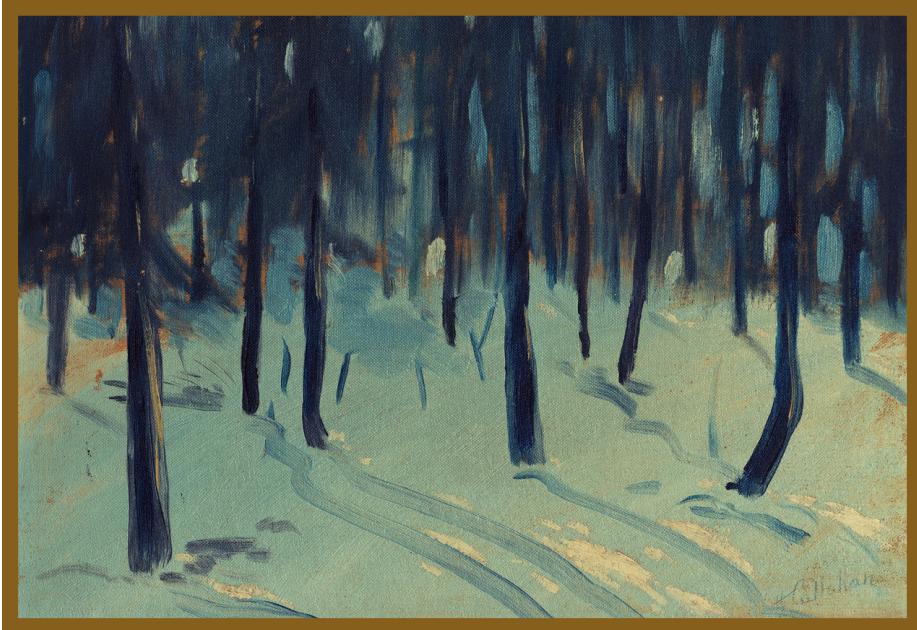




DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S  
**THE GAZETTE**  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



**Top:** Lake Banook (First Lake) in winter, in the late 1800's. The shores of Lake Banook were dotted with ice houses. This photo shows the cutting of blocks, with an ice house in far right corner.

**Bottom:** Oil on board painting by Howard Callahan. DHM 2023.001.003.

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# COLLECTIONS CORNER

## Hockey in Dartmouth

BY SHANNON BAXTER, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

The winter chill has settled, and more ice and snow are on the horizon. In Dartmouth's past, that would mean grabbing ice skates and heading to one of the local lakes and ponds. Or, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, trudging up the Commons to get to the Exhibition Hall Rink. Along with skating, hockey was a sport that was enjoyed by many in Dartmouth, both in formal sports teams as well as schoolyard rivalries. For this Collections Corner, I wanted to take a look at some of the unique artifacts that we have relating to hockey in Dartmouth.

### New Additions to the Collection

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum has been extremely fortunate in the past few years to be donated artifacts closely connected to the town's hockey roots. In 2023, the museum was given a hockey stick that was produced by the local Starr Manufacturing Company. Many who have been reading the Collections Corner for a while, know that one of the first projects I ever did for the museum was inventorying our impressive ice skate collection! It was very exciting to finally have a hockey stick in the collection.



**Hockey Stick, DHM 2023.008.001.**

Starr Manufacturing was known to purchase large quantities of hockey sticks that were made by the local Mi'kmaq in Dartmouth, then distributing them. The sticks themselves traditionally were carved from a single piece from a hornbeam tree, also

known as ironwood. (Cuthbertson, "The Starr Manufacturing Company: Skate Exporter to the World").



*The hockey stick still maintains part of its original paper label.*  
DHM 2023.008.001.

Another very recent donation offered to the museum is a hockey uniform, believed to have been worn in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. It came from descendants of the Sterns family, who owned a Dry Goods Store in downtown Dartmouth. The uniform is striking, still maintaining vibrant red and green stripes. The whole uniform consists of a sweater, pair of shorts and long socks. It's unclear what team specifically would have worn this uniform, but it's very exciting to have it included in the museum's collection as a glimpse in the attire commonly worn by hockey teams at the turn of the century.

