FALL SEPTEMBER 2025







Top: First lock of Shubenacadie Canal, Starr Factory yard visible. C.1907. DHM x.117.001.

Bottom: Acrylic on board painting by Henry M. Rosenberg of a fall scene. DHM 1966.001.006.

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THE GAZETTE PAGE 1



COLLECTIONS CORNER



Back to School in Dartmouth

By Shannon Baxter, Collections Manager

Another busy summer season at the museum has come and gone. The beginning of September means that many are returning to school. With this in mind, I wanted to share what early Dartmouth Education looked like.

There have been several schools throughout the years that helped with the educating of elementary and high school students in Dartmouth, of which we'll only look at a few. For those interested in learning more, I highly recommend Joan Payzant's book Second to None: A History of Public Education in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The book is available in the museum's Gift Shop.

Central School

Completed in 1866, Central School stood at the corner of Queen and King Street in downtown Dartmouth. It was designed by Henry Elliot, having two stories with four large classrooms able to hold 250 to 270 pupils.



Central School, photograph by George H. Craig. Note the early street light. DHM 1995.002.003.

The schoolyard was fenced in, and when the building was expanded in 1882, the yards were divided between girls and boys entrances into the school. On the boy's side, facing Queen Street there was Miss O'Reagan's candy store. There were anecdotes of boys hopping over the fence to buy candy during recess time. On the girl's side of the yard, facing King Street, the Chief of Police's house was next door. According to one photo in the museum's collection, the lock-up was on the ground floor. One would have to assume that this encouraged children to remain well-behaved.



Central Schoolyard, c. 1900 facing King Street. Chief of Police's residence on the left. DHM 1968.041.351.

Central School was used by the Dartmouth School Board until it was severely damaged by the Halifax Harbour Explosion of 1917. The upper levels were deemed too dangerous for use, but lower levels were used for a few more years afterwards until it was finally torn down in 1922.

Park School

Originally built in 1876, Park School was built on the top of the Dartmouth Commons. Designed by Henry Elliot and constructed by Thomas Gentles, it was a single floor with four large classrooms. At first, it was referred to as the Common School, due to its location. Dartmouth historian John P. Martin attended this school as a child, and recalled that there were blueberries all across the

Collections Corner: Back to School in Dartmouth, continued.

yard, and a skating pond on Hare Street where children would go to skate in the winter time.

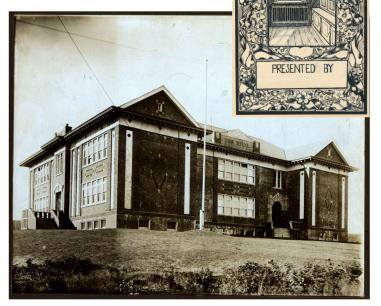


Park School, children outside in the yard. Several little picket fences are protecting trees that are growing. DHM 1964.009.009.

A 'new' Park School was built in 1919, it was a brick building designed by A. Graham Creighton. It was built on the location of the old Exhibition Rink that had been almost completely destroyed by the Halifax Harbour Explosion of 1917. It was eventually torn down in 1983.



Right: Park School Library Book inset, DHM 1984.013.025.



Hawthorn School

Hawthorn School started as a two room schoolhouse, opening in 1885. It was designed by architect Henry Elliot. Soon after it was built, Judge Alexander James of House—also Evergreen designed by Henry Elliotdonated a strip of land to construct a street to connect the school from Portland Street and Prince Albert Road. The school and street were named after his wife, Harriet, whose maiden name was Hawthorn.



School bell used at Hawthorn School to call in children from recess. DHM 1968.041.004b.



First Hawthorn School building c. 1890. DHM x.021.001.

The second iteration of Hawthorn School was built in 1915, and was expanded again in 1921. The building was designed by Andrew Cobb. The original school was split in half and moved across the street, where it became two homes.



Collections Corner: Back to School in Dartmouth, continued.

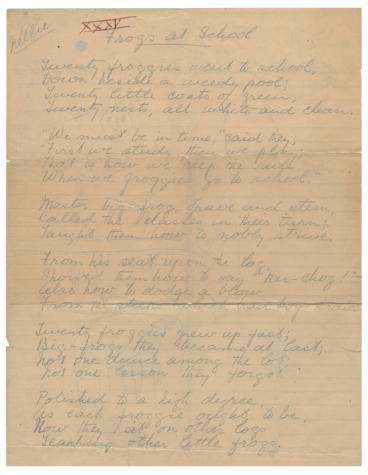


Second Hawthorn School building facing Hawthorne Street c. 1930, DHM 2023.005.001.271.

Homework Doodles

Math, English and Music are common classes to expect at an Elementary School. Reciting poetry was another skill that children were expected to learn.

