

BEDFORD - PAST AND PRESENT



Well that was fast, it seems like we were just talking about Christmas and here it is already the beginning of February. We had an interesting general meeting on November 21st which was well attended, our first since January 2021! Tim Outhit gave a lively talk on his time as our area councillor with many questions answered and stories told.

But now it's back to reality and we have a busy summer coming up with activities and the tea room to look forward to. We still have many positions to fill, the summer activities need a program organizer, we need help with communications and getting social media posts made and we need a coordinator for the summer students. Elections are coming up with our Annual General Meeting in March but we could use these positions filled now. Are YOU interested? We have members that would be happy to mentor you and give you support so please email me at scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca with VOLUNTEER in the subject line and I'd be happy to chat with you.

On a brighter note, the house has weathered the winter so far very well and there may be some much needed improvements in store this year.

Debbie Miller, Chair

FORT SACKVILLE FOUNDATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 13, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Location: Scott Manor House

Please join us for a review of 2024 at our Annual General Meeting. Street parking is available on Perth Street and John Gorham Lane. Limited accessible parking is available outside Scott Manor House and both the manor house and event is wheelchair accessible. Please note that in order to vote at this meeting, you must be a member of the Fort Sackville Foundation.

SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT

Scott Manor House is many things to many people - an exciting and interesting local museum, home to a popular tea room, host to activities such as research groups and a space for programming that highlights local talent and artisans. However, an organization like ours can not run on its own. As our Chair noted above, we need your assistance to continue to offer these kinds of opportunities. If you are not able to volunteer yourself, please mention our opportunities to anyone you think might like to be involved. If you have questions about the responsibilities involved in these roles or volunteering in general, please let us know and we will be happy to meet with you to discuss them further. We are open to job sharing. Many hands make light work.

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 final page of this newsletter. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: FRANCENE COSMAN

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

My decision to volunteer at the Scott Manor was based on my love of history. History was my best subject in school, and it has always intrigued me. My family arrived in the late 1790's as immigrants. I researched and compiled our family tree. Adding my husband's family information, I discovered five great grandfathers back had built Fort Lawrence (near Amherst) to establish the English presence in opposition to the French. The English fort no longer stands, but the home built by family still exists and is known as Chapman House. Visiting it fueled my imagination, and it linked to Bedford's history and the Gorham rangers who were stationed in a stockade overlooking the mouth of the Sackville River.



History shapes and informs the present, and beyond that, contributes to the future. If dedicated volunteers had not come together to lobby and save the Scott Manor House, we likely would have another high rise building on the site and our history would be lost. Does that matter? Yes! With the burgeoning growth of communities, it would be a very dull environment if we had no cultural institutions to visit and inform us.

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

I have been volunteering for so many years at the Scott Manor House that I forget when I started. At first, I had a lot to learn about what the members were doing. They all knew more than I did and by a process of osmosis I learned the ropes and took on more fun jobs. My current role consists of being the volunteer curator. I refresh the rooms each year and curate exhibits so that visitors see something new. I have the fun of digging through boxes and coming up with ideas for displays. I enjoy creating concepts and then seeing them come to fruition. For example, last summer we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the house, a tad late of course, because the covid pandemic closed our doors for awhile. I created vignettes that focused on four specific periods of the evolution of the Manor, beginning with the founding period of 1770, then the Victorian era of rapid industrialization, followed by the Tolson family in residence, honouring the efforts of John and Elsie Tolson who saved the house from demolition when they purchased it in 1948, and lastly, a vignette about the Town of Bedford's incorporation in 1980.

Getting feedback from visitors keeps me enthusiastic about my role. I serve on the archive committee whose task is to examine artifacts for potential accession. We meet weekly throughout much of the year and follow a detailed process for the work. I also serve on a committee dealing with our large collection of artworks. We are making

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE CONTINUED

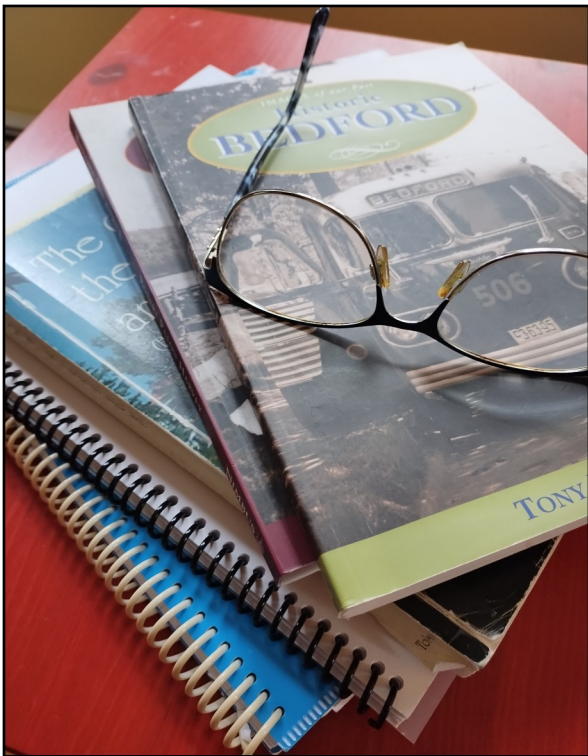
progress on improved storage, cataloguing the art and working with a grant from HRM to select certain pieces that need reframing with heritage materials. As a member of the Executive committee and the Board of Directors, I enjoy the decision making and the commitment of our volunteers to keep the Manor House a functioning vibrant local museum.

