

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

National Historic Sites of Cape Breton Island - Lieux Historiques Nationaux du Cap-Breton
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News from AGB

Digitizing our Collection

We have begun Phase 1 of digitizing our collection of primary resource images from the National Geographic Society. These images will be catalogued for archival purposes and will be more readily available for interpretive staff use and responding to information requests. Along with the image, the data base will include text information providing many details about each image.

Seasonals Return

As many of us here at AGBNHSC are seasonal employees, we are gradually seeing the return of many familiar faces. Kathy, Anne and Linda returned in February. Monday will see the return of Sharon and Gary. The site is beginning to come to life once again.

Friends of the Bell Museum

Friends of the Bell Museum invite all to their Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held in Mr. Bell Theatre. Lunch will be served and door prizes will be given. Everyone is welcome!

Silver Dart Anniversary

On February 23rd, staff celebrated the 98th anniversary of the flight of the Silver Dart. This year

marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of Bell's Aerial Experiment Association. "If you want to find success in aerial navigation, watch the men who are working on motor-driven flying machines, not the balloonists. I believe the 'heavier-than-air' experimenters are the men who will succeed...."

The Silver Dart Committee in Baddeck is very busy planning for celebrating the centennial of flight in 2009. An article in the Cape Breton Post this morning tells of a group of retirees from Ontario who are quite busy building a "full scale flying replica of the famous airplane." Watch for upcoming events which will lead to the centennial of flight.

Louisbourg Public Archaeology Program

The popular Public Archaeology Program will continue in the 2007 season. Two sessions have been scheduled for August 13-17 and August 20-24.

Carrying on from the past two seasons, we will continue excavating at the De La Vallière property. Registration has already begun and will remain open until the end of June or until the sessions are filled. Information about this program can be found at <http://fortressoflouisbourg.ca/archaeologyE>

New Point of Sale

Amelia Donovan, Informatics Assistant was in Halifax earlier in the month learning all about

our new point of sale system called “Vectron”. This system is similar to the ones you see in places such as McDonalds, etc.

Amelia has to program all the various prices for each individual park/site plus correct GST amounts, add custom buttons. Once she gets all the units programmed, she will begin training the supervisors on the use of this new system.

Site Renovations

Our tradespeople are busy finalizing the renovations at the Bigot Theatre. The stage was moved back and lowered making it more user friendly and creating more room for presentations and meetings. We would like to invite staff to make use of this new meeting space.

The tradespeople are also busy renovating the old military office which will be used as the new Childrens Activity Centre. This centre is comprised of a scaled down soldier’s barrack and a place to build your own fortress with oversized building blocks, among other children’s entertainment items.

Both of these initiatives were funded by the Marketing of Historic Sites Initiatives.

GAEA Award

After a hiatus of several months while Lee Anne Reeves was away, the Green Committee has recommenced meeting.

As an outcome of our first meeting of 2007, we are pleased to announce that the winner of the Gaea Award for Environmentally Friendly Activities is committee member, Frances Chezenko.

Frances is an active advocate and promoter of green initiatives and activities. One of her causes is the anti-idling campaign which she vocally promotes at every opportunity. An idling vehicle burns more fossil fuel and creates more toxic emissions than a moving vehicle, and curbing the habit of leaving your vehicle idling not only spares the environment, but

spares your pocket book as well.

We congratulate Frances on her tireless efforts to encourage a green workplace.

Reminder: Anyone wishing to nominate someone for a Gaea Award can do so by contacting any Green Committee member. (Lee Anne, Anne Marie J., Frances, Sandy A., Debbie K.)

Turn your Engines Off

A recent study suggests that in the peak of winter, Canadians voluntarily idle their vehicles for a combined total of more than 75 million minutes a day – equal to one vehicle idling for 144 years. We idle about 40 percent less in summer, but still waste an enormous amount of fuel and emit unnecessary pollution.

If every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Canada stopped idling for just five minutes a day, collectively we would save 680 million litres of fuel per year. We would also prevent more than 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide – the main greenhouse gas – from entering the atmosphere annually.

With computer-controlled, fuel-injected engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away. Contrary to popular belief, the best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it.

Remember, idling gets you nowhere!

Source: <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca>

Anyone wishing to submit an article to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye! please send to donna.macneil@pc.gc.ca

