

# Friends of St. James UC Heritage Society

## Spring Newsletter May 2016

Dear Society Members;

Once again it is time for membership renewal to the St. James UC Heritage Society. It is amazing how quickly time flies! Please find, below, a brief overview of the activities of the Society over the last fiscal year.

Last year the Society did some minor maintenance to the interior ceiling of the heritage building and the roof. The interior floor was restored and two coats of paint applied. We thank Mr. Wade Weeks for a job well done.

The Directors have been working on replacing the existing wooden fence that runs along the front and up the left side of the St. James Site. This involved much needed brush removal and opening property lines. Pickets and wood was procured for the project and last fall the fence was partially installed. This work should be completed this spring. There is still more trimming and pruning to be completed. Many thanks are extended to our work party last fall who met to clean, chip and trim the area. To our volunteers who have given so freely of their time and efforts we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their generosity. It is greatly appreciated.

We as a Society have come so far, have achieved more than we or others have expected and now it is down to completing the last few projects and planning for the preservation of the site.

The restoration process at the St. James site is almost completed. The grounds require upgrading and the fence must be completed. It is time to re-evaluate the focus of the Society. In order to keep the grounds and building from deteriorating to the level the Society inherited, funds must be dedicated toward ensuring that maintenance and ground repairs can be performed as required.

The Board of Directors is in the process of developing a plan for the future. The future, as we can all appreciate, is impossible to project. However it is incumbent upon the Society to plan, in a responsible manner, for a reasonable time line. We feel that there will be people who will follow in our footsteps and will feel the desire to continue to maintain and preserve this site. When we look to the past there was Mr. Fraser Beaver, then the Friends of St. James Heritage Society and what the future holds is a mystery. To them we leave our legacy.

Needless to say the site cannot be left without resources to ensure its continuation. The next few years will be dedicated to that purpose. All fundraising efforts will be directed to the preservation of the site.

A discussion regarding the refocusing of objectives for the Society will be introduced under new business at the Annual General Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the St. James site (2 pm). Please attend the meeting and present your views concerning the continued preservation of the site.

We, the Board of Directors, thank all Society Members, friends and neighbours for all the help that has been provided over the last 11 years. It is through the combined efforts of our members and supporters that the restoration program has been so successful. We would ask for your continued support through the renewal of your yearly membership. The memberships are crucial to the continuation of the Society and the development of plans for the future of the St. James Site. If you have any family members or friends who may have an interest in the future of this site please talk to them and encourage them to take out a membership in the Society and become a part of keeping the cultural history of the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia alive for future generations. History has shown us time and time again that the future is directly impacted by the cultural building stones of the past. The blending of both is deeply entwined and important to a healthy and strong tomorrow.

Please see the attached notices regarding events, in particular the Quilt Show (July 9<sup>th</sup> – 9 am to 5 pm) the society is hosting in conjunction with the Spry Bay Community Group. We ask your support through purchasing tickets on the quilt both groups are co-raffling and by planning to attend the Quilt Show and Community Center Supper on July 9<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 pm.

Please note on the attachment notices information concerning the Quilt Show on July 9<sup>th</sup> and the memorial service being held at the St. James Site on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. All are invited to attend. There will be music, storytelling, gravesite prayers and refreshments. It will take place on August 28<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm.

For additional information on our events or to contact the Society please go to our website: [www.stjamesheritagesociety.vpweb.ca](http://www.stjamesheritagesociety.vpweb.ca)

