Preparations for the October annual conferences of the National Trust for Canada and the AHNB, held jointly, occupied a lot of my time and that of staff and other Board members in the last several months. The success of the meetings demonstrates that the work and attention was worth while. Overall attendance was 442, the highest ever for a National Trust conference held at an Atlantic Canada venue. One hundred and twenty-five New Brunswickers registered for the conference including 60 of our AHNB colleagues.

Our members contributed in many ways to the planning and delivery of the conferences. Shawn McCarthy, Sherry Little, Koral LaVorgna, Gerry Gillcash, Cynthia Wallace-Casey, Jane Fullerton, Jim Bezanson, Bill Hicks, Pierre Cormier and Peter Brown participated on panels or presented papers at sessions bringing a New Brunswick perspective on issues and challenges and relating successes. Koral LaVorgna assisted with many pre-conference and conference details; her help to members in navigating the registration process was particularly appreciated. Queens County Historical Heritage Inc., represented by President Bruce Thompson and Executive Director Kit Emms, welcomed delegates in Gagetown for a very interesting and informative day. Organized by Brenda Orr it included visits to three of the sites they operate and a discussion of programming there. As well workshops on working with boards and on volunteers were offered. Out of province delegates were pleased with the welcome they received to our province – one of the very popular special touches being Lee Sorchasky’s organization of NB Flavours with a display of local apples, Connors sardines, Grand Manan dulse, Ganong’s chocolates and Covered Bridge potato chips that attracted much interest and many takers for the products.

We congratulate Jane Fullerton, Randy Miller, Stephen Clayden, Jeanne Mance Cormier, and Ian Robertson, who were honoured with AHNB awards at the Awards Ceremony, along with Joan Pearce who received a National Trust award. And we heartily thank the Province of New Brunswick through the Heritage Branch for their support of the conference which enabled us to keep registration at our usual fee.

In 2019 we will return to our familiar format for next year’s conference in Miramichi. It will be hosted by the Miramichi Heritage Network, and organized by Board member, Shawn McCarthy. Reserve the dates October 23, 24, and 25, 2019.

The AHNB’s strategic plan was approved by members at the AGM. The plan with actions and target dates attached will be circulated separately. We are asking members to review these and indicate if there are areas where they wish to help. One of the initiatives identified in the strategic plan relates to increased activity and effectiveness in communicating with members and the public particularly using social media. Cynthia Wallace-Casey, AHNB administrative officer is developing a communications strategy to guide this initiative and will be sending a short survey to Board members identifying who we want to reach and with what objective.

I trust that everyone is invigorated by the presentations and discussions and activities of the National Trust and AHNB conferences. We are off the mark with an application to the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage for support for several webinars that we will present. We are also responding to the opportunity to hire an Education Officer for 17 weeks through the transfer of our application from National Trust (whose positions were awarded to other applications) to the CMA who had at an opening. AHNB was approved for 17 weeks to engage an Education Officer who will create an educational program for youth and children, a target audience for heritage appreciation.
Conference Highlights

Conference has wrapped for another year, and the AHNB is already planning for 2019. This conference marked a departure, not only in co-hosting the event with the National Trust for Canada, but by engaging high school students in the pilot workshop, “Heritage Hackathon.” In all, 27 local area high school students were presented with heritage problems to which they provided their own solutions. Engaging with youth is an important step in generating heritage awareness.

Following the AHNB AGM, members paid tribute to the illustrious life and career of Janice Allen-Scott in a funny and heart-warming reception in recognition of her 29 years of faithful service. The museum community gave Janice a wonderful send-off, expressing their joy and delight at having had the chance to work with her. While embracing her retirement and travel plans, Janice is still interested in working with the museum community, so please contact her if you need assistance. She will be most pleased to hear from you.

If you have any suggestions for workshops or sessions for next year’s conference, please contact us at info@amnb.ca.

See you next year in Miramichi, October 23-25!

Reminder: It is time to renew your AHNB membership! Thank you for your continued support!

Koral LaVorgna

Bob Dumouchel

Update on Collective Access

To start off I’d like to say a big hello to all the great people I’ve met while on this project. We have learned a lot while traveling around the province. Training of all thirty-one museums who are using Collective Access is almost complete. There has been some refresher training given as well. I expect to be out visiting a few of you in the spring as new staff join your museums.

- we’ve added a few fields requested by users such as Depositor
- finalizing all those missing translations on the French databases
- we’ve assisted users with specific questions concerning such varied subjects such as: adding new users, custom search forms, specific reporting/displays, and any irregularities that they may see
- This month I will take part in a conference call comprised of people that manage Collective Access museum applications across Canada
- Very recently the developer added a new top navigation item to your menu namely “Export”; we are finalizing the procedure to make it very easy for you to send your selected records to Artefacts Canada…no image resizing required! Once it is final I will contact you with a guide.

That’s it for now. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Bob.dumouchel@gnb.ca / 506-453-7911

Here are some interesting bits to share:
Dr. Stephen Clayden
Recently retired Research Curator of Botany and Mycology at the NBM.

Dr. Clayden spent 30 years at the NBM, and upon his retirement, he was appointed Curator Emeritus, and more recently he was appointed NBM Research Associate. Dr. Clayden’s fascinating research focuses on lichens, conspicuous but little-studied inhabitants of rocky outcrops, tree trunks and branches, and bogs and heathlands. His special interest in the distribution and diversity of lichens in the Maritimes, but he is also an expert on vascular flora (trees, shrubs, wildflowers) of the region.

Dr. Randall Miller
Recently retired Research Curator of Geology and Paleontology at the NBM.

Dr. Randall Miller spent 31 years at the NBM, and upon his retirement, he was appointed Curator Emeritus, and more recently he was appointed NBM Research Associate. Dr. Miller devoted his career to promoting the value of the NBM provincial geoscience collections, building those collections, and interpreting the materials for both public and specialist audiences. He was also the driving force behind Stonehammer, UNESCO Global Geopark.

Ian Robertson
Architect and member of Fredericton Heritage Trust

As a board member of Fredericton Heritage Trust since 1995 (5 years as vice president and 2 years as president), Ian participated in the development of the first edition of the Building Capital walking tour booklet, lobbied against the demolition of York House, encouraged the restoration of the York St. train station and curated the exhibit A Celebration of Our Union Station.

A registered architect since 1983, Ian’s professional work has focused on single family residences, including renovations/additions to several heritage homes.
Jeanne Mance Cormier
Curator at Université de Moncton

Jeanne Mance Cormier has been employed at the Université de Moncton’s Musée acadien for 30 years and its curator since 1992. She’s passionate about material culture, interpretation, museum management and adult education. In recent years, she has implemented several educational media projects and exhibits, as well as helping develop several cultural policies in New Brunswick. Many young professionals in the province will confirm she was of great help to them at the start of their careers. She firmly believes in the strength of youth and always gives young people opportunities for development and experience.

Jane Fullerton — Founder’s Award
Recently retired CEO of the New Brunswick Museum (NBM)

For twenty-four years Ms. Fullerton served the people of New Brunswick in a variety of positions at the New Brunswick Museum (NBM). As Assistant Director, Manager of Interpretive Services, Acting Director, and Chief Executive Officer, Jane has been a leader not only of the Museum, but for the heritage community as a whole. Under her leadership, the New Brunswick Museum has provided support to numerous special projects including Stonehammer Geopark, and the New Brunswick Mat Registry.