



Southwest Arm Historical Society
 Annual General Meeting
 November 16, 2016
 50+ Centre, Hillview

In attendance
 meeting chair: Elaine Spurrell
 executive members: Wanda Garrett, Andrew Peddle, Lester Green, Peggy Hogan
 members at large: Roy Warren
 new members at large: Renee Finlayson, Ross Vivian
 regrets from: members at large Valerie Johnson, Max and Flo Peddle

#	ITEM/DISCUSSION
1	Elaine Spurrell welcomed everyone – there were some 30+ people in attendance
2	Elaine introduced present executive then called meeting to order: In attendance Chairperson: Elaine Spurrell, Vice Chair/Web Administrator: Wanda Garrett, Treasurer: Andrew Peddle, Military Projects: Lester Green, Storyboard Projects: Peggy Hogan Don Smith and Jim Avery have resigned from executive
3	Minutes (in print form) from last meeting were shared with all assembled Wanda Garrett adopted minutes and Andrew Peddle seconded.
4	Treasurer's report submitted by Andrew Peddle – complete report will be ready by year end. As of Sept. 30, 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance \$12,029.92 • Revenue 1,080.00 • Expenses 6,141.73 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ledger Balance Nov. 15/16 \$6,968.19 Cash on hand 785.00 Andrew says donations are up since the 2016 Come Home Year celebrations. The Coffee House and Heritage Day events both brought in new funds and we gained a few new members. Lester Green detailed the \$5,000 funding we received from the Honour 100 Fund Andrew moved to end the report and Elaine seconded.
5	Website Report – Wanda Garrett Website is not even 2 years of age and as of this date there are 1093 pages, 227 galleries with 4,519 photos on the site. The Lifestyle section is largest and covers businesses, the fishery, organizations, interviews and videos, profiles, stories and a virtual museum and a section on horses thanks to Eric Stringer. The military section now has all of Lester Green's articles on the 26 soldiers from the Newfoundland Regiment during WW1. The site also has census records, births, baptisms, obituaries, and voters lists. Wanda asked for

	volunteers to help with transcription and for contributions of photos of people, houses, vessels, animals etc, also stories and any other items that help interpret aspects of life in the Random area. Excellent and amazing work by Wanda.
6	<p>Heart's Ease Storyboard Report – Peggy Hogan Peggy thinks visits to beach have tripled since the unveiling of the storyboard in mid July 2016. Peggy briefed on the storyboard theme, design, text and image research and storyboard costs – a kind of “how to” for anyone interested in storyboard development. There were also thank-yous to people that donated time and materials to the project: Viv Seward, Rod Hogg, Bruce Philips, Gary and Natalie Bursey, and Philip Hiscock (see attached report).</p> <p>The new traffic to the beach brings into focus the dismal state of the trail. The Traditional Paths Interest Group is hoping to improve this trail and looking into liability related issues. Peggy asked folks interested to step forward. TPIG is looking for members call Peggy 427-2347</p>
7	<p>Other Storyboard Projects – Southport, Northern Bight Station, Batts Cove & Clay Pitts Elaine Spurrell outlined Elaine Stringer family storyboard project for Southport and the fundraiser planned through ticket sales of artist Larry Mahoney print. The family will be working with the executive over next few months. Elaine Spurrell also emphasized our commitment to developing a storyboard for Northern Bight Station. Ross Vivian came forward with expressed interest in working on this project. Lester Green talked about the archaeological explorations in the arm this past summer with Stephen Hull. Stephen documented various pre history sites, the Halfway Rock and the old cemeteries in Batts Cove and Clay Pitts.</p>
8	<p>Choosing Members at Large for coming year Valerie Johnson already committed with Renee Finlayson and Ross Vivian stepping forward at the meeting. Max and Flo Peddle have requested member at large status as well.</p>
9	<p>Presentation of Military research and the Where Once They Served Banners – Lester Green The banners, sponsored by Honour 100 Fund, were displayed around the room and Lester presented a slide show of his research work on each and every soldier in Random region who served in the Newfoundland Regiment in WW1. It highlighted the depth and breadth of this work and the profound influence it has had on the families today who have now a much fuller understanding of their family members who served in WW1. Elaine Spurrell expressed our thanks: we cannot thank Lester enough for all his hard work and dedication to the military project. His passion and zeal for it drove him on and the end result was nothing but outstanding. Let's all continue to work together and encourage others to become involved in the society.</p>
10	<p>Closed with thanks to Lester and all those who attended. Lunch and good conversation was shared.</p>

HEART'S EASE BEACH STORYBOARD – REPORT

Nov 16, 2016

Since mid-July, when the Heart's Ease Beach storyboard was unveiled, we've seen a three-fold increase in visitors taking the historic walk. Visitors and locals are showing greater interest in the beach and Jack Baker's Hill and in the Blow-Me-Down Path. The storyboard now marks the beginning of these historic paths and touches on the history - the people that lived and/or worked on the beach – the Maritime Archaic, Dorset, Beothuk, the Migratory fishermen and the English and Irish settlers.

