

The Heritage Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society and is circulated to its members and volunteers as well as other interested members of our community. We provide this complimentary newsletter with pride to promote the history, heritage and culture of Dartmouth.



The Dartmouth Heritage Museum currently resides in “Evergreen” House on Newcastle Street which is open to the public year-round. We welcome your input, suggestions as well as your time! If you wish to become a volunteer or for more information, please see the back of this newsletter for contact information.

Spring

OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

2006



Spaghetti sauce bubbling in a pot rich with meatballs, noodles slowly sliding in unison down boiling pots, delicious smells of garlic bread promising a crispy rendezvous, and a cheery greeting were some of the textures that met diners at our Spaghetti Supper!

The supper was initiated by the Dartmouth Lion’s Club (warmly appreciated!), and run together with Museum staff and volunteers.

Thank-you to all for making this event fun and delicious!



Dartmouth Lion’s Club members hard at work serving up ...

....and some of the supporters of this event!





Donation Box

Jean Wagener
 Theo Mitchell
 Cabot Shipping Supplies
 Wendy Lill
 Isobel Paterson
 John Osborne

& all the wonderful people
 who have enjoyed their visit
 to Evergreen

Volunteer Committee

The Volunteer Committee wish to recognize special volunteers! You can help...

Have you made a visit to "Evergreen" and received a great tour from one of our fantastic team members? Perhaps you have called the museum and spoken with an informative and friendly volunteer. Well, here is your chance to show that you appreciate their hard work! We are now accepting nominations for a "Special Recognition Award" from visitors, members of our community, and even other volunteers. Simply mail or drop off your nomination to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, Volunteer Committee at the address at the end of this newsletter or e-mail to dhmuseum@ednet.ns.ca. The deadline for acceptance of nominations is May 9, 2006.

School/Youth Programs

(please book in advance)

Tickle Trunk - Children are invited to choose an item from the old steamer trunk and discover, with their classmates, what it was used for.

Living Folklore at Evergreen House - A guided tour of Evergreen, with a focus on Helen Creighton. It includes an interactive session on the role of folklore in contemporary life.

Historic House Tours - Students enjoy an interactive guided tour of Quaker House or Evergreen House.

Message from the Chair...

It is with great regret that I must announce the resignation of Anita Price as Curator and Manager of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. Anita has been with the Museum for more than 15 years, and her dedication, professionalism, curatorial expertise, and good humour have seen the Museum through many upheavals - leading to growth and change. Anita has accepted a position with Parks Canada and will be working in Burnside. While I am very sad to see her go, I wish Anita all the best with this exciting new professional challenge and I look forward to seeing her often at Museum events. Congratulations and good luck, Anita!

While the DHMS Board look for new staff to replace Anita, Lisa O'Neill is stepping forward to take on some of Anita's responsibilities during the transition period. As well, Matthew Hughson will return for the spring and summer as senior guide and programme assistant. The Museum is very fortunate to be able to rely - even more than usual - on these talented and dedicated staff members during the transition period.

Sheila A. Strong
 Chair, Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

What Is It? (can you guess?)



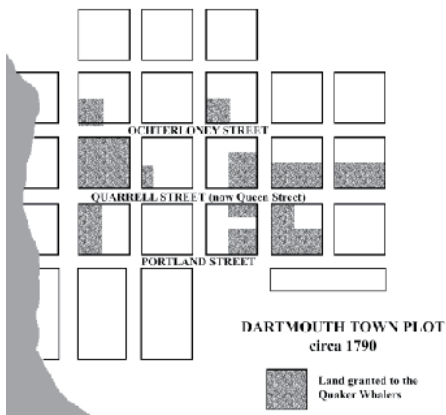
answer on the back page

Quaker House

As we get ready to open Quaker House for the summer season, what better time to share the rich past of one of the oldest buildings in the Municipality!



In 1785, the Nantucket Quaker Whalers, seeking to escape the British tariffs imposed on the newly independent United States, saw Halifax-Dartmouth as the



best-suited port for the whale fishery. The first immigration of families arrived in Dartmouth, lead by Samuel Starbuck (senior) and Timothy Folger. Assisted by the gov-

ernment, the newcomers were provided with land, and in some cases, houses built from prefabricated frames. One of these families was headed by William Ray (junior), Cooper, who married a Quaker (Elizabeth Coffin), but was not a Quaker himself. This was considered an undesirable marriage in the Quaker community, but, nonetheless, the family erected their house on what is now Ochterlonny Street.

The Quaker presence in Dartmouth was short-lived, however. The government of Great Britain, threatened by the lucrative whaling business in Nova Scotia, enticed most of the Quakers to leave their homes and move to Milford Haven in Wales. In fact, some surnames are still common between the two locations today.

William Ray's house is the last piece of Quaker architecture



in evidence today in our community. Over the years, the other buildings were demolished to allow for more modern construction. Because Quaker House was considered to be of great historical value, it was purchased in 1971 by the Dartmouth Museum Society and held in trust for the city of Dartmouth. In 1993, the house was turned over to the city for operation and care by the Dartmouth Heritage Museum.

Subjected to many additions and changes in its 200+ year history, several studies were conducted in an attempt to determine the original state of the building



and the resulting information became the basis for the 1990 restoration.

It is believed that the initial form of the house was designed as a single family dwelling. The house was one room deep and two and one-half stories high. Two rooms on each of the first and the second

floors were divided by a front entry and a steep winding staircase. In keeping with the Nantucket preference for closet space, it appears that closets were positioned behind the stairs on each floor, rather than the typical massive central chimney block one would anticipate with such a floor plan. Chimneys were instead placed on the north, or rear wall of the house, in each of the east and west rooms.

Forced to grow and develop with the changing requirements of its occupants, the house evolved from a one room deep, two and one-half story structure, to the larger form existing today. Alterations and additions would suggest that this change was not abrupt, but the result of a continuous evolutionary process.

We hope you come along and see this charming house, walk the passageways and visit the lovely herb garden.



Volunteer Spotlight

This volunteer spotlight is on Betty Pitt! She was born Margaret Elizabeth Lloyd Roberts in Wiltshire, England as the third of four children. She served in the W.R.N.S. (Wrens) during the Second World War, married in 1946 and moved to Canada with her new husband in 1948 (he was on loan from the Royal Navy to the Royal Canadian Navy at Shearwater). They fell in love with the community and decided to permanently transfer to Canada. Betty worked as an HR assistant in the Coast Guard until she retired in 1989. Betty has 4 children and 6 grandchildren, and delights in visiting them from one coast to the other!



*Betty Pitt,
W.R.N.S.
June 1945*

Betty enjoyed taking her children to the Museum frequently as they grew up. As a result, during a time



Betty Pitt with her daughters Vicky, Kate, Evelyne (back), and Margaret (front)

when the museum's future was uncertain, she made a personal commitment to contribute her time as a volunteer. After witnessing the demolition of many

local historic buildings, she realized that newcomers would have no knowledge of the history of their community and thought this a shame.

Betty, you are a role model for us all!

Further Information

Dartmouth Heritage Museum
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Fax: (902) 464-8210
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UPCOMING EXHIBITS



Do you need space to hold a meeting or workshop?
Consider renting our basement room at Evergreen House for your next event.
Contact 464-2300



Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10 - 5
Saturday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5
Summer hours also include
Sunday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5

“What Is It” - Sugar nippers, used to cut sugar from the hard, cone-shaped, “sugar loaf”