

BEDFORD - PAST AND PRESENT



By the time this is printed the Fort Sackville Foundation will have held its 2025 Annual General Meeting and I'm hoping that we have been able to attract some new volunteers to fill the many positions that are available. Like most volunteer associations we have been struggling since Covid to increase our numbers and head up these many important positions. We need help filling our Communications and Programs committees as well as Vice Chair and Student Coordinator. We have many people helping on the day of an event and that's wonderful to see but so much of the work is done behind the scenes and that is the drought we are facing now.

The Scott Manor fills an important role in our community and we want to continue to offer our friends and neighbours an interesting place to visit and learn about the long and varied history of Bedford. Thankfully our tea room is thriving and is consistently one of our biggest attractions. And we are advertising once again for three summer students to provide tours of the house and describe our many interesting artifacts.

As a kick-off to Bedford Days we will once again host the annual Georgian Social on Saturday June 29 as well as provide a venue for the now annual Quoits tournament in August.

So we are on our way to another busy summer season at the Manor and there is much to do. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about what we do and how to help us do it, please email us at scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca. We will even share our famous oatcake cookie recipe with you !!

Hope to see you this summer!

Debbie Miller, Chair Fort Sackville Foundation

SAVE THE DATE: ROCKINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY LUNCH

Saturday, April 12th, 2025 Saint Peter's Church, Birch Cove

12:30 for a 1:00 p.m. start

Speaker: Michael Donovan: The Duc d'Anville's Fleet in the Bedford Basin

Tickets: \$25.00, Contact Glenn Taylor at 902-443-1257 to purchase

Tickets must be purchased by April 6, 2025

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: ROSLYN DUFFUS

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

I've been involved peripherally since the time before the property was purchased by the Town of Bedford. My father, Allan Duffus, worked so very hard in an effort to bring the 2 sides to an agreement for the sale of the property. My mother, Carol and I supported him through this time which was often quite challenging. He continued to work to have the property listed as a place of Historic Interest in 1992 and served on the committee set up to manage the care of the building in the early days before the building became the centre of Bedford's History.



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

My Father passed away in 1997 and from my records, it seems that I first started to volunteer in the garden in 1998 and at some point became Chair of the Grounds Committee which I continued to do until about 2009. This involved soliciting for help from some of my gardening friends in the Bedford Horticultural Society and working with HRM, especially around the time that the new North Room (designed by my Brother Graeme) was built, requiring some re landscaping. One of the biggest efforts each year was to care for the raspberry patch at the back of the house. My mother often helped me with this chore. These berries were featured in the Tearoom in season but, with the deeper shade as the trees grew bigger, the patch ceased to produce a good crop. I continued to volunteer periodically with some hours given to weeding and also, to rebuild the cabinet that came out of the Teachery to be used as a secure display case for the Scott Manor House. I also built the Notice Board by the front door. I currently sit on the Board of Directors.

As a member of the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson, I have also enjoyed playing at the Bedford Days Georgian Tea held at the Scott Manor every year since 2007.

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

As a young person, I was taught to appreciate our built history as well as the history of those that have gone before and continue this interest and enjoy learning more with people who have similar interests.

PROTECTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an integral part of many non-profit organizations, including ours. Did you know that Nova Scotia has an act to limit the liability of volunteers serving non-profit organizations? This is the link to [An Act to Limit the Liability of Volunteer Serving Non-profit Organizations](#) which comes from the Nova Scotia Legislature website.

Scott Manor House is still recruiting for the following volunteers positions:

