

# Spring & Summer 2007



## Black Loyalist Heritage Society

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### BLHS BOARD

*Richard Gallion - President*  
*Barb Falk - Vice President*  
*Norvin Oliver - Second Vice*  
*Hank Falk - Treasurer*  
*Elizabeth Cromwell - Secretary*  
*Terry Bower - Director*  
*Dolores Atwood - Director*  
*Everett Cromwell - Director*  
*Lawrence Bruce - Director*  
*Julie Anne Bruce - Director*  
*Sheila Hartley - Director*  
*Carrine Sparks - Director*  
*Baynola Clarke - Director*

### BLHS STAFF:

*Shari Shortliffe - Office Administrator*  
*Debra Hill - Registrar*  
*Jackie Race - Project Manager*  
*Bob Coe - Site Manager*

*"If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You're a leaf that doesn't know its part of a tree."*

Michael Crichton  
Timeline (knopf)

## President's Report 2006-2007 Richard Gallion



I would start by thanking everyone for their continued support of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society Historical Site and Museum.

We have had an eventful year - here are some of those highlights.

Projects implemented in 2006 included Student Summer Employment Programs which allowed the BLHS to hire 2 students as Museum Interpreters. We held a week long day camp in July for youth ages 5-12 where the children were introduced to different cultures through music, food and crafts. A partnership project with the Department of Community Services ran from April to September 2006. The BLHS was responsible for administering payroll to 20 participants who found job placements within the community of Shelburne in order to gain practical work experience to reduce their dependency on social assistance.

Projects for 2007 include a multi-year project, funded through the Department of Canadian Heritage and

African Nova Scotian Affairs, to hire a Project Manager and Site Manager. Jacqueline Race was hired as the Project Manager and she began on 22 May. Gary Goodwin was hired as the Site Manager and he begins his position on July 2. The new staff will work towards the development of our historical site, rebuilding of the BLHS office and all required infrastructure services. Specifically, the Project Manager will oversee all elements of implementing the BLHS Business Plan and the Site Manager will work closely with the Project Manager to carry out activities relating to operating a museum site.

We have also been fortunate to receive funding for 3 student positions this summer. Students will be busy with historical site tours, site maintenance and the day camp.

On February 4, 2007, the members of the BLHS and



congregation of Christ Church, Shelburne, had

the privilege of celebrating African Heritage Month with the Honourable Mayann E. Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Her Honour is the first African Nova Scotian to hold the position of Lieutenant Governor.

On February 5th, the BLHS members celebrated the publication of Lawrence Hill's - *The Book of Negroes*. The evening featured a book reading & signing by the author. Hard cover autographed copies are available at the BLHS gift shop for \$40 (tax included)

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the BLHS members and staff had the opportunity to travel to the Black Cultural Centre for the visit of Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean,



Governor General of Canada. She too is the first African Canadian appointed to this position. Her Excellency's visit to Nova Scotia was in honour of African Heritage Month Celebrations and the official signing of the Black *(continued on page 2)*



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Loyalist Heritage Society Coat of Arms: It was an honour and privilege for our members to witness Canada's first African Canadian Governor General sign the Coat of Arms as we are the first Black heritage organization to receive Armorial Bearings, granted and recorded in the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada on March 15, 2006.

On May 6th, the community of Birchtown along with the parish of Christ Anglican Church and members of the BLHS, officially de-consecrated St. Paul's Church. (Service was officiated by Bishop Fred Hiltz.) The church closed its doors in 1989, due to its dwindling congregation and in 1993 the BLHS approached the Anglican Diocese to acquire the church in the interest of historical preservation. Parishioners noted that an official de-consecration service was never held when the church closed in 1989 and it was suggested by Reverend Sandra Fyfe, rector of Christ Church, to properly close the church.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, we had the opportunity to celebrate once again with Her Honour, Mayann E. Francis. The BLHS hosted a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Wallace Webb and a senior's tea at the Christ Church Hall. Her Honour presented Mr. Webb with a certificate and the celebration continued with food and music. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



A big thank you goes out to the BLHS Fund-raising Committee as the members have been working very hard over the last year planning and implementing several successful fund-raisers. Events included our first pasta supper; annual auction & plant sale; annual chocolate festival; annual apple pie sale (this was so successful the members did a second sale); bake sales and our annual ticket sales for the Christmas Stocking.

