



Southwest Arm Historical Society

Annual General Meeting

Monday, September 28, 2015

Lions Club, Hodge's Cove

The meeting was chaired by Eric Stringer.

Executive Members Present: Jim Avery, Leslie Dean, Wanda Garrett, Lester Green, Elaine Spurrell, Eric Stringer, Roy Warren

New Executive Members Present: Peggy Hogan, Alma Loder, Andrew Peddle, Bud Strong, Wayne Butt

Regrets: Don Smith

#	ITEM/DISCUSSION
1.	<p>Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order.</p> <p>He thanked all the members of the current executive for their work during the past two years.</p> <p>Eric thanked everyone who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • became paid members of the SWA Historical Society and the Friends of the SWA Historical Society at the Platinum, Gold and Silver levels • contributed photos and other items to the website • had artifacts on display during our two Heritage Days • attended our two Heritage Days, and • offered congratulatory compliments to our Society.
2.	<p>Treasurer's Report was presented by Jim Avery</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Corporate sponsors donated \$675. • There are 263 members of the SWA Historical Society and 11 Friends of the Society. Some members have paid for multiple years. • Fees from Membership total \$3025 • Funds received from the Clarendville Co-op from a 50/50 draw - \$1500 • Profit from the Heritage Day held in Hodge's Cove - \$825 • Profit from the Heritage Day held in Hillview - \$987 • Donations received - \$365 • Total income - \$7377 <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses - \$646.80 • Bank fees - \$108.63 • Total expenses - \$755.43 <p>Balance on hand is \$6621.57</p>

3. Website update presented by Wanda Garrett

We launched our website on December 1, 2014.

As of	Pages	Galleries	Photos
January 19, 2015	363	107	2763
September 27, 2015	908	176	3910

As a member of the Southwest Arm Historical Society, and if I have your email address, at the end of each month you receive a list of all the new items posted to our website during the past month. If you are a member, and are not receiving this list, please see me later and provide me with your email address.

Some highlights of our website:

Under the Communities heading – you will find a brief history of each community in Southwest Arm, photos of most communities as well a new section we recently added called Historical Architecture. You may have noticed that there are a couple of communities that we have very few, if any, photos. For example, we don't have any photos of the communities of Clay Pitts, Ivany's Cove or Hearts' Ease Beach and we only have a couple of photos of House Cove, Island Cove and Queen's Cove. If you happened to have photos of these communities we would love to borrow them for a couple of hours to scan them and upload them to the website.

Under Education you will find some very interesting school reports dating from 1893 to 1916. In 1901 the report reads: "Three teachers were paid out of this grant and 116 children benefitted by their services. It will be readily seen that it is impossible to keep these schools going continuously. At Hearts' Ease 14 present were well up in the three R's, Elementary Grammar and Geography. At Hodge's Cove 30 children were doing well under a careful teacher, whose work is retarded by an unsuitable room. At Island Cove a school of 10 was kept in a store for nine months. At Long Beach 14 in Primer to R.R. III were doing well in Reading, Spelling and Writing. It had been opened but a couple of months, and from the known energy of the teacher it is safe to say improvement must follow. At Northern Bight the school-room is in a poor condition. Here again, what more can be done with such small means?"

Under Education we have started to work on School Histories but so far only have the history of St. Marks Anglican School in Long Beach and St. Jones Within Elementary. If anyone has information on any of the other schools that were open in SW Arm, please let us know and of course we are always looking for more photos.

Genealogy – There are a few family histories provided in a chart format as well, in June we uploaded five searchable family histories. We hope to upload more searchable family histories as they become available to us. If you have a family history you would like to provide us just contact me. Of course, we are always happy to receive new photos for this section – photos of the people of Southwest Arm.

Speaking of photos – a lot of people upload photos to our Facebook page, which is wonderful. It would also be great if you would email these photos to me for uploading to our website. I generally do not copy photos from Facebook because the resolution is often too small. Facebook reduces the resolution of photos once they are uploaded to Facebook. We prefer to upload a higher resolution photo to our website.

The largest section on our website is the Lifestyle section. This section covers things like businesses, the fishery, organizations, interviews and videos, profiles of people, stories and our virtual museum. Under the Fishery you will find a list of schooners of SW Arm – this list continues to grow. If you know of a schooner that we missed or have information or a photo of schooner we have on the list, be sure to contact us.

