

FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES U.C. HERITAGE SOCIETY
Of SPRY BAY, N.S.

Dear Friends;

It is that time of year again, when I touch base with you to bring every one up to date on the St. James UC Heritage site.

The Board of Directors do an in-depth inspection on the building each fall and a written report is incorporated into the minutes of the fall Directors Meeting. It has been apparent for the last number of years that the roof shingles have been rapidly deteriorating. Based on the Building Committee's fall report (September 2017) the time has come to replace the asphalt shingles. Without this intervention leakage and interior damages could occur. The Board Executive has developed a project plan for the upgrading of the roof. A grant request has been submitted to the Halifax Municipal Community Grants Program for financial assistance with the project. A request for financial support was also submitted to the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia for financial assistance with the project. Results from these applications will be received in the near future and concrete decisions will be implemented at that time. It is hoped that the Society will be able to re-shingle the building during the summer months of 2018. All plans are contingent upon available funding support.

I am attaching a schedule of events proposed for the St. James Heritage Society for the upcoming months. Please note that the Hike-A-Thon will not be held this year. The restoration of the St. James UC Heritage Society has been virtually completed.

The overwhelming financial and affirmative support the Society has received over the last twelve years (2005 to 2017) has made it possible to complete the restoration of the St. James building and surrounding picket fence. The focus of the Society, as we move toward the future, will be on the preservation of the site by maintaining the grounds, graveyard and the building. Protocols have been set in place to ensure that this takes place in an effective and timely manner.

The Board of Directors felt that financial contingency plans in place would allow the Society to meet unforeseen emergency needs in a timely manner. If required, order to preserve the building, the hike could be revived. Fundraising initiatives will be reviewed, by the Board, on an annual basis and financial needs will dictate what needs to be implemented.

The comment has often been made, to Board Members, that people are amazed by the amount of work and financial commitment that has gone into this restoration project and the results that they are seeing. We, as a Society, can

also look back over the years in amazement. A small number of people have made such a difference in a small area of our province. St. James UC Heritage site is an example of the importance of the cultural history of the Eastern Shore and the impact that a community can make on the culture of the present and the future. Look at the forefathers and mothers that settled this small area and the descendents who carry their genes, their values, who continue to contribute to make our Province such a great place to live in today. St. James UC Heritage site is a significant historical/cultural embodiment representing pride of heritage.

The Society still needs your support through the renewal of your yearly membership and generous financial donations. Membership numbers are very important when applying for grants. Numbers provide government and private reviewers with an overall view of the importance of the applicants request and the benefit that is being derived by the general public because of the Society Membership's support of the St. James historical project.

Membership forms are attached to this letter, as well as a schedule of the activities planned for the spring and summer. Hope to see you at the Penny Auction in June and the Musical Afternoon in August where local musicians and our resident storyteller will provide entertainment. It is an event we all look forward to and greatly enjoy.

Sincerely;

Linda F. MacDonald
Treasurer
Board of Directors

Attached: 2