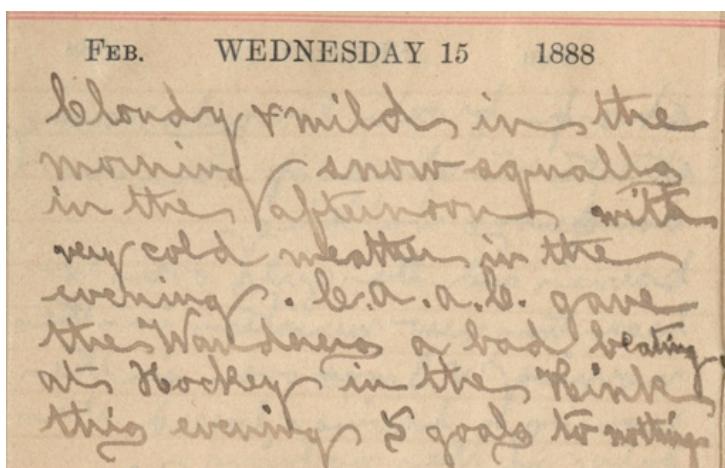
We know from Edwin Sterns' diaries that we have in the collection, that he was familiar with the Chebucto Amateur Athletic Club's Hockey team. He went to three different games during the early months of 1888, two of them in February. The first game was on the 15th at the Dartmouth Exhibition rink, where the Chebucto Team, known as C.A.A.C., was noted for giving the opposing team, the Wanderers "a bad beating at hockey in the Rink..." then when the team went against the Royal Blues, Edwin notes that "our boys again victorious by 6 goals to 2."

Needless to say, there had been hockey fans and players in Dartmouth for quite some time. We are fortunate to have artifacts that are a snapshot of both sides of the sport.

## Collections Corner: Hockey in Dartmouth, *continued.*



Above: Hockey uniform from Sterns' family descendants.



Above: An excerpt from Edwin Sterns' diary from Wednesday, February 15th 1888, DHM 1981.021.002.

### Wayward Pucks

One cannot play hockey without a hockey puck.

However anyone knows that if they choose to play a game outside of a formal rink, there are risks to losing this vital aspect of the game. However the collection holds exactly two examples where this fate befell hockey teams of years past. These hockey pucks were found by a scuba diver in Lake Banook. A possible reason for the hockey pucks getting there would be if any daring hockey players decided to have a game while the ice cutting season was underway upon the lake. It would only take one unlucky shot to have a puck careen into an open square of icy water, rather than the intended goal.



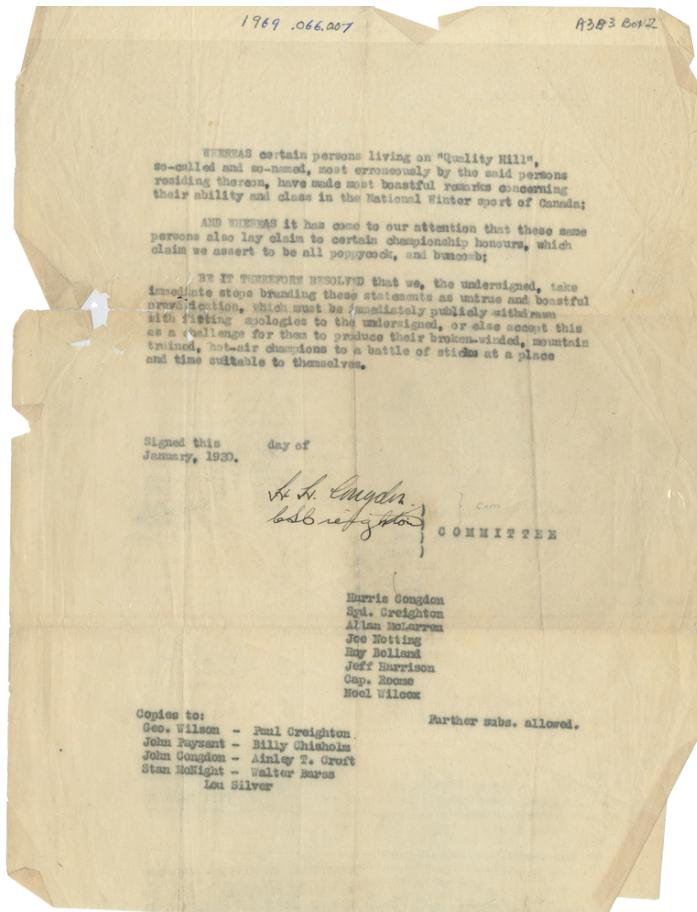
Two hockey pucks recovered from the bottom of Lake Banook. DHM 2011.183.001 (left), DHM 2011.183.002 (right).

