

The Heritage Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society and is circulated to its members and volunteers as well as other interested members of our community. We provide this complimentary newsletter with pride to promote the history, heritage and culture of Dartmouth.



The Dartmouth Heritage Museum currently resides in “Evergreen” House on Newcastle Street which is open to the public year-round. We welcome your input and suggestions as well as your time! If you wish to become a volunteer or for more information, please see the back of this newsletter for contact information.

Summer

OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

2006



## Colours of History

Evergreen House, a heritage building owned by the Halifax Regional Municipality and operated by the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, is travelling back in time to 1867! The exterior of this historic home has been transformed lovingly using the original 139-year old paint

colours. Research performed last year determined the colours and the community has waited eagerly to see the results. The wait has ended! At the moment the first square yard of colour was brushed on, neighbours were giving a big “thumbs-up”.

### Early Owners

Evergreen is situated on a plot that was originally part of a large land grant deeded in 1752. James Creighton Jr. (1762-1828) purchased the property in the 1780’s and established an inn and ferry service that began operation in 1786.



Judge Alexander James purchased the property from the Creighton Family in 1862. James had originally come to Dartmouth as a young school teacher. He studied law independently and was later admitted to the bench. It was at the beginning of his career as a Provincial Court Judge that he commenced building Evergreen.

In 1845, near the time he began his career in law, Alexander James married Harriet Hawthorn of Dartmouth. Initially, the couple lived on Queen Street in downtown Dartmouth. They had many children, five of whom died in a diphtheria epidemic within 5 months between 1858 and 1859, perhaps precipitating the plans to move the family to the relative country location of Evergreen. In 1865, while waiting for the house to be built, Alexander and Harriet lost two more children (cause of death unknown).



*Judge Alexander James*



*Harriet Hawthorn*

The ownership of Evergreen passed from the James family in 1900. Two decades of short term ownership then followed, to be ended in 1918 by the return of the property to the Creighton Family. Charles and Alice Creighton moved into Evergreen with their family in 1921.

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*Charles and Alice Creighton in the garden of Evergreen*



*young Helen Creighton*

### Helen Creighton

Helen Creighton, daughter of Charles and Alice Creighton, lived in the house 57 years, assuming ownership upon the death of her father in 1943. From 1928 onwards, she worked tirelessly to amass the largest individually collected body of folklore in Canada. Her collection, which is housed at the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management in Halifax, includes research files, photographs and over 16,000 folk songs.



*Helen Creighton at Evergreen*



*Helen Creighton, R.F.C., 1918*

She garnered recognition and distinctions from around the world, including a Fellowship in the American Folklore Society and the Order of Canada, and earned the title: Canada's First Lady of Folklore. The City of Dartmouth purchased Evergreen from her in 1978, and established it as a public historic house.



*East Chezzetcook, July 1937, Helen at left*

Come and visit Evergreen, discover its beauty, learn of its importance, and walk down the avenues of your local history! And of course...find out what colour it is... see you soon!



## Volunteer Committee

The Volunteer Committee recognized the following volunteers during the Annual General Meeting for their outstanding contribution to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society:

Clary Croft (Victorian Dinner Raffle 2005)  
 Cindy Payzant (Strawberry Tea 2005)  
 Sheila Strong (Chair of the D.H.M.S.)  
 Brian Vandervaart (Treasurer of the D.H.M.S.)  
 David Harvey (Collections Management Committee Chair)  
 Matthew Hughson (dedication to the D.H.M.S.)

**Long Hours Award:** Pat Gilbert, Don Barteaux, Edith Ritchie, Linda Forbes, Matthew Hughson

**Volunteer Committee:** Jean Wagener, Joan Payzant, Sally King, Joyce Earle, Linda Forbes, Bill Lawlor, Matthew Hughson

## Can You Help?

As our programming grows, so does our need for community volunteers! Over the next quarter year, we are in need of:

**Fence painters!** Grab the kids and help us paint the fences at Quaker House.

**Truck drivers!** We need to move some larger items.

**Flooring specialists!** We need some hardwood floor work done.

**Wall & floor painters!** Some rooms and floors in Evergreen are in need of new coats of paint.

**Front desk staff!** Help us with reception work.

**Computer Gurus!** Help us digitize, design and program

Give us a call and let us know if you can help out. We have volunteer packages available at the front desk at Evergreen House, or you can find them on our website: [www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)  
 Join the volunteer family!



## Donation Box



Sally King  
 Lisa O'Neill  
 Josephine Harris

& all the wonderful people  
 who have enjoyed their visit  
 to Evergreen

## What Is It? (can you guess?)



answer on the back page

## School/Youth Programs

(please book in advance)

**Tickle Trunk** - Children are invited to choose an item from the old steamer trunk and discover, with their classmates, what it was used for.

**Living Folklore at Evergreen House** - A guided tour of Evergreen, with a focus on Helen Creighton. It includes an interactive session on the role of folklore in contemporary life.

**Historic House Tours** - Students enjoy an interactive guided tour of Quaker House or Evergreen House.

## Volunteer Spotlight

The Volunteer Spotlight is on Edith Ritchie!.....Take a bow!

Edith Ritchie was born in St. John, New Brunswick. Edith has always been interested in local history, but somehow the school book approach was not as enthralling as her draw to social history. In later years, Edith even developed a deep interest in genealogy which has been the source of many a historical adventure!



Edith is a well-rounded member of our community having obtained a degree in science, with an honours in chemistry from Mount Allison. While in Sackville N.B., Edith, not only gained knowledge but also a husband!

Edith and members of the Ritchie Family, first landed in Dartmouth in 1998. It was at this time that Edith was looking for new interests and ways to give back to her new community. She began volunteering with the Shubencadie Canal Commission at the Fairbanks Interpretation Center in the area of school programming. Throughout her volunteer time with us, Edith has been active at the museum front desk and has been of great help with research and exhibit preparation. All of this museum work has given her a keen

## Further Information

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appreciation of the role heritage organizations play in our community.

Edith and her family enjoy living in Dartmouth where its family-oriented community and vibrant history were definite draws. Edith remains active in Dartmouth life not only through her involvement at the museum, but also in Port Wallis United Church, and the Canadian Federation of University Women. She looks forward to further volunteering with the Dartmouth Heritage Museum!

A job well done Edith:)



### Strawberry Tea & Social

Includes tea, strawberries, cake & cream  
with entertainment, story and song by  
the Helen Creighton Folklore Society!

Sunday, July 9th  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Evergreen House

\$6.00

Advance Tickets on Sale Now  
at Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle St.

Meet your community and  
support your heritage!





## Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10 - 5

Saturday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5

Summer hours also include

Sunday, 10 - 1 & 2 - 5

for large domestic animals  
orally used medication - "What Is It"