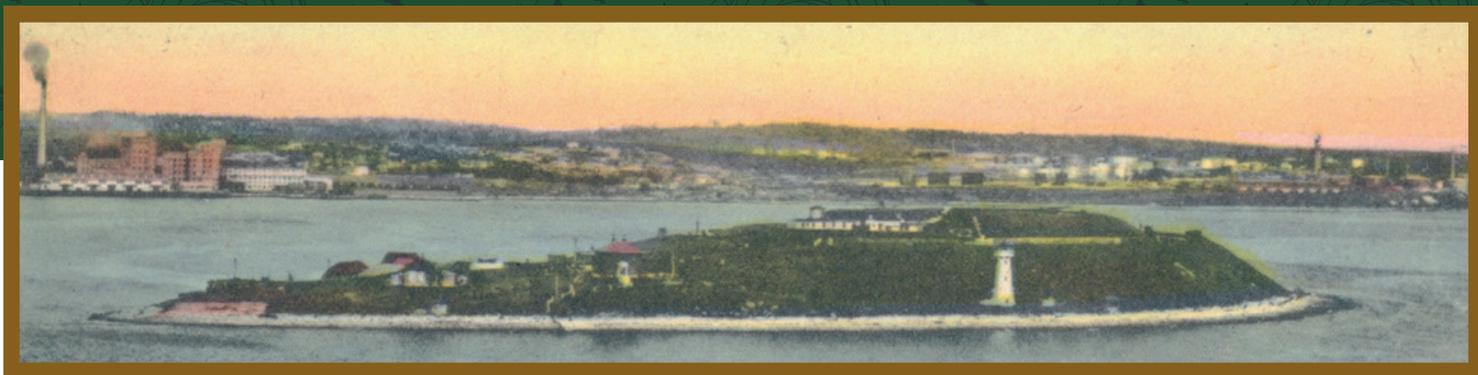




DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S
THE GAZETTE
 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Top: Postcard view of Georges Island in the Dartmouth-Halifax Harbour, c. 1949. Our newest exhibition, the D(art)mouth Museum Gallery, includes a panel on local photography used in colorized postcards. DHM 2024.002.001.034.

Bottom: Amanda Furniss, DHM Executive Director, giving an address during the Grand Opening of the D(art)mouth Museum Gallery, March 2026.

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COLLECTIONS CORNER

The Art of Basketry

BY SHANNON BAXTER, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

One of the ways that art, design, and practicality are combined is in the work of basketry. The Dartmouth Heritage Museum has over 100 baskets of various shapes, sizes, and uses within its collection. This includes baskets commercially made, as well as ones created by both the Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian community. This article intends to highlight just a small section of this diverse collection of artifacts.

A Generational Craft: The Clayton Family

Edith Clayton (1920-1989) was born in Cherry Brook, and was taught basket weaving by her mother Selena Irene Drummond, and grandmother Mary Ann Sparks. She carried on the tradition, teaching her daughters and other members of the community. She used her skills to weave various objects including baskets, cradles, and horns-of-plenty, which she sold at the Halifax Farmers Market. The dyes that were commonly used in her baskets were natural ones purchased from the Mi'kmaq community, which she received by mail. She was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, and she represented Canada demonstrating her basket weaving techniques in Vancouver during Expo '86.

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum is fortunate to have baskets from four generations of Edith Clayton's family. Each piece bears a distinctive 'signature' that identifies the pieces that were made from members of the family. This being a woven 'X' that can be seen on either side of a basket handle. Where there isn't a handle, it is either on two opposite sides of an item, such as on a cradle. The earlier generations of Edith Clayton and her mother both utilized nails in the centre of the "X" to help secure the handles in place. Later generations would weave without the use of the nail.

Right: Berry Basket made by Nancy Drummond, daughter of Selena Drummond, DHM 2023.012.001.



Left: Berry Basket made by Edith Clayton daughter of Selena Drummond, DHM 1977.061.004



Right: Berry Basket made by Selena Irene Drummond, DHM 1969.054.001.



