

St. James UC Heritage Society  
Newsletter  
Spring 2013

Greetings to all our faithful members & Friends of St. James UC Heritage Society! It is that wonderful time of the year again – Spring with all its promise of renewal and growth for the upcoming seasons. It is also time to renew our memberships and to review the activities of the Society over the last number of years. It has been a busy seven years to say the least and the Board of Directors is happy to report that there is a bright light now showing at the end of our restoration tunnel. To briefly recap the activities of the Society over the time line of the restoration I would present the following overview:

- a) 2005: The Society was formed to renovate and preserve the St. James UC Heritage site in Spry Bay, NS. The site was transferred from the United Church of Canada's Halifax Presbytery to the Friends of St. James UC Society by transfer deed. Membership to the Society was offered and fundraising events were initiated to cover the cost of the restoration effort.
- b) 2006: Restoration efforts began with the re-shingling of roof, bell tower, repairing the chimney and foundation. (Note that the chimney is not functioning and was sealed but was re-pointed to keep the original appearance of the building in adherence to the regulations pertaining to a registered heritage property.) The restoration to the roof, hatch way, and chimney was performed by Jacko Contracting in July of 2006. Cost of repairs was \$7,855.00. The rock foundation under the building was re- mortared at a cost of \$825.00. The restoration was performed by Jacko Contracting. A HRM Heritage Program Grant of \$5,000 was received toward the cost of the project.
- c) 2007: In the fall of 2007 the east wall (back) of the St. James building was restored. This involved the stripping of the siding, repairs to the studs, sills and nose corner pieces of the back wall. The wall had badly deteriorated and required extensive repairs. Cost of the restoration of the wall was ten thousand, four hundred and seventy three dollars. Work was performed by Jacko Contracting.
- d) 2008: In July and September of 2008 the North, South and West side of the St. James Building was restored, resided and painted. The Bell Tower was also restored and painted during this time. Cost of the restoration of the North and South sides was \$8,6658.00. Restoration of the West side and painting of the Bell Tower was \$8,596.00. A HRM Heritage Property Grant of \$15,000 was received toward the cost of the project.
- e) 2009: Restoration to the Interior plastered ceiling took place. Dry Wall was placed over the plaster on the west wall of the building. (Providing material was responsibility of St. James Society – cost \$339.00.) Plastering performed by Porters Lake Drywall. Cost was \$10,509.00. Staging for restoration of interior was responsibility of the Society. Cost of staging was \$4,940.00. Painting of interior was contracted to R.J. Josey Painting. Cost was \$4,585.00. However, by December 2009 the ceiling that was painted by R.J. Josey Painting had peeled and was hanging and falling off the ceiling. It took over a year and input by many paint experts to rectify the problem. Mr. Josey did not warranty his work. Total cost of project: \$20,373.00
- f) 2010: Interpretation Board was installed at the St. James UC Heritage Site. Cost of the project: \$4,703.00. Grant of \$4,370 was received from HRM Heritage Grant Program toward cost of the Board.
- g) 2011: Time and effort was spent reviewing and investigating theories pertaining to completing the restoration of the interior ceiling. We extend our sincerest thank you to Greg Aylward and

Carl & Kay Leslie who spent many hours testing theories and coming up with an effective solution to this problem.

- h) 2012: The restoration of the interior ceiling of the St. James building was completed during July, 2012. The work was contracted to Mr. Wade Weeks. Cost of the scraping, sanding and painting the plaster ceiling was three thousand, eight hundred dollars. We are pleased to report the project was very successful and the paint is in mint condition following the winter.
- i) 2012: Window restoration: A Window Restoration Committee was initiated and following their recommendations the Board of Directors approved the following restoration plan contingent upon approval from the HRM Heritage authority:
  - a) Fabrication and installation of storm windows for the 11 windows in the building
  - b) Restoration of the original windows in the building
  - c) Fabrication and installation of a batten door to cover & protect the existing entry door.

