching by the upstairs window of his dwelling. No doubt, he was a tourist attraction too.

A drive through the countryside quickly confirms that each little community in Antigonish County has its own appeal and each has something to offer the Sunday driver and visitor alike – but it’s the historical attractions, the folklore and the local “characters” that make each place colorful and unique. These are the stories that must be collected because these are the details that make our history interesting, entertaining and worth remembering.

Catherine MacGillivray



Looking to Find

The Antigonish Heritage Museum is looking to inherit an antique radio as part of a permanent exhibit. This donation does not have to be in working order. Kindly call Mary Ann MacDonald at the museum.

Recent Acquisitions



Chris Bulmer from Billerica, Massachusetts, brought in some old photos of the MacKenzies of Malignant Cove. Duncan Hugh MacKenzie was born in 1877, the son of Donald and Mary. Here Duncan poses in his Highland regalia with his *Cuilean* at his feet.

- **Ronnie Dunn** donated a copy of the 1916 *Board of Trade* magazine.
- **Bill Chisholm** brought in a copy of the Farmer's Mutual anniversary book, *A Company to Call your Own*.
- **Russel Levangie** donated a copy of a photo of the home of Montana Slim, Wilf Carter.
- **Bob Rowland**, Victoria, B. C., came in with copies of documents (including wills, deeds, letters, receipts) from the Hector MacDonald family at Antigonish Harbour.

Genealogy

- Janice DeYoung-Laureijs, of Pictou County, is looking for information on her great grandfather, Joseph DeYoung, from Pomquet. A son of Dennis DeYoung and Marie Vigneau, he was first married to Harriet LeVangie and later to Annie DeYoung. In 1881, he built a house at Frankville. Joseph seems to have travelled back and forth between Boston and Antigonish County, no doubt for work. Anyone with any information or old photos is asked to contact the museum.
- James Walter (Wally) and Cheryl Duggan of Kimberly, B. C., visited the museum this month. Wally was born in Upper South River but his family moved out west when he was just three months old. The Duggans were delighted to find lots of information and, with the help of the museum staff, they managed to trace the family tree back to 1730 *and* find the original family home. If anyone has any information for Wally and Cheryl, please contact the museum.

The East End Garage

An old advertisement in *The Casket* indicates the presence of a garage down at the East End in 1935. The operator of this establishment was Colin H. MacLean. In September of that year, the East End Garage was expecting "half a carload of International Trucks to arrive soon." Trucks would be priced from \$1200 to \$1400. At the same time, there was a used International truck on the lot for \$150. Can anyone tell us more about the East End Garage?