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

It is fun to be a volunteer. I learn new things. I meet wonderful people who share many of the same interests, and we are one big family doing important work about heritage.

Thank you for your service, Francene.

FROM THE STACKS OF THE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH LIBRARY AT SCOTT MANOR HOUSE



The Library at Scott Manor House holds a variety of material (books, obituaries, monographs, photos, family and subject files) related to the people, places and activities of Bedford and Nova Scotia. A list of the monographs we have in the library is located on our website <https://scottmanor.ca/fort-sackville-press/>

Winter visitors are welcome to come and view the materials during our regular Research Group meeting times. We meet the first and third Mondays from 9:30 to 12:00. Alternative viewing times may be arranged by contacting Scott Manor House.

Resource Highlight: **Life in Bedford in Four Distinct Years**

This monograph provides a snapshot of Bedford in four distinct years—1867 (Confederation), 1917 (50 years after Confederation), 1967 (Centennial year) and 2017 (Sesquicentennial year). Writers for this project included Francene Cosman, Brenton Haliburton, June Boswell and Terry Gordon.

This monograph is part of a larger project that featured two parallel histories –150 years of Bedford and 150 years of events and news in Canada. It includes the creation of additional provinces and territories, as well as inventions and events throughout the world that impacted life both in Canada as a whole and Bedford specifically.

HERITAGE HIVE: WE ARE NOT ALONE

Are you curious about what a heritage hive might be ? While the term "hive" often brings bees to mind, it also carries a deeper, human meaning: collective harmony and the power of collaboration.

Small local heritage organizations operate in diverse ways. Some focus on preserving physical structures, like [Scott Manor House](#) and [Fultz House](#), while others center their efforts on digital content and events, such as the [Hammonds Plains Historical Society](#) and the [Fairview Historical Society](#). Despite these differences, we all share a common mission: to gather, preserve, and share the stories of our heritage. Yet, as independent museums and societies, we often face similar challenges - such as finding volunteers, creating engaging programmes, and securing funding. At times, it can feel like we're tackling these struggles alone.

To address this, Scott Manor House will host a "Heritage Hive" on March 3rd. This gathering will bring together local heritage societies, small museums, and related organizations to explore our shared challenges and opportunities. Topics will include volunteer recruitment, programming, and fundraising, as well as exchanging best practices and success stories. By working together, we aim to inspire and support one another, demonstrating that collaboration and cooperation can strengthen us all.

We hope this event will serve as a powerful reminder to every participating organization: *We are not alone.*

A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WILLIAM MACKENZIE HOUSE AS A MUNICIPAL HERITAGE PROPERTY



Thanks to the hard work of Marc and Jane DeLuca, owners of the MacKenzie House located at 6 First Avenue, Bedford, an application has been submitted to designate it a Municipal Heritage Property.

The final step in the process is a public hearing prior to a decision by Halifax Regional Municipality. We, at the Fort Sackville Foundation, are asking those who have an interest in the preservation of heritage properties to come to the public hearing in support of the application.

Meeting Date: **February 24, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

Location: Halifax Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

A copy of the application can be found at [Case HRTG-2024-00433 - December 11/24 Heritage Advisory Committee | Halifax.ca](#)

ANOTHER BUILDING DISAPPEARS FROM THE BEDFORD HIGHWAY



Driving or walking down the Bedford Highway recently you may have noticed a new empty space where 1370 Bedford Highway was located. The structure housed many businesses in it's lifetime as noted in this photo when it was occupied by Sylvan Learning Centre.

It's demolition generated some lively discussion on Talk Bedford about the Rossiter and then Whitman Hardware Stores that had been located there in the 1950s through 1970s. Bedford's built heritage is disappearing quickly.

Does anyone have a photo of the building when it was a hardware store? If so and you would like to share, we would be happy to get a digital copy! Thanks.

UPCOMING LECTURE

Marking the Spot: A Workshop on the Researching and Registering of Buildings in Nova Scotia

Hosted on Zoom by the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

For more information, check out the following link

[Marking the Spot: A Workshop on the Researching and Registering of Buildings in Nova Scotia](#)
[— Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia](#)

PUBLIC TALK—SANDY LAKE DEVELOPMENT

It is remarkable that we still have large, wild places like Sandy Lake and the Sackville River so close to Halifax's urban centre. However the province has put Sandy Lake and the Sackville River at serious and immediate risk by putting it on a fast-track list for housing development. If you have an interest and concerns about this development, please join us for a talk by Jillian Ramsay, Green Cities Officer at the Ecology Action Centre.

