

Chestico News

Fall 2022

The Chestico News is published by the Chestico Historical Society three times a year – Spring/Summer, Fall and Winter. Enquiries and submissions may be sent to: John Gillies, Editor, Chestico Museum & Historical Society, PO Box 37, Port Hood, Nova Scotia, B0E 2W0, or email the museum at chesticomuseum@ns.alianzinc.ca



Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal Presentation

From left: Susan Mallette – President of the Chestico Museum & Historical Society, Joanne Watts, Maggie MacIntyre – Executive Director of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums

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From The Editor - John Gillies



Welcome to our Fall 2022 edition of the Chestico Museum & Historical Society Newsletter. Thanks to those who have sent along articles and letters since our last issue. Contributions concerning the Chestico area and people are always welcome. We are particularly interested in acquiring copies of photographs that tell the history of local families and community life in Port Hood and districts from the 1890s up to the present. Please send them to the address on the front cover or email them directly to me at john.gillies1388@ns.sympatico.ca

President's Message – Susan Mallette



This past season 2022 was a busy time for the Chestico Museum. Chestico Days resumed after a two-year Covid hiatus to a welcome and well attended series of events.

The museum partnered with Cape Breton University on a new project titled Community Student Research program. The subject of the research was the history of Mi'kmaq activity around the Port Hood area. This was a good partnership, the student provided the museum with countless valuable research articles on the Mi'kmaq. The references and information are added to our growing collection of historical documents.

Our last big event, Celtic Colours International Festival, was very successful thanks to the dedication, energy and commitment contributed by our volunteers. Our storytelling session, *Food for Thought: From Bonnach to Fuarag*, was well attended and we took the opportunity at this event to hold the draw for the Chestico Tartan blanket raffle. Brenda MacDonald of Port Hood was the lucky winner. Congratulations Brenda and thank you to everyone that supported this fund raiser! The meal served at Strathspey Performing Arts Centre for the performers at our concert was dubbed once again the “best meal of the festival.” The intermission tea also sold out! Congratulations to all who led, contributed and worked towards the success of the meal and intermission tea. Our *Close to the Floor* concert was sold out and received great reviews.

Our last fundraiser for this season is a raffle for a Christmas Stocking created and donated by Helen Macdonald. The date for the draw is December 9th. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. To purchase tickets you can e-transfer to: chesticomuseum@ns.aliantzinc.ca

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all museum staff, volunteers, members and board members for the incredible support towards the success of the Chestico Museum. THANK YOU!

Joanne Watts, congratulations you are our ✨ (shining star)!

Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season, health and happiness.

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year 2023!

Susan



From the Archives: Joanne Watts Receives the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal



The Chestico Museum's long time manager Joanne Watts was recently the recipient of the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her outstanding service in the heritage field in Nova Scotia. Although plans for this medal were in place earlier this year to

be given to Nova Scotians who have made significant contributions to the province in many various endeavours, the passing of her late Majesty made this a particularly poignant honour.

Lieutenant Governor Arthur J. LeBlanc, the Queen's representative in Nova Scotia stated "Her Majesty's reign embodies the importance of commitment to one's community, and the Platinum Jubilee Medal honours those who have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to their professions and the well-being of the province". The Lieutenant Governor announced the establishment of the medal on March 30, 2022 and on June 2, the Queen approved the design of the medal. Five thousand medals will be awarded across Nova Scotia and the first 70 recipients were given their medals on August 4. Joanne Watts was among this first group. Individuals were nominated for this honour based on their contributions and service to their local communities and the Chestico Museum feels very honoured to have Joanne awarded this prestigious medal.

Joanne Watts has been the manager/curator of the Chestico Museum since 2006. She is a native of Port Hood and has remained committed to her community after attending university and working for a few years out of province. Since becoming manager, Joanne has dedicated herself to learning and

researching the history of her community. She has earned a certificate in Archival Management from the Council of Nova Scotia Archives and has nearly completed her certificate in Museum Studies from the Association of Nova Scotia Museums. For visitors to our museum, she is able to engage their interest in the history of Port Hood, help researchers with their genealogical inquiries, mentor summer students working at the museum and provide our historical society with the many tools needed for a museum to function in the digital age. She is co-author with John and Cathy Gillies of "Safe Harbour – A Brief History of Port Hood" and has helped with many other research projects over the years.

