

# BEDFORD - PAST AND PRESENT



I can't believe it is December already !!

We have had a wonderful season with our 250th anniversary display and many activities, lots of tea and cookies served and some pretty great weather too. OK, so the Scott Manor House Team didn't win the Quoits tournament but we would have buzzed in right away when on Jeopardy recently they asked "What is Quoits?" - Go figure...

We recently got ambitious and tried to put together a Christmas event but we ran out of time and volunteers so we have put this off until 2025. We did have a meeting for potential volunteers and had 3 lovely ladies show up. I hope they will come join us and find another opportunity to join our group. We DO need more volunteers. We have not been able to find a communication director since Claire had to move out of province this past summer and we have not had a vice chair since I took over as chair almost 2 years ago. I know we are not alone in finding people to join and take part in organizing activities as many volunteer associations are struggling. But Scott Manor is a very worthwhile project, an opportunity to help preserve the long and varied history of Bedford. This was and is an important community and we are proud to keep old memories alive and available to interested amateur historians and families looking to research their pasts. And to be relevant today with workshops and displays by our many talented artisans.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter where I can fill you in on all the details of our latest general meeting that will be happening on November 21. If anyone is interested in joining our group we would be very happy to discuss the many opportunities available within the Fort Sackville Foundation and Scott Manor House.

On behalf of the Executive of Scott Manor House and the Board of the Fort Sackville Foundation, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and a very Happy New Year. Talk soon!

Debbie Miller, Chair

## SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT

An organization like ours does not run itself. We are still looking for individuals to assist us in the following positions: Vice Chair, Program Chair, Communications Chair. If you have questions about the responsibilities involved in these roles, please let us know and we will be happy to meet with you to discuss them further.

You can also support the Fort Sackville Foundation by becoming a member. Memberships run from January to December. Dues are \$10.00 a year or \$100.00 life membership. A membership form is provided on the next page.



## SCOTT MANOR HOUSE

FORT SACKVILLE FOUNDATION

[www.scottmanor.ca](http://www.scottmanor.ca) (902) 832-2336

The Fort Sackville Foundation is a voluntary association and registered charity (No. 885410548RR0001) located at Scott Manor House, a Registered Provincial and Municipal Heritage property.

**MISSION:** to collect, protect, preserve and promote the history and cultural heritage of Bedford

**MANDATE:**

1. Collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts, archival material and intangible forms of heritage
2. Undertake research related to the people, places, organizations and events, and the built and natural environment of Bedford
3. Cultivate and promote greater understanding of the heritage of Bedford, by production of monographs, exhibits, public programs and other activities
4. Maintain and promote Scott Manor House and the Fort Sackville site
5. Advocate for heritage preservation

The Fort Sackville Foundation operates under a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee, holding regular public meetings. We depend on our members and other volunteers to accomplish our mission and mandate. Join us and help support our community heritage.

I'd like to become a member:  Annual Membership \$10.00     Life Membership \$100.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer for:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds/gardens   | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs, events     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tea Room  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Room         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research  | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives and acquisitions                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing practical skills (e.g. Carpentry, baking, etc.) _____ |   |

*Please return this form with payment to:*

Fort Sackville Foundation, 15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford, NS B4A 2G6

**VOLUNTEER PROFILE**  
**Sawyer McMahon**

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

Ever since childhood, I have adored museums and been very interested in history and cultural heritage. When I began the Library and Information Technology program at NSCC and was introduced to the different paths my career could take, my heart filled with joy to learn that archival technician was an option! In the spring of 2022, I heard that the Fort Sackville Foundation's Programming Committee was seeking volunteers, and I jumped at the chance. I had worked the previous summer as the Collections Assistant at the Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum and was so glad to be getting involved with another museum. September of that same year, I joined the Archives Committee, and have been happy to contribute to the preservation of Bedford's community history ever since.



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

As a member of the Archives Committee, I assist with archives and museum collection-related tasks, including inventorying and storage reorganization. I also contribute to the decision-making process regarding collection and archival matters, such as appraisals and acquisitions.

With the Programming Committee, I have assisted with the planning and setting up of various programs, such as concerts and exhibits. One such event was last year's Scott Manor Christmas, for which I had much fun helping decorate and selling raffle tickets and copies of Elsie Tolson's *The Captain, The Colonel, and Me* to visitors.

***What are the best things about volunteering with FSF/SMH?***

One fulfilling aspect of my volunteer work is getting to apply the collections management skills I've learned in my education. I've also gained valuable experience in many aspects of museum and archives work here at the Scott Manor and have learned a great deal from the knowledgeable volunteers within the organization.

What I cherish most about volunteering at SMH are the laughter, warmth, and strong sense of community found at every meeting and event. The Archives Committee meetings, in particular, are always a highlight of my week. In many ways, I consider the Scott Manor House to be my home away from home, and I'm so grateful for the mentorship and friendship I have received from my fellow volunteers

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Thank you Sawyer for your support. We can always depend on you to engage in whatever you are doing with a big smile and lots of enthusiasm!

