

St. James U.C. Heritage Society of Spry Bay, N.S.
Annual Spring Letter, May 2012

Dear Members;

We hope that winter was good to you and that you are enjoying the nice spring weather as we certainly are. Although it has been a mild winter it feels wonderful to have the longer evenings and feel the warm sun once again.

The Board of Directors is looking forward with great anticipation to the spring and summer of 2012. We are excited to report that a contract is in place for the completion of the restoration of the interior of the building. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2012. Our Building Committee feels confident that the earlier difficulties have been successfully resolved.

We are also pleased to report that a Window Restoration Committee was initiated in the fall of 2011. The Committee researched and presented to the Board of Directors two options for consideration with regards to the restoration of the windows. **Option # 1** was to replicate and install new windows. **Option # 2** was to have the original windows restored and install storm windows to minimize future deterioration. The windows, as you can well appreciate, are unique to the building and define its character and age. During conversations with various knowledgeable professionals, regarding restoration options for the windows, the Window Committee was told that the nine over six muntin design of the original windows, which are still in the building, is in keeping with the architectural window design of the period 1750 to 1850. St. James was built in 1872.

The Board of Directors, because of the historical significance of the windows, chose to explore option number two in more depth.

The Window Committee, upon advice from knowledgeable building contractors, contacted Parsons Lumber Company of Queensland, N.S. to have the windows assessed. Members of our Window and Building Committee met with their CEO, Mr. Austin Parsons at the St. James site in February of 2012. It is his professional opinion that the windows can be fully restored to their original state. It would require a process whereby the windows would be removed from the building, shipped to his site, tested for lead or arsenic in the old paint, and bathed in a solution to remove the paint, in accordance with the findings of the paint testing. Following that process any required repairs would take place and the windows would then be repainted, glass replaced where necessary, and re-glazed. The windows would then be returned to the St. James site and professionally reinstalled.

The Window Committee also discussed with Mr. Parsons the feasibility of installing storm windows to protect the restored windows. St. James UC Heritage site is a registered heritage site with the Halifax Regional Heritage Department. The Department was contacted regarding authorization to proceed with this type of installation. The Heritage Department had no objection to installing storm windows at the site as it would be in keeping with the process that would have been used years ago to preserve windows.

Parson Lumber Company provided the Board of Directors with a quote to restore the windows and fabricate storm windows to further preserve the restored windows.

In accordance with these findings the Board of Directors elected to pursue the opportunity to restore the original windows and protect them from future deterioration through the application of storm windows. The Board of Directors has submitted a grant application to the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) 2012-2013 Non-Profit Grant Program for assistance with this project.

The Board of Directors will finalize their strategic plan for the window restoration program once feedback has been received from the HRM Grants Committee. Irregardless, the windows require our immediate attention in order to restore and preserve their historical significance. The outcome of the grant submission will determine the scope of the work that will take place this year.

The Board of Directors wish to thank you for your ongoing interest and support in the restoration of the St. James UC Heritage site. In particular we thank you for your patience during the last two years as we became stalled in our quest to find a solution to the interior painting problem.

Please find enclosed a list of our activities for the upcoming summer months and a Membership Form for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. The Board of Directors respectfully solicit your continued support, through the renewal of your annual membership. So much has been accomplished over the last six years and we look forward to the completion of the restoration process in the next two to three years. Once the windows and front door are restored the final project will be the upgrading of the graveyard. Once this has been completed the Board of Directors will develop a perpetual care program and guidelines for the use of the site.

The achievement of these goals will only be met through the continued support of family, friends, society and community members such as yourselves. The acquisition, restoration and preservation of this site is an innovative undertaking. The St. James UC Heritage site will play an important role in keeping the cultural history of the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia vibrant and alive for future generations. We should take great pride in our efforts and accomplishments. Thank you for being part of this exciting challenge and we look forward to receiving your continued support through the renewal of your society membership for 2012 – 2013.

Sincerely;

Linda F. MacDonald – Treasurer
On behalf of the Board of Directors