



# The Old Train Station News

Newsletter # 95

Winter 2017

Scrapbooks have formed part of our collection here at the Antigonish Heritage Museum from the very beginning. Each is as individual as its creator. Some feature a lifetime of entries, some follow an event or a defined period in one's life. For 100s of years the scrapbook has been a means of collecting and preserving personal mementoes, clippings, photos, flowers and more. Always popular are entries on the Royal Family, sports figures and movie stars. This month we will share excerpts for your perusal.



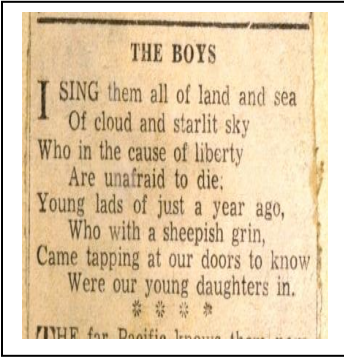
Florence Sweet (inset) was known for her hospitality at Bayberry Inn, located in Morrystown; and earlier at Crystal Farm. Photos taken from the one of a series of albums compiled by Dellie Sweet, Florence's sister in law. Churchill, Chambers cartoons, and Casket articles fill her scrapbooks!

Family snaps, stamps and memorable quotes are throughout the many pages. In this photo we see Dellie's nephew Cedric Griffin on a favourite rocking horse!

Cedric b. 1914 was the only child of Rob Roy Griffin and wife Winnifred Sweet. The Senior Griffin was a former barrister and served as Mayor of Antigonish. Cedric went on to study medicine and was for many years a general practitioner here in the Town.



More often it was the women who compiled scrapbooks. In this instance, Lydia McKenna (1923-2005) of Brierly Brook maintained one throughout her life. It focused quite prominently on the World War 2 years, when brothers Lyndon, Arthur and Francis served overseas. Includes lots of life events—weddings, obituaries and more. An interesting article appeared on one page telling a story of Lydia's Uncle Joseph.



## Telegraphist—Composer

Besides tapping out millions of words as an operator of the Canadian National Telegraphs, Joseph L. McKenna, member of the Montreal staff, has given the world a new song, "Unite! Canada, Unite!". In the two verses and chorus of the song, Canadians are made aware of the craftiness of the common enemy and are urged to unite. The work has already brought the composer national recognition, having on two occasions been included in two coast-to-coast broadcasts over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's national network. Captain J. J. Gagnier and Squadron-Leader N. M. Gilchrist, bandmasters respectively of His Majesty's Canadian Grenadier Guards and of the Royal Canadian Air Force have both manifested interest in the work to the point of having it included on their band's programme.

Mr. McKenna was born in Antigonish, N.S., and started railroading in 1899, working in the dispatcher's office at Sydney, N.S. In 1909 he went to western Canada where, until 1912 he was employed as a telegraph operator with the former Grand Trunk Pacific in Winnipeg and with the Canadian Northern Railway in Edmonton. He then retired from the railway field, coming east to go in for impressario work. He brought to Montreal the world famous violinists, Ysaye and Fritz Kreisler and later took to the vaudeville stage in Montreal as a violin-



J. L. McKenna

ist. He had studied the playing of this instrument for many years under Canada's best teachers, finishing with five years' study in New York in violin, musical theory, harmony and composition.

In 1915, he returned to the telegraph key, entering the employ of various Montreal stockbroking houses, remaining there until 1939, when he joined the Canadian National Telegraphs as operator.

# HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF ANTIGONISH

## UPCOMING AT THE MUSEUM:

### IRISH CEILIDH THURSDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 7:00PM

Sing-a-long to celebrate all things Irish! Mary Beth Carty, vocals, accordion and guitar. As well performing will be Richard Maclsaac, Guitar and Vocals. Admission \$8.00

### GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLE MONDAY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> 7:00PM

Local researchers will discuss what has worked for them in discovering roots! We all capture information in a different way—internet, interview, publications, family papers. Here is an opportunity to learn, to question and to see what might work for you. Doug MacLellan, Fraser Dunn and other seasoned genealogists will contribute.

### APRIL 2017 - CAPE D'OR / PARRSBORO SETTLEMENT WITH CHRIS ROBBINS

Details to follow

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Newsletters 1986 – 2007 “Privileged Years” donated by Donald Barry

Photograph – Morrison School Hockey donated by Chris Chisholm

Photographs—Various donated by Betty Cameron

## NEW MEMBERS

Frank MacInnis, Creignish

## PATRONS PROGRAM

Robert & Andrea Lynch, Beaverton, Oregon

Gold

Lois Wells, MA

Silver

## WILLIAMS POINT MEMORIAL PARK

Trudy & Ian Gillis, Didsbury, AB

Jeremy Gilfoy, Winnipegosis, MB

Ronald Williams, Sydney, NS

Joadie Jurgova, Williams Point



*Cassie and Maggie*

*Album Release*

*Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm*

*St James United Church, Main St.*

*18.00 Advance; 20.00 Door*