From the obvious scuff marks along both hockey pucks, it's clear that they were well-worn and loved before they ended up at the bottom of Lake Banook.

### Hockey Team Showdowns

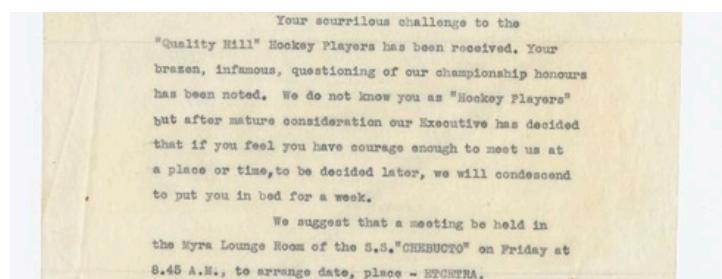
I wanted to end this 'peek' into the collection with some material that had been donated just as the museum had been established back in 1967. These letters all come from January 1930, communicating challenges of hockey games against small local teams. With titles like "The Ink Slingers," "Sidewalk Sliders," and "Quality Hill." One would have to imagine these were either informal school teams or neighbourhood teams. It's quite amusing to see the formal tone of some of these letters, mixed in with the mockery against the skill of their opposing team.

## Collections Corner: Hockey in Dartmouth, *continued.*



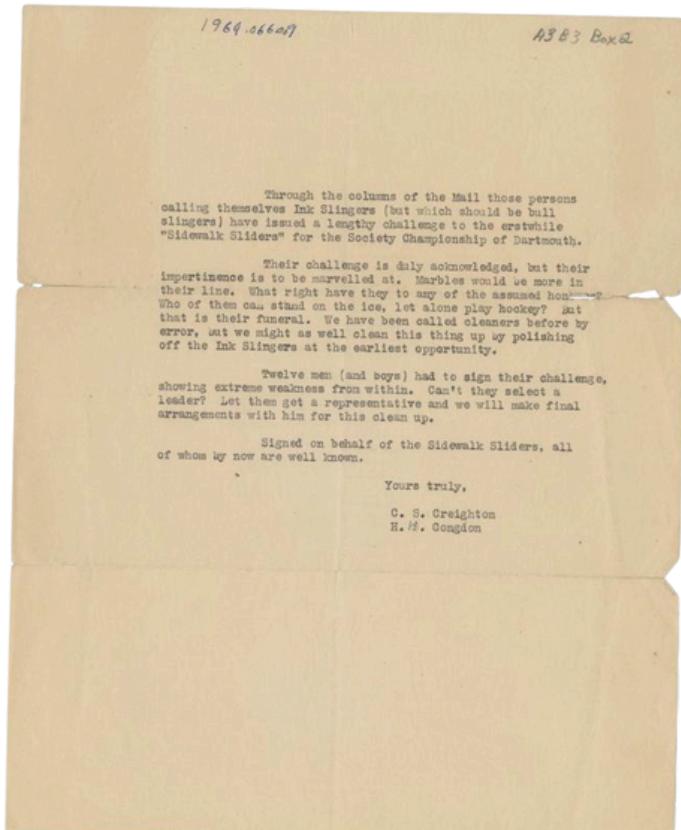
**First letter from the "Sidewalk Sliders" challenging the "Quality Hill" team. DHM 1969.066.007.**

Consistent within all these letters is the name C.S. "Syd" Creighton. He was one of Helen Creighton's older brothers. In fact, it appears that one of the rival hockey players he helped send a letter to, included his brother Paul Creighton. It is also interesting to note that a recommended place for the teams to discuss their hockey match was the Myra Lounge room on the S.S. Chebucto, which was one of the ferries running between Dartmouth and Halifax at that time.



**Reply accepting the challenge from "Quality Hill" DHM 1969.066.008.**

The last letter, sent by the "Sidewalk Sliders" in response to a challenge by the "Ink Slingers" referenced the fact that the latter's challenge against them was posted as a column in The Mail. The letter also quipped that "Marbles would be more in their line." when it came to games.