Communications Co-ordinator

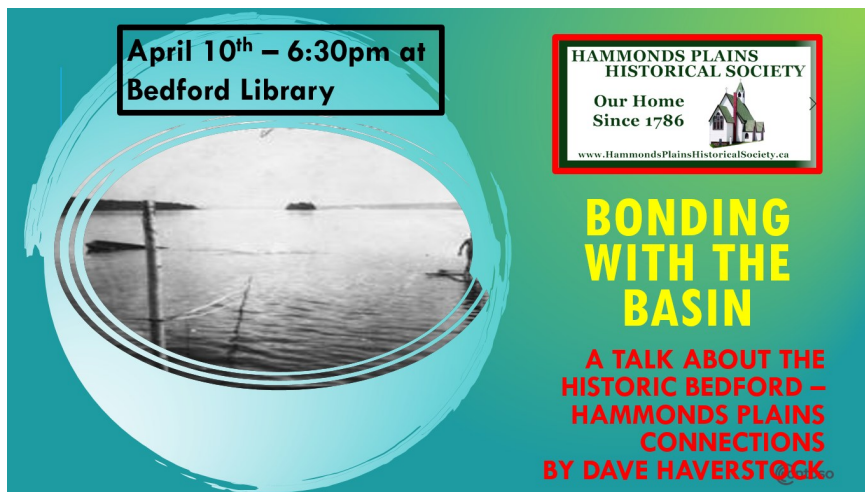
Program Co-ordinator

Grounds Co-ordinator

Student Supervisor

If you or someone you know might be interested in any of these positions, please email us at scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca and someone will get back to you.

PUBLIC TALK: BONDING WITH THE BASIN



This event is co-hosted by Scott Manor House and the Bedford Library.

Today, the neighbouring communities of Bedford and Hammonds Plains enjoy a sense of independence that makes each community unique and self-reliant. However, do you know how the communities reached this point and how they have always had connections between the two, even before they were established as villages? Dave Haverstock from the Hammonds Plains Historical Society explores these connections in a presentation titled 'Bonding with the Basin'. Come and learn about all the historical connections between the two communities, all the way back to the first connections, involving the Mi'kmaq first nations peoples.

A FOLLOW-UP FROM OUR LAST NEWSLETTER CONCERNING THE WHITMAN HARDWARE STORE

It is great to get responses to articles in the newsletter, so we thought we would share this one with you.

The Whitman's Hardware building vanished last month, but it was immortalized in its original form more than a century ago by none other than Group of Seven artist A. Y. Jackson.

In an attempt to keep the painting here, art dealer Robert Manuge approached the Province of Nova Scotia to buy it but with no success. It went into a private collection in Upper Canada. Before selling the painting, Manuge contacted Elsie Tolson, asking her if she could identify the site. She could. In fact, she had put a photograph of it on page 214 of *The Colonel, the Captain and Me*.

Jackson had titled the painting "A Nova Scotia Village" -- being our very own Bedford. The scene shows the Richardson house on the left and the (later to be) Whitman building on the right. The current footpath between the two properties, leading to First Avenue, is shown as a dirt road, apparently wide enough to accommodate the horse and carriage approaching it. Dominating the painting is the Presbyterian Church on First Avenue, with its distinctive bell tower. The scene was all but unrecognizable well before Whitman's vanished; the Church (where Lew and June Turner were married) was demolished with the formation of the United Church in 1925.

Jackson created "A Nova Scotia Village" during a visit when he and Arthur Lismer painted together. Among the pedestrians shown on the street are Mrs. Lismer (Esther) and the only Lismer daughter (Marjorie) walking the family dog. (Lismer reciprocated by painting Jackson into at least one of his works.)

We included a reproduction of "A Nova Scotia Village" in our summer program art shows in 2017 and 2022. If you are wondering why I have wasted seven hundred of the thousand words that a painting is worth, instead of showing it to you, it is because we did not obtain permission to reuse in any form any of the reproduced works after the end of our shows. However, you can feast your eyes on archive material available at SMH. This includes a photograph of Elsie Tolson with the painting at the time of its sale. I would not be surprised if you also discover a color photo of "A Nova Scotia Village."

Thank you Terry Gordon for this information !

A copy of the painting can be seen by following this link [A Nova Scotia Village \(1919\) | MACrépertoire](#)

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

If you are researching your ancestors from Bedford, look no further. Family historians can find lots of great resources in the Scott Manor House Library. These include obituaries of individuals who lived in or were from Bedford, Canadian Census data for the Bedford area from 1871 to 1921, family files containing information on



various individuals who lived in the area, monographs compiled on the lives of various local families as well as some military records. You can also find local books such as "The Captain, the Colonel and Me" by Elsie C. Tolson and "The History of Bedford" by Tony Edwards that help fill out our knowledge of the kind of lives our ancestors lived. You may also be able to find photos from the time your ancestors lived in Bedford.

The Library at Scott Manor House also holds a variety of material related to the people, places and activities of Halifax County and Nova Scotia. Winter visitors are welcome to come and view the materials during our regular Research Group meeting times. We normally meet the first and third Mondays from 9:30 to 12:00. Alternative viewing times may be arranged by contacting Scott Manor House. Remember, a list of the monographs we have in the

Library is located on our website <https://scottmanor.ca/fort-sackville-press/>

CLEAN-UP DAY AT SCOTT MANOR HOUSE

Spring is in the air and it is time once again to clear up the leaves and branches that have accumulated over the winter outside Scott Manor House. A clean-up team will be meeting at the House on Friday, April 11, 2025 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Rain date is April 13th same time.

