

**ASPOTOGAN HERITAGE TRUST
SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT
2005**



Table of Contents

History of the Aspotogan Heritage Trust Society _____page 3

Present Board and Committee Structure _____page 5

Past Directors _____page 7

2004 - 2005 Community Grants Program _____page 8

Contact Information _____page 11

Appendix:

Financial Information

History of the Aspotogan Heritage Trust Society

The Aspotogan Heritage Trust was created following the decision of the Government of Canada to close Canadian Forces Station Mill Cove in 1994. Formed as a limited-membership, non-profit society by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency in October 1994, the Trust was established to administer a \$2 million federal adjustment fund to respond to the social and economic consequences arising from the base closure.

One of the first challenges faced by the Trust was a decision by federal staff that CFS Mill Cove had significant market value and should be sold to the highest bidder. This differed entirely from the circumstances in other communities where military installations were being turned over to local agencies to manage and re-develop. After months of critical analysis of the government's proposal and direct appeals to the Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister's Office, agreement was reached to gift CFS Mill Cove to the Trust. No sooner was the property secured than ACOA decided it would claw back one-third of the Trust's \$2 million adjustment fund and administer the other two-thirds of the funds from Halifax. This too was overcome on the basis of the Trust's many accomplishments and sustained appeals to Ottawa.

With property and financial issues resolved, the Trust commenced the task of rehabilitating CFS Mill Cove. The most pressing need was replacement of the water source and treatment system as the existing water utility was prohibitively expensive to operate and delivered a very poor quality product. The next priority was to renovate and repopulate the housing complex and integrate Mill Cove Park with the surrounding community of Mill Cove by removing security fencing and enhancing the landscape.

The Trust's biggest success at Mill Cove Park came in 1996 when it established Nova Scotia's first dedicated sound stage and film production centre. From 1996 to 2001 more than \$40 million of film production occurred at Mill Cove Park. Two national television series, two feature films and two movies of the week were produced in the region featuring recognizable actors such as Farrah Fawcett, Kirsten Dunst, Jean Stapleton, Kevin Spacey and Vanessa Redgrave.

In 1999, the Trust sought and secured the location for the new Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School and prepared plans for development of a new residential sub-division surrounding the new school.

Between 2000 and 2001, the Board of Directors decided to curtail any further development of Mill Cove Park in favour of divesting the property and establishing a perpetual community endowment with the proceeds.

After seven years of ownership, the Aspotogan Heritage Trust's mission at the former Canadian Forces Station Mill Cove was completed in the spring of 2003. Mill Cove Park was sold on May 2, 2003, to a private development company from Halifax, which operate the property as Mill Cove Developments Limited. The decision to sell the property had been made in 1999 – 2000 following a strategic planning exercise by the Board of Directors. In order to prepare the property for sale, the Trust negotiated the transfer of water, sewer and road systems to the Municipality of the District of Chester and worked with the Lunenburg County District Planning Commission to establish zoning and land use bylaws to restrict development of the Park in future. The zoning also sought to preserve the park-like atmosphere of the property and protect its

natural watercourses.

The property was listed with and sold by Turner Drake and Partners, a commercial real estate brokerage and appraisal firm in Halifax.

The purchase included all 65 residences, 4 commercial buildings and the Gatehouse. The Trust also granted Mill Cove Developments Limited a two year option to acquire the 350 remaining acres at the Park as part of the transaction.

The proceeds from the sale of Mill Cove Park were combined with the Trust's other assets to create a \$4.5 million endowment from which community grants will be funded in perpetuity. In order to achieve this end, the Trust draws on a small amount of the interest every year from which it funds its operations. The principal of the fund is not used and reinvestment strategies are maintained in order to both protect and grow the funds over time.

List of Officers and Directors - 2005/2006

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position Held</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Conrad, Robert	Chairperson	Fisherman
Donnahee, Tom	Vice-Chairperson	Realtor/ Owner
Dyer, Mark	Treasurer	Financial Services, American Express
Hopkins, Judy	Secretary	Retired Educator
Coupe, Adrian	Director	Manager, AMEC
Murdoch, Gayle	Director	University Student
Shatford, Floyd	Director	District #2 Councillor
Parsons, Doreen	Director	Coordinator, Women's CED Network
Shanks, Gayle	Director	TD Banking Services
Routhier, Pat	Director	Executive Sales, Weekenders
Lamarche-Mathers, Wilma	Director	General Manager, Scott Walking Adventures

Committee Structure 2005 - 2006

Executive Committee:

Robert Conrad – Chair
Tom Donnahee – Vice-Chair
Mark Dyer – Treasurer
Judy Hopkins – Secretary

Gayle Murdoch – Community Development Chair
Tom Donnahee – Property Development Committee

Property Development Committee:

Tom Donnahee - Chair
Pat Routhier
Floyd Shatford

Community Development Committee:

Gayle Murdoch - Chair
Wilma Lamarche-Mathers
Floyd Shatford
Mark Dyer
Judy Hopkins
Doreen Parsons

Past Directors

Name	Term	
Mary Ellen Clancey	1999	2005
Rachel Brighton	1999	2005
Charlene Davis	1998	2004
Dick Folley	1998	2004
Wendy Tamko	2000	2004
Pat Helm	2000	2003
Peter Cochrane	2000	2003
Marshal Hector	1999	2003
Bill Rudderham	2000	2001
Dr. Susan Pyke	1998	2001
Hal Richman	1995	2000
Ronald Walker	1994	2000
Fraser Farmer	1998	1999
Linda Cahill	1998	1998
Lee Publicover	1995	1998
Betty Henneberry	1995	1998
Kevin Page	1995	1998
Vincent Boutilier	1994	1998
Danny Shatford	1994	1998
Percy Shatford	1994	1997
Tim Douglas	1994	1994



Community Grants Program

2005



Hubbards Barn Association

\$6000

The Hubbards Barn Association continues its work towards the restoration of The Barn and the completion of the Community Park Project. Funding was provided to make necessary repairs to the back section of the floor in order to make it available for additional vendors.



Aspotogan Arts and Crafts

\$200

Support of the 5th Annual Gallery Exhibition.



St. Margaret's Bay Regional Tourism Development Association

\$4000

Phase II of the Coastal Heritage Trail project was supported. The St. Margaret's Bay region is one of few in Nova Scotia that does not have a museum where the community or visitors can reflect on and share the region's history. This project is a self-guided tour of heritage sites in the area, which allows our region to share its history in a more manageable manner. The five interpretive panels will be located at the Dipper Pond Look-off (2), the Pioneer Cemetery in Tantallon, the Bay Lookout Park, and the Blandford Whaling Station. The project also includes the creation of a new brochure to include these additions to the Coastal Heritage Trail.



Ten Beaches

\$4000

The creation of a full colour brochure was supported that promotes the Ten Beaches region as a tourist and visitor destination.



Shatford Memorial Elementary Home & School

\$500

Support of the School's Annual Fun Fair.



P.R.O. Kids

\$250

Sponsored the P.R.O. Kids Program. Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids is a program administered by the Municipality of Chester's Recreation and Parks Department to support children and youth living in our Municipality where the families do not have the financial means

to enrol them into sport or recreation programs. This is the fourth year for the program, which has supported over 100 children and youth from the Municipality.



3rd Hubbards Scout Group

\$4000

The scouting movement in Hubbards has increased tremendously and is committed to the development of the young people of our community in the areas of community involvement, fundraising, outdoor survival techniques and fellowship. Funding was provided in order to supply the group with camping equipment and supplies for the annual Scout Jamboree in Cape Breton. This equipment will also be used for future outdoor learning camping trips.



Fox Point and Mill Cove Beach Committee

\$2850

The Committee continues its work towards improving and maintaining the beaches for the enjoyment of the entire community. This year's activities included the annual volunteer beach and roadside cleanup and appreciation barbeque as well as the installation of signage at both locations. Funding was provided to the Committee for the installation of a platform deck on the repaired picnic area at Mill Cove Beach as well as steps leading down to the beach.



St. Margaret's Bay World Tuna Flat Races

\$500

Supported the annual one-day event, which helps to raise awareness of the fishing heritage with the tuna fishing industry in the St. Margaret's Bay area.



Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia

\$300

Sponsored "The Economics of Staying in School Program", a unique learning experience in which grade six students are introduced to business and the free enterprise system. Lessons include the fundamentals of organization, management, production and marketing, giving students a better understanding of what a business is, how it operates as well as opportunities available within their community.



Blandford/DeepCove Heritage Days

\$500

Supported the annual event which includes a wiener roast, bonfire and fireworks.



Hubbards Cove Business Association

\$500

Supported the Association's beautification project. Scenic banners were erected on the light poles at the entrances to Hubbards and a variety of flowers were planted at locations around the community.



The Society for the District #1 Community Centre and Fire Hall

\$500

This year marked both the 20th Anniversary of the Community Centre in Blandford as well as the 40th Anniversary of the District #1 Fire Department. Funding was provided to support celebrations which included fireworks and a community dance.



Hubbards Cove Days

\$500

Supported the annual event which brings local community groups together to organize a celebration of the lifestyle and culture of the area. Events include a parade, fireworks, and a variety of entertainment.



Through The Years Day Care and Community Centre

\$1000

Funding was provided in order to erect new fencing around the court space at the centre, which complies with regulations.

Contact Information

For more information about the Aspotogan Heritage Trust Society, please contact us at any contact information below.

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