Collections Corner: The Art of Basketry, *continued.*



A: Easter Basket made by Clara Gough, daughter of Edith Clayton, DHM 2023.012.003.

B: Basket made by Pam Wall, daughter of Edith Clayton, DHM 2023.012.002 .

C: Gathering Basket made by Vivien MacPhee, daughter of Edith Clayton. DHM 1990.035.001.

D: Berry Basket made by Crystal Summers, daughter of Vivien Clayton and granddaughter of Edith Clayton. DHM 1990.035.002.

Several examples of the Drummond-Clayton family baskets are currently on display in the museum's newest exhibit, the D(art)mouth Museum Gallery, which is now open to the public at Evergreen House (26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth) during operational hours.

Mi'kmaq Art and Tradition

The Mi'kmaq have a long tradition of basketry, using both natural and later commercial dyes to weave beautiful colours into their creations. Both ash and poplar tree splints were popular materials, along with using sweetgrass. Birch bark and porcupine quills were often used to make boxes. The museum has several examples of Mi'kmaq made baskets, both locally and some further afield from Cape Breton. Unfortunately, many of the names connected to these baskets have been lost to time. That said, the museum would be eager to find any new information about the baskets that are in the collection.

A 'Whimsy' basket is often distinguished by the intricate whorls and twists that are made through some of the wood splints on the basket. This can be used to create floral patterns, such as these periwinkles on the basket below on the left. More subtle but still effective loops are utilized on the egg basket on the right.



Top left: Whimsy basket with periwinkles. DHM 1971.037.

Top right: Egg basket with sweetgrass along the top edge. Made in Whycomomagh, Cape Breton. DHM 1989.053.005.

Collections Corner: The Art of Basketry, *continued.*

We are fortunate to know where some of these baskets were made. Several of them were made and sold at a business in Whycomagh, Cape Breton. There is also a basket that had been purchased by a local Mi'kmaq basket maker at the Halifax Exhibition, circa 1942.



Left: Basket purchased from Halifax Exhibition, circa 1942, believed to be rye straw used at top rather than sweetgrass. DHM 1992.005.003.

Right: Berry basket with dyed wood splints. Made in Whycomagh, Cape Breton. DHM 1989.053.009.

We are fortunate to know where some of these baskets were made. Several of them were made and sold at a business in Whycomagh, Cape Breton. There is also a basket that had been purchased by a local Mi'kmaq basket maker at the Halifax Exhibition, circa 1942.



Two sides of handkerchief box, DHM 1982.031.001.

The final artifact is different from the rest due to being primarily made from birch bark and porcupine quills. It is a beautiful example of the style made by the Mi'kmaq. Our records show that there is a possibility that this box was made by a member of the Mi'kmaq community that lived at Turtle Grove, also known as Tufts Cove, prior to the Halifax Harbour Explosion of 1917.

However, this is not known for certain, and unfortunately like the handkerchief box the name of the person who originally made this box was not known by the donor.



Basket/Box with dyed porcupine quills. DHM 1972.037.001.

There are so many stories that could be told about any of these baskets. Whether they focus on the community, family, or individual. The art as well as the functionality of their creation is something often overlooked once they are in storage, or even on display. When looking at these artifacts, I try to imagine not only the people who made them but also those who used them in their lives.

The D(art)mouth Museum Gallery

AMANDA FURNISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The day we've been waiting for has finally come and passed—the Grand Opening of the D(art)mouth Museum Gallery took place on March 20th, 2026. We had a full house of attendees, delicious treats provided by Dartmouth Cookie Company and Birdies Bread Co, Celtic harp music from local musician Adria Jackson, and lively conversation with guests. We at DHM are so excited for the public to visit this exhibition and learn more about how community, family, and tradition are connected to us through local art. The exhibition features artworks spanning over 200 years—from long-time Dartmouth residents to immigrant artists who became inspired by this special place—visitors are encouraged to connect a piece of their own story or family/community history to those shared in the exhibition.