Our office administrator, Shari Shortliffe, is employed 4 days per week and continues to oversee the daily tasks at the BLHS office. She is also providing office support to the Project Manger and Site Manager in order to keep their transition to the BLHS smooth and stress free!

Debra Hill, our registrar/genealogist/ethno-historian is currently on lay-off, but continues to answer genealogical queries, travels to schools for presentations and provides guided tours of the heritage site. She is continuing the compilation of the BLHS Registry and has over 2000+ registrants to date.

Over the next few years, we anticipate the rebuilding of our office, as well as improvements to our existing properties. There remains much to do, but we have never backed down from any challenge! I would like to send out a special thank you to our volunteers and supporters- without your commitment and dedication we could not have accomplished such progress.

Richard Gallion, President, BLHS

### St. Paul's Church Windows



St. Paul's Anglican Church was built in 1905 and is an important part of the Black Loyalist Site. The Church was deconsecrated May 6th 2007 by Bishop Fred Hiltz. Cliff Armsworthy from the Stained Glass Garden has removed the windows and is repairing them so they can stand for another 100 years. In order to pay for this project we are looking for sponsors for



each window. For a fee of \$400 a new window will be put in St. Paul's with a sponsor plaque to be placed under the window. This is a great opportunity to support the society and get a beautiful representation of your generosity. There are 13 windows to be replaced.

### Mary's Quilts Historical Re-enactment



Mary's Quilts, a historical re-enactment written by noted African Nova Scotian filmmaker & writer Dr. Sylvia Hamilton, is on the road again. There will be three performances: 3 July at the Shelburne Community Centre for the Women's Institute and 12 July at the Birchtown Gee's Bend Quilt Workshop

*"In October of 1791, we had a meeting that changed the course of our history. Lieutenant John Clarkson, who had been sent by the King & the Sierra Leone Company, came with options that would be made available to us. Of the three proposals Clarkson presented, a good many decided on the third—to leave Nova Scotia, to start anew in Sierra Leone, West Africa. We had much to do before leaving—winter was fast approaching." The Griot*  
So begins the story of Mary's Quilts...





### Black Loyalist Daylily

The Black Loyalist Daylily is available for purchase through the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC). The lily is dark red, almost black in colour with a slightly ruffled edge. Priced at \$25, the proceeds of the plants will be donated to the UELAC. Contact Fred Hayward, Senior Vice President of the UELAC at [fhhayward@idirect.com](mailto:fhhayward@idirect.com) to order your lily. Order yours today as there is only a limited number of plants available.

### Birchtown Day Camp

July 30-August 3 from 9am to 4pm  
Ages: 5-12  
Registration Fee: \$35/child (includes lunch)



This multi-cultural camp celebrates a different culture each day through food, music and crafts. Daily activities include crafts, scavenger hunts, water play, sports and cooking. Every day is action packed with a different theme. The camp will be housed at the Birchtown Community Centre, 23 Old Birchtown Rd.

## Project Manager's Report

To Friends & Supporter of the BLHS

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce both myself and my position here with the society. My name is Jackie Race and I am a lifelong resident of Shelburne County. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Acadia University. For the past twelve years I have been working for the Department of Community Services as a job developer and took a leave of absence to come to this position. I now live in Birchtown with my twelve year old son Daniel, my partner Laszlo Retfalvi and many furry roommates. I have worked with and volunteered for the society for over ten years and am thrilled to be in this position.

In my role as Project Manager I am responsible for capital funding applications, working with the Board, funders and community members using the Black Loyalist Heritage Museum Business Plan. The goal is to secure enough funding to develop the site, including replacing the burned office building, with the goal being to have the Museum become a member of the Nova Scotia Family of Museums.