Approval was received from the HRM Heritage authority to install storm windows to protect the existing windows of the building. The contract for the window restoration and fabrication of storm windows and the batten door was awarded to Parsons Lumber Company Limited of Queensland. The installation of the windows and batten door contract was awarded to Tekton Design-Build Inc. of Halifax, NS. The cost of restoring the original windows was thirteen thousand, four hundred and thirty two dollars. (\$15,447.00). The Society received a twelve thousand dollar grant from the HRM Heritage Property Grant Committee toward the cost. The Cost of fabricating the Storm Windows and Batten Door was eleven thousand, five hundred and twelve dollars. (\$11,512.00). The removal, transportation and installation & re-installation of the above noted windows is included in the prices shown. The cost of scaffolding on site is also included in the total cost above. The Society provided fourteen thousand and thirty three dollars toward the cost of restoring, installing storm windows and the batten door.

As you can appreciate the Board of Directors has been very busy over the past year and are pleased to report that the window restoration project was completed on January 13, 2013 when the interior window re-installation was completed. We are very pleased with the completed project and invite you to drop by and view the upgrades. We especially thank Ms. Maggie Holm for her continuing support of this project and her cooperation, expertise and guidance throughout this project.

During the upcoming fiscal year the Board of Directors will be concentrating their efforts toward having the front entrance step restored and working with a contractor to develop a solution to the ongoing problem of leakage around the belfry.(bell tower). Despite all the repairs and upgrades the building continues to leak in this area – with such leakage occurring randomly during certain wind/rain storms. Hopefully this problem will be resolved this summer.

The Board of Directors is also conducting a study of the graveyard and how best to upgrade the area. All suggestions are gratefully accepted for consideration. Please contact Carl Leslie, Site Manager or email the Society at [lindamacdonald01@bellaliant.net](mailto:lindamacdonald01@bellaliant.net) with any suggestions you may have. The Board would like to see the fencing upgraded and the yard landscaped in a respectful manner that will not interfere with the existing gravesites. Plans will be developed over the upcoming year and work will commence at the site next spring.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that a rededication of the St. James UC Heritage Site will take place on Sunday, June 30' 2 pm at the site. A plaque confirming that the property is a recognized

HRM Heritage site will be placed to the left side of the outside entrance to the building. Apparently years ago there was a plaque presented to the church, however, it disappeared prior to the formation of the St. James Heritage Society. We thank Maggie Holm for her assistance in replacing the plaque. With the restoration of the site nearing completion the Board of Directors felt that the plaque should be hung in its rightful place, on the building. We will be hosting a small ceremony in honor of the occasion and cordially invite all members of the Society and the surrounding communities to join us in celebrating this milestone. Refreshments will be served at the site, weather permitting – in case of inclement weather refreshments will be served at the Spry Bay Community Centre. We look forward to your presence at this event. Together, as a Society and with support of family, friends and neighbours we have restored a very revelent piece of local history for present and future generations. It is a very proud achievement, one worth celebrating. The St. James UC Heritage Society is very unique in its mission and has remained true to its outcome since its inception in 2005 and we can all take pride in the restored site at Spry Bay. No one person has accomplished this, it has developed to where it is today due to the joint efforts of many willing hands who provided labor, donations, supported fundraising efforts and raised their voices in encouragement throughout this journey.

The Board of Directors thanks you for your past support through renewal of your society membership since our inception and respectfully ask for your continued support through renewal of your membership for the 203 2014 fiscal year. Membership for the 2013 -2014 fiscal year begins on July 1, 2013. Please submit your completed membership form to the address noted on the form. Your response would be appreciated by June 30, 2013 so that you may be eligible for voting priviledges at our Annual General Meeting on July , that will be held at the Spry Bay Community Centre at 2 pm.

Please find enclosed/attached a list of upcoming events for the Society during the summer/fall months as well as membership form. Thank you for your past support and we look forward to receiving your support for the upcoming fiscal year.