**The "Sidewalk Sliders" Responding to a challenge from "The Ink Slingers" DHM 1969.066.009.**

While it's always fun to root for a regional team, it is also incredibly amusing to see how local neighbourhood teams had challenged each other to various games.

That will be it for this winter's collections corner. I hope that readers find these stories and their artifacts as interesting, or amusing, as I do!

### Resources:

Cuthberston, Brian. "The Starr Manufacturing Company: Skate Exporter to the World." *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society*, Vol. 8, 2005.

# Misplaced or Mystery: A Hidden Boot and the Nova Scotia Hospital

BRIGHID CONNOLY, VOLUNTEER

As a recent graduate of the Psychology program at SMU, some of my favourite artifacts in the DHM collection are from the Nova Scotia Hospital. Their stories allow us to better understand the history of psychology within our province.

The Nova Scotia Hospital, which is known locally as Mount Hope, was constructed in 1858 for the purpose of treating Nova Scotians with mental health related problems. Although today the hospital looks much different, Mount Hope is still used to provide Nova Scotians with access to mental health programs and services.

At the museum, we have numerous artifacts related to the Nova Scotia Hospital, including a boot that was found between the walls of the 'old' hospital.



*Left: the boot found in the walls of the Nova Scotia Hospital, c.1881. DHM 1966x.014.*

The boot was found in 1965 by Alden Stone who was working as a bricklayer at the hospital. When Mr. Stone looked inside the boot, he found various newspaper clippings from the Toronto Mail, all dated January 1st 1881.

While the origin of the boot remains unknown, it is likely that it was purposefully placed in the wall by a worker or a patient as part of a superstition called concealed footwear. Concealing footwear was believed to ward off evil spirits from entering a dwelling. According to this practice, a well worn shoe could carry the imprint of the owner's character, allowing their spiritual presence to reside in the shoe. If that shoe was then placed in the walls, it was believed that evil spirits would sense the resident's spiritual presence on the outside of the building as opposed to inside, preventing them from entering the home. Although this is the most likely reason, it is also possible that the boot found its way into the wall by accident, or for a different reason altogether. Unfortunately however, we will likely never know why the boot was placed in the wall as this mystery remains unsolved to this day.

*Below: exterior of Mount Hope, c.1870-1910. DHM 1984.026.011.*



## New Year's Restorations

AMANDA FURNISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

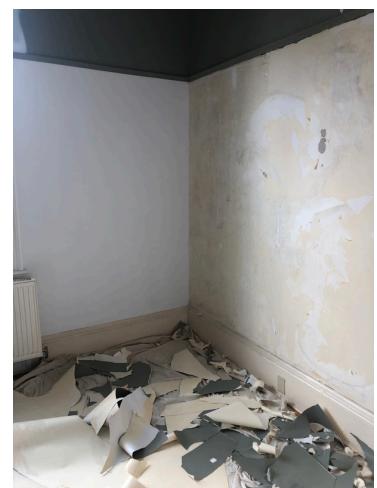
*Below (left): Second Floor Exhibition Room, December 2025.*

*Below (right): a view of the Halifax Harbour from the newly installed second floor windows.*



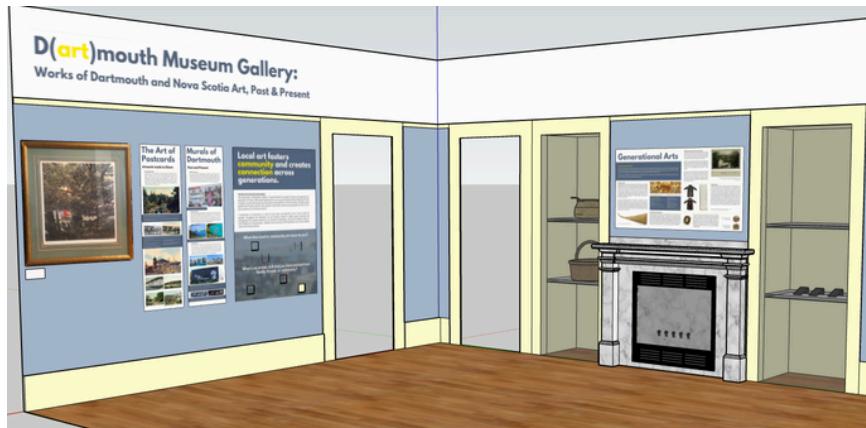
For many who have been friends of the Museum for some time, our needed repairs, exhibition closures, and ongoing construction may have seemed like a never ending cycle. Our staff have certainly felt it too – sweeping extra dirt off the floor from contractors’ boots, sudden (and seemingly constant) scheduling changes due to construction delays, incessant hammering and noise, and much more. However, each day we were incredibly thankful for these inconveniences, because they were reminders that we are nearing a long-awaited time of safety, security, and renewal at Evergreen House.