I started the position on May 22 and have been developing funding applications and facilitating upgrades on the

site. My favorite project now is the St Paul's church windows. There will be an article on this later in the newsletter. There are also other upgrades happening on-site, a new door is going on the Museum; lots of clean up outside and the gift shop has been relocated to the Museum with the old gift shop space being remodeled into offices. As usual, all these projects would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. A big "thank you" goes out to them.

I would love to hear from you as we are in the process of making decisions around the look of the completed site and any input would be great. Even better, drop by and see the site. We have some new landscaping done by one of our volunteers, Bev Cox, a new quilt display for two weeks in July and the windows of the church will be going back in.

Have a great Summer  
Jackie Race  
Project Manager  
(P) 902 875-1606  
[jackie@blackloyalist.com](mailto:jackie@blackloyalist.com)



### **Black Loyalist Heritage Society Presents The Quilters of Gee's Bend Workshop Thursday, July 12th Birchtown Community Centre, 23 Old Birchtown Road**

- 10am—12pm:** -Video Screening: The Quilmakers of Gee's Bend  
-Gee's Bend Quilmakers Demonstration by Mary Lee Bendolph & Louisiana Bendolph-Pettway
- 12:30 2:30pm:** -Learning & Celebration Lunch  
-Mary's Quilts: short play performed by BLHS Members  
-Presentation by Gee's Bend Quilmakers  
-African Nova Scotian quilts presentation by David Woods  
-Opening exhibit of "Our Ancestors Garden" quilts from the local Black community
- 2:30 - 3pm:** Question & Answer with the Gee's Bend Ladies

*The Birchtown Old School House Museum site will be open and walking tours available*  
Workshop fee: \$25 (includes lunch) [www.blackloyalist.com](http://www.blackloyalist.com) [www.quiltsofgeesbend.com](http://www.quiltsofgeesbend.com)



**UPCOMING EVENTS for 2007**

- **Women of Gee's Bend Quilting Workshop & Luncheon**  
Thursday, July 12 from 10am to 3pm  
Registration Fee: \$25
- **Baked Bean, Ham & Scallop Potato Supper**  
Thursday, July 19  
\$9.00/person  
Shelburne Waterfront
- **Shelburne Historical & Black Loyalist Heritage Societies Garden Party**  
Sunday, July 22 from 2pm to 4pm  
Ross Thomson House, 9 Charlotte Lane, Shelburne  
Admission: \$5.00/person
- **Birchtown Multi-cultural Day Camp**  
July 30 to August 3, daily 9am to 4pm  
Birchtown Community Centre  
\$35/child or \$50 for 2 or more children (includes lunch)
- **Ike's Bike Rally & Youth 12 Hour Dance-a-thon**  
August 2007 (date TBA)
- **Herbalist Workshop**  
September 2007 (date TBA)  
Learn about traditional herbs & their uses

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** The Black Loyalist Heritage Society is committed to discover, interpret, safeguard and promote the history and heritage of Black Loyalists and their descendants in North America.

**OUR MANDATE:** To ensure the chronicles and contributions of Black Loyalists share a place with other communities that shape Canada's cultural mosaic.



Black Loyalist  
Heritage Museum  
& Site  
Site of the Largest  
Settlement of Free  
Blacks in 1783

**Featuring**  
Remembering  
Black Loyalist,  
Black Communities  
Exhibit  
Genealogy  
Archaeological  
Artifacts  
Heritage Trail

**Open June to Sept**  
Mon - Fri  
11am - 5pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
12pm - 5pm  
Gift Shop on Site

Admission \$2.50 or  
Donation Accepted

Charitable Receipts  
Upon Request



**BLACK LOYALIST HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
104 OLD BIRCHTOWN ROAD, PO Box 1194  
SHELburne, NS, B0T 1W0

**MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**SINGLE: \$12.00    FAMILY: \$15.00    ORGANIZATION: \$20.00**

**NAME (S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE THE BLACK LOYALIST HERITAGE SOCIETY. MEMBERSHIPS RENEWED ANNUALLY ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.*

**ENCL./ \$** \_\_\_\_\_