

HAYSTACK REUNION NEWSLETTER

No. 11

June, 2005

We're Back!

Although no reunion is planned in the immediate future, our committee has remained active, meeting at least twice a year and working on several projects. At our most recent meeting on May 29, 2005, we decided to mail out a newsletter to keep you informed about our work. For the past year we have also had a new chairman, Robert Snook, who has been a member of our committee for some time and worked hard on both reunions.

Cemeteries

Our main focus this year is cemetery maintenance. Since the original restoration project in 1998 there has been some damage to the fence, particularly after the record snowfall during the winter of 2001. Several rails are bent badly and one broken. We plan to carry out repairs during the weekend of July 9.

For some time now we have intended to replace the plaques on the two monuments. Since the 1998 dedication we have found the names of about a dozen other people buried in the two cemeteries, and these names will be added to the new plaques before the Haystack weekend (later item). The updated burial list is available in a link from our webpage: **www.math.mun.ca/~haystack**. If you are unable to access it in this way, please let us know, and we can mail you a copy. Since this is probably the last opportunity to make such changes, we are very anxious to correct any errors and make additions of other names known to any of you. Please check the list carefully. If you have corrections or additions, please contact Clayton Halfyard, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, A1C 5S7.

At our last meeting we also decided to purchase a lawn mower and trimmer so that we can better maintain the cemetery grounds. In the past, committee

members have used their own mowers. Having the new equipment nearby in our reunion building will facilitate easier maintenance.

The labour involved is freely given by committee members, but purchasing equipment and replacing the plaques will deplete most of the funds left over from the reunion. For this reason, we are inviting contributions to our fund so that this worthwhile work can continue. Please make cheques payable to the Haystack Reunion Committee and mail them to the address given below.

Since the monuments were installed, visitors have been leaving coins along the wooden borders of the plaques, presumably contributing to cemetery maintenance. We are going to make this easier to do now by installing a metal box with a coin slot near each of the monuments. The boxes will be locked and opened periodically to retrieve the contributions.

Reunion Centre

Our reunion building also needs continued maintenance. Last year we applied a new coat of paint and did other work, but to prevent deterioration of the plywood walls, we will eventually have to install vinyl siding. Our water supply has not been adequate during the dry period of mid-summer. To remedy this problem we are planning to dig a new and hopefully more reliable well this summer.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the building is available to individuals and families wishing to stay overnight. The fee is \$10 per person, with a family limit of \$20, and all proceeds from this will go towards building maintenance. You would need to bring a sponge or air mattress and sleeping bags, but we have flush toilets and limited kitchen facilities, as well as a woodstove. The centre is also suitable for family gatherings. Last summer a wedding, the first in Haystack since 1948, was held there. Arrangements for its use may be made by contacting one

of our building committee members: Clifford Allen, Stewart Allen, Wilbur Allen, Clayton Halfyard, Earl Johnson, Oakley Johnson.

Haystack Weekend

Last year, at the end of July, we held our first Haystack weekend — an informal get-together, with a pot luck supper, sing-a-long, and dance on Saturday night. We will be holding another one this year at the same time, and an added feature will be a service in the two cemeteries on Sunday morning. We encourage anyone who can to attend. If you are unable to attend but wish to have flowers placed on graves, the committee can take care of that. We will not be providing transportation, but it should be possible to make arrangements to be there. You may contact committee members for names of boat owners who might be available.

The Drake House

The Drake Heritage House in Arnold's Cove, formerly Frank Drake's house from Haystack, will be officially opened on Thursday, July 7, from 7–9 p.m. The committee in charge of this project would like to see as many former residents of Haystack as possible attend the ceremony. This will be a valuable heritage attraction, and we look forward to seeing artifacts from Haystack and other communities displayed there.

Miscellaneous

Committee members have continued to maintain the trail system (old roads) in Haystack. There are several miles of hiking trails around the community, and leading to Spencer's Cove, Clouney-O, and Bara-chois.

Our website is still available at the address on the previous page. Apart from pictures of the reunion, you will find considerable historical detail about Haystack and links to other interesting sites like the Haystack Picture Collection of the Maritime History Archive at Memorial University. We have recently acquired other old pictures and are in the process of adding them to that collection. Updated information about ongoing projects will also be available on our website.

There are still a few copies of our reunion booklet *Haystack Reflections* available. The cost is \$15, and they may be obtained from any committee member.

Mailing out roughly 250 newsletters like this one is very costly for our committee. To save money this time, we decided to have just a limited circulation and also make it available in PDF format on our website. If friends of yours who normally receive a copy did not get one, please inform them about its availability on our website.

Haystack Reunion Committee

- Chairman — Robert Snook
- Vice-Chairman — Clayton Halfyard
- Secretary — Earl Johnson
- Treasurer — Clyde Ryan
- Director (Site Readiness) — Oakley Johnson

Other Committee members include Clifford Allen, Stewart Allen, Wilbur Allen, Berkley Best, Juanita Best, Lena Brazil, Nina Dalton, Raymond Gregory, Elsie Johnson, Shirley Ryan, Delilah Snook, Charlotte Squires, Alma Stacey.