

## Parrsboro Celebrates 125 years with Music Festival

Photos and story by Lawrence R. Nicoll

On August 30th Parrsboro held a Music Festival to celebrate the town's 125th year. There were 6 bands, many vendors, games and blow-up games for kids, & cotton candy and apples.

The Parrsboro Fire Dept served its usual excellent fair of dogs, burgers, fries and onion rings and the ladies from TNR Program served deserts that were irresistible.

A great crowd turned out, as fast as one crowd left another arrived. The ladies from the Ballysto Steel Band accepted the cold water challenge, and removed their bras to keep them dry, to the delight of all. The music was outstanding, some couldn't sit still and danced while others clapped or just enjoyed. The weather couldn't have been nicer beyond a little wind, and water in the Aboiteau allowed the fire fighters to let folks in the paddle boats again. I am sure this wonderful celebration will be remembered fondly by us all, congratulations Parrsboro.



There were plenty of local yard sale vendors along the walkway leading to the area reserved for the bandstage.



Ladies from TNR Program served deserts that were irresistible.



There were plenty of games, treats and bouncy tents for the young and young-at-heart.



Nancy MacDougall and the Decades entertain the crowd. We don't like to show the back of musicians, but chose this photo because it shows the large crowd to enjoyed the six bands during Parrsboro's Music Festival, which formed part of the 125th anniversary celebrations.



Whenever there's a community event, the Parrsboro Fire Department volunteers are always there cooking up a storm.



UNFORSEEN with pianist Shelby Murray was one of six bands playing at Parrsboro's Music Festival during the town's 125th anniversary celebrations.

## 16 Years Later Restoration Project Completed



Heather Lawson is shown completing the remainder of the project to restore tombstones in cemeteries in Belmont area. The project originally started 16 years ago. (Culgin Photo)

By Stacey Culgin

I started this project in May of 1998 because I was continually despairing over the neglected state of our cemeteries here in Belmont. To give a complete overview and to update local residents and descendants of those buried in our local cemeteries, I might as well go back to the beginning.

The Belmont Cemetery Corp looks after the lawn maintenance and burials but funds did not exist to do an expansive restoration project.

A meeting was held on May 14, 1998 and a set of goals were laid out by the newly established Heritage Restoration Project Committee of Belmont. This

project was developed with the intention of restoring approximately 165 headstones in the four cemeteries of the Belmont Cemetery Company. These cemeteries include the old Presbyterian Cemetery, the old Methodist and Baptist Cemeteries and the newer, nondenominational cemetery, and all are in some need of restoration. Back in May 1998, Certified stone mason, Heather Lawson of Bass River completed an evaluation of these sites.

These cemeteries include the graves of some of Colchester's founding families, dating back to the 1770's, and including such names as Lightbody, Barnhill, Crowe, Deyarmond, Staples, Higgins, Stevens, Downing, Elliott,

Lindsay, Graham, Weatherby, Wilson, Little, Putnam, Baird, Roode, Pratt, Totten, Morrisey, Boyd, Otterson, Jobb and McLellan to name but a few.

The main problem with having many of these old stones repaired is that over the years most of their descendants have left this area and are very difficult to contact about the needed repairs. A letter writing campaign commenced in May of 1998 and \$3500.00 was raised through the generous donation

of descendants and community members.

By June 2000, Heather Lawson had completed restorations at the Old Presbyterian Cemetery. However to go forward another \$4,000 was required to complete restoration of all stones in the four cemeteries. In 2002 we continued with the restoration and completed another phase of the project. The Cemeteries are still in very good condition, sixteen years after we started this project.

This fall Heather Lawson has been hired once again and she is working at completing a few more necessary restorations. This work was completed only on the headstones in our community who

no longer have descendants tending their stones.

A very important reminder to the public is your family headstones are your responsibility, not that of the Cemetery Corporation they lie in. In order for the headstones of your descendants not to fall into disrepair, it is your family's responsibility to tend to their own stones.

If you plan on doing your own restoration work, always check with a professional before attempting any kind of cleaning or restoration work yourself.

Headstones are complex and what seems to be a good method of cleaning just may do more harm than good, in the long run.

This will conclude this worthy project. I would like to say a sincere thanks to Gary Brown and Jane Wile for their help with this project. Gary Brown of Belmont worked with me as our Treasurer and Jane (Currie) Wile was invaluable in helping to determine descendants to approach.

To Heather Lawson who's work I admire, it has been a wonderful opportunity to have worked and learned from her.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the project can contact me at 902-662-3867.

## Colchester Trefoil Guild Notes

By Goldie Chisholm

The first meeting of the fall season was held at Sobey's Community Room September 22nd. The President welcomed two new members, Mary Beckett, originally from London, Ontario, and Gayle Smith, who had spent her Guiding years in New Brunswick.

We sent a Get-Well card to our Co-President, Jane Herring, who recently had a knee replacement and Thinking of You cards to Donna Clark and Kay Mattatall. A card will also be sent to Dartmouth Guild who lost three members during the summer.

Our Treasurer collected money from the members to pay the yearly Provincial Levy as well as our own Guild membership for the year. It was agreed our Guild pay the National fee for our executive.

There was quite a bit of Provincial and National correspondence. One thing we were asked to do was consider changes for the meaning of Trefoil. We agreed that it may be better to change the age of membership from 30 Years to an older age.

We spent some time in planning the programs and hosting for the 2014-2015 years, keeping in mind working on the Trefoil Challenge "Move More". The Trefoil Guild Annual Meeting is being held at Centreville Community Hall October 4th, hosted by Hardwood Trefoil Guild. Our Executive mem-

bers are planning to attend.

We will be travelling to Tatamagouche for our next meeting October 20th at the Willow Lodge hosted by Kay Mattatall. Kay's health has not permitted her to attend our monthly meetings so we are looking forward to having her with us at this time.



This is how the cemeteries looked in May 1998 (Culgin Photo)




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