

“New Beginners”: Planters in Cobequid 1761-1780

The Planters in Cobequid 1761-1780 Exhibit offers a new look at 18th century life in Cobequid

What drew them here and what did they leave behind? Opening May 7th, the Colchester Historical Museum displays “New Beginners”: Planters in Cobequid 1761-1780, an exploration of the first English-speaking people to settle along the Cobequid coast of Nova Scotia. The exhibit runs throughout 2011, marking the 250th anniversary of the Planter arrival in the region. Visitors

will see history come to life at the 2pm exhibit opening, as members and friends of the Cobequid Planters 250 Society portray historic Planter characters in full costume.

Arriving in 1761, roughly six years after the Expulsion of the Acadians, the Planters worked the land, practiced many trades, and helped life and society to grow in Cobequid. These “New Beginners” developed a thriving linen manufactory and cultivated lasting roots in Colchester County that can still be seen today.

The term “Planter” refers to government-sponsored settlers who were “planted” on specific lands. The Planters of Cobequid were primarily artisans and traders from New England and Ireland who were directed to what became the Townships of Londonderry, Onslow and Truro.

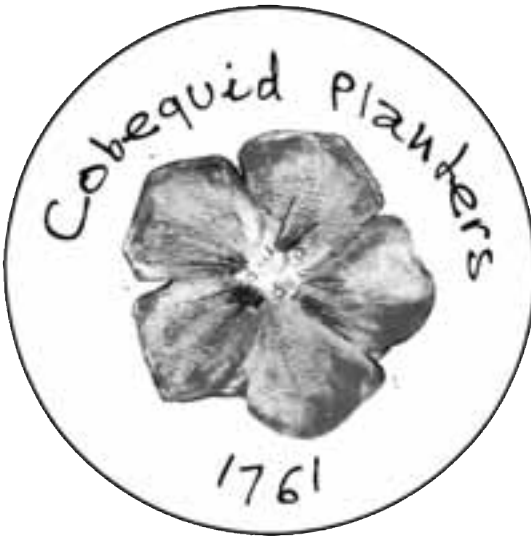
Exhibit opens Saturday, May 7th at 2pm and runs until the end of 2011. Admission: \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth. Museum hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am-12pm & 1pm-4pm / Saturday 1pm-4pm.

Planters Society Conference Slated for June 11-12.

A two-day conference featuring local, national and international speakers on June 11 & 12 at the Marigold Cultural Centre and an 18th Century lifestyle encampment in July are just some of the events in store for Colchester County residents as they celebrate the Year of the Planters in Cobequid (1761-2011).

For well over a year, the Cobequid Planters 250 Society has been planning ways to commemorate the arrival of the first English speaking settlers (Planters) from Ireland and New England beginning in 1761. Dressed in reproduction clothing, members of the Cobequid Planters 250 Society celebrated the arrival of 2011 by attending New Year's Day levees in the Truro area on Jan. 1.

The society received an \$8,500 federal grant from Canadian Heritage Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage. Members and participants are hosting a number of public workshops throughout the year and are leading creation of authentic



Marigold Cultural Centre, featuring an evening concert on June 10 and a full day of local, national and international speakers and a banquet. Registration is now being accepted for this special in depth look at this region's amazing history.

There will be an 18th Century lifestyle encampment on the grounds of the Palliser Motel on July 9 and 10.

The Town of Truro and the Municipality of the County of Colchester have contributed \$6,200 each toward upcoming events.

Other upcoming activities include: the placement of specially designed flags on 200 Planter graves in May; historic walk along the Cobequid Trail with the Central Nova Volkspport Club; several family reunions; and an opportunity to research Planter roots at the Colchester Archives. Also watch for the release of Jim and Carol's other book, *Necessaries and Sufficiencies: Life and Society in Cobequid, Nova Scotia, 1761-1780* later this year.

Masstown Community News

By Chris Urquhart

It sure has been a rainy spring so far but I guess we can be thankful that we don't have to worry about our wells going dry! The grass seems to grow an inch a day with all the rain and trying to find a nice day to mow has been a challenge. It is so nice to see everything turning green, especially the leaves coming out on the trees.

The pin cherries are in bloom, the apple trees are almost bursting with blooms and the lilacs will soon be blooming as well. Lots of tulips in the gardens here in Masstown are blooming and many folks have put out their lawn ornaments, bird baths, and solar lights. How wonderful it is to live in such a great part of the country!

The Masstown Community Association wish to thank everyone who helped out in any way with their recent Yard Sale and Bar-B-Q. The Mother's Day Basket ticket was drawn at 12:30am and the winning ticket belonged to Tanya McCabe of Nutby. She was thrilled when we called her and told her she had won. The basket was delivered to her that afternoon. Left over items from the Yard Sale were put into storage and will be used during the 75K Yard Sale. Any one with donations for this yard

sale can contact Marina Fisher 662-4059. We will again be renting out “table space” for \$5.00. Table space means the space to place a table. You must bring your own tables! To rent table space contact Mary Barley 662-2743.

Debert UCW has invited Masstown and Glenholme UCW's to join them for their closing meeting at the Glengarry in Truro at 12 noon on June 1st. Should be lots of fun! Masstown UCW's closing will be held on Wednesday June 8th at Road Side Willey's at 6pm.