I am very happy to share that our leaking window on the second floor has been replaced, the ceiling in the Green Parlour repaired, and additional facility upgrades along with exhibition planning in each space are nearing completion. Here, I'll be sharing some behind-the-scenes photos of the facility upgrades, as well as more information on our two upcoming exhibits, slated for opening in 2026! Happy New Year, indeed.



## New Year's Restorations, *continued.*

For over a year, staff have been busy planning a new exhibition for our feature exhibition space on the second floor – a space which has been closed to the public and under construction since October of 2024. This exhibition is titled “D(art)mouth Museum Gallery” and will feature artworks from the museum’s fine art and main collections. Many pieces selected for the gallery have not been on public display for decades, and some will be publicly displayed as a part of the DHM collection for the first time.



**Above (left):** a sneak-peek of two walls in the upcoming exhibition, “D(art)mouth Museum Gallery.” This 3D model was used during the exhibition development process to map out precisely where each panel, painting, and label would fit.

**Above (right):** A photo of the exhibition room with newly repaired and painted walls and custom exhibiting cabinets, December 2025.

In addition to the long-awaited completion of repairs and installation in our soon-to-be gallery, the Green Parlour on the main floor of Evergreen House will also be opening to the public again in 2026. Thanks to the hard work of our Exhibition Assistant, Keegan Hiltz, the Museum will be displaying a new exhibition about Joseph Howe. Be sure to keep an eye out for updates about these projects!



**Above:** model of the upcoming Joseph Howe exhibit, for exhibition planning purposes.



**Above:** the Green Parlour, featuring a new Christmas Tree underneath of the freshly re-plastered and painted ceiling.



# WINTER EVENTS

## BY DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM



### Trad Night by the HCFS



**Date(s): January 9, February 13, March 13**

**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 at Evergreen.

### Storytelling Workshop



**Date: January 25**

**Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Location: Evergreen House**

**Cost: \$25.00, registration required**

Do you have a story that you want to tell but aren't sure what to do next? Learn skills and techniques in the art of oral storytelling at this engaging workshop. No oral storytelling experience required but experience is an asset. A selection of stories will be provided or bring your own story to work on.

Tickets are available for purchase on the DHM website.

Workshop Coach: Cindy Campbell-Stone, Halifax Storyteller.

### Storytelling Night



**Date(s): January 26**

**Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Location: Evergreen Hose**

**Cost: Free, donations appreciated**

Join us at Evergreen House on the last Monday of each month from 7pm until 9pm for "Storytelling Night," an open mic storytelling event with unique themes each month.

Open mic stories need to be timed (up to 7 minutes) and need to be rehearsed before being presented. Stories should be told and not read.

All are welcome to participate or simply listen to the stories.

### Folk Club by the HCFS



**Date: February 5, March 5**

**Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Location: Evergreen House**

**Cost: Free, donations appreciated**

Folk Club is an open mic music event which features local performers and occasionally folk musicians and singers from away. The focus is on 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.



# WINTER EVENTS

## BY DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM



### DIY Valentines Craft

THE DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS



**Date: February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> (during business hours)**

**Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm**

**Location: Evergreen House**

**Cost: Free**

Drop in at Evergreen House (26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth) between February 3rd to 13th during operational hours (Tues-Fri, 10am - 5pm) to DIY your own valentines!

All ages are welcome, materials are provided, participation is free, no RSVP required, and we'll have sweet treats for participants.