Although Joanne was unable to attend the inaugural investiture ceremony in Halifax in August, the Executive Director of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums –Maggie MacIntyre -- came to Port Hood to present the medal. Board members of the Chestico Museum and Historical Society, family and friends were on hand to celebrate the occasion. Joanne, in her usual self-effacing manner, wondered what all the fuss was about but all present reassured her that she was very much deserving of this honour.

Congratulations, Joanne! We hope you will continue to serve our museum and heritage community well into the future.

Richard Wayne Murphy (Dec. 20, 1940 – Jan. 12, 2022)

In September, 1961, a brand new blue Volkswagen "Bug" arrived in Port Hood. The driver was the new senior high school French/History teacher and Vice-Principal of Port Hood Academy. He hailed from Tracadie on the north shore of New



Wayne Murphy



Wayne at School

Brunswick where he was born in 1940, the son of Sydney and Stella (Saulnier) Murphy. His credentials were a Bachelor of Arts (1960) in History from St. Anne's College in Church Point, NS, and a Bachelor of Education

from St. FX University in Antigonish, NS. And he was only twenty years of age! His home for the next two years was as a boarder with Molly MacLean in her home beside St. Stephen's United Church.

How did he land in Port Hood? At St. F.X. he became friends with fellow B.Ed. student, Sandy (son of Willie at Danny's) MacDonald of Shore Road, Judique, and came home with him some weekends during the academic year. Through this connection, he became aware of an opening for a Vice Principal at Port Hood Academy as Finlay Beaton, the former Vice Principal, had been killed in a car accident in Maine in May, 1961. Wayne applied for the position. Inverness County School Inspector, George Lent, informed him that his application was successful.

Port Hood Academy had burned to the ground in May 1961. The new Academy for 1961 had the grade 9 to 12 students attend classes in St. Peter's parish hall; the grades 7 & 8 students went to class with Anne MacEachen in the upstairs of the School Board warehouse building beside the parish hall and the grades primary to seven United Church students attended class with Doris Carver in St. Stephen's United Church. This was Mr. Murphy's first year as teacher / Vice Principal. For his second year the newly constructed Port Hood Consolidated School (PHCS) had opened. St. Peter's Convent School was closed as well as all the one and two room school houses in Port Hood and Districts, with the exception of the school on Port Hood Island. PHCS was a primary to grade twelve school and had the largest population of any school in the history of Port Hood.

By the end of his second year teaching in Port Hood Wayne had marriage on his mind as he had met and dated a local girl who was a clerk/cashier at the local Co-op store. On July 13, 1963, he and Sadie MacLennan (daughter of Charles and Catherine [MacMaster] MacLennan) made the trip down the centre aisle of St. Peter's Church, Port Hood, and said, "I do".

Wayne and Sadie then moved back to Wayne's home province of New Brunswick, where he had accepted a position as senior high French teacher in Campbellton Composite High School for 1963-64. The following two years from 1964-66 Wayne served as Principal of a school in Lagaceville, NB.



Wayne at his desk.

In 1966, Alexander Doyle resigned as principal of PHCS to take over the principal's job at Mabou Consolidated School. One day in the spring of 1966, Sadie received a phone call at home in NB from Lawrence "Angus

Hughie" Mac Donald, chair of the Port Hood School trustees. He said to Sadie, "Do you think Wayne would be interested in coming to Port Hood as principal?" Wayne returned the phone call that evening and after some consideration made the decision to come back to Port Hood. He and Sadie with their two sons returned in the summer of 1966 and took up residence in the former home of Hughie and Jessie MacLellan at the Little River. Next, they purchased a mini-home and set it up on the east side of Bernice Gillies' property. In 1973 they moved into their newly constructed home on the High Road.

For twenty-one years Wayne served as principal of PHCS. He was a student-centered teaching principal who put the learning needs of each of the students first and foremost. He continued staying current in education theory and practice through completing a

Masters in Education at St. FX. In the school year 1987-88, Wayne moved on to Judique-Creignish Consolidated School as principal, a position he held until his retirement in June 1993.