We would love to have some volunteers to make the job go more quickly, so if you are interested, grab your work gloves and a rake and come on along. After our efforts, we will make time for tea and cookies and a chat in the Tea Room. We look forward to seeing you then!



THE MACKENZIE HOUSE 6 FIRST AVE. BEDFORD: HERITAGE DESIGNATION UPDATE

We are very pleased to report that, on February 25th, the Halifax Regional Municipality voted unanimously to add the MacKenzie House, 6 First Avenue in Bedford, to its list of heritage properties. Thank you to Marc DeLuca and Jane Pritchard, current owners of the property, for valuing the historical significance of the building and investing their time and effort in the process. We also heard that Red Gables, the former home of the late Tony Edwards, 8 Sullivan's Hill, has received approval as a heritage property from HRM Council. It will be interesting to see what the new owners of the property will do there.

These properties join the following Bedford locations with Municipal Historic designations:

- Scott Manor House - 15 Fort Sackville Road
- Golf Links Park, site of the former Bedford Golf and Country Club and the remains of the Clubhouse's hand laid stone chimney - 76 Peregrine Crescent
- The Knight House - 29 First Avenue
- The Teachery (AKA Pryor House) - 9 Spring Street
- Honeycote (AKA DeWolfe House) - 1262 Bedford Highway
- Moirs Ltd Pump House - 926 Bedford Highway

PALETTES AND PIGMENTS 2025: A PLEIN AIR EVENT AND WORKSHOPS

After a very successful inaugural fundraising event last summer, Scott Manor House will once again be hosting Palettes and Pigments. The plein air painting portion of the event will take place from August 10 – 16th and the Art Show and Sale, August 17-23rd. This event is open to painters at all levels of experience. The event has its own Facebook page so please like and share <https://www.facebook.com/PalettesandPigmentsBedford/>.



As an added feature to the week, we are pleased to announce that local artists Anne and Edward Wedler will be hosting 2-day workshops on August 10th and 11th. Anne's workshop will be for oil/acrylic painters and Edward's will be for watercolour painters. If you would like more information, visit our website [Palettes and Pigments 2025 – Registration for Plein Air Painting Workshops – Scott Manor](#) or if you would like to register for a workshop, visit

[PALETTES AND PIGMENTS 2025: Plein Air Workshops Aug 10-11 - Google Forms](#)

REPORT ON THE SANDY LAKE PRESENTATION

On February 20th, Scott Manor hosted a special presentation concerning Sandy Lake and the issues currently threatening this local gem of a park. Jillian Ramsay of the Ecology Action Centre provided maps and details of the boundaries and the areas buffering the park. She outlined the potential threat a proposed subdivision, that could accommodate up to 9,000 homes, would cause to the ecosystem and waterways of the lake and its tributaries. And, causing further concern, there could also be a new highway built to provide a transportation route for all of these new vehicles. She described how the areas surrounding the park are almost as important as the park itself for the protection of endangered wildlife and the survival of the local ecology.

Although most of the attendees knew of these recent developments, Jillian gave us important information and many left the meeting intending to write to our local government officials to let them know their concerns. More information can be found at ecologyaction.ca. Don't wait until it's too late, make your views known now!

Submitted by Debbie Miller

THE FORT SACKVILLE FOUNDATION 2025-2026

The following is a list of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Fort Sackville Foundation for 2025-2026 as set at their Annual General Meeting held at Scott Manor House on March 13, 2025.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Debbie Miller

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Carolyn Crowell

Treasurer: Lynn Loder

Members at Large:

Margie Whitehouse, Carolyn Harvie, Francene Cosman, Geoff Regan, Roslyn Duffus

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tea Room Co-ordinator: Ann McVicar

Archivist: Carolyn Harvie

Grounds Co-ordinator: Vacant

Communications Co-ordinator: Vacant

Student Supervisor: Vacant

Program Co-ordinator: Vacant

Curator of Exhibits: Francene Cosman

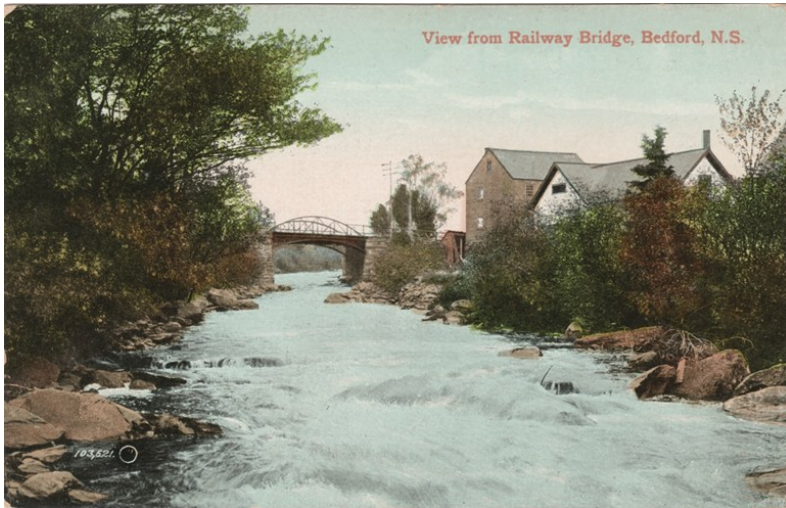
House Co-ordinator and IT: Graham Lindsay

Reading, Resources and Research Co-ordinators: Ann McVicar and Sandi Corbin

Thank you for sharing your time and commitment to our organization.

A BEDFORD SOUVENIR FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF POSTCARDS

Submitted by Jean MacLeod and Elaine Loney, March 2025



A postcard craze, known as the Golden Age of Postcards, dates from about 1905 to 1915.

Taking advantage of the popularity of postcards, Valentine and Sons Publishing Co. Ltd., based in Dundee, Scotland, opened offices first in Montreal (1903), later in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver by 1912. They became the largest producer of souvenir postcards of communities, scenery and landscapes in Canada. Shown here is a

charming example of a classic Valentine & Sons postcard from the Fort Sackville Foundation (FSF) collection, looking up the Sackville River toward the arched iron bridge and Tolson's Woolen Mill with the old Fish Hatchery on the right. According to the FSF Heritage '80 photo database, the card dates c. 1905, noting "the image cannot be newer than 1907 because by 1907 this hatchery had been replaced by a fancier one."

The Valentine & Sons cards are marked on the front with a six digit number, followed by the encircled initials "J.V.", visible in this card's left bottom corner. The number on the card refers to an image number, not the card itself. The same image might be published for years, with different borders or in a moonlight version, all with the same number. In 1926, the company split into Valentine Black and Valentine Edy, publishing postcards until 1957 and 1960, respectively. Look



under "Publisher Histories" on the Toronto Postcard Club website for more information on Valentine & Sons Co. Ltd. postcards, including a guide to dating them. <https://torontopostcardclub.com> .

Check out "Wish You Were Here: Our Postcard Collection," a blog post with a link at the bottom of the article to the searchable Halifax Library digital postcard collection. <https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/blogs/post/wish-you-were-here-our-postcard-collection/> .

SUMMER STUDENT POSITIONS

The Fort Sackville Foundation is recruiting for 3 students to work with us at Scott Manor House in the upcoming summer season: 2 Heritage Interpreters/Archival Assistants and 1 Heritage Interpreter/Communications Assistant

Qualifications:

- Must be accepted at or currently attending university/secondary school, and returning to university/secondary school this fall
- Must be between 15-30 (inclusive) years of age at the start of employment
- Must be enrolled in one of the following fields of study: history, museum studies, library science, education, journalism or humanities/social sciences
- All positions will require working at Scott Manor House
- Employment period: 12 weeks , June 9th - August 29th
- Wage \$16.00/hour, 40 hours a week
- Closing date for applications: April 25, 2025 by noon



For a detailed job description, please follow this link [Summer Student Job Descriptions/](#)

***To apply, please email your CV with a cover letter to scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca
by noon on April 25, 2025***



IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER !

We hope that you will plan to visit with us often in 2025. Attend the Georgian Social on June 29th, then over the season, come check out our resources on the second floor, take a tour with the new student interpreters, enjoy music on the lawn and of course, stop for tea and an oatcake or maybe lemonade and ice-cream. No matter what brings you to us, we will be very glad to see you again.



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)