The Truro Presbyterial UCW May Day Fun Day which was held in Oxford on May 17th was a great day! With 33 ladies in attendance we sang, played games, did exercises and worshiped. The hit of the day was the “fashion parade” of odd clothes and beautiful hats. We even had some “Queen's” for the day!

Looking ahead to July, here are a few bits of information for you. First, there will be no Canada Day activities at the Masstown Community Park due to Canada Day being on a Friday. There will be a Fun Day some time in August. Second, the Annual Strawberry Supper



Cheryl Teed as a “Queen” at the UCW Presbyterial May Day Fun Day. (Submitted)

will be held on Wednesday July 6th from 4:30-6pm at the Debert Fire Hall. Please note that we are back to hosting this on the Wednesday.

We have a couple of visitors in Masstown this month: Scott Trenholm, St. Catherine's Ontario and Alana Burtch, Vineland Ontario are visiting their mother Rosemary Baas. Rosemary has sold her house and will be moving to Truro. She will be very greatly missed in our community.

Enjoy the rain, it could be snow!

Lower Onslow Community Centre News



Work is underway to remove the steeple from the former Lower Onslow United Church, now the home of the Lower Onslow Playschool and Community Centre. The steeple was leaking and had to be removed. (Harrington photo)

By Ann Fiddes

If dandelions are any indication, I think Spring is here. Yes, dandelions are pretty if they are in someone else's yard.

The Community Centre continued to be a hub of activity over the past month. The card parties on Monday night are well attended. The last one until fall will be held on Monday, May 30th. The Board wants to thank Grace and Vi for being there every

Monday evening. I know all those who attended enjoyed their evening of cards and the lunch. Thanks to everyone who helped with the lunch.

Yoga on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening has been enjoyed by those who attended., thanks to Wanda our Instructor.

Thursday night Open Mic Nights have exceeded all our expectations. The attendance has been growing every

week with more musicians and larger audience. The Community Centre owes a huge thank-you to Wayne Elliott who has been our MC every night. Wayne has spread the word about our Open Mic night and does a fantastic job of keeping the evening moving.

To all the musicians, some of whom have been there every night since we opened, thank you. To those who came to enjoy the music, thank you. Our last Open Mic will be on May 26th and move back to Hidden Hilltop Campgrounds in June, and hopefully be back in Lower Onslow in the fall.

As I write this, the roof is being replaced and the steeple removed from the building. This has been our number one goal and with the help of a grant from the Municipality and the proceeds from our Open Mic nights, this will happen.

To book the centre, contact Grace at 662-2822. Enjoy your summer, more news in the fall.

For information updates: www.colchesterhistoreum.ca/planters250.



Registration is Now Open!

Cobequid Planters 250 Society Conference

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Marigold Cultural Centre 605 Prince St., Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada

Register by Phone: 902-897-4004 at Marigold Box Office

or online: www.marigoldcentre.ca (Services charges apply)

All-inclusive Early-Bird Price of \$100.00 for first 90 registrants

(Offer valid when purchasing tickets to all three main events).

Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the arrival of English-speaking settlers from Ireland and New England to Truro, Onslow and Londonderry Townships.

Friday, June 10, 2011 – David Greenberg and Chris Norman in Concert @ Marigold Cultural Centre \$30.00. Two dynamic performers in traditional and early music join forces to present a program that runs the gamut from renaissance, baroque, traditional and original music incorporating flutes, violins, pipes, keyboards, and voice.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – Conference @ Marigold Cultural Centre. \$75.00.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – Conference Dinner – 5:30 p.m. – Partake of Planter Fare and enjoy period entertainment @ St. James Presbyterian Church, 725 Prince Street, Truro. \$15.00.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – Guided tour of Colchester Historical Society Museum Planter Exhibit entitled New Beginners. 29 Young Street, Truro. Included in conference fee.

Tentative Conference Agenda: Marigold Cultural Centre

Registration Check-In 8:00-8:45 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks 8:45 a.m.

Speaker #1 9:00-9:45 a.m.

Carol Campbell, local historian and author

Women of Cobequid – “A Wheel, a Reel, Two Pots and a Pin.”

Speaker #2 9:45-10:30 a.m.

David Greenberg and Chris Norman, musicologists specializing in 18th Century music

We gratefully acknowledge generous support from Charles and Mary MacLennan Foundation.

Speaker #3 10:45-11:30 a.m.

Jim Smith, local historian and author

John Fulton's Garters – The American Revolution Around the Cobequid Bay.

Speaker #4 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Amari Whitfield, Associate University of Vermont History Professor and author.

– “Slavery in English Nova Scotia before 1783,” exploring the work and lives of slaves and masters before the Loyalist influx. Attention given to Simeon Perkins Diary.

We gratefully acknowledge generous support from Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

Speaker #5 1:45-2:30 p.m.

Kerr Canning, author

The Planters Influence – Dykeland Agriculture around the Cobequid Bay.

Speaker #6 2:45-3:30 p.m.

Jenny and Jayar Milligan of Bear River, N.S.

A Special Presentation on 18th Century Clothing and Lifestyle.

www.colchesterhistoreum.ca/planters250