

GREENWOOD CENTRE FOR LIVING HISTORY



FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2012

Reflections

Celebrating 15 Years

The Greenwood Centre for Living History turned 15 this year. This season was a fine one in so many ways- the weather was the best we've seen in years. For the second year in a row, we managed to raise enough money to cover the costs of running Greenwood. Our wonderful old house got a much needed face lift: "On Time Renovations" refurbished our front hallway. Under the management of Board members Jeanna McClintock and Donna Seaman, Chris Craigmyle and his team came in on time and on budget, and left us with a front entrance where we welcome guests with pride. Our theme this season was "15 Years, 15 Heirlooms". We identified and showcased 15 artifacts that we had not previously shown- some wonderful treasures.

Several events this year were designed to draw families to Greenwood- a Re-enactment Day, and a Robert Munsch play as part of Theatre on the Lawn. A fabulous new project was started by Gary Dover, entitled "Project 1732". It was a wonderful initiative to set up a woodworking shop circa 1732 and we hope that will continue to grow next year.

We had many visitors to Greenwood this summer; amongst them was our MNA Yvon Marcoux, our MP Jamie Nicholls and our Mayor Michael Elliott. Perhaps the best part of the summer for me was the assistance I had from our new Associate Director, Jane Havard. Jane willingly took on the garden this summer, and with the help of a loyal band of volunteers, worked miracles in it. It is a pleasure for me to be able to work side by side with such a capable and committed colleague.

Finally, many thanks to our hard working Board members for their continued efforts on our behalf, and to the large group of volunteers who continue to explore many areas of interest at Greenwood. We would not be here without you.

Audrey Wall, Executive Director



From the Collections

This matching bracelet and pin are an exquisite example of "mourning jewelry" that date from the 1860's. The design of the gold setting is called "cannetille" which is also seen in embroidery and crewel work. Both pieces are inset with turquoise and carved ivory. A piece of hair belonging to the departed is held in a small compartment on the back of each piece.

Mourning jewelry became very popular when Queen Victoria went into permanent mourning upon the death of Prince Albert in 1861. It was worn to show that the loved one had not been forgotten and as a status symbol but also as a "memento mori", a reminder to the living of the inevitability of death.

It is likely that this set was purchased at Lyman and Savage on St James Street, Montreal's leading jeweler at that time and where Henry Birks was to begin his apprenticeship when he was sixteen.



photo courtesy of May's Studio

254 Main Road, Hudson, Quebec, Canada J0P 1H0

tel- (450) 458-5396 fax- (450) 458-5801 email- history@greenwoodcentre.org www.greenwood-centre-hudson.org

StoryFest Celebrates 10 Years



Author Sally Armstrong with Executive Director Audrey Wall

From modest beginnings, StoryFest has grown into a well established month long festival now celebrating its 10th Year. This year we have expanded our program to include 14 events!

Wayson Choy opened the festival at the Village theatre and visited Westwood High school where he held 50 students in rapt attention. Journalist Jeffrey Simpson presented his new book discussing health care in Canada. Our three poets Ian Keteku Oana Avasilichioaei and Elizabeth Sea made a lively trio. An afternoon of local storytelling drew the community to Greenwood. Lauren B Davis, with her Hudson connections, enthralled the audience with her openness and compassion.

A breakfast was served to 120 people who came to hear the inspirational Sally Armstrong. "Payback", a film based on Margaret Atwood's book was shown with a discussion led by Jay Bryan. Elizabeth Hay, winner of the Giller prize, hosted our afternoon tea; followed by an evening with Ami McKay at the Village Theatre. A full house welcomed the playwright Norm Foster.

Theatre Panache will present "Mrs. Dexter and her Daily" in mid November. This piece by Canadian playwright Joanna McClelland Glass will be performed by Christine Davet and Heather Markgraf-Lowe. The show runs from November 14- 17 at Hudson Village Theatre and tickets are available at 450-458-5281 or at theatrepnache.ca. It is a remarkable line up and we thank our organizing committee for such a successful event! We look forward to another exceptional festival next year.



Storyfest Committee 2012

Enthusiastic Gardeners Care for Greenwood

It all began May 12th at Greenwood's "spring clean-up," as volunteers chose to either work in the house or out in the yard. For those of us who love to be in the fresh air, it was an easy choice. Following this initial day of tidying, putting out furniture and taking stock of the numerous beds and trees, it became evident that much more input was needed. And so began the team of gardeners who met weekly. On Wednesday or Friday mornings we, a collection of interns and volunteers, gathered to spend a few hours maintaining this beautiful waterfront property.

One of the goals was to improve the view from the screened porch where groups and individuals gather for traditional Greenwood hospitality. This special view of the river adds much to the Sabourin and the Deslesderniers-Shepherd family stories.

Significant effort went into tidying piles of stone, defining edges and reseeding outside the oval that once surrounded Phoebe's pool, as it is here at the gazebo that Greenwood now hosts musical events. Near the house, stone paths were uncovered and volunteers have trimmed and nurtured the lilac bushes.

A shared purpose led to rewarding mornings as some very big projects were tackled. The talents of the group were varied; some operated a chain saw, others tenderly uncovered forgotten perennials or trimmed the Eglantine Rose. Justin Sadoway, a summer intern, worked daily in the yard and was always ready to assist the volunteers. Because of the efforts of so many, the usual garden