Wayne was an active community person who was involved in many facets of the life of the village. In the fall of 1972, the Port Hood & District Recreation Commission was established at a public meeting with the primary aim to establish a covered skating arena. Wayne was an early and enthusiastic supporter of the concept along with a core team of citizens. Working with this team, he became an idea man and successful fundraiser. The team carried out two pledge campaigns; started a summer picnic now known as Chestico Days; began weekly Pig 'n Whistle dances as well as a New Year and Easter Ball; took over the Firemen's Fall Auction for a few years; organized a \$100 a ticket Lottery; scheduled wrestling matches in the Arena and held sponsored Walkathons.

The biggest fundraising effort was establishing successful weekly summer and fall Bingo Games. Wayne put a great deal of time and energy into Bingo in concert with Arena managers and a team of volunteers. There was Bingo, and Giant Bingo, and Super Bingo, and Whopper Bingo, and Colossal Bingo. A black Ford Thunderbird and other cars were offered as game prizes, as well as a family home, a ticket to a Muhammad Ali fight, furnishings for a house, pop-up campers and many other major prizes. He even booked Mac Corey of "Another World" fame to make an appearance at one Bingo game to sign autographs and answer questions from fans.

On another occasion, the local school board was cutting programs and staff for county schools as a cost saving measure. The music program at PHCS was to be cut. Wayne organized a Bingo to raise money to pay the salary of a music teacher for a year at PHCS and raised the necessary amount in a single night. However, due to union contract issues the money could not be used for this purpose and was

diverted to set up a Chestico Scholarship awarded annually to a graduating student at PHCS, and currently to a student at Dalbrae Academy.

Wayne was largely responsible for setting up concerts and dances featuring well-known national and international performers, again as a fundraiser to support the local Arena, now known as the Al MacInnis Sports Centre. Among them were Carol Baker, Ronnie Prophet, the Mercey Brothers and Family Brown. From south of the border he booked entertainers such as Tommy Cash, Buddy Knox and Faron Young. He even had an Arena concert booked with Dolly Parton but due to illness she cancelled all her concerts at that time. With monies raised through these means, all original Arena debts were paid off by the fall of 1983 and a mortgage burning ceremony was held in the form of a free dance at the Arena. The community of Port Hood was now home to a valuable recreation facility for its youth and adult population.



Sara's Crafts & Gifts

Wayne had a strong entrepreneurial streak and it led to the establishment of a few local businesses. With a fellow teacher he set up a home furniture business, "Morris & Murphy" and built a store in the central area of Port Hood which now serves as the Ceilidh Fishermens' Co-op Store. In 1988 he and his wife Sadie opened a gift shop, "Sara's Crafts & Gifts" which they successfully operated for 28 years. Under new management it is now the "Four Mermaids Gift Shop". Following his retirement Wayne opened a restaurant serving soup, sandwiches and subs. He closed it after one year of operation and his wife operated it as a bakery and coffee shop for another year. It was next operated as a Tourist Information

Centre and it is now the Clove Hitch Restaurant. For a number of summers while teaching he operated a business, “Santa’s Warehouse” from stores in both the main Port Hawkesbury Mall and the Mayflower Mall in Sydney, in which he sold a large variety of stock which he acquired at liquidation sales in Montreal.

Wayne was committed to his church community, St. Peter’s Parish, and was very generous in volunteering his time and talents. As a guitar player and singer, he was part of a parish choir for years. He was a member of the Praesidium of the Legion of Mary and was faithful to visiting the sick and shut-in at home and in hospital. He was often found participating in Eucharistic Adoration at his parish church.

Wayne was a member and supporter of the Chestico Museum & Historical Society from our beginning in 1978. He served originally on our fundraising committee and assisted in the establishing of Chestico Days in 1978. Our Society extends our sincere sympathy to Wayne’s widow, Sadie; his sons David (Cathy) in Orangeville, ON and Charles (Tracy) in Halifax; and his daughter, Michelle in Toronto, as well as his three grand children.