Thursday, February 20, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Location: Scott Manor House

Street parking is available on Perth Street and John Gorham Lane. Limited accessible parking is available outside Scott Manor House and both the manor house and event is wheelchair accessible. For more information about the Sandy Lake Conservation Association, visit their website

[Sandy Lake Conservation Association | Conservation and Environmental Stewardship](#)

THE KNIGHT HOUSE, FIRST STREET, BEDFORD

“Knight House” is a beloved Suburban Cottage in the heart of Olde Bedford. It overlooks Fish Hatchery Park where the Sackville River opens into the Bedford Basin. Only 4 families have lived in the home since it was built 123 years ago.

Knight House was built in 1901/1902 for Mary Knight who lived in the home until her death in 1924. Her youngest daughter, Alice Knight, purchased the home and lived there for 15 years until she sold it to the Joudrey family in 1939.

George Joudrey was the local pharmacist, and Mary Margaret (Sullivan) was an educated woman who earned her degree from Dalhousie University in 1931. They had 3 children, and Mary Margaret lived in the home alone for many years after her husband’s death. She lived into her 90s, and the house was sold by her heirs when she died in 2001. Mary Margaret lived in the home for an impressive 62 years!



Knight House is a registered heritage property, most treasured for its large verandah that wraps around 3 sides of the home. Although the back section was enclosed at some point in history, the house’s exterior has maintained virtually all of its original character. The stained glass window at the front of the house sustained some damage in the 1945 Magazine Hill explosion, but is still intact and beautiful.

The double garage that sits beside the house was once the original carriage house. It was lifted and turned when the front of the building was added at

some point in its history. It now has a gable roof that mirrors the roof of the house.

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THE KNIGHT HOUSE CONTINUED

Although the interior of the home was updated in the early 2000s (thanks to the Doucette family), it still has its original features, such as the oak panelling and staircase in the foyer and plaster crown moulding. The basement still contains a large, deep well and stone walls. Super creepy, but very fascinating! Much “stuff” was left behind in the home. Old keys, letters, ration stamps from the war, old wallpaper samples, tiny glass bottles in the backyard privy...so many remnants of history passed. The original blueprints show that the home had indoor plumbing when built in 1902, but photos indicate that there were no power lines to the area until much later.



For the last 15 years, Knight House has been home to the Swikit family. It is an honour to be the steward of a home with so much history!

Thank you to Aimee Swikit for sharing the photos and information about her lovely home.



SCOTT MANOR HOUSE TEA ROOM

Looking out the window at the snow on the ground, it is pleasant to think about a warm summer day and stopping by Scott Manor House for tea and oatcakes.

Did you know in 2024, 77 volunteers served 642 patrons in the Tea Room and generated over \$3,300.00 for the Fort Sackville Foundation?

We will be hosting a planning meeting for Tea Room volunteers sometime in the next couple of months so watch for the date. If you know you are interested in baking oatcakes, serving in the tea room, or want more

information, please drop us a note with your contact information at scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca with *Tea Room* in the subject line.

TOKENS OF LOVE: ROMANTIC GEMS IN OUR COLLECTION

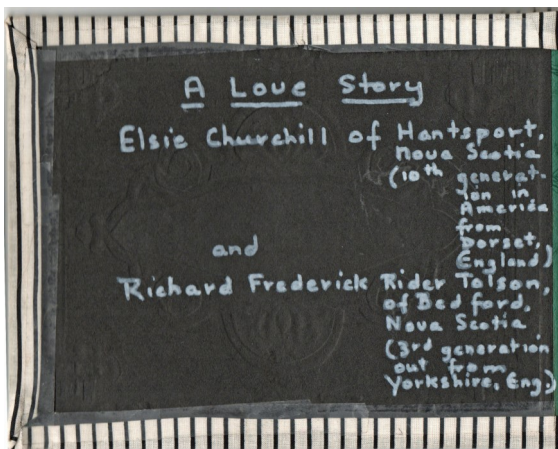
In the spirit of Valentine's Day, featured here are some items from our collection that offer a glimpse of love and romance in Bedford's past.



In the early 20th century, the children of Bedford exchanged Valentine's cards with their schoolmates. George Christie was the recipient of this card from one "R.S.M." which reads "Guess who's [sic] initials these are". It is a sweet bit of ephemera from the childhood of one of

Bedford's prominent citizens.

One can imagine the countless boxes of Moirs chocolates that were gifted over the years for Valentine's Day and other romantic occasions. The metal red and gold Moirs "Century Box" was released to mark the 100th anniversary of the business in 1930.



In our archival collection is a scrapbook titled "A Love Story", featuring photos of Elsie and Richard Tolson, who married in July of 1934. This precious photo album immortalizes the love between the couple whose dedication to preserving the Scott Manor House ensured its history could be celebrated by many generations of Bedfordites to come.



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

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON:

[The Scott Manor House website](http://www.scottmanor.ca)