This poem, appropriately for this article titled "Frogs at School", was given to Helen Creighton as a child to learn. We know that it must have been given to her, as a note on the back reads: "Will Mrs. Creighton kindly help Nellie learn this piece." The nickname 'Nellie' was one Helen went by for much of her adolescence. It's very likely that the children's drawings on the back of this poem were by her.



Both sides of poem "Frogs at School." DHM 2023.003.417.

The poem transcription is written below:

Twenty froggies went to school, / Down beside a weedy pool; / Twenty little coats of green, / Twenty vests, all white and clean.

"We must be in time," said they; / "First we study, then we play; / That is how we keep the rule; / When we froggies go to school."

Master big frog, grave and stern, / Called the classes in their turn; / Taught them how to nobly strive;

From his seat upon the log, / Showed them how to say "ker-chog!" / Also how to dodge a blow / From the sticks which bad boys throw.

Twenty froggies grew up fast; / Big-frogs they become at last; / Not one dunce among the lot; / Not one lesson they forgot

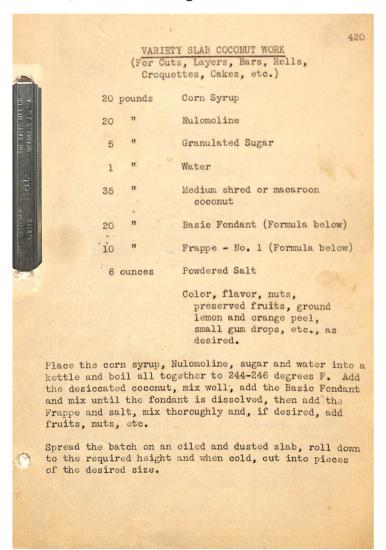
Polished to a high degree, / As each froggie ought to be, / Now they sit on other logs / Teaching other little frogs.



Inside Moirs Limited

Julia Cuthbertson, Volunteer

Many have fond memories of Pot of Gold Chocolate during the holiday season. Well, did you know that Pot of Gold Chocolates originated in Nova Scotia? That's right. Moirs Chocolate Factory was one of Canada's most successful chocolate and candy sellers. In 1815, Moirs opened in Halifax and was an instant hit. By the early 1900s, twenty wagons left Moirs' daily to supply retailers. With this many suppliers, their food recipes had to be substantial, containing ingredients such as 20 pounds of sugar and corn syrup. Industrial recipes from the 1950s provide insight into the significant resources, machinery, and personnel required for Moirs to succeed, as well as the high demand for their treats.



In 1956, Moirs began investing in modern production equipment, spending approximately \$10 million over the next decade. Industrial recipes at this time demonstrate the importance of accurate formulations to maintain consistent quality throughout. Their original factory in Halifax was beginning to be too small for the amount of goods they were producing, so in 1975, Moirs travelled to the other side of the harbour to open a brand-new facility in Dartmouth. The Woodside Facility consisted of two floors and spanned 110,000 square feet. The new factory was windowless, except for the cafeteria, to help maintain a controlled climate. Similarly, 75% of the buildings contained air conditioning to help with humidity. Despite the limited natural light, a considerable amount of money was spent on lighting to replicate daylight for the employees. The factory contained two laboratories for processing incoming and in-process materials, as well as a microbiological laboratory. The personnel suites also included personnel offices and a medical center, which contained a first aid room, an examination room, changing rooms, and a fully equipped lounge with nurses available for any unwell worker. The central plant housed hundreds of steel machines featuring steaming pipes, thrusting arms, circulating discs, and flowing conveyor belts, all of which were monitored, protected, and operated by the workers.



Moirs industrial recipe book, DHM 2008.012.066.

Moirs Assembly Line, DHM 2008.012.101.

Inside Moirs Limited, cont.

By 1975, the new Dartmouth Factory would be handling massive quantities of ingredients, including 5 million pounds of sugar annually. At this point, the Moirs Chocolate factory in Dartmouth would produce around 40,000 boxes of chocolate daily for the Canadian market. In 1987, Hershey acquired Moirs, but the Dartmouth Moirs Factory continued to operate until 2007. In 2007, it was announced that the Dartmouth Factory would be shutting down in an effort to reduce costs. Which effectively meant that nearly 600 people were without a job. Despite Moirs unfortunate ending, pictures of the staff and industrial recipes remain to enforce the presence of the industry.

News From the Evergreen Garden Fall 2025

TAMMY MATTHEWS-WEBBER, VOLUNTEER

The temperature is getting a little cooler now and volunteers are collecting seeds, growing green compost to amend soil, sowing seeds for fall veg and talking about plans for spring. A few new garden volunteers have joined this year at Evergreen and there has been lots of activity.