A section of fine art featured in the D(art)mouth Museum Gallery.

Thank you to Megan Hirons for capturing these special moments (next page) from the gallery opening. The D(art)mouth Museum Gallery will be on for the remainder of 2026 and 2027, and viewable at Evergreen house during operational hours (10:00am--5:00pm, Tuesday-Friday). Beginning on May 30th, Evergreen will also be open on Saturdays and Sundays.

The D(art)mouth Museum Gallery, *continued.*



Thank you to Megan Hirons for capturing these special moments (next page) from the gallery opening. The D(art)mouth Museum Gallery will be on for the remainder of 2026 and 2027, and viewable at Evergreen house during operational hours (10:00am--5:00pm, Tuesday-Friday). Beginning on May 30th, Evergreen will also be open on Saturdays and Sundays.

The D(art)mouth Museum Gallery, *continued.*

Surprise! A new exhibition about Joseph Howe is now *also* on display in the Evergreen Green Parlour. A printer, publisher, and politician, Joseph Howe was a prominent local figure who shaped democracy and Freedom of the Press in Canada—and who also has a close-to-home connection to Evergreen House and Dartmouth.



Commemorating a Dear Friend: Barbara MacKenzie

AMANDA FURNISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In May of 2025, a long-time supporter, volunteer, and devoted friend of the museum, Barbara MacKenzie, sadly passed away at the age of 92. Many long-time friends of the museum would recall Barbara, along with her kindness, generosity, and endless love for Dartmouth Heritage Museum. She supported the Heritage Home tours of Dartmouth that DHM once facilitated in the 2010's, crafted beautiful knitwear (and donated it to the museum at no cost) for us to sell and earn revenue to support operations, was a dedicated member and donor of the museum, and is deeply missed by the DHM community.

Barbara has left the museum with a generous monetary donation upon her passing. Thus, planning has begun for our basement Reference Library at Evergreen House to be transformed into the Barbara MacKenzie Memorial Library. Visitors will have improved access to our archival holdings and books through digital finding aid tools, browsing access to our digitized collections, and in-person research support from our staff. We are aiming for this project to be completed by Summer 2027.

Thank you, Barbara, for the lasting and meaningful impact you have had on Dartmouth Heritage Museum and the community of Dartmouth.





SPRING EVENTS

BY DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM



Mother's Day Raffle Basket in support of Adsum



Date: April 9 - May 9 @ 3:00pm

Time: n/a

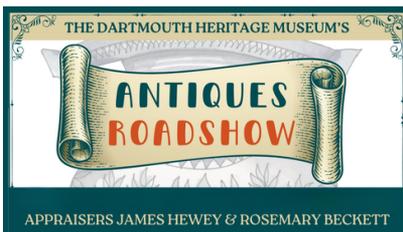
Location: Evergreen House

Cost: 1 ticket - \$5, 5 tickets - \$10, 10 tickets - \$20

Purchase tickets for the Dartmouth Heritage Museum's 2026 Mother's Day Raffle Basket for your chance to win an assortment of gift cards, home goods, treats, and much more. 50% of all proceeds will be donated to Adsum for Women & Children, with the rest directly supporting the museum's programming and events.

For a full list of items in our basket, visit our website.

DHM Antiques Roadshow



Date: Saturday, April 11th

Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: \$15/ticket

Discover the value of your treasures at our Antique Appraisal event, inspired by the Antique Roadshow!

Join us at Evergreen House (26 Newcastle Street) on April 11 from 1-5pm. Get your items evaluated by experts Jim Hewey and Rosemary Beckett for just \$15/ticket (2 item max). Jim specializes in general antiques, jewelry, glass, and more, while Rosemary focuses on baskets, jewelry, and antiques. Purchase tickets in advance, either online or in-person.

Tea & Textiles



Date: Thursday, April 23rd

Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: free-will donation

Join us on April 23rd from 2pm until 4pm for an afternoon of tea and crafts. Bring your knitting, sewing, crochet, or other textile project to work on.

