

NEW!

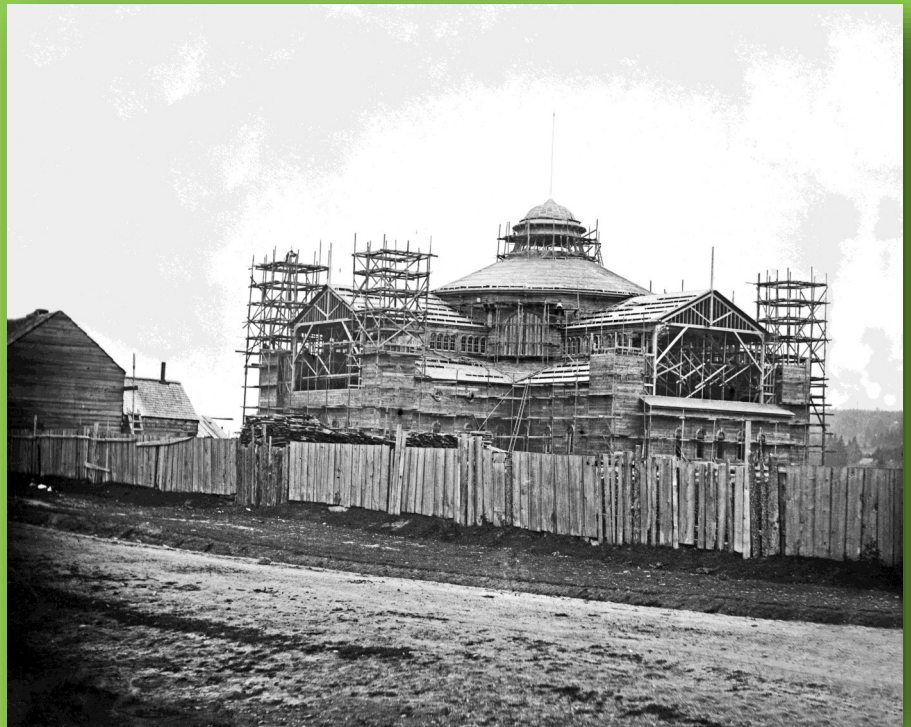
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What is the mystery building under construction? Find out on the last page!

President's Message

There is much activity underway in the organization thanks to our amazing team, Executive Director, Koral LaVorgna, our intern Isabella Horswill and experienced administrative officer, Chantal Brideau.

As we advocate for preservation, particularly of covered bridges at this time, we realize that as much as making our association's position known on immediate issues, we need broad citizen support for heritage. Lobbying and even protective legislation go only so far; it is critical that we build an understanding and appreciation of the value of our province's heritage - its artifacts and buildings and the stories they tell.

A knowledge of history is essential to good citizenship. Nothing brings history to life like the things left behind. The failure to make visits to museums and heritage sites integral to teaching in our schools and to provide adequate support for student visits to them causes us to miss out on a very effective and accessible way to engage our students. Failure to recognize and preserve our heritage buildings and neighbourhoods, unique in their diversity and extent, robs us of this dominating expression of our culture and of an opportunity to exploit its richness as a tourist attraction and

contributor to a special and positive image for our province. Our efforts to use social media and our website are some of the ways we hope to build this broad support.

We are also at work with staff of the National Trust of Canada to bring you a spectacular joint conference of the National Trust for Canada, the Association for Preservation Technology, and the Association Heritage New Brunswick in Fredericton this fall. It is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase our heritage for national and international guests, to learn from practical sessions and to be inspired by experts and activists in the heritage field. Remember to mark your calendars for October 18 to 20.

Marion Beyea,
President



Executive Directions

The Currency of Cool

When the National Trust released its Academy Award-inspired list of the *10 Movies Filmed at Canadian Historic Places*, I could not help but be drawn into this cool pop cultural cross-over with heritage. I was delighted to learn that parts of *Good Will Hunting* (1997) were filmed at the University of Toronto, and that *Silent Hill* (2006) was shot on location in Historic Downtown Brantford, Ontario. However, by the end of the list, I was surprised to find that *Children of a Lesser God* (1986) had not made the cut. That movie, which was nominated for five Academy Awards including a Best Actress win for Marlee Matlin, was filmed in and around the Saint John area.

Being from Saint John, I have never forgotten that long-ago brush with fame. The mere mention of that movie title remains, to this day, a conversation starter. The production of *Children of a Lesser God* transformed how many locals saw places familiar to us, and perhaps in some ways strengthened our connections to them. While many locations were used, Rothesay Netherwood School, located just outside Saint John in the Town of Rothesay, actually set the scene for a great portion of the film. This picturesque private school is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, and I thought it deserved a mention as an addition to the National Trust list. Since there were no entries representing Atlantic Canada, I thought we could correct that omission by posting on social media. Isabella Horswill, AHNB Intern, used Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to circulate this particular Hollywood connection with an historic place. The post garnered a number of “likes”, and even earned comment from the National Trust.

Such “cool” connections can often leave a lasting impression, making visits to museums and historic sites memorable and even more meaningful. Kings Landing has been chosen on many occasions as a film location. Both *A Midwife’s Tale* (1998) and *Copperhead* (2013) were filmed at Kings Landing. Part of *The Unsexing of Emma Edmonds* (television, 2004) was filmed at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Having recently learned that New Brunswick was scouted as a location for the 1995 film, *Bridges of Madison County* (1995), this cool connection reinforces the sense of pride I already had for our built landscape, and demonstrates that our covered bridges are recognized outside our boundaries. These are but a few examples, I’m sure, of our memorable moments.

