

BEDFORD - PAST AND PRESENT



SCOTT MANOR HOUSE
FORT SACKVILLE FOUNDATION

Our season has just started and we have lots to report already. The Georgian Social was another great success. The weather was perfect - Mayor Savage opened the afternoon with help from Lena Diab, Kelly Regan and Tim Outhit.

The stirring pipes and drums of the Clan Farquharson and the entertaining Lakeview Jam Band provided great accompaniment and the cool lemonade and crunchy oatcakes were enjoyed by all. Steve C. and Carolyn H. demonstrated their Quoits tossing skills. A crew of 5 volunteers from RBC pitched in to make sure all were served and Kathie B. kept the kitchen well organized. Students, Kayla and Jenna passed out brochures and lapel pins. Sobey's provided \$150.00 for the purchase of lemonade and supplies and I believe there was some left over for use in the tea room. Thank you to all the wonderful bakers for keeping the freezer well stocked.

We had an impromptu contest and from the names of the bakers that were provided we drew Margaret E., Nancy O. and Donna C. Prizes will be delivered soon. As well as providing volunteers for the day, RBC has also promised another \$1,500.00 for the purchase of items for the house. Thank you to Graham L. for putting together a wish list. And thank you again to our sponsors - Sobey's and RBC and the Bedford Days committee.

Francene has been busy putting together the 250th anniversary celebration display and has received a lot of attention already, especially from the CTV crew that came out and interviewed her.

Sandi C. has not only been busy putting together a wonderful summer program but she has also offered to help with communications as Clair R. is moving to Ontario. Even though the students will be helping out, this is quite an extra work load for Sandi so we are desperately seeking a new communications person. Do you know anyone who is tech savvy enough and can volunteer to help us out? We need to keep the public informed about all the wonderful activities that Sandi has put together and also that the tea room is open for business. We thank Clair for all her hard work and wish her the best on her new adventure.

Hope to see you all at an event soon!

Debbie Miller, President

READING, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH GROUP

Just a reminder that this group will reconvene their meetings beginning in the fall on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 9:30 am—11:30 am. Holidays may impact our meeting dates so check with us before you come. If you are interested in Bedford history, this is the group for you. Come check us out, have a chat and maybe enjoy treats at the end of the morning.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: JEAN MACLEOD

1) Why did you decide to volunteer at Scott Manor House/ Fort Sackville Foundation and how long have you been volunteering?

History and geography were always subjects I enjoyed in school. When I became a resident of Bedford in 1977, I became interested in the history of Bedford so I bought a copy of Elsie Tolson's book *The Captain, Colonel and Me* (Bedford, N.S., since 1503) soon after it was published in 1979. That book was my first exposure to Bedford history, but I also remember attending evening dinner/speaker's events that the Fort Sackville Foundation held. I believe that the biggest factor in becoming a volunteer with the Foundation was when our daughter, Janet MacLeod, was hired to work as a summer student at Scott Manor House in 2004 and 2005. Her enthusiasm for the Manor and local history helped build my connection to Scott Manor House.

2) What types of things have you done as a volunteer with SMH/FSF?

When I retired from full time employment in 2009, I began volunteering with the bi-weekly Monday morning history group. I became Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation in 2014, and one year later I became Chair. I served as Chair from 2015 to 2019. The duties of the Chair were numerous. There are four activities, during my time in leadership, that I would particularly like to note. We did hold evening public general meetings regularly with speakers covering a variety of topics related to Bedford history. It was a great way to connect with our members and our community. I represented the Foundation at Central Regional Heritage meetings and attended three Association of Nova Scotia Museum's (ANSM) workshops. As well, in 2018 a new ten-year lease was signed with HRM allowing for the Foundation's continued use of Scott Manor House.

After my tenure as Chair, I continued to serve on the Board of Directors until 2023. I worked collaboratively with other volunteers on several governance documents and manuals. Also, we explored the possibility of taking part in ANSM's museum evaluation program. Some of my other volunteer activities were participating in the Scott Manor House summer program, supervising the summer student staff, serving in the tea room and supporting projects (such as Bedford Then and Now), which were led by other volunteers.

3) What are the best things about volunteering with FSF/SMS?

I enjoy volunteering with the Fort Sackville Foundation at Scott Manor House as you are working with a community of people, who are committed to both maintaining Scott Manor House and preserving the history of Bedford. It is a time to learn and share, usually with lots of laughs. Volunteering is also a way to honour the work of Bedford's 'history keepers' from previous generations.

Thank you Jean - we appreciate all you have done for us!



REFLECTING ON THE SCOTT MANOR HOUSE 250TH BIRTHDAY EXHIBIT

June and July visitors were guided by our summer student staff around a special exhibit in the North Room marking Scott Manor's 250th year history. Thanks to volunteer curator Francene Cosman who started planning months prior, the community had an opportunity to look back on four different eras in this remarkable heritage property's existence. Francene and her team of volunteers dipped into archival storage boxes, lugged furniture and paintings through the house, and assembled an array of clothing and artefacts that charmed visitors and attracted CTV media coverage.

