



Scott Manor News

December 2020

President's Message

Greetings to all of you,

As we enter the final weeks of 2020, it is time to reflect back on what a very different year this has been for all of us. Not only have we all been personally dealing with COVID-19, but throughout this year, we have experienced the loss of our dear colleagues – Cherie (Tolson) Winters and Warren Ervine. Although the Fort Sackville Foundation continued to operate since March's shutdown, we have not had the opportunity to meet together at the Scott Manor House nor provide our summer program that brought visitors into the Scott Manor House. However, we did manage by using Zoom for our meetings and voting by email to continue the work of the Foundation. Our reopening plans were short-lived but we are in a better place when it is once again time to reopen the house to our volunteers and the public.

As we do think about reopening, I believe it is time to focus on what we can do to revitalize and ensure the ongoing success of the Fort Sackville Foundation. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented volunteers. However, if nothing else, this year has taught us that things change and they can change very quickly. The Fort Sackville Foundation needs more members and volunteers to allow the Fort Sackville Foundation to thrive. At a recent meeting of the Executive committee, I brought forward the importance of planning for the future! This planning is two pronged — strategic planning and succession planning.

Strategic planning is a key role for the Board of Directors. With input from our members and greater community, we need to envision our future. The Fort Sackville Foundation's mission is

"To collect, protect, preserve and promote the history and cultural heritage of Bedford." We need to determine what this will look like in 3-5 years. We need to know how the community views us, what the community would like to see and then we need to plan on how we will achieve our plan so we continue to be a vibrant organization responding to the future needs of our community. We only need to reflect on how our working through COVID has changed the way we work, communicate and learn to realize that we need to develop a plan to keep our organization relevant and accessible to those who may not be able to visit personally.

Succession planning is vital to a thriving organization. Planning for the future requires us to bring new members and volunteers into our organization. Not only, those individuals who have the time, interest and skills to help us achieve our plans; but also, those who are willing to serve in leadership positions. We have some vacant positions. We are currently working on developing job descriptions for the various roles in the organization, so our membership can determine where they might want to volunteer. I am hoping that you will look for opportunities to use your skill set and that you will reach out to others in the community to join our organization and help maintain the great work already achieved and being done by our volunteers.

Thank you to each of you for your ongoing support of the Fort Sackville Foundation and I hope that you will stay connected with us!

Stay safe and healthy,

Judy White

President, Fort Sackville Foundation

A Little Bit of History

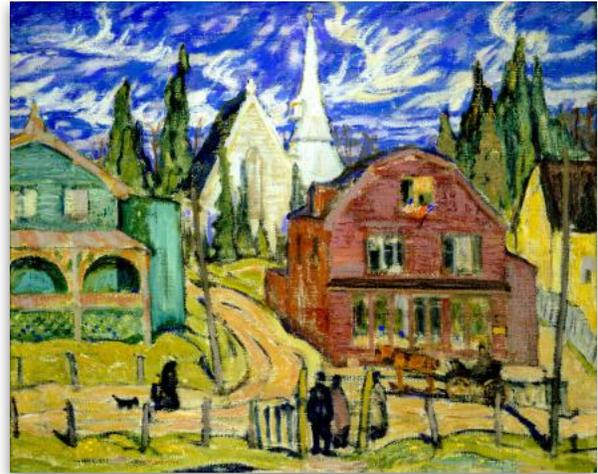
Try these quiz questions at your next virtual holiday gathering (answers on page 5):

1. What Bedford service club has a milestone birthday in 2021? Bonus point if you know how many candles will be on the cake.
2. Who was the first Nova Scotian to manufacture and distribute potato chips? Bonus point if you know the name of this Bedford entrepreneur's canteen.
3. What year did Basinview Drive Community School open?
4. What year did the first Bedford Light Up Parade take place?
5. What street in Bedford was named for Bedford developer George Lister's birthplace in England?
6. What famous Irish poet rode through Bedford by train in 1882?
7. How much did it cost to rent a room at Riverside Cottages in 1958?
8. What building in Bedford has served as an inn, tearoom, art gallery, antique shop, warehouse, apartment building, bicycle store, music education facility, and archeology consultancy office? Bonus point if you know whose 1800 will mentions this structure. Another bonus point if you know one other name from the 1800s for this building.
9. What created Moirs Mill Pond? Bonus point if you know what year.
10. What caused the fire that burned the Fort Sackville barracks in 1912? Bonus point if you know where the source was located.

Thank You Volunteers and Funders!

The work of the Fort Sackville Foundation volunteers is appreciated and was rewarded in 2020 by an HRM contribution of \$6000 to our operating budget. On August 19, Peter Greechan, Grants and Contributions, HRM, emailed: *"Please extend my sincere thanks to all the Volunteers that dedicate their time to the Foundation and consequently make our communities great places to live, visit and of course learn!"* The Foundation sincerely thanks HRM for all its support, and the Canadian Department of Heritage for a \$5000 grant for assistance during COVID-19.

