



ANNAPOLIS VALLEY



Macdonald Museum

T I M E P I E C E

October 2017

PO Box 925, 21 School Street
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0
(902) 825-6116

macdonald.museum@ns.sympatico.ca
www.macdonaldmuseum.ca

Macdonald Museum Staff

Director

Janice Slauenwhite

Museum Assistant

Bonnie Ward

Librarian

Sandra Barry

AVHS President's Message

This summer, someone related to me a past society memory about a miniature replica of the school being used on Middleton's float entry in the Apple Blossom Festival. It occurred to me that now is the time to write a history of our Society; its beginnings, interesting activities and events that have taken place in the past.

We are coming up to our 40th Anniversary. I would like you to share your memories of an event or the people who began the Society and the influence in the town and county. Please share your stories! If one or two of you would like to write up this history, I would welcome that offer. I look forward to reading the stories and I thank you in advance.

~Susan MacDonald Dill, AVHS President

Free Admission

That's right! There is now no charge to visit the museum (library fee still applies). Tell your family and friends or bring them with you for a visit. We look forward to seeing you!

Museum Hours: September 1st – December 15th April 1st – June 14th

Museum

Monday – Friday 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday – Closed

Research Library

Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday – Closed



Macdonald Museum Facebook

Did you know the Annapolis Valley Macdonald Museum has a Facebook page? Check it out and tell your friends!

Genealogical Workshop

“How to Research Your Family Tree”

Tuesday, October 17th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

\$12.00 Registration Fee – please pre-register
Lunch Provided. Call museum for more info.

From the Director ...

Happy Fall everyone! I became the new Director here at Macdonald Museum at the end of July and here we are in October already!

As you read our fall Newsletter, you will see that we have made some changes. One of those, we are happy to announce, is that we have a new website launching on October 11th! We are so excited to have a fresh new presence online. Check us out at www.macdonaldmuseum.ca. We will soon have Instagram and Twitter accounts as well. Watch our website for a post about those additions!

I have some exciting plans in the works for our future. As most of you know, each spring we like to host one or two new temporary exhibits that run throughout our summer season. In spring of 2018 we plan to open a large Fabric Art and Needlework display showcasing the gifted artists of the Annapolis Valley. Included will be pieces from our permanent collection here. I have also been speaking with art teachers at the area high schools and we are hoping to showcase a wonderful selection of student art beginning late May. This type of exhibit was done a few years ago with great success. This time, we are doing a smaller selection and focusing on our community as the subject of the work. We will keep you posted!

We hope you will follow us on our Facebook page (please share our posts) and check out our event calendar on the website. If you have an idea for a display or event, please share it with us! We value your input.

As always, we are so grateful for our wonderful supporters and volunteers. If you have some free time and are interested in helping out, just give us a call or drop in and we will be happy to have you join us!

If you are attending any of our fall events be sure to introduce yourself to me! I'd love to meet you.

~Janice Slauenwhite

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 24th at 7:30 pm

Dave Whitman will talk about his latest book:
War Horse.

All welcome – free admission.
Light refreshments served.



From the pages of the Genealogy Library

The June 2017 “Timepiece” announced a number of changes, including the departure of librarian Sarah Shortliffe. I am her replacement and looking forward to meeting AVHS members, helping researchers, working on the museum’s collections and participating in the busy life of this institution. I am most delighted to be working with new director Janice Slauenwhite, helping to implement her vision for the museum.

I want to thank Sarah and the three wonderful summer students (Sabryna Lemieux, Chris Kilburn, Samantha White) for all their help, teaching me how things work in the library. I am still learning the ropes but will do my best to assist everyone who drops by with their genealogy and history questions.

I thought I would offer a little background about myself. I am a writer, editor and independent scholar. I have done extensive archival work over the past thirty years, including a stint at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax. My main area of interest is the poet Elizabeth Bishop, about whom I have been researching and writing for over twenty-five years. I was born in Middleton but grew up in Bridgetown, and lived in Halifax for twenty-five years. Now I am full-circle and happy to be contributing to the Macdonald Museum.

