

# **St. James UC Heritage Society**

## **Newsletter**

### **Spring 2015**

Dear Society Members and Friends;

It is spring 2015 and it is most joyfully welcomed after the winter we had filled with snow and ice. It seemed like it would never end!! However, nothing can stop mother- nature from fulfilling her obligations. Lets' hope for a wonderful warm summer, we deserve it.

There is not too much news to send along. The Board of Directors were busy last summer organizing the painting of the outside of the St. James building and completing the painting of the interior entrance and side walls of the church.

The Board of Directors applied for and received a four thousand dollar grant from the Halifax Regional Municipalities (HRM) Heritage Program toward the cost of the painting of the exterior. Mr. Wade Weeks was contracted to paint both the interior and exterior of the building. As you are probably aware, there is no grant money available to restore the interior of the building. St. James is a designated HRM heritage building so funds are available to assist with exterior work only. The Board was very pleased with Mr. Weeks' work and we thank him for a job well done.

This year the Directors intend to replace the white picket fence that surrounds the front and left side of the site. Pickets have been fabricated over the last year and it is hoped that the fence will be installed and stained by the fall.

The Board of Directors is also in the process of planning the upgrade to the graveyard. The plan is to initiate the project during the spring/summer of 2016. The completion of grounds upgrading will mark the conclusion of the restoration project that was started in 2005.

This summer marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Friends of St. James UC Heritage Society. What an amazing ten years it has been. A task that seemed so enormous has almost been completed, one quiet step at a time. It is amazing how much a small group of dedicated people can achieve. The St. James UC Heritage Society has been truly blessed with wonderful support from our families, friends and neighbours. Our common goal has been the desire to

help preserve the cultural history of the Eastern Shore area through the preservation of this small yet important community icon.

A small celebration to mark our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being planned for the latter part of August. More details will be provided once the planning process has been completed.

We are very pleased to announce that the St. James Heritage Society has a new updated website. In January of 2015 our vice chair, Guy Rochon, became our website administrator and developed this new updated site for the Society. Our new website address is: [www.stjamesheritagesociety.vpweb.ca](http://www.stjamesheritagesociety.vpweb.ca) . We also have a new email address that can be accessed from our new website. The new email address is [info@stjamesheritagesociety.vpweb.ca](mailto:info@stjamesheritagesociety.vpweb.ca). We invite you to visit the updated site and review the information that has been placed there. Your feedback and suggestions regarding future postings you would like displayed there would be most welcomed.

As mentioned above the restoration of the St. James site is nearing completion. The Society will be then entering a preservation mode. In preparation for this change of focus a site management policy is being developed. A Site Management Committee has been established. A Site Management Binder has been developed so that this Committee can inspect the site annually to determine what, if any, repairs are required to keep the building and the grounds in the manner that has been established. This process also allows the Committee to suggest a time line to meet those needs. The Committee will present their report to the Board of Directors at their annual September meeting. This will allow sufficient lead time, over the winter months, for the Board to review the required needs and develop a timely plan to address them.

The Board of Directors would like to thank you for your ongoing support of this restoration project. Together we have made the dream of restoring the St. James Heritage Site a reality.

As a population we take pride in our cultural history and if our forefathers and mothers could speak today I am sure that they would be very proud and honored to be remembered by us. There is a line in the song "We Rise Again" (the signature song of the Rankin Family) that says: "we rise again in the faces of our children". This line speaks volumes to the work that has been completed by the St. James Heritage Society and all its members and friends. Your continued support through the renewal of your membership for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely;

Linda MacDonald  
On behalf of  
The Board of Directors  
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