Our virtual museum certainly grew after our two Heritages Days. Lots of wonderful items! Thanks to everyone who had items on display and allowed us to photograph these items for our virtual museum.

Another interesting section is Resources. Here you will find some very interesting Newspaper articles and publications. We can learn so much from old newspaper articles. I thought I would read a couple examples –

From the Twillingate Sun of 4 July 1889 we learn that “prospects continue to brighten, and it seems that we are going to have a return of good times of days gone by. At present there’s a splendid sign of fish at the mouth of Random Sound and at South West Arm. Shaw Brothers have two hundred quintals ashore already, and Martin trapped seven quintals yesterday. Hook and line men are at their best, and the work goes on with something like the enthusiasm displayed by our forefathers. All the people in this vicinity anticipate one of the best voyages known for many years.”

From the Western Star on October 30, 1913 we learn that a telegraph office opened in both Hodge’s Cove and Fox Harbour.

From the Evening Telegram, 31 May 1920 we learn that there were three Methodists churches dedicated in Southwest Arm on the one day – one at Hatchet Cove, one at St. Jones Within and one at Loreburn.

From the Daily Star of 18 October 1920 we learn that Miss Smith, a nurse brought out from England by Lady Harris to do outport nursing work, left by yesterday’s express to take up her duties at Hodge’s Cove.

To conclude, we hope you are all enjoying the website. I would like to thank everyone who has already sent us photos and/or items. We certainly appreciate your additions to the website. And, I look forward to hearing from more of you during the coming year. If you would like to help transcribe some documents for the website, please let me know. If you have pictures but don’t have a scanner – no problem. Just let us know and we can certainly make arrangements with you to scan your pictures and return them to you right away. I look forward to seeing what our website will look like this time next year.

4. Status of the Heart’s Ease Beach Project presented by Lester Green.

Since we met last year, we have pursued information from people concerning Heart’s Ease Beach. Three major accomplishments.

1. Barry Gaulton, Head of MUN’s Archaeology Department – Mr. Gaulton listened with interest about Heart’s Ease Beach and admitted that he was not aware of this site. He referred me to the Provincial Archaeology Department.
2. On January 28, 2015, arrangements were made to meet with Martha Drake, Ken Reynolds and Stephen Hull. Les Dean and myself represented the Southwest Arm Historical Society.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion centered around Heart’s Ease site, artifacts found there and archaeological work that may have been completed. • Discussion of other potential archaeological sites in the Southwest Arm region. • A visit by the Department to look at possible new sites and to re-visit others was arranged. <p>3. On September 22, Stephen Hull, Archaeologist, Peggy Hogan and myself visited several sites and discussed where we could go next with this project.</p> <p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future work on Heart’s Ease Beach and ways to preserve this site. Preserve the integrity for collection of information. • Where to place signage • Visitations to other potential sites to do preliminary work on pre-historical peoples such as Dorset, Beothuck, etc. <p>4. During our trip, we were fortunate to confirm a site that contained several flakes that resulted from the making of stone tools. Steve was also fortunate to locate a nearly completed harpoon head. This site will now be recorded by the Department for protection and preservation. Hopefully, we will someday see work being done by an Archaeological team.</p> <p>Goals for the next two years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Striking a sub-committee to work on pre-history / early history of Southwest Arm area. 2. Continuation of Heart’s Ease Beach prehistory / early European history. 3. Identification of other archaeological sites in Southwest Arm region. 4. Pursuit of students from MUN’s Archaeological Department for potential excavation work. 5. Placing of signage in several locations to highlight the early history of the region – examples include Heart’s Ease Beach area, Clay Pitts / Batt’s Cove, and, Northern Bight Station.
5.	Eric invited members present to sign up to become an auxiliary member. This could be a member of a sub-committee or to assist with special projects.
6.	Introduction of Guest Speaker – Eric introduced our guest speaker for the evening.
7.	<p>Guest Speaker – Leslie Dean</p> <p>Leslie gave a very informative talk on the early history of Random. His talk was very well received and was followed by a question and answer session.</p>
8.	<p>Executive of the Southwest Arm Historical Society for the next two years (2016 and 2017):</p> <p>Chair – Elaine Spurrell Vice-Chair – Vacant Secretary – Peggy Hogan Treasurer – Andrew Peddle Web – Wanda Garrett Heart’s Ease Beach Project – Lester Green Members at large: Jim Avery, Wayne Butt, Les Dean, Alma Loder, Don Smith, Bud Strong, Roy Warren.</p>