You will hear from me from time to time in this newsletter and also on the new website and our Facebook, where I will share news from the library.

~Sandra Barry



Visitor and Exhibit Report

The weather is cooling as we head into fall and look forward to the vibrant red, orange and yellow of the leaves! We said goodbye to our summer students, Chris, Sabryna and Samantha. They were a huge help this summer. We wish them well in their future studies. It is always sad to see our students go!

As you know we have a new director, Janice Slauenwhite and a new research librarian, Sandra Barry. I very much enjoy working with them as we plan new exhibits and events for the museum!

This summer we had visitors from England, Germany, Australia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Iowa, California, Texas, Florida, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, as well as Nova Scotia.

Please keep in mind the Christmas Craft Sale on November 24th and 25th. We will be grateful for your support again this year with volunteering, baked goods and attending this important fundraiser. I hope to see you all there!

~ *Bonnie Ward*

Escape Room

The museum will be holding an escape room in December with a Christmas theme. Watch for details or call the museum for more info.



“Old School” Haunted House

Monday, October 30th

Third floor open from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

First floor open from 6:00 – 8:00 pm



Macdonald Museum 31st Annual Christmas Craft Sale

Friday, November 24th

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday, November 25th

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Hourly Prize Draws!!!

Wonderful crafts to choose from!

Baked goods table!

Canteen facilities!

Elevator & ample parking!

**\$2.00 Admission at the door
(children 12 and under are free)**

**Macdonald Museum
21 School Street, Middleton**

Phone 825-6116

Bridge Parties

Mondays at 1:00 pm:

October 2nd, 16th & 23rd, November 6th & 20th and December 4th.

Admission - \$5.00.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 28th at 7:30 pm

Writer's Group Authors' Ink will read Christmas stories they have written.

All welcome – free admission.

Light refreshments served.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Wednesday, December 6th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Come, relax and enjoy refreshments as a thank you to all who volunteered at the museum this past year. We appreciate all you do for us.

Janet Barkhouse Speaks at the Museum

On Tuesday, 26 September 2017, the Nova Scotia writer Janet Barkhouse spoke at the first fall meeting of the AVHS. Beside a table laden with all manner of curious objects, Janet shared the story of her “inherited” vision of history and love of the land, and how this inheritance has informed her writing about Sable Island and Nova Scotia lighthouses. As we say, she came by her love of storytelling and literature honestly. Janet’s mother was the well-known Canadian children’s writer Joyce Barkhouse. Joyce’s own love of history and writing was fostered by her father, Harold Edwin Killam, a country doctor in King’s County. She spent many hours accompanying him on his wagon or sleigh, as he traversed the countryside with his horse Gem, listening to his stories about the people and events that had created Nova Scotia. Joyce became a teacher and through this work learned that there were few books for children that offered lively stories about Canada’s past. Joyce was the first writer in Canada to begin to rectify this gap when she published biographies of Nova Scotia geologist George Dawson and Nova Scotia inventor Abraham Gesner.

Janet’s own career in theatre and education reinforced her love of this province and its history. After she retired from teaching in 2005, she took up writing in a serious way, especially poetry, and continued in her mother’s footsteps publishing books for children. Her most recent book, *Sable Island Fieldnotes*, is a collaboration with Zoe Lucas. Her *Sable Island — Imagine!* was published in 2010. She published with her mother a picture book version of Joyce’s most famous book *Pit Pony* (2012). Her picture book *Keeper of the Light* (2016) was chosen as a “Best Book of 2017” by the Canadian Children’s Book Centre.

After half an hour of spellbinding stories, those gathered had the opportunity to examine the artefacts Janet brought: whale bones and baleen, Sable Island horse hair, Sable Island sand, Nova Scotia coal, her mother’s Order of Nova Scotia medals, and much more. The assembled AVHS members and guests would all agree, the fall lecture series kicked off with a memorable program.



Guest speaker Janet Barkhouse at the September AVHS monthly meeting.



These items were on display for all to look at, after Janet’s talk.