We have limited space available for participants. Please RSVP by phone or email to attend.

Evergreen Writers Group Reading



Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Evergreen House

Cost: Admission by donation

Evergreen Writers Group will be holding a reading - An Unexpected Point of View - on Saturday, April 25th at 2:00pm at Evergreen House.

Six members will share their writing - Kim Williamson, Dan Peters, Frances Nobles, Cathy MacKenzie, Laura Legere, and Phil Yeats.

All are welcome! No registration required. Donations will gratefully be accepted at the door. Books will be available for purchase.



SPRING EVENTS

BY DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM



Storytelling Workshop



Date: Sunday, April 26
Time: 12:30pm - 4:30pm
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.

Mother's Day Tea in support of Adsum



Date: Saturday, May 9th
Time: Two sittings - 11am & 2pm
Location: Evergreen House
Cost: 1 ticket \$20, \$80 for a table of 4

We are excited to announce that our annual Mother's Day Tea will be taking place on Saturday, May 9th. There will be two sittings - one from 11am to 1pm and a second from 2pm to 4pm.

Tickets will be available to members only from April 9th-16th, and then to the general public from April 16th to May 8th. Tickets are \$20 each. You can reserve a table of four for \$80.

We will also be raffling off a basket of items from local businesses, including Ambassatours, Humble Pie, Zatzman Sportsplex, Wooden Monkey, Maria's Pantry, Eastern Front Theatre, and more! The retail value of items in our basket this year so far exceeds \$1000 - and we're still collecting donations!

Raffle tickets will be 1 ticket for \$5, 5 tickets for \$10, and 10 tickets for \$20. You do not have to attend the tea to purchase raffle tickets, but tickets must be purchased in-person only. Half of the proceeds will be donated to Adsum for Women & Children.



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



Helen's Garden



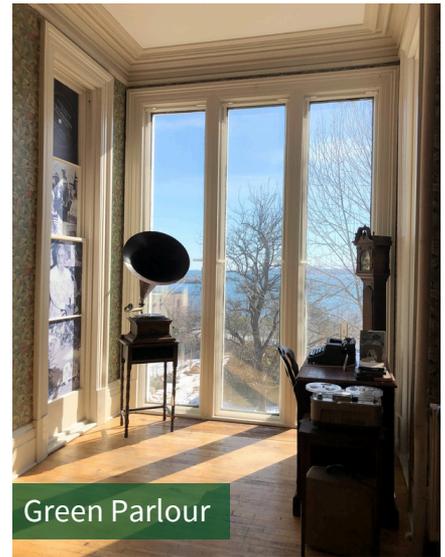
Reference Library



Red Parlour



Sun Porch



Green Parlour

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

E-transfers can be sent to info@dartmouthmuseum.ca

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 | Winter Hours
Tues - Fri | 10am - 5pm

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN 30 MAY 2026:

Summer Hours | Tues - Sun
10am - 5pm

Quaker House

57 Ochterloney Street | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Open Seasonally | June - August
Wed - Sun | 10am - 5pm

OPENING FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2025!



NOTICE: Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society (DHMS) 2026 Annual General Meeting (59th AGM)

In accordance with its bylaws, the DHMS 59th AGM will be held this June (date and venue TBC) in Dartmouth, NS, for the following purpose:

- To review and approve the minutes of the 2025 AGM;
- To receive the report of the Chair;
- To receive, consider and approve the financial statements for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2026 (Treasurer);
- To receive annual reports from the Executive Director, Auditor, Vice Chair (Nominating Committee), Collection Manager (Collection Management Committee)
- To elect Directors;
- To appoint the Auditor;
- To conduct such other transactions as may properly be brought before the Society at the AGM.

- **Liam Caswell, Chair For DHMS Board of Directors**



CONTACT US

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Website: dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca

 Dartmouth Heritage Museum -
Evergreen House & Quaker House

 @dartmouthheritagemuseum