GROUP OF SEVEN ART: BEDFORD & BEYOND



A.Y. Jackson - A Nova Scotia Village (1919), Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, © Estate of A.Y. Jackson / SOCAN (2019)

Here's something to look forward to: *Group of Seven Art – Bedford and Beyond*, an exhibit curated by FSF volunteer Terry Gordon.

We started 2020 anticipating, with great excitement, this Scott Manor House exhibit organized to honour the centenary of this iconic school of Canadian landscape painters and their connection to our community and province. Terry was able to secure reproduction permissions and licensing agreements from 14 museums and galleries in Canada and the UK for over 40 artworks by the five group members who painted in Nova Scotia, enough for two separate shows. Terry and other volunteers on the art committee, Valerie Ivy, Kathy Bevan and Pat Leader, were finishing preparations for the June opening just as the lock-down was announced in March. The pause button was pressed, but if pandemic conditions permit, the show will be the centrepiece of our 2021 summer program. We thank Terry for leading and persevering with this project. We can't wait to absorb this visual feast and hear all the fascinating stories Terry has amassed while curating this unique exhibit.

Can you name the five Group of Seven artists who painted in Nova Scotia? Answer on page 5.

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In Memoriam — Warren Ervine

On October 12, 2020, the Fort Sackville Foundation lost a devoted, long serving and distinguished volunteer, archivist Warren Ervine who passed away from cancer at the age of 86.

Warren was an accomplished person in many areas of volunteer work, giving his time and energy to an extensive array of professional and community organizations. Warren held the volunteer position of Fort Sackville Foundation Archivist for 11 years, beginning in 2009. As archivist, Warren applied his vast knowledge and research skills to determine if items offered by potential donors were to be accepted (accessioned) into the Foundation's collections housed at Scott Manor House. Since 2010, he helped guide the Foundation as a committed member of the Board of Directors.

At the time of his passing, Warren and his team of archives volunteers were working on the Fort Sackville Foundation collection of over 200 maps, ensuring they were properly cared for, documented and catalogued so public access to this resource can be improved. He had several areas of interest in his work at the Foundation, including researching the history of the Charybdis, Canada's first warship, (significant to Scott Manor House because the original acorn-topped gateposts were made from wood from the Charybdis given c. 1883 to property owner Ret. Fleet Surgeon John Ternan). Warren also worked on the history of the I.O.D.E in Bedford (the organization that began fundraising in 1919 to build Bedford's war memorial); the history of individuals buried in Bedford's All Saints Church cemetery; and a survey of all trees over four inches in diameter on the Manor property. The latter was in keeping with Warren's lifelong interest in the natural world.

Warren brought vitality and enthusiasm to all the Scott Manor House projects and events he was associated with. The public will recall him as the memorable and the dashing door man at the Scott Manor House Olde Fashioned Christmas event, who warmly welcomed visitors in his tailcoat and vintage top hat, truly making them feel special.

A fine and inspiring example of someone who stayed engaged in community until the end of life, Warren always had a spring in his step, a bright spark in his eyes, a warm voice, and an optimistic attitude — his tremendous enthusiasm was contagious. It is hard to imagine Monday mornings at Scott Manor and meetings without his dynamic presence and inspiring commitment. We will miss our colleague and friend. Among his many awards and honours, Warren was the Fort Sackville Foundation's Volunteer of the Year in 2016. In 2017, he was honoured as Halifax Volunteer of the Year, and further honoured as the representative Volunteer of the Year by the Province of Nova Scotia. The Foundation has posthumously nominated Warren for the Nova Scotia Council of Archives' Anna Hamilton Memorial Award, recognizing his enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer efforts to improve the Fort Sackville Foundation Archives.



Warren Ervine welcomes visitors to Scott Manor's Olde Fashioned Christmas, December 1, 2018.
Image credit: snapd Halifax, Facebook post

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2020 Summer Student Experience

“The Fort Sackville Foundation has always given back to the community by providing summer employment for students,” observed David Conley, FSF Board member. “Even with the Covid-19 pandemic and Scott Manor House closure, this past summer was no different,” he added, although the Foundation had to quickly adapt by reducing the number of positions and changing the work.

Anna Mack and Jenna Skibinsky were the two university students hired for this summer. David Conley provided supervision throughout the eight-week work experience, and commented, “Both students are to be commended for their efforts and for enabling the Fort Sackville Foundation to create a much more memorable visit to the Manor House for our patrons.” Explaining further he added, “Working from their homes, their primary purpose was to prepare profiles of select artifacts from the collection at Scott Manor House. Their efforts will provide guests to the site, with background information on a number of historical pieces, and further enhance their visitor experience in-person and on-line at [NovaMuse](#). A secondary activity involved the students organizing the Foundation’s extensive CD Collection and creating table of contents for each disc. This assignment will open up that Collection to our visitors and make the searching and reading of the Collection a much more user-friendly experience when completed.”

