

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton  
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## *Gaea Award for June*

The winner of the Gaea Award for Environmentally Friendly Activities for the month of June is Blaine Aitkens!

Blaine is consistently environmentally aware in his choices both at work and at home. He composts, recycles, brings a cloth napkin to work (reduces paper towel use), takes his own ceramic mug to the coffee shop rather than buying a disposable cup, and is all-round supportive of every environmental initiative in the workplace.

Congratulations, Blaine, for your contributions to a cleaner environment and for being a good role model in the workplace.



*Pictured in the photo is Sandy Anthony presenting Blaine with the Gaea Award.*

## *HSMBC New Sites Initiative in Women's History*

On June 17, 2005, a meeting was held at the Cambridge Suites in Sydney as a part of the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada New Sites Initiative in Women's History. Anne Marie Lane Jonah met with a small group of local historians and interested parties to work on preparing letters of nomination to the HSMBC regarding women's history.

The local participants were eager to draft nomination letters but felt they needed guidance in the process. The meeting also provided an important opportunity to network for those interested in women's history in Cape Breton. Nominating letters are being prepared for Holy Angels School in Sydney, Sister Margaret Beaton, Marie Marguerite Rose - a slave at Louisbourg, and Katherine McLennan.

As well information is being gathered on the tradition of making hooked rugs in various parts of Cape Breton with the plan to draft a letter in cooperation with interested parties in Chéticamp later this year. The process from submitting a letter with a proposal for nomination to hearing the Board's decision normally takes about two years.

Work continues on the Women's History Initiative, so anyone with ideas for

nominations should contact Anne Marie at [annemarie.jonah@pc.gc.ca](mailto:annemarie.jonah@pc.gc.ca).

### ***Congratulations to our 15 Year Staff Members***

At our pre-season staff orientation get-together, held at the Stella-Maris church hall in Louisbourg staff our HP staff members of 15 years were paid tribute to in an awards ceremony where plaques and pins were awarded marking their 15 years of service. Some of our staff chose to donate money to charity in lieu of receiving a plaque. All tolled, 28 members of our staff have reached 15 years of service.

The Fortress of Louisbourg NHS is one of the few sites across the country that has the pleasure of honouring interpretive staff with this number of years of service. We are also one of the few who can boast benefiting from a truly seasoned and professional staff.



*Group photo of staff who received recognition for 15 years of service. (From left to right) Back row: Adrian Samson (received his recognition two years ago), Sandra VanDusan, Derrick Deveaux, Francine Pertus, Mike O'Dea, David Spencer (received his recognition two years ago); Middle Row: Karen Pink, Sandy Anthony, Odile Ryan, Louise Johnston, Lawrence Burman, Myrtle Skinner, Donald Boudreau, Myles MacDonald, Thomas Boudreau; Front Row: Barb Kelly-Landry, Lucienne Larade, Sandy MacLean, Lorette Andrews, Loretta Leahy, Karen Noonan, Wayne Boudreau, Erna MacLeod Missing from the photo are: Eilleen Burke, Roy MacNeil, Terry Campbell, Dot Blanchard, and Monique Berger.*

### ***Heritage Presentation New Intern***

Edward Wilson, from the University of North Carolina is doing an internship at the Fortress in support of his degree in Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality. Ed has been here since May and will

complete his internship in August. He has worked with the Furnishing section and Heritage Presentation. He will also be spending time in Conservation.

### ***News from AGB***

**Excerpt from letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell (her mother-in-law) written in Baddeck, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1887.**

*My dear Mrs. Bell:*

*Alec says that he did not forget the 19<sup>th</sup> but that I would not let him go into town to telegraph ... How is it that you and Mr. Bell always remember these occasions? I wish I knew the secret for I am grieved and mortified when I forget. Isn't it too bad both Alec and I forgot our own wedding day, and Alec spent the time from early dawn until late in the evening fishing at Middle River eight miles away. Papa's telegram reached late at night and that was our first reminder.*

*It is perfectly lovely here and Alec is happy and busy all day long, rowing, fishing or working in his kitchen garden. His arms have grown so strong now that he can row all day long without fatigue ... Alec is full of plans for his place, and so well and vigorous it would please you to see him, and he is longing to show himself and his home to you and his father. Your room is ready for you whenever you will come and we want you very much. Alec, Mr Sumichrast, Mr. Kiezel and Mr. McCurdy have gone to Margaree for a couple of days fishing and hope to bring home a salmon. I am rather glad he is away for it gives me a chance to get my house in order, a pretty difficult feat with him around.*