The drought has been difficult for some plants this summer. This year we have experimented with letting the grass grow on a slope in the garden in hopes of attracting more wildlife and shading the soil to help retain some of the moisture. We are thinking carefully about which plants might be best suited to cope with continued weather extremes in the future.





This summer the museum hosted a variety of community events which took place in the Evergreen garden. Thank you to all of the volunteers for your valuable contributions to the garden this year. See you in the spring!

New Cards in Gift Shop

JENNIFER WEAGLE, DHM ADMIN OFFICER

If you are looking for a greeting card for any occasion search no further than the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Gift Shop! Not only will you be supporting a local artist and your local museum but all purchases from our gift shop are tax free!

We have some new greeting cards from artist Judith Orr with photo prints of her beautiful water colour paintings of flowers, bees and even an adorable duckling! These high quality cards are blank inside, perfect for any occasion, and are \$7 each. You may recognize Judith's work from The Three Brushes Art Show & Sale at Evergreen House last December.



Watercolour cards by local artist Judith Orr. \$7.00 each, tax-free, and available online or in-person.

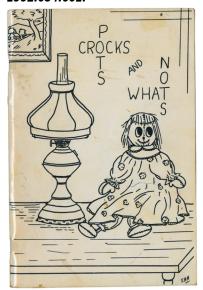
We also have new greeting cards from local lettering and mural artist Kristen De Palma (aka KDP Letters). These vibrant cards come in three different birthday messages, along with a "Thanks a Bunch" card, and a "Thinking of You" card which features a mustache cup like our very own on display in the Red Parlour. These beautiful cards are also blank inside ready for your own personalization and are \$7 each. You likely have seen Kristen's work around Dartmouth as she was one of the artists behind the 'Welcome to Dartmouth' signs as well as a number of murals around the downtown.



Calligraphy cards by local artist Kristen De Palma. \$7.00 each, tax-free, and available online or in-person.

Pumpkin Marmalade

From page 23 of "Pots Crocks and Whatnots" c.1973, DHM 1992.054.001.



- 6lbs pumpkin peeled and sliced
- 6lbs sugar
- 2 oranges sliced
- 2 lemons sliced
- 2 cups water

Place pumpkin in a large bowl. Sprinkle with sugar, cover and let set overnight. Combine orange and lemon slices and water in a large heavy saucepan. Cook over low heat until rind is

tender (about 10 mins). Add pumpkin-sugar mixture, mix well. Cook over low heat for 1.5 hrs or until pumpkin is transparent. Remove cover and continue cooking until thick. Pour in sterilized jars and seal with hot paraffin wax. Whole ginger root added is good also.



FALL EVENTS



BY DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM



COLOURING SONTEST

Contest open from October 1st to 31st at 5PM Winners announced on Monday November 3rd Date: Contest open October 1st - 31st

Time: N/A

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: Free

Kids aged 0-12 are invited to enter our second annual DHM Fall Colouring

Contest!

Pick up a colouring page from Evergreen House (Tues-Fri 10am-5pm or print a copy from our website. Show us your best colouring skills and return it to the museum by 5pm on October 31st for a chance to win some cool art prizes. Three winners will be selected on November $3^{\rm rd}$.

Folk Club by the HCFS



Date: October 2nd, October 30th, December 4th

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: Free, donations appreciated

The Folk Club is an open mic event which features local performers and occasionally folk musicians and singers from away. There is a featured performer or performer(s) who play traditional material including, but not limited to, the works of Helen Creighton. Folk Club is usually on the second Thursday of every month between 7-9pm. Performers are asked to sign-up before 6:45pm.

The Unhinged Door



Date: Friday October 17th Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm Location: Evergreen Hose Cost: \$15.00/ticket

It's the scariest month of the year and time to hear a tale or two. The oral storytellers of the Storytellers Circle of Halifax are ready to scare your socks off! Join us for thrilling, spine-tingling fun as your spirit guides you from story to story and room to room. In partnership with the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and the Helen Creighton Folklore Society. Recommended for adults or ages 9 and up. Tickets are \$15 per person sold in advance on our website or in person at

Evergreen House (Tues-Fri 10am-5pm).

Trad Night by the HCFS



Date: October 10th, November 14th, December 12th

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm Location: Evergreen House

Cost: Free, donations appreciated

An evening of balladry and songs of old hosted by the Helen Creighton Folklore Society's Margo Carruthers! Open Mic. Participants are asked to choose songs from the Helen Creighton Collection or similar collections.

Trad Night is normally held on the second Friday of each month between 7-9pm.



FALL EVENTS



BY DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM

Quaker House After Dark



Date: Saturday, October 18th & Saturday, October 25th

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm Location: Quaker House Cost: \$15.00/ticket

Tour Quaker House after dark with experienced guides. Learn about ghostly tales and supernatural stories from the folklore collection of Dr. Helen Creighton, along with some of their own spooky and unusual experiences working in this almost 240 year old building. Tickets are \$15 per person sold in advance on our website or in person at Evergreen House (Tues-Fri 10am-5pm).