The colourful clothing on display simply pulled people into the exhibit room. Many visitors were fascinated not only by the re-creation of late 1770s style finery, but also by the Victorian bridal gown (Images: R. Loney). This delicate dress was effectively displayed on a recently acquired mannequin that accommodated the garment's small size, allowing a better appreciation of the bride's diminutive stature, incredibly small waist and the gown's simple elegance. The wedding dress was also a personal favourite of two of our summer staff, Renee and Jenna. According to Jenna, third graders on a school tour were also interested in the clothing, and some were impressed when they saw an authentic beaver pelt top hat. Clothing worn by members of the Tolson family drew attention to the display items highlighting the crucial role Elsie and Richard Tolson played in saving Scott Manor in the late 1940s and Elsie's work documenting Bedford's history. Several visitors recalled the 1980 Incorporation of the Town of Bedford and were drawn to take a closer look at the Mayor's Chain of Office, worn by Bedford's four mayors before amalgamation and lent to the exhibit by Halifax Archives. Summer staff member Kayla was intrigued by the colourful cloak Stewart MacMillan wore in his ceremonial role as Bedford's Town Crier, when he enlivened public events with the ancient tradition of bell ringing and verbally announcing important messages and proclamations.



Thanks are extended to the curator and other volunteers who contributed time and energy to create exhibits, our summer student staff who give personal tours of the house and its displays all summer, the program committee for bringing us an exciting schedule of workshops and events, and the

tearoom volunteers who always add joy to our visits.

Submitted by Elaine Loney

SUMMER PROGRAMS

There are still lots of exciting things to do at Scott Manor House this summer.

All summer

- June 24 - August 29 Scott Manor House is open to the public, daily hours – 11 am to 4 pm
- July 1 - August 29 Tea Room open daily from 2:00 pm - 4:00 p.m.
- July 1 - August 26 Yoga with Maureen - every Monday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (no class July 22nd)

August 2024

- August 1 2nd Chance Band: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm (rain date August 8)
- August 2 Guided Trail Walk on the Mill Pond Trail: 2:00 pm (rain date August 3)
- August 2 2D Painting with Wool Workshop: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (SOLD OUT)
- August 2 2D Painting with Wood Workshop: 10:00 am - 12 pm
(THIS IS A SECOND WORKSHOP)
- August 2 An Intimate Concert with Celtic Singer/Harpist, Adria Jackson:
7:00 p.m. (SOLD OUT)
- August 5 Crazy Chicken Painting Workshop (SOLD OUT)
- August 6 - 9 Rug Hooking demo and display: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
- August 7 Quoits Tournament: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- August 10 Card Making Workshop: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- August 11 - 17 Palettes & Pigments Plein Air Event
- August 12 Driftwood Tree Workshop: (SOLD OUT)
- August 14 Learn to Henna Workshop: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
- August 14 Lakeview Jam Band: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (rain date August 21)
- August 15 Traditional Aboriginal Beading Workshop: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm (SOLD OUT)
- August 15 2nd Chance Band: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm (rain date August 22)
- August 17 Palettes & Pigments Plein Air *Quick Draw* Event & Art Display:
8:30 am to 4 pm
- August 17 Paper Quilled Strawberry Earrings Workshop: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- August 18 - 23 Palettes and Pigments Plein Air Art Show and Sale: 11 am to 4 pm
- August 24 Cookie Decorating Workshop: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- August 26 Driftwood Tree Workshop: (SOLD OUT)

FUTURE WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS AT SCOTT MANOR HOUSE

Have you enjoyed coming to activities like the Christmas event and workshops at Scott Manor House ? We love putting them on for you however it takes many hands to make them successful. We are looking for volunteers willing to help create, plan and manage future events. If you are interested in making sure we can continue to offer events and workshops in addition to our museum activities, contact us at scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca.

2024 SUMMER STUDENTS

Some of you may already have been to visit the House this summer and met our summer students but just in case, here they are to tell you a bit about themselves.



Hi, My Name is Kayla Martin, and I am one of the summer students for the Scott Manor House. I am currently going into my 2nd year of University at Saint Mary's and am majoring in Anthropology and History. In my free time I play lacrosse for the Jr. A Wolves. My favourite artifact in the house is the tin fish from the fish hatchery that is displayed in the old kitchen.

I oversee communications at the Scott Manor House and will be posting all the fun events we are hosting this summer. I will also be doing tours, so say hi if you see me in my costume!

Hi! I'm Jenna Meggitt and I'm a student at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, where I am an archaeology major going into my fourth year. I love the unique heritage of our province and my role in sharing it. My favourite feature of Scott Manor House is the beehive oven. Aside from school, I usually read and bake for my roommates!



Hey there! My name is Renée Marshall and I'm 19 years old. I'm going into my third year of university studying both psychology and classics at Saint Mary's University. In my free time, I enjoy drawing, reading and playing the acoustic guitar! My favourite artifact in the Scott Manor House is the Victorian wedding dress.



THE STATION MASTER'S HOUSE: A GLIMPSE INTO BEDFORD'S PAST

Submitted by Jane De Luca

My husband and I are excited to be the new custodians of 6 First Avenue in Bedford, a residence affectionately known as the "Station Master's House." This charming property was home to William MacKenzie and his family from 1895 to 1931.