I would be remiss if I closed without mentioning the jolt I received one evening while watching *America’s Funniest Home Videos*. The clip showed a small group of people seated on an expanse of lawn hurriedly getting out of the way of scarlet-clad soldiers. Sure enough, there in the background was the Fredericton Region Museum. The sheer surprise of it had me chuckling along with laugh track.

Every place has a story, and even if your site has never had a brush with fame, there are still cool stories which make it memorable. This is what I consider the “currency of cool”.

Koral LaVorgna

Now that the AHNB newsletter has become a monthly publication, there are even more opportunities for you to share your “cool” stories. Please contact us at info@amnb.ca



Musings from the Intern

I will soon be able to compile more photos of heritage homes in Fredericton and beyond. I have been busy giving presentations in Miramichi, Rothesay and to a local university history group in Fredericton. While in Rothesay I had the opportunity to stay at a local heritage Inn that had played host to quite a few former Prime Ministers. It had been built in 1870 and had been an Inn for over 70 years. They had expanded without altering the original structure, so it was awesome to see that preservation technique in practice. I am hoping to set up my presentation in Saint John and elsewhere to local governments and rotary boards. We have started to roll out our Built Heritage Online posts on all of our social media and we hope you are enjoying them. If you have a heritage home you would like to see profiled you can find our template under the standards and guidelines on our website.

Let's Stop Hiding our Light

Years ago, I came across a reference to a British report on why people don't visit museums. Its title was something like "Dusty Places Filled with Various Kinds of Things." Although I've never read that report and now I can't even find the reference, it pretty well sums up the feeling that all too many people have about museums.

I believe that there are several factors that are keeping people away. They think that museums are elitist places, where the average guy isn't all that welcome; they think they're boring; they think they're only for specialists; they think that they're only for kids or only for adults or only for students or only for specialists. In other words, they think they're for everybody else but them.

We all know that museums can be pretty exciting places, places with fascinating stories to tell; places that are vital to a well-rounded life. But we don't do a very good job of letting people know that. In fact, over the years, museums have, themselves, created all those impressions.

The British Museum was always free, but in its early years, the only way to gain admission was to get a recommendation from some distinguished academic. Then, the keepers of this and that might let you visit.

On a smaller scale, there were little old ladies (and some little old men) in tiny local museums playing with their collections. When visitors showed up, they reluctantly allowed them to wander, and made little attempt to hide their frustration at having to bother with these pests.

They did it with the "Please Do Not Touch" signs and their attitude that every sadiron and buttonhook was a sacred treasure.

Over the years, our museums have become more welcoming. more permissive, more fun. What they haven't done is ensure that people know this.

We have opportunities to get these messages out,

but we don't take advantage of them. I know that a lot of the folks who spread the news would love to help us tell our stories. After all, I used to be one of those newshounds. So, why isn't it happening?

Sure, there are some journalists who are only looking for the negative stories; waiting for us to slip up on something. They're the minority.

Every one of us could look through our collections and find artifacts that have exciting stories behind them. Unfortunately, we don't always understand the difference between what we find interesting and what will make the front page of the local rag.

I'm going to make a couple of suggestions:

- ◆ Get to know somebody from a newspaper and somebody else from a radio station. You don't have to become their best friend, but familiarity breeds trust (not contempt). If they start to realize that you've got a whole museum full of stories, they'll become more frequent guests and they'll help you spread the word.
- ◆ Before you start thinking about thrilling the world with the stories behind the treasures in your museum, stop and ask a simple question: What would people want to know?
- ◆ There's a trap that we all fall into: we're so enraptured with some of our artifacts that we want to share every bit of knowledge with the world. It's all too easy to provide too much information. Just because we find something interesting doesn't mean somebody else will.
- ◆ We should all be spreading the word, and that word is simple: museums are great places and they're for everybody. We can do a better job of spreading the welcome mat and ensuring that people know we've put it out.

Bill Clarke



Exhibition Palace, Fredericton

Completed 1864. Burned 1877

Many thanks to Joshua Green, Photo Archivist, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, for sharing these images from the George T. Taylor Collection.

Front cover: PANB P5-149

Pictured above: PANB P5-43

If you have photographs of historic places or museums that you would like to have featured in the monthly newsletter, please contact us at

info@amnb.ca.

We are pleased to share your stories.


Mystery Picture Revealed!

The mystery building featured on the cover of the March Newsletter is the Exhibition Palace, which was under construction in 1863. Saint John architect Matthew Stead designed this impressive structure, and local Fredericton contractors, John Hodge and Michael McGlinchy, built it.

Originally known as the Provincial Exhibition Building, this structure was celebrated for its ambitious design. At the time, the dome-plate was the “largest piece of wooden frame-work ever raised at one time in New Brunswick”. Sadly, by 1872, the building had fallen into disrepair. The Exhibition Palace fell in flames on 30 October 1877.

This year’s National Trust Conference is in Fredericton which means hundreds of conference delegates are coming here to New Brunswick. The Trust wants to show off New Brunswick’s rich history and needs your help. Suggest places you think should be added to their network of Passport Places, where National Trust members can enjoy free of charge, to Julie at jnormandeau@nationaltrustcanada.ca and show off your NB pride. [Find out more.](#)

FOLLOWING AHNB ON SOCIAL MEDIA




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CCI Workshop

Digital Photodocumentation of Museum Objects. The workshop was held 2 -3 May 2018 in Fredericton.

The instructors:

Mylène Choquette and Germain Wiseman.



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