Research and Writing

It was a six-month project, beginning late January, 2016. It was a great opportunity for me. I was so pleased to be entrusted with the job. After much debate our group determined that an introduction to the beach was needed with the storyboard used to mark the entrance to the paths. The theme is the story of the people and the rich resources that brought them to the beach. It also tells newcomers what they are going to see when they get there. The biggest challenge was creating a balance of information that while keeping the written information in concise paragraphs for each subject area. I would recommend no more than 400 words on 3x4 foot board.

Images

You can see why images are almost more important than the text – they really do tell the story. Two beautiful pictures of Emma and Sarah Dodge help bring the residents' story alive. When there are no images of an area (like we encountered with the Beach) substitutes are acceptable. We used a Grand Bank beach photo and another from Labrador of three men cleaning fish. There are many national and digital archives now online. And for on the ground help, the people at MUN's Centre for Newfoundland Studies are amazing. Securing copyright and giving photo credit is important.

Design

The historic society spent less than \$1,200 on this storyboard. Andy Hennebury, with Newfoundland Tourism and Trails, says our storyboard is as good as any he's seen. From the point of view of critiquing the project, I would say that the strongest feature of the board is its visual impact. Certainly a good copywriter would have been an asset. But we had a budget and for this project it worked reasonably well to put the money where we did. For anyone interested in the process I would love to share more of what we learned.

Thank-yous

Thanks to memberships fees and donations this project was made possible. It was also made possible by the following people:

Viv Seward of Gooseberry Cove donated and constructed the platform and installed the sign.

Rod Hogg of Southport welded the aluminum framing.

Bruce Phillips of Southport brought a load of gravel to the project site.

Veselina Tomova of St. John's gave us a great deal on graphic design.

Gary and Natalie Bursey in Long Beach donated wood and cutting tools to create the header.

Philip Hiscock in MUN Folklore provided the background image of the beach.

And of course the historical society board members who worked with text editing.

Les Dean who provided many insights on the history - the 1621 map showing Harts Easse, background on the families that settled the beach and much more.

Mark Ferguson, History Curator at The Rooms helped throughout to answer my many questions.

Stephen Hull, Provincial Archaeologist advised on photo credits and Timeline of Aboriginal cultures.

TPIG

Heart's Ease Beach Storyboard highlights the importance of good trails and paths for us and for visitors coming to explore the area. TPIG - Traditional Paths Interest Group was recently formed to look at walking paths in the Southport, Butter Cove and Gooseberry Cove and especially to address the needs of the path to Heart's Ease Beach. Securing a License to Occupy and Liability are two areas of research for us at the moment and we would very much like to help restore the trail. Valerie Johnson and I would love to chat with anyone who is interested in joining our group and or is engaged in this type of work elsewhere

Southwest Arm Historical Society
Website Update, November 16, 2016

We launched our website on December 1, 2014. A few stats for you... as of November 14, 2016 we have 1093 pages – 227 galleries with 4519 photos. As a member of the Southwest Arm Historical Society, and if I have your email address, at the end of each month you should receive a list of all the new items posted to the website during the past month. If you are a member, and are not receiving this list, please see me later and I will be happy to add your email address to the list.

I would like to highlight some items we are currently looking for that you may be able to help us with...

Photos – we are always looking for photos – photos of people, communities, older homes that still exist or no longer exist, occupations such as fishing and logging, former post offices, schooners and other vessels – and just about anything you can think of. I am currently looking for photos of former teachers from this area. People love to look at photos – especially older photos.

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.

Stories – we love to post stories about our communities, ancestors, and any aspect of life in Southwest Arm. A few months ago I received a wonderful bit of history written by a former teacher, Signe Mills. Miss Mills taught in St. Jones Without and Ferry's Cove in 1935-36 (this was her first teaching position) and in Long Beach in 1936-37. Her stories give us a view of these communities during this time period.

Probably the largest section on our website is the Lifestyle section. This section covers everything from businesses, the fishery, organizations, interviews and videos, profiles of people, stories and our virtual museum. Recently we added a section on Horses of SW Arm – Eric Stringer provided us with this information. If you have additional information and/or photos please send them along.

Our Military section grew quite a bit this past year. In this section you will find all the articles that Lester Green wrote on the 26 soldiers from this area

who served with the Newfoundland Regiment during WW1 – we have also posted pictures and information on the banners and the special Remembrance Day Ceremony that you will hear more about shortly.

There are lots of records on the website – from birth and baptism records to obituaries, voters lists, census records, and so on. Transcribing these records take time. I just finished the 1962 Voters list and still have the 1963, 1965, 1972 and 1974. If anyone would like to help transcribe some documents for the website, please let me know.

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.

In 1947, someone from this area reported regularly for the Western Star – there are some great items in this section – it was the facebook of 1947.

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.

Thank you...