

**Spring 2011**

May, 2011

Dear Member/Former Member;

**Re: Renewal of Membership for 2011– 2012 Fiscal Year**

I am contacting you, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to thank you for your ongoing support of the restoration of this Heritage Site and to ask you to renew your membership to the Friends of St. James Heritage Society of Spry Bay, N.S. for the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year.

Please find, enclosed (or attached), a membership renewal form. We would ask that you please take a minute to:

- a) complete the form,
- b) attach your twenty-dollar membership cheque to the form
- c) return the completed form and cheque to the address noted on our letter.

\*N.B.- In order to participate and vote at the Society's Annual General Meeting being held on July 23, 2011 at the Spry Bay Community Hall,(Meeting commences at 2 PM) Membership Dues must be paid in advance of that date. (Incorporation By-laws registered with NS Registry of Joint Stocks) However, please note that the Society does accept new and renewed membership throughout the fiscal year.

It seems hard to believe that six years have passed since we have learned of the proposed demolition of the decommissioned St. James U.C. Church. It is amazing and exciting to review what has been accomplished by such a small group of dedicated supporters over this period of time. St. James Society is visual and living proof of the old adage that with the right incentive a mole can move a mountain.

Since 2005:

- The Friends of St. James United Church Society formed
- Transfer deed of the land and building has been obtained from the United Church of Canada
- The Society is a registered non-profit in good standing with the Registry of Joint Stocks for the Province of Nova Scotia
- The Society is a registered Charity is good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency, Charities Division.
- An Architect report on the building was performed and restoration of the exterior has been nearly completed. (Exception being the windows)
- Many fund raising activities have taken place to fund for this restoration.
- Many supporters have contributed donations (event and memorial) towards the restoration effort.
- Several grants have been applied for and received from the HRM Heritage Program
- As a result of these efforts the building has:
  - a new roof
  - a restored bell tower
  - restored back wall
  - side walls have been restored
  - the Foundation has been restored

- The interior plaster has been restored
- The interior painted\*\*
- An Interpretation Board has been installed at the site.

These are just a few quick highlights of the items that the Board of Directors has successfully completed. (Exception - see below) It has been a great learning experience and we are pleased with the results to date. The only problem encountered in this process involved the painting of the ceiling of the interior of the building. It would seem that the paint used was not compatible with the pre-existing coating on the plaster. We are still in the process of examining the problem and have several experts working with us to resolve it. Quite a number of different theories, concerning the interior painting problem and the method(s) required to repair it have been forwarded to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is very disappointed with the results of previous painting job and is very cautious of proceeding with repainting until it is absolutely certain that the required outcome will be met.

Since the St. James site is located quite a distance from the metro area, the Society is financially responsible for providing the staging, which entails the transportation, set up and tear down. This staging is required by contractors to safely perform their task(s). The staging for the restoration and painting of the ceiling is in the five thousand dollar range. The actual scraping and repainting of the ceiling is an additional cost to the staging.

However, the Board of Directors realizes how very fortunate the Society is to have so many dedicated and wonderful people trying to help resolve this problem and are working very diligently toward the completion this project.

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that an Interpretation Board has been erected on the St. James site. A grant was received from the Halifax Regional Municipalities Heritage Grant Program to assist with this project. Information and pictures were collected by our Interpretation Committee and a presentation for the Interpretation Board was developed. Atlantex Creative Works was contracted to prepare and install the Interpretation Board. The Board was placed on the site in October of 2010. We invite you to drop by and see the Interpretation Board. We have received many favorable comments from Community and Society Members who have already had the opportunity to visit the site and read the material on the Board. There should soon be pictures of the Interpretation Board on our Website.

The Board of Directors has formed a Window Restoration Committee. The Committee is in the process of acquiring information and quotes pertaining to the cost of the window restoration. There will be more information available to members at the Annual General Meeting being held in Spry Bay on July 23rd.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank you for your wonderful support of our Cookbook Campaign. To date we have sold 262 of the 310 books that we purchased. There are 48 books left to sell so if you want to purchase another book or two please let me or another Board Member know as soon as possible. We extend our sincerest thank you to Emma Crowell for her generous donation of \$1513.58 to cover the cost of the cookbook order. Through her generosity all proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks have gone directly toward the restoration cost the St. James Site. Special thanks are also extended to the many people who helped to sell the cookbooks to family and friends. There are many delicious recipes in the cookbook, a testimony to all the great cooks we know. Many purchasers report that they are pleased with their cookbooks and use them on a regular basis.

It is very important, that as a Society, we maintain our membership level in order to complete this project. The Society is very near to its goal of restoring this site. The restoration of the windows, the completion of the interior and upgrading of the graveyard landscaping are the three main objectives remaining.

The Society has already in place, and continues to develop, a Graveyard and Contingency Fund. Upon the completion of the restoration of the site any monies raised or received will be directed toward these accounts to ensure continued preservation of the site.

This has been an ambitious project and thanks to your encouragement and financial support the majority of the work has been completed. Your twenty-dollar membership (two adult members per household) will ensure that the Board of Directors is able not only to continue with this project but also present, on behalf of the Society, a united voice when addressing the need to preserve the few remaining historically significant sites left on the Eastern Shore.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this update please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board of Directors for further clarification. The Board of Directors looks forward to receiving your Membership Renewal. If you have other family members or friends who have an interest in preserving the cultural history of this area please ask them to join with you in supporting this very worthy cause. We would be delighted to forward a membership form to them or one may be accessed at our website: [www.stjamesheritagesociety.com](http://www.stjamesheritagesociety.com). We welcome, as members, all who share an interest in preserving the cultural history of the Eastern Shore and our beautiful Province.

Sincerely

Linda F. MacDonald  
Treasurer  
Encl. 2

**St. James United Church Heritage Society**