

FRIENDS OF ST.JAMES UC HERITAGE SOCIETY OF SPRY BAY NS

May 23, 2023

Dear Friends;

Thank you for your wonderful support of the Society since its inception in 2005 and throughout the turbulent Covid years. Yes, it is mind boggling to believe that it has been that many years and so many changes!!

The St. James UC Heritage Building has been restored, and has been and will continue to be monitored annually, by the Building Committee, for any needed repairs. This on going oversight will ensure that this Historical Site will continue to represent the history and values of the strong men and women who settled our shores and contributed to developing this great Country we call home.

The Society has, with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic years, not been able to host our annual Community Events: The Penny Auction, and Musical Afternoon.

However, this year the Board of Directors is pleased to report that the Penny Auction will take place on June 10th at the Spry Bay Community Hall starting at 1pm with draws beginning at 2pm. There will be lots of Penny Auction items, a Bake Table, a Door Prize, ticket sales for a 50/50 draw and a Lobster Draw. We hope that you will be able to attend and bring your friends. Complimentary tea, coffee and cookies will be provided.

We also anticipate that our Musical Afternoon will take place once again at the St. James Historical Society Building on Sunday August 20, 2023 at 2 pm.

There are a number of musical friends who are interested in participating in the event and we invite friends and neighbours to attend and enjoy the songs and music they will be presenting. A free will offering at the door would be appreciated but not mandatory.

All revenues derived from fundraising and donations are dedicated toward maintaining the St. James UC Heritage Site.

During the Covid years an Annual Review of the Site noted that the Storm Windows were going to require repairs as there were a number of “soft spots” on the window frames. The Society is now in the process of upgrading the building’s Storm Windows. The Board of Directors explored various methods of undertaking this repair work.

After researching information and discussing various methods the Board of Directors voted to apply the following method to upgrade the Storm Windows:

- Remove each storm window, one at a time**
- Sand that window**
- Make any required repairs**
- Remove and replace the putty**
- Refinish the window and new putty with linseed oil.**

Members of the Board of Directors will be working on this project until all the storm windows are completed.

The Board expects that this procedure will be lengthy and time consuming. Many thanks are extended to Directors Greg Aylward and Dave Brook for their leadership in this project.

The upgrading of the Web Page/Facebook/Email for the Society is in the works. We thank Director Guy Rochon for the time and effort that he has provided in keeping the Societies Web site updated over the years. It was greatly appreciated by all.

More information will be provided to members once the upgrading is completed. Many thanks to Kathleen Crowell and her husband Keith Black for their support and expertise in this matter.

The Board of Directors thank you for your continued interest and support of the restoration and preservation of the St. James Heritage Site and would appreciate the renewal of your membership. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Should you have other family members or friends that may have an interest in the preservation of Cultural and Historic properties, such as St. James, the Board of Directors would appreciate if you would discuss the possibility of them becoming a member of the St. James Heritage Society.

I often think of lyrics from the song “We Rise Again” and how true it is. It is truly amazing to stand on the grounds of this property and to remember the significance of this building: what it symbolizes. It represents the strength and resilience of the people who settled these lands, raised families, relied on each other for strength and courage, especially the people who worked on the sea (people like my grandfather) to secure income and feed their families. They fought in wars for freedom, and many died to ensure the peace and security of their home land, the place they and we still call Canada.

Once again thank you very much for your support and interest in the restoration and preservation of the St. James Historical Site.

Sincerely,

**Linda MacDonald
Treasurer/Board Member
902-434-4726**