### Storytelling Workshop



**Date: February 22nd**

**Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Location: Evergreen House**

**Cost: \$25.00, registration required**

Do you have a story that you want to tell but aren't sure what to do next? Learn skills and techniques in the art of oral storytelling at this engaging workshop. No oral storytelling experience required but experience is an asset. A selection of stories will be provided or bring your own story to work on.

Tickets will be available for purchase on the DHM website.

Workshop Coach: Cindy Campbell-Stone, Halifax Storyteller.

### Acoustic Coffee House Open Mic



**Date: March 12**

**Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Location: Evergreen House**

**Cost: Free, RSVP preferred**

Join us at Evergreen House on Thursday March 12th from 7:00pm until 9:00pm for an evening of acoustic music, coffee and hot chocolate, and baked treats. Performer sign-up will be in-person during the event, and performance order is first-come first-serve. Our very own Executive Director (and music lover) Amanda will be hosting.

Please RSVP to attend, either through social media, phone (902 464 2300) or email (info@dartmouthmuseum.ca).

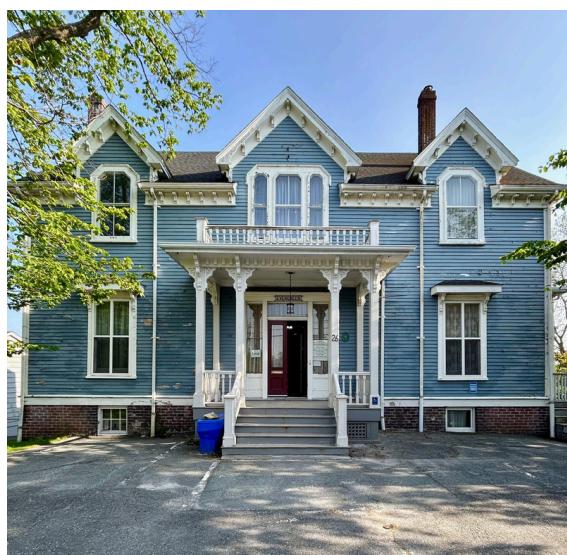


Buy a ticket for your chance to win half the jackpot, while the other half goes toward celebrating and preserving Nova Scotia's heritage. It's a win-win for you and our community! You choose where proceeds from your ticket purchase go by selecting an organization from the drop-down menu. You can participate and support Dartmouth Heritage Museum.





# EVERGREEN RENTALS



Did you know the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has room rentals for small events and gatherings? Are you looking for a charming space, full of historic character AND a fantastic view of the harbour? Evergreen may be the space for you! This glorious mid-Victorian manor was a family residence before being restored and converted into a museum. Since then, the house has played host to several movies and television shows, including *The Lizzie Borden Chronicles* and *Chapelwaite*, a Stephen King inspired series. Currently, for private functions, we rent out rooms in the museum for small events, as the Victorian charm also comes with limited space. In the warmer months, there are also the Gardens. Directly behind the house, the sloping green hill rolls down to a lovely garden complete with stone borders and a gorgeously blooming rhododendron. Reach out to us directly or head over to our website under "facility rental".

## 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?

Members support the Dartmouth Heritage Museum's mission of stewarding and sharing the heritage of Dartmouth with our local community and visitors. The Museum is a not-for-profit organization operated by the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality. This means we put every penny made back into our running costs. As a member, your contribution helps support successful exhibitions, events, and programs. Membership also gives you a voice in determining the future direction of the Museum through participating and voting at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

## Membership Opportunities and Benefits:

- **10% off** on all museum gift shop purchases
- Exclusive **early bird tickets** for events and programs
- **Five free digital images** from the Museum collection for personal use
- **One free half-day room rental** at Evergreen House
- **Voting rights at Society AGM + more!**

## 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)
  - Price: \$30
- **Group Membership** is for societies, museums, universities, libraries, corporations, firms, partnerships, foundations and governmental departments.
  - Price: Please Contact

## 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 Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle St, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3M5

**May we have your permission to add your email to our mailing list?** This mailing list is used to send updates about our news and upcoming events, as well as send out our 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

26 Newcastle Street | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia | Canada | B2Y 3M5

**Email:** [info@dartmouthmuseum.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthmuseum.ca) | **Phone:** (902) 464 - 2300  
**Website:** [dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)

 Dartmouth Heritage Museum - Evergreen House & Quaker House  
 @dartmouthheritagemuseum