Annual Kid's Pumpkin Hunt



Date: Friday, October 24th Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Evergreen House (Garden) Cost: Free, no registration required

Looking for something to do with the kids on a 'No School' day? Join us at Evergreen House (26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth) on October 24th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for a free pumpkin hunt in Helen's Garden at Evergreen House. Costumes welcome! We will have prizes, crafts, and Halloween treats! No registration required, and you can drop-by at any time between 1:00pm and 4:00pm.

Paranormal Investigation of Evergreen House



Date: Saturday, November 1st

Time: 5:00-7:00pm / 8:00-10:00pm / 11:00-1:00pm

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: \$40.25/ticket (tickets sold on EventBrite)

From the event description by the organizer, Antler Entertainment:

"Step into one of Dartmouth's most storied landmarks for a night you won't forget. Built in 1867, the Evergreen House was once home to the influential Dartmouth family of writer and folklorist Helen Creighton—who herself collected some of Nova Scotia's eeriest ghost stories. By day, it's a museum... but after dark, whispers of the past linger in the halls.

Join Rising Phoenix Paranormal this Halloween weekend as we unlock the secrets of this Victorian home with real investigative tools and techniques."

Steve Skafte Book Talk



Date: Tuesday, November 4th Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: Free (donations appreciated!)

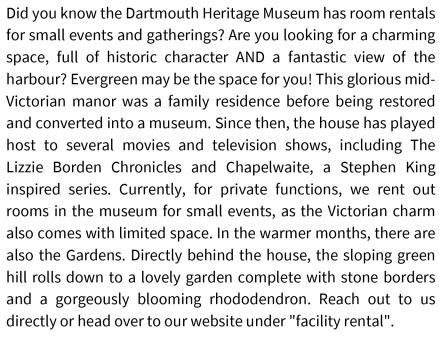
Come and hear Steve Skafte talk about his adventures along abandoned roads, hiking forgotten highways, and exploring the crumbling history that our ancestors left behind. Since 2007, he's shared an uninterrupted daily journal on social media of his discoveries all over the province. He's also been widely featured in national print media, and on TV and radio. He'll be signing copies of all his currently available books after the talk.

**** EVERGREEN RENTALS *****









Standard Pricing:

	During Business Hours	Outside Business Hours
Private Booking	\$25.00/hr	\$50.00/hr
Non-Profit Booking	\$20.00/hr	\$40.00/hr
Corporate Booking	\$30.00/hr	\$60.00/hr









DHMS MEMBERSHIP



Why become a member?

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society operates the Dartmouth Heritage Museum on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, which owns both historic houses and the collection. Membership allows interested community members to have a real and impactful voice in what happens with the DHM. One of the easiest ways to use your voice is by attending and voting at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Society members have the right to vote for Board Director nominees and on changes to the Bylaws, both of which have incredible influence on the Society and the museum itself.

We have 3 categories of membership:

- Individual Membership is for one (1) person
 - Price: \$20
- **Family Membership** is for a family unit, consisting of at least one (1) adult and one child under the age of eighteen (18)
 - o Price: \$30
- Group Membership is for societies, museums, universities, libraries, corporations, firms, partnerships, foundations and governmental departments.
 - Price: Please Contact

Membership Opportunities and Benefits:

- **Voting!** Society members have the right to vote on important issues at each Annual General Meeting.
- A 10% discount from the gift shop.
- Exclusive early-bird access to event and program tickets.
- Five free digital images from our collection for personal use.
- One free half-day room rental at Evergreen House.

DHMS Membership Form					
Name:	Date:				
Address:					
Phone: Email:					
Membership Type:	Annual Fee	# of Years	Total		
Individual	\$20.00				
Family	\$30.00				
Donation (tax receipts are issued for donations)					
Cheques should be made out to: Dartmouth F Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3M5 May we have your permission to add your en is used to send updates about our news and updates.	mail to our mai	ling list? This r	nailing list		
quarterly newsletter). Yes No May we use your name in public recognition	of our donors?	Yes	No		

THE DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM

"We commit to engagement, education, and storytelling."



Evergreen House

26 Newcastle Street | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Open Year-round | Fall Hours | Tues - Fri | 10am - 5pm

Quaker House

57 Ochterloney Street | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Closed for the season. See you in June!



The Dartmouth Heritage Museum wishes to recognize that we exist and operate on Mi'kma'ki, as the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. The Mi'kmaw have long been the traditional custodians of this land, and the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society would like to pay our respects to the elders both past and present of the Mi'kmaw Nation.

This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which the Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. This relationship continues today. **We are all treaty people.**



CONTACT US

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