In reflecting on her Fort Sackville Foundation work experience, Jenna Skibinsky noted she learned a lot, particularly about Bedford. When asked about the most interesting objects she researched, Jenna wrote, “It would have to have been the coin collection, in particular, the one-cent Mayflower token that was specifically for Nova Scotia and is considered one of the most beautiful coins ever minted in North America.” She was struck by the interesting fact that Nova Scotia was creating its own coinage already without the approval of the British government. “I also enjoyed cataloguing the CD’s and getting to listen to interviews with people who have lived their whole lives in Bedford as they shared their memories. Listening to first-hand experiences of

the log drives and their time spent in local schools helped provide human context to the objects as I was researching them.”

Anna Mack also worked on researching the history behind the many artifacts found within the Scott Manor House, and she was looking forward to applying the new research skills she acquired when she returned to her studies in the fall. She reported she “loved the unique story each artifact had to offer.” Anna also learned much in the process of compiling, for future program purposes, fun and interesting trivia questions surrounding the history of Bedford. As a lifelong Bedfordite, Anna remarked she also loved discovering new and exciting things about her hometown, reading all about the original families of Bedford, and learning more about the history and development of her own neighbourhood and the Scott Manor House. The opportunity to work for the FSF was “a wonderful experience,” according to Anna and she looks forward to seeing what exciting programs are taking place at the Manor House next year.

The FSF thanks Jenna and Anna for all their work and enthusiasm this summer, and we wish them well as they continue their post-secondary studies. Thanks go to all who worked behind the scenes to ensure we could successfully employ students in 2020 and further the work of the Foundation: Judy White, Carolyn Harvie, Lynn Loder, David Conley, Annaka Merrick, Elaine Loney, Ann MacVicar, Ken Dodsworth and Jean MacLeod. The FSF is grateful for the support of the federal Canada Summer Jobs program, that this year, fully funded our 2020 summer student positions.

Sandy Lake - Sackville River Regional Park Coalition

In October, the Fort Sackville Foundation sent a letter of support endorsing the Sandy Lake-Sackville River Regional Park Coalition’s submission to the HRM RP+10 Review. The Coalition is calling for expansion of the boundaries of Sandy Lake Regional Park to encompass the Sandy Lake-Sackville River watershed. (<https://www.sandylakecoalition.ca/rpsubmission>)

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A Little Bit of History Quiz Answers: 1. Bedford Lions Club formed in 1946, making it 75 years old in 2021. 2. Salter Innes opened Sunnyside in 1930. 3. 1995 4. 1998 5. Camden Street 6. Oscar Wilde 7. \$6.00 8. Ten Mile House was built by Joseph Scott (who also built Scott Manor House) and is mentioned in his will. Also known as Blois' Inn (c. mid-1800's), and Church House (when mapmaker Ambrose Church lived there in the late 1800s). 9. Construction of the railway causeway in 1855 closed the mouth of Winter (Mill) Cove. 10. It is believed that sparks from the Roy House fire on the Lower Road (today's Shore Drive) ignited the barracks.

Reopening in the Pandemic

Scott Manor House partially reopened in late October, after HRM approved our reopening plan. The Monday morning volunteers from the Reading, Research and Resources and Archives



teams resumed their work on Nov. 2 in assigned workspaces. Public access was by appointment only. Mandatory masks, physical distancing, traffic flow, room capacities and other COVID-19 measures were in place. Scott Manor House closed

again when additional public health restrictions were announced on November 24. We'll reopen when conditions allow.

Scott Manor Improvements

When you visit next time, you'll notice a few improvements. The North Program Room has a fresh coat of paint in preparation for the Group of Seven exhibit and improved LCD projector connectivity. There are new back doors and a new dehumidifier in the cellar. Our thanks go to electrician Mike MacKenzie for working on the LCD wiring, and to Garry White and Pat Branton, our House and Grounds Coordinators, for their caring attention to Scott Manor in all seasons!



Image: Zoom meeting screen shot, President Judy White chats with Vice-President Elaine Loney.

We miss seeing our volunteers and visitors in person, but Zoom lets us continue to safely meet and work. We're getting the hang of online meetings — and are even having a few laughs!

Volunteers Needed

There's lots to do! We are all volunteers except our summer student employees. Some of our volunteer opportunities: nominating committee chair and members, house coordinator, archivist, program committee coordinator, communications team members, and tea room coordinator. If you are interested in these volunteer positions or sharing your skills in other ways, let us know! Email: scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca. Please include your phone number so we can discuss your interests further. Volunteers check our email intermittently, and it may take a bit of time to respond—thanks for your patience!

Group of Seven Question answer:

Lismer, Jackson, Harris, Varley and MacDonald

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Season's Greetings

to all of you, from all of us at
Scott Manor House



*Memories of an Olde Fashioned Christmas Past, 2018,
Presented by Curator Francene Cosman and a fantastic team of volunteers.
Image credits: Robert Loney*

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