



BLHS BOARD PRESIDENT SITE BRIEFING REPORT JULY, 2022

This Site Briefing Report is to provide the Board of Directors and the Membership as an overview of activities and accomplishments of the Centre

EQUIPMENT AND/OR MAINTENANCE-MECHANICAL

- Ocean IT Company have completed installation of the new telephone system hardware with Ring Central and 3 year contract;
- New Mac Mini's have been installed in the Gallery that supports the information panel. We continue to experience difficulty with the station for the Book of Negros. The system (app) will require updating and we are working on that with the prior Designers.
- Our new Accounting System has been installed and Staff continues to be trained. And working with Grant Thornton on the turn over.
- New John Deere Lawn Tractor and Pressure Washer were purchased.

NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

- We have been in communication with Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to the roadway and access issues surrounding the Centre.
- We have been advised that the Fire Escape will be replaced;
- Stephanie Smith Executive Director continues to support us as we transition and has met our new Executive Director.
- Implementing a new system TRACK (Training, Resources, Assessment, Coaching and Knowledge-Sharing) lots of emphasis on EDI replacing the former MEP (Museum Evaluation Program)

HR/GOVERNANCE

STAFFING

- Our new Executive Director officially started her new position on July 4, we are thrilled to have her here and she has hit the ground running
- We continue to focus on staffing the Senior Interpretive Guide position that has been vacant for approximately 1.5 years.
- We were successful in hiring our full complement of Summer Staff – focus for the first couple of weeks has been on training and orientation.

MEDIATION

- Work continues on bringing stability to our working environment. We conducted a mediation session aimed at improving communications in late Spring and we will continue with these sessions over the next several months to address and discuss the remaining issues that staff have identified as problematic in our workplace.
- This will include a joint training session on the NSGEU Collective Agreement with Staff, management and the Board.

P4G

- The Recruiting Firm were absolutely phenomenal in all aspect of the recruiting, interviewing and hiring of our new Executive Director and I cannot say enough about this firm

LAND ACQUISITION

- Our attempt at acquiring the property of the Estate of Stillman Acker through the Tax Sale was not successful, however, we will continue to monitor if the lands become available again.

AUDIT

- Grant Thornton have completed our Audit in time for the AGM

GENERAL

Washington Black filming did not occur. Production issues and they chose not to use our site.

Nova Scotia Seafarers Project funding from NS Government has been approved and we together with the Fisheries Museum and Black Cultural Centre will be working to create a travelling exhibit aimed at elevating the stories of African Nova Scotians and their connections to the sea, which is expected to launch in the Spring of 2023. More detailed information can be reviewed on our website.

This year SRHS held its first Black Loyalist Run/Walk on June 4, 2022 – Mr. Peter Himmelman Connect Centre Teacher for an end of year Run/Walk. The Students were given a brief history of the Black Loyalist with an emphasis on their struggles. The Run/Walk gave the Students experience on the hardships of travelling from Birchtown to Shelburne.

We partnered with the Drama Class at SRHS - Mr. Trevor Doyle class to perform a play written by Louise Delise “Breaking Rocks” on the Everett and Zak Farmer Murder Trial which production was on June 17, 2022 at the Old School House.

We joined in the first celebration ever of “Black Excellence Day” on June 17, 2022 throughout Nova Scotia Public Schools – Black Excellence Day celebrates Black Achievements, Black Stories; Black Art; Black Innovations and Black People and their Communities. It is an opportunity to commemorate the ongoing struggle by Black Canadians for Civil and Human Rights and to remember that small actions can make big differences. The Nova Scotia Inclusive Education Policy commitment to ensuring EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

National Black Summit will scheduled for July 29-31, 2022 and we are sending a delegation

Journey Back to Birchtown is on schedule more follow up.

Human Rights Commission are planning an information booth at the Centre during Journey Back to Birchtown on July 31, 2022 with an eye to bringing awareness to the Public. There is also a session which will be held later this Fall entitled “Human Rights On the Road”. An opportunity for the Public/Community to be informed of the Human Rights Commission what it is about and how to navigate

We have purchased and now for sale in our Gift Shop our Black Loyalist Flags large and small. Please purchase one!