

St. James UC Heritage Society Newsletter Spring 2014

Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly! Lots of changes have occurred during this period.

On June 30, 2013 the society held a rededication of the St. James UC Heritage Site. Despite the inclement weather there was an excellent turnout of friends and members who attended the event. Over sixty five people were present for the ceremony. Greg Aylward, Chairman of the Board was the master of ceremonies. Glenn Miller, former Vice Chairman and current Board member presented a brief overview of the restoration process since 2005. Mr. Gerald McCarthy presented a greatly appreciated historical overview of the site. Mrs. Audrey Verge paid tribute to the late Mr. Fraser Beaver, a long time supporter of the former St. James United Church and church organist for over fifty years. The Board of Directors were honored to have his family in attendance for the placing of a memorial to him in the building. Following the above noted remarks, Mrs. Emma Crowell (daughter of Arch & Florence McCarthy), accompanied by her granddaughter, Kathleen Crowell unveiled the HRM plaque by the front entrance of the now historical site. A reception followed at the Spry Bay Community Centre. We were pleased to receive visitors from various provinces across Canada and as far away as New Zealand. A sincere thank you to all those who helped make the dedication ceremony possible, to those who took part in the ceremony and to all who attended the event. Your support and interest in the restoration and preservation of the St. James UC Historical site has and continues to be an inspiration to the Board of Directors. The dynamic interaction of each and every society member, family and community friends has made it possible for the restoration of this site to be as successful as it is today.

Last summer the Board of Directors revisited the bell tower issue. The pesky, intermittent leak from the tower was addressed and we are pleased to report that as of this date the leak has been eliminated. We thank Board Members, Greg Aylward and Carl Leslie for their patience and perseverance in addressing this problem. "Country at Heart" was contracted to perform the necessary repairs. We thank them for a job well done.

The front entry step was also restored last spring. Backfill was placed around the step for easier access to the building.

The Board of Directors has made a grant application to the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) for funding toward the painting of the exterior of the building this summer. To date the application is still under consideration and we expect to hear from the HRM toward the latter part of June, 2014.

The Board also intends to complete the painting of the interior walls of the building this summer. Once these two areas are painted the interior, with the exception of the

floor and pews, and exterior restoration of the building will be completed. The only phase left is the upgrading of the graveyard and the restoration of the picket fencing along the front and side of the site. Work has already begun on the fencing issue with supplies (new pickets and railings) being gathered. It is anticipated that work will begin on this project (fencing and grave yard upgrading) next spring. Completion of this phase will mark the end of the major restoration of the St. James Heritage Site!! Over the next five years the Society will be concentrating on building the Contingency and Cemetery fund so that money will be available for continuing/perpetual care for the building and grounds.

On a sadder note, I must report the passing of two members of our Board of Directors. Mrs. Kay Boutilier passed away in July of 2014 and Mrs. Isa Leslie in October of 2014. These were two very dear ladies who were very strong supporters of the restoration of the St. James Heritage Site. They were wonderful, wonderful women. Both ladies had such a positive outlook on life and greeted everyone with their heart warming smiles and kind words. They were truly role models for all of us and will be greatly missed. We express our sincerest sympathy to their families.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would ask for your continued support of the restoration and preservation of the St. James UC Heritage Site by becoming a member of the Society or making a financial contribution to help with the restoration process. Membership dues remain the same, \$20 for a family of two adults. Income Tax Receipts are issued for all membership payments. St. James UC Heritage Society, as a registered federal charity also issues Income Tax Receipts for all donations made to the Society. Thank you for your interest and support of the Societies undertaking.