William MacKenzie began his career with the Intercolonial Railway in 1872 at the age of 17 in Red River, Pictou County. In 1884, he moved his family to Bedford to take up the role of Station Master, a position he held until his retirement in 1930. During his 57-year tenure, MacKenzie was renowned for his dedicated service and leadership during a period of rapid expansion. By the late 19th century, the station saw over 39 trains daily, transporting passengers, goods, and freight across Nova Scotia, Canada, and into the U.S. He was also instrumental in training future Station Masters, setting records at the Canadian National Railway, which absorbed the Intercolonial Railway in 1918. William and Jessie MacKenzie had five children: Janie, Luther, Ella (Dottie), Lina, and Alexander. Luther MacKenzie became a distinguished physician and professor at New York University, receiving numerous accolades and an honorary Doctorate in Laws. After retiring, he returned to Bedford and settled on Shore Drive. Lina MacKenzie served as Education Secretary for the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Order of Imperial Daughters of the Empire before her untimely death in her twenties. Information on the other children is limited.

The land on which the house stands was originally part of the George Lister Estate. Lister, a prominent landowner, subdivided the estate in 1856 to create Bedford's first residential subdivision along the Sackville River and Bedford Basin. The lot where the house is located was purchased by Robert Ward in 1856, who sold it to William MacKenzie in 1895. The origins of the house are somewhat unclear. Some accounts suggest it was built by Ward and operated

as a boarding house by the Poirier family in the 1870s and 1880s, while others propose that MacKenzie had it constructed for his family. We are currently investigating its history through architectural clues and local records. With the help of the Heritage Group of the Halifax Municipal Council, we are uncovering the house's role in Bedford's development and have





Sitting proud on First Avenue at the foothills of the Bedford Barrens, the house overlooks the Bedford Highway and is situated near the former Bedford Railway Station. The architecture reflects the Nova Scotia Scottish Vernacular style, popular from the 1830s to 1880s, characterised by neo-classical proportions, symmetry and practical simplicity. Key features include two double bay windows flanking the central front door, a steeply gabled roof, chimney stacks on the north and south exterior walls, and a large front balcony. The house rests on its original stone foundation, with handmade Shaw brick masonry around the coal hole door and basement windows. It is supported by two central hemlock beams and a timber frame, with the beams likely salvaged from a local barn. Inside, the house is organised around a central hallway on both floors, with several spacious rooms at the front and the remnants of a Victorian-style kitchen area at the rear, likely including a scullery, larder, and maid's room. A third chimney in the kitchen area suggests the use of a wood or coal stove. An old well is located outside in this area.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ann MacVicar and the Reading, Resources and Research Team of the [Fort Sackville Foundation](#). Their extensive archives and local monographs have been invaluable in helping us uncover the story of the MacKenzie family and their lives in early Bedford.

RAFFLE IN SUPORT OF SCOTT MANOR HOUSE

Original Watercolour painting by local artist Edward Wedler
8x10" framed to 12.75x16.75"



Tickets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 and are available at Scott Manor House.

You can view the painting in the Tea Room when the House is open.

The draw will be held on August 23rd.

THANK YOU!!

This year we are hosting a wide range of workshops and events at Scott Manor House. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the workshop providers, exhibitors, tickets buyers, cookie bakers, plein air painters, concert goers, musicians, museum visitors, tea room patrons and servers for making this summer a great success. Without the support of the community and dedicated volunteers, it would be impossible to offer all we do. On behalf of the Program Planning Committee and all at Scott Manor House.....THANK YOU!!

Sandi Corbin

PHOTO FLASHBACK: The Play's the Thing....



Many newcomers to our community may think the Bedford Players are the only actors that have trod the boards here. In fact, during the 1980s, two theatre groups were active: The Basin Players and All Saints Bedford Players. Eventually these groups combined to form the Bedford Players. Community theatre has been alive and well here in Bedford since at least the 1950s.

The cast in this production of "Aaron Slick from Pumpkin Crick" are a Youth Group from the Old United Church. The photo is undated but perhaps readers will remember some of the names and faces and let us know. From left to right – Jen Baker, Reg Short, Don Marks, Heather MacKinnon, Barbara Starratt, Barbara MacKinnon, and Peter Metherall.

DID YOU KNOW....

Founded in 1988, the initial goal of the Fort Sackville Foundation was to convince the Town of Bedford to purchase and preserve the Scott Manor House property which also included the site of the remains of Fort Sackville, a military outpost built in 1749 to protect Halifax. The Town of Bedford acquired the property in 1991. The Fort Sackville Foundation has leased the property since 1996, first from the Town of Bedford, and then from the post amalgamation owner, Halifax Regional Municipality. The Fort Sackville Foundation provides programming at Scott Manor House, managing it as a community museum and heritage resource centre that is open to the public seasonally and at other times by appointment. The Fort Sackville Foundation relies on community support, volunteers, memberships, grants and donations. Admission to Scott Manor House is free; donations are greatly appreciated

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON:

[The Scott Manor House website](#)

