

# HAYSTACK NEWSLETTER

No. 12

November, 2018

## We're Back!

It has been a long while since our last newsletter (June, 2005), but our committee has remained active over the years, maintaining the cemeteries, trails (old roads), our reunion building, and our wharf. We've also in most years had a Haystack Weekend, an informal get-together with a potluck supper, entertainment, etc. One of our biggest undertakings was rebuilding the steps leading up from the Neck to the trails to Western Cove and Spencer's Cove. During this time we've maintained our committee bank account and have been using our funds for the above work. Although some people have continued to make contributions to our fund every year, our account balance has been low for some time now. High service charges have prompted us to move to a better arrangement at another bank. Our long-time treasurer, Clyde Ryan, has recently suffered major health problems and indicated that he will not be able to continue on the executive. We wish to thank him for his many years of service to our committee. On the recent Labour Day weekend we held a committee meeting and elected a slightly different executive, listed on the next page.

We had two very successful reunions, 1997 and 2003, but are really getting too old to hold any other full-scale reunions. We therefore decided that our committee will from now on be called simply the Haystack Committee, rather than the Haystack Reunion Committee, as it was known for so many years. We still hope to hold Haystack Weekends, when possible, but on a smaller scale than in the past.

## Our Wharf

This is the main agenda item for us during the next few months and is the immediate reason for this newsletter. The wharf near our building, originally built for the 1997 reunion, was repaired in 2011 and again in 2014, using money from our fund. We installed new shores (treated utility poles) and rebuilt the deck and bridge using mainly treated wood.

Unfortunately, the head of the wharf has been damaged during the past year or so. The strouters in the western corner have been dislodged, causing that corner of the wharf to drop. Although the wharf is still solid, we think that if repairs are not done soon, it could become unsafe to use. We need a wharf there to access our building, the cemeteries, and the trails at that end of the harbour.



This is our most urgent project for next spring. We have already arranged to buy six used utility poles, costing \$100 each, and have them transported to North Harbour, from where the Johnsons will tow them to Haystack. We are inviting contributions to our fund so that we can proceed with this work. Please make cheques payable to The Haystack Committee and mail them to our new address: P.O. Box 77, North Harbour PB, NL, A0E 2N0. All contributions, no matter how small, will be appreciated, and receipts will be issued. Committee members and cabin owners attending our most recent meeting have already contributed \$50 each.

## Reunion Building

Maintenance is also required on our building, particularly with the outside steps and some of the windows. In order to prevent further deterioration of the plywood walls we are considering installing vinyl siding, which we hope to purchase second hand. Our main door facing the harbour will also have to be replaced, probably with a good used one.

Twice this past summer we have had people staying overnight there, and they have made donations to our Haystack fund. We think that there is potential for more of this in the future.

## Cemeteries

We have continued to maintain the cemeteries since our major restoration project in 1998, mowing them sometimes twice each summer. We have two mowers and a trimmer that were purchased in 2005 using our Haystack fund. The mowers, gas and oil are stored in our reunion building. The two monuments installed in 1998 and plaques updated in 2005 are in good shape, but the rose bushes in the Anglican Cemetery continue to be a problem. They tend to take over if left unchecked; more work is required there.



## The Drake House

The Drake Heritage House in Arnold's Cove, formerly Frank Drake's house from Haystack, officially opened in 2005, is open to the public during the summers, and the heritage committee there have done a wonderful job of organizing events and activities. It is well worth a visit if you are in that area.

## Miscellaneous

Our website, first started in 1995 for our 1997 reunion, and again in 2003 for our second reunion, is still up and running 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. In the near future we hope to update it and add considerably more material and links. The Mathematics Department at Memorial University has generously hosted that webpage since its inception, but we may be moving it to another location soon. To find it, just search for "Haystack Reunion".

We have had many enquiries about our reunion booklet *Haystack Reflections*, but all 700 copies have been sold. Copies of it may still be viewed at many libraries around the province though.



## Haystack Committee

- Chairman — Robert Snook
- Vice-Chairman — Clayton Halfyard
- Secretary Treasurer — Earl Johnson

Other Committee members include most of the cabin owners in Haystack.