## CASTING BACK -- FISH HATCHERY ARTEFACTS

In 1875 the federal government acquired land at the mouth of the Sackville River near the Tolson-Eastwood Woolen Mill and secured access to a fresh supply of river water from the mill's conveyance system for the Dominion Fish Hatchery. The hatchery supplied Atlantic salmon, speckled and brown trout to lakes and rivers in Halifax and Hants counties until 1961 when degradation of the Sackville River ended its operation. The hatchery was demolished in 1970, and its site was encompassed by Fish Hatchery Park which opened in 1978. A few of the Fish Hatchery's remaining objects are preserved at Scott Manor House.

The beautiful salmon weathervane that graced the Hatchery roof was donated in 2023 to Scott Manor's Fort Sackville Foundation by descendants of Dr. Luther and Mrs. Rena Mackenzie. Dr. MacKenzie (1880-1981), son of Bedford railway station master William Mackenzie and postmistress Jesse Mackenzie, became a noteworthy New



York physician who divided his time between NY and Bedford. He salvaged the weathervane when the hatchery was demolished and installed it on his boathouse at 117 Shore Drive. Made of tin, its shiny, glinting, weathered surfaces evokes the salmon's rugged vitality. We are grateful to the donor for ensuring this

significant artefact was returned to Bedford where it is on display in Scott Manor House's old kitchen.

Also in the old kitchen are a pair of tongs and a metal tray used in the fish incubation process. Lew Turner, who spent his entire 95-year life in Bedford before his passing in 2024, spent hours at the hatchery as a boy. He watched the process of capturing the once abundant Atlantic salmon, retrieving, fertilizing and incubating their eggs, and nurturing the salmon as they grew in troughs inside and outside the hatchery building. After mixing the eggs with male salmon milt, the eggs were rinsed and gently poured in the metal egg tray which was then submersed in cold moving water. Holes in the bottom of the tray made it easier to remove it from the water with minimal disturbance to the delicate eggs. The tongs, with a wire loop at the ends, were used to removed unfertilized eggs without disturbing incubating eggs. Lew Turner's *Fish Hatchery Park* monograph can be found in the reference section of the Bedford Public Library year round.



Submitted by Elaine Loney, Archives Group volunteer



## THE STORY OF BEDFORD'S LITTLE KNOWN ANGLICAN CHURCH (1869-1905)

When passing by 12 Perth Street, you would be hard pressed to recognize the first Church of England in Bedford, built in 1869. The former All Saints Anglican church has been our family home for over 20 years and despite a building of this age needing a lot of love, the charm of the original features had us the minute we walked through the door.

The story of the former church is an interesting one. In the early 1800's, settlement was sparse in Bedford and the nearest Anglican church was St. John the Evangelist in Sackville, over 10 km away. You can imagine what it would have been like, making your way by trail through snow drifts or spring mud for marriages, funerals and regular weekly services.

Thankfully in the 1860's, Mr. George Lister, who owned Scott Manor House and vast acreage, donated land for an Anglican church and graveyard at the corner of two footpaths, known as Wardour and Perth Streets. He also helped finance the building of the quaint wooden church that originally sat in the graveyard.



As the years went by, Bedford's congregation was growing and there was a strong need for the church to have its own rector and no longer share clergy services with Sackville, Hammonds Plains and Beaver Bank. As a result, the little church closed in 1905 and was replaced by the present day All Saints at 1408 Bedford Highway.

The old church sat vacant in the graveyard until it was sold in 1914 for \$50.00 and the money applied to the mortgage on the new church. It was then moved across the street on log rollers to its current location and modified into a residence.

Remarkably all these years later, several features remain that shed light on its historic past. The most intriguing is the mark of the 'broad arrow' found on numerous beams. These distinctive axe slashes identified trees in the 1700s and 1800s that were to be used for ship masts in the Royal Navy. Also, the original wooden tongue and groove ceilings and pine plank floors still exist in parts of the house. Impressively, the widest floorboard is 35.5 cm across.

And a few of the church's furnishings are still in existence and remind us of its history. One of the original pews is in the house - passed down owner to owner.

The church organ can be found on display in the parlour at Scott Manor and the credence table is at the current All Saints church. However, the most important "artifact" is the building itself, connecting us to Bedford's past, 155 years ago.

Special thanks to the Fort Sackville Foundation Reading Room, Research & Resources Committee; Dianne Nickerson & Fred French, All Saints Church; the Anglican Diocese and St. John's Sackville.

Submitted by Wendy Hayes-Walsh

## MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

### SANTA CLAUS VISITED POOR: HE MADE A PERSONAL CALL AT THE HOMES OF THE NEEDY AND BESTOWED MANY GIFTS

On Monday evening last a meeting of the male citizens of Bedford who make it their daily trip to Halifax was called at Creighton's hotel to consider the proposition of sending a message to Santa Claus, asking him to make a personal call at all the houses in Bedford on Christmas morning, if he were not too much exhausted from his labors of Christmas Eve. The meeting was largely attended and it was unanimously decided to forward the message. Committees were appointed of both ladies and gentlemen to assist Santa Claus. Dr. Morton, the popular town physician, placed his office at the disposal of the committee which had charge of the tying up of parcels and Mr. John Tolson placed his stable and a horse and wagon at their disposal. The buying committee were liberally sponsored with funds and when Christmas morning came everything was ready for Santa's arrival. He appeared in the village about 10 o'clock, accompanied by a coachman and an assistant, decked out in the orthodox familiar garb and reported that owing to the wet, mild weather, he had to leave his sleigh away up the road, and was very pleased to find Mr. Tolson's team ready.

His parcels filled one of Mr. Tolson's largest wagons, one for every child in the village from the Waverly Road to Millrun. At eleven o'clock everything was arranged and with a flourish of bugles and the jingle of many bells, Santa started on his rounds bringing joy wherever his rotund form and jolly, genial face appeared. Children with happy wondering faces placed little confiding hands in his, and lisped their heartfelt thanks. Older citizens, not blessed with an abundance of daily necessities, found him ready to supply their scanty larder, and blessed the happy thought. At homes where he had called the night before and left an abundance, he called again with some little things he had overlooked. At other homes, which he had missed, or at which he had left but little, he left more generous parcels, including gloves, mitts, stockings, boots and shoes, toys, candy and fruits. Neither did he forget where coin of the realm would be the best gift to leave that also.

Parcels for over one hundred and forty children were delivered, and it was not till nearly two o'clock that Santa and his assistants were able to take their well deserved rest.

Santa quietly disappeared, but it is said he was last seen going into the residence of Mr. H.G. DeWolf, his assistant went to Mr. H.F. Burton's and the coachman was looked after by Mr. "Pete" Pryor.

The whole affair was a grand success, and will be talked of for many years to come and never forgotten by many.

Except from The Evening Mail, Halifax, December 26, 1903



**MORE BEDFORD CHRISTMAS MEMORIES**



**XMAS DINNER**  
 —AT THE—  
**FLORENCE HOTEL.**  
 Xmas (Monday) Dinner—1904.

**SOUPS.**  
 Consomme a la Royale.  
 Puree of Tomato.

**FISH.**  
 Billed Fillets Cod, Cream Sauce.

**ENTREES.**  
 Lamb Cutlets aux Petits Pois,  
 Larded Fillets of Beef.

**JOINTS.**  
 Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce,  
 Prime Roast Ribs of Xmas, Beef, York-  
 shire Pudding, Roast Suckling Pig,  
 Apple Sauce, Boiled Ham.

**VEGETABLES.**  
 Mashed Potatoes, Boiled Potatoes,  
 Turnips, Green Peas.

**ENTREMENTS.**  
 Christmas Plum Pudding, Brandy  
 Sauce, Mince Pie, Apple Pie, Nuts  
 and Raisins, Cheese, Fruit, Crackers,  
 Tea, Coffee, Milk. 9597 h m 24

Will Young Christie  
 Be sure & hang  
 up your stockings  
 "Both of them" & I  
 will call on you  
 "if you are asleep"  
 & fill them with  
 candy & toys  
 Santa Clause

**Post CARD**

ELM  
 DEZ

Mr. George Christie  
 Bedford  
 J. H. Co.  
 N.S.

This side for the Address only.

**Christmas "Dos"**

**SHOP AT ONCE—NOW!**

Buy gifts only because you  
**WANT TO.**

Buy gifts only for those for  
 whom you care.

Buy conscientiously.

Buy conservatively.

Buy carefully.

Buy **APPROPRIATE**  
 gifts!



## TONY EDWARDS



Anthony "Tony" E. Edwards Age 76 of Bedford, passed away Thursday, October 24, 2024, at the QEII-VG. Born in Halifax, he was the son of George C. and Agatha P.C. Edwards. Tony had a keen interest in cars, during his years in High School he participated in their Car Model Club from 1965 to 1968; he was a member of the Atlantic Sports Car Club and produced Motorsport Atlantic on Halifax Cablevision. Tony was a past member of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires and held various positions such as security guard and CCTV Operator at the Cruise Ship Terminal. He is survived by his brother, Peter (Donna), Orleans, ON; two nephews, one niece and several grandnieces and grandnephews. There are several cousins in both the Maritimes and Ontario who were very dear to Tony. Tony is predeceased by his mother and father, Agatha P.C. and George C. Edwards and one other brother, Michael P. Edwards.

Tony was also an active participant in Bedford Heritage '80, a society devoted to the preservation and understanding of the Bedford community. He was also author of the book "Historic Bedford".  
Our condolences to the family.



**YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON:**

[The Scott Manor House website](#)