*... Goodnight. I find weeding in the kitchen garden steadily for nearly four*

*hours this afternoon has left me tired and quite ready for bed. Come soon and see how nice everything here is.*

*Your affectionate,  
Mabel*

### **Visitor Season**

The visitor season is well underway. AGBNHSC begins the 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. hours of operation starting July 1<sup>st</sup> through to October 15<sup>th</sup> and our new fees are in place as follows:

Adult	\$6.50
Senior	5.50
Youth	3.25
Family	16.25

Marconi and Canso Islands NHS's are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until September 15<sup>th</sup>. Linda Watson took Julie Morand, our student intern from the University of Montreal, with her on her last trip to Canso Islands NHSC. Julie enjoyed her visit which included a trip to Grassy Island. Julie also spent time at Marconi NHSC and hopefully will have a chance to spend time at CBHNP and FOLHNSC before her term ends the third week of July.



*Pictured L-R are Amy Flemming, Michelle Delorey, Tom Kavanaugh, Paul Ehler, Linda Watson, Anne MacRae, Martha Kavanaugh*

### **First Aid/CPR Training**

We now have 10 staff who are certified in First Aid/CPR after recent training.

### **Baddeck Showcase**

Baddeck Showcase is moving forward in the quest to provide visitors with the opportunity to read staff presentations simultaneously as they are being delivered. William Savoy delivered the first power point presentation with text as he spoke showing on the screen in our main theatre. Donna Johnson (right) delivered the first introductory talk as Madeline Harvey (below) read her words on the computer in Orientation and Rosalynd Ingraham did the same but on a computer hooked to wireless internet in one of the office areas. Accuracy was very good. The palm pilots are presenting glitches at the moment but we are making the most of other ways to keep moving forward with the technology.



### **Dragon Kite**

Plans are underway for the exhibit design that will be used to display a dragon kite the Bel's purchased on a trip to China. The kite has undergone conservation and will add an interesting element to our exhibits.

### ***Greatest Canadian Inventors***

CBC has contacted us to let us know they are working on a production to be aired in the New Year called "Greatest Canadian Inventors". AGB is being included with the main focus being his work on the telephone and hydrofoil boats. An expert commentator will be assigned to each inventor.

### ***CTV/ATV Travel Show***

Valerie Pringle CTV/ATV Travel Show will be here on Canada Day to do some filming on Site in the morning and in the Village of Baddeck throughout the day including viewing the fireworks from a boat in the bay.

### ***Cruise Symposium***

Sharon Morrow from AGB and several employees from the Fortress attended the recent Canada New England Cruise Symposium in Halifax where much emphasis was given to the importance of experiential travel and getting beyond look/see tourism and tapping more senses. It was a most informative symposium and presented the big picture of cruise in the world and in our area. Parks Canada was a sponsor.

### ***Flying Squirrel***

On the wildlife side, visitors and staff enjoyed the chance to watch a baby flying squirrel roaming and nibbling in the geranium bed by the large windows in Orientation. If they don't remember AGB, they will likely remember the squirrel they saw while on site. Lots of photos taken.



### ***Congratulations, Aynsley***

Just over 30 years ago, a young woman full of eager anticipation was about to embark on what has become a stellar career with Parks Canada. On Thursday, June 2nd, 1975, Aynsley MacFarlane arrived at Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site of Canada eager to begin training. Training was an intense one hour session in the head office on site accompanied by a booklet. Armed with this excellent training base (!?) she entered the world of work with Parks Canada. In honour of this anniversary, a surprise celebration was held on June 2nd, 2005, at teatime with cake and narrative from her co-workers some of whom have worked with her since early on. A gift of modified spring water from Glenora Distillery was presented to our very surprised Site Manager and cake was enjoyed by all.



### **Condolences**

Our sincere condolences to Angele MacDonald and her family on the death of her mother, Germaine Tournour on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Also condolences to Louise Johnston on the death of her aunt, Mary Tomko who passed away on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our sincere condolences to Linda Bartlett and her family on the death of her father, Gordon Bussey, on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Gordon was a well known businessman in the Town of Louisbourg and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.