Thank You

The Chestico Museum benefits from the generosity of our membership and visitors for the services we are able to provide. We have been the recipient of many monetary donations. We thank Susan Smith, Rachel Smith, Michael & Ethel Ojoleck, Mary Louise Burns, Bernie Gillies, Alice Guest, Mary Layton, Anne Marie Sime, Ann West, Floyd C. Murphy, Barry Zwicker, Mary Pellerine, David & Kate Nagle, Barb Cannon, Allen & Edna Tobey, Monica MacDonald, Bernard & Joan Beaton, R. Michael McReynolds, Marie Aucoin, Anna M. MacDonald and Catherine Teoli.

Donations were made in memory of Flora (MacDonald) McLaughlin by the Gillies Family

(Clare, Pauline, John, Francis and Lorraine) and in memory of Ian MacDougall by Susan Hutchinson.

We are also grateful for volunteers help and so we thank Jeanette MacNeil for assistance with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee display, Betty Cormier, Jeanette MacNeil, Naomi Thompson, Catherine MacEachern and Diane Quimby for the loan of items for the Platinum Jubilee display, Edgar Cormier for lawn mowing and for the use and set up of his sound system for our ceilidhs, and Ruth Guest, Laura Langille, Helen MacDonald and Brenda Harrison for selling tickets on the Tartan Blanket.

Historical items, artifacts and archival materials are gratefully accepted. We thank, Archie MacDonald, Mary Janet MacDonald, Glen MacNeil, the family of the late Collie MacDonell, Helen MacDonald and Bob Rogers.

We also thank Ann Macquarrie for the Chestico Tartan Blanket and Helen MacDonald for the knitted Christmas stocking for our raffles.

And finally, thank you to the province of Nova Scotia for funding through the Community Museums Assistance Program and the Municipality of the County of Inverness for project funding.

Esther Annabelle (MacPhail) Pond

For 77 years Esther Pond was a much-loved resident of the north end of Port Hood. She died on April 22, 2022, surrounded by her family. She was the last World War II enlisted military person remaining in Port Hood. At her funeral service in St. Stephen-Jubilee United Church, Port Hood, on July 7, 2022, her youngest son, Kent, delivered a beautiful and moving eulogy to his mother. It gives a very good insight into what family life was like in Chestico from the 1940s through the 1970s. Below is an edited version with many direct quotes from the eulogy.



Esther (MacPhail) Pond

Esther MacPhail was born in Stellarton, NS, on October 21, 1922. She was the third, and last remaining of six siblings. She had a happy childhood and was very close to her aunts Lib and Lena of Pictou, with whom she spent many summer days hiking on the wooded property trails, splashing in the swimming hole, doing various sports activities or having stories read to her on rainy days.

Ancestry and family genealogy were important aspects of Esther's life. She was known to "brag" about her descent from a Scottish noble woman, Lady Esther Sinclair, who eloped and married a stable hand, Donald MacDonald, on her family estate and was thus estranged from her family, leaving with her husband for a new life in the colony of Nova Scotia. Her father was the Earl of Caithness whose ancestral home was Castle Mey in the north of Scotland, which was restored in the twentieth century by Queen Elizabeth II's mother. Kent remembered the day he drove his mother to Earlton, NS, and located the grave of Lady Sinclair MacDonald and her husband. Esther burst into tears when she first saw the grave and this was the first of many visits.

Esther was proud of her blood connection to local Inverness County historian, Jim St. Clair, as well as her connection to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, through his mother – Margaret Sinclair. An important keepsake was a letter from Prime Minister Trudeau acknowledging the relationship.

On another branch of her family tree - the Harris family – she was a descendant of one of the earliest settlers to Pictou and the first doctor in that town, Dr. John Harris.

Esther lived through the Second World War and wanted to do her part for her country so one spring day in May, 1943, while visiting relatives near Halifax she took a bus into the city. She spotted a huge poster on the roadside which read, "Join the WRCNS and Free a Man To Join The Fleet". So that afternoon she enlisted in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service. She was 19 years of age and served from May 19, 1943, to April 30, 1944. She received her basic training in Galt, ON. She then served as a Steward Class II in Conestoga, ON, and as a general clerk, messenger and sailmaker in the dockyard at Stadacona, NS. She worked in many areas but mostly transcribed papers and military orders, for which she was sworn to secrecy. A major highlight for her at this time was the meeting and shaking hands with Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain, and on another occasion with William Lyon MacKenzie King, the Prime Minister of Canada.

Esther was discharged from the WRCNS in April, 1944 as she became pregnant with her first child and had no choice at that point in naval history but to leave the service. She always said that that year in her life was a very interesting time and she really liked being in the Services. Although no longer in the military she was proud to be a member of the Angus L. MacDonald Branch 132 Royal Canadian Legion, Inverness. She was honoured to participate in the Remembrance Day ceremony each year and on occasion visited school classrooms to share her war experiences. She looked forward to the Legion Remembrance Dinner each November and attended up to 2021.

In November 2021 Esther was presented with a plaque from the Department of Veterans Affairs for her service and dedication. Members of the local Legion Branch presented this to her in a special ceremony at Inverary Manor, her then residence. She was the last remaining veteran of World War II from Branch 132. The Pond family was honoured that the Legion was present and participated in their mother's Celebration of Life.



*Back: Jackie, Patricia, George
Front: Harold, Norma (holding Kent), and Clifford*

Esther married John Thomas Pond of Port Hood on December 1, 1944. He was working as a painter at the Pictou Shipyards and that is where they met. Together they raised a family of seven children – Jackie, Patricia, George, Norma, Harold, Clifford and Kent. They moved to Port Hood on July 1, 1945 and took up residence in the home of Nehemiah and Eliza (Leadbetter) Watts where John had been raised. Esther was 21 years of age and had moved to a community she had never ever visited. She often said, “Never knew a soul in Port Hood when I moved here”. However, she felt great support from her immediate neighbours across the street, Perley and Mary Margaret Smith, who took her under their wing and helped her in so many ways, whether it was offering her advice on raising a family, providing her with a listening ear when things were not going well and offering her advice on what steps she could take to improve life. It was Perley who suggested that she go down to The Village Tea Room and ask Katie Moran if she would hire her as a waitress. This was the beginning of a career as a waitress that would span over forty years. Esther often said to her son Kent that if it wasn’t for the Smiths she didn’t think she would have survived living in Port Hood.

She was very homesick for her parents, siblings and other relatives when she first moved to Port Hood. She said that she wrote letters to her mother to tell her that she missed the family and that she was going to start walking home. Her mother replied in the next

letter, “Oh Esther dear, you can’t walk home as you won’t be able to get across the Strait of Canso.” However, when the Canso Causeway was opened in 1955 her mother wrote her and said, “OK, Esther, you can start walking home now, as they built you a causeway to walk over!” However, by then she was well settled into life in Port Hood.

In addition to being mother of seven children, she was grandmother to eleven and great-grandmother to four.

In paying tribute to his mother Kent said, “Mom raised us well and made many sacrifices for us over the years when we were growing up. Many times, she would do without so that we would have the things we needed growing up. She was a very compassionate and loving mother. She taught us right from wrong and led us in the right direction in life. I remember coming home one day when I was young and I was mimicking a neighbour of ours at the time who had a speech impediment. Mom sat me down and told me that it was very wrong to be making fun of people. She went on to explain that it wasn’t the neighbour’s fault that he was born with this speech impediment and that I should be very thankful that I wasn’t born with any disabilities.

“Mom was a very strong and resilient person and this was proven when her mother, Sarah, passed away in September, 1968, and then five months later in February, 1969, her oldest son Jackie died in a tragic drowning. She said “I did mourn, but I did it in my own way. I certainly couldn’t stop living as life goes on and I had the rest of you to take care of and I also had to work.” She was also very strong when her husband, our father, John, passed away in 1993 and now she had to learn to live her life as a widow. She continued with life and knew that she could not give up.

“Life wasn’t always easy and there were difficulties that she had to get through, and she did. She would often say that life wasn’t easy but I think I did a good job of getting through the tough times. She would

also say that the hard times gave us character and made us who we are today.

“Mom had a good sense of humour too. One funny story that she liked to tell was about her first day working as a waitress at The Village Tea Room. Katie Moran told her that she could wait on a gentleman who was a regular to the restaurant. Katie told mom that he always started with the soup of the day, then the pot roast and then a piece of pie. Mom waited on him and sure enough that is what he ordered. Mom took the soup out to him and a short time later he motioned for her to come over to the table. He asked mom if the soup of the day was “Clear Soup”, as mom had forgotten to fill the bowl with soup when she took it out to him. Mom said that the man always teased her after that about ordering “Clear Soup” whenever he came to the restaurant.



Esther

“Mom loved the outdoors. She liked walking on the beach and swimming in the ocean, going for walks to the Pond or up to the Point, skating on the harbour ice or on the inner Pond. When she first moved to Port Hood, she even rode her bike to the store. I remember when I was in grade eleven our physical education class went snowshoeing and mom asked me to ask the teacher if she could join us and she did. Every spring she loved to hear the sound of the first peepers in the evening. It is interesting that I heard the first spring peepers this year on the eve of Mom’s passing and I couldn’t wait to tell her the next day! Each spring mom always loved to go out to look for the first May flowers as well as to pick some of the

first pussy willows and take them home to put in a vase. She especially loved watching for the first snowdrops to appear from under the snow. Snowdrops held a special place for mom as during her early years in Port Hood when she was homesick for family in Pictou her brother, Hilton, had mailed her a bunch of snowdrop bulbs in a matchbox. He told her to plant them and watch for them to bloom in the spring and this would be a reminder of home and that they were thinking of her. She called the tiny snowdrops her flowers of hope. When the bulbs began to multiply mom would dig some up and share them with friends so they could enjoy the flowers of hope. In the fall she went out to view the beautiful autumn leaves or to gather some cattails. I don’t know if she really liked winter but she always enjoyed seeing a snowman appear in our yard.

“Mom also enjoyed feeding and watching the birds that came to the feeder in winter. She particularly liked the little chickadees, blue jays, mourning doves, sparrows and one year she loved watching for the two cardinals that came for the winter. In spring she waited for the first robins and blackbirds to arrive.

“Mom was a hard-working individual who took a job when I was two. She went to work as she did not want to depend on welfare. Over her forty-year career she worked at The Village Tea room, The Highland Nook, The Port Hawkesbury Motel, the Hebridean Motel and finished at the Heritage House. She went to work when many women did not work outside home, and she continued to hold a job and raise a family. Many nights she came home and made bread so that it would be ready the next morning to put in the pans and bake.

“Mom was a very good cook and made from scratch many dishes. Every week she made meals, baked bread, biscuits, pies and other desserts. In the fall she made all kinds of preserves and pickles. Each Christmas she cooked up fruit cakes, donuts, plum pudding and many other treats. Each family birthday we were given a homemade birthday cake with a

lucky quarter hidden inside it. All of this was done on a wood/coal stove usually before she left for her day job or upon her return home in the evening. I remember that nothing tasted better than one of mom's warm biscuits with butter and molasses!



Esther and John

“Mom was a very determined woman. Whenever she got an idea in her head, she would not let up until it was achieved. For example, when she was working at the Port Hawkesbury Motel she travelled home after her shift with the guys who worked at the Pulp Mill. Then, one year the hours for the pulp mill workers changed and mom was not able to travel with them. This did not stop mom. A short time later she went to visit her father who worked at Goodspeed's Auto dealership in Truro. While there visiting she looked out the window of his apartment and she said to him, “See that little green car out there?” Grampy replied, “Yes, that is a Chevy Nova. What about it?” Mom said, “I am going to buy it!” Grampy said, “But you don't know how to drive!” Mom's reply was, “Well, I will learn!” And she did with the help of her son George and her son-in-law Sterling Morrison. She was in her early fifties.

“It was the same determined and independent spirit twelve years ago when she decided to downsize and sell the old house in which we had grown up. She kept a piece of land and purchased a new mini-home in which to live. She liked to be independent and not to have to rely on someone else. This was true right up to the time when her dementia began. She did not

give up driving until she was in her early nineties and even then she questioned why she shouldn't be able to drive.

“Mom was very creative. She knitted us mittens every winter when we were growing up. Later, she learned to knit socks and it was her daughter-in-law, Bev, who taught her how to turn the heel on the socks. She also took up quilting and as a result she left many of her finished pieces for her children to keep them warm and cherish her memory in the years to come.

“Mom never saw herself as being old, even in her nineties! I remember when we would be shopping in Port Hawkesbury and mom would see an elderly individual walking across the parking lot and she would say, “Look at the dear old soul!”

“Mom loved doing the Lexicon Puzzle in the newspaper every Friday. She worked at it until she had answered and found all the clues. As well, she was an avid reader and always had a book on the go. She read before going to bed each night. Historical novels were her favourites and authors like Philippa Gregory and Catherine Cookston were special, as well as any books that had to do with Lucy Maude Montgomery's life.

“Mom always enjoyed a good cup of tea with a biscuit or piece of bannock. When we would return home from being on a trip to Port Hawkesbury or somewhere else, she would always put the kettle on to have a hot cup of tea.

“Over the years mom told us many times that when she passed she didn't want a wake. She said, “If people can't come and visit me while I am living, then I certainly don't want them to come and see me when I am gone, to say how great I look!” She also told us that she didn't want people buying flowers for her funeral, but if they wanted to pick flowers out of their gardens or from nature, then that would be okay. All the beautiful bouquets in the church today abide by that wish.

“The china coffee pot that holds mom’s ashes also has a story. Mom decided years ago that when she died, she wanted to be cremated. When Rita MacNeil passed away and had her ashes buried in a china teapot mom had an idea. She told her oldest daughter, Pat, that she wished to have her ashes placed in the antique china coffee pot that once belonged to her mother. We honoured her wishes by doing so.

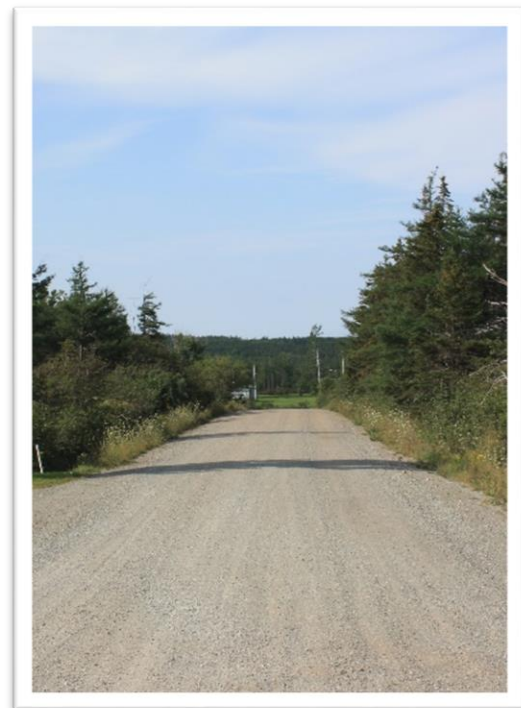
“Mom, although you are no longer here with us in person, please know that you will always continue to hold a special place in our minds, through the many

shared memories each of us have of you, as well as the memories which are special to us individually. You will always hold a special place in our hearts for the love that we have for you for the many things that you did for us over the years and that we were so blessed to have you as our mother. We were so fortunate that you were with us for so many years. We will continue to feel your presence with us as the years unfold and know that you are with us in spirit. Someday we will get to see you and be reunited with you and those who have passed before us, when our time on earth is done.

Port Hood Then and Now – Part 2A

We are grateful to Chestico Museum & Historical Society member Gordon Smith for sharing a series of articles on Port Hood and Port Hood Island postcards. The original postcards are all pre 1942. Gordon has Port Hood Island roots. He is a grandson of Katherine (MacKinnon) & Robert Marshall Smith.

This article is the second in a series showing the picture postcards of Port Hood and area matched with modern images taken in the summer of 2021. If you want to see other articles in the series and the modern images in colour, go to bit.ly/PHPcards.



View 1: A Country Lane near Port Hood N.S.



View 2: Scene at Little River, Port Hood, Cape Breton, Canada

This aerial view of Port Hood shows the locations from where the photographs were taken. The photos from the inset portion of the map will be covered in our next issue.



To be continued in the next issue.

We Remember

Sympathy is extended to the families of Chestico Museum & Historical Society members Flora Anne (MacDonald) McLaughlin of Medford, MA and Burton MacDonald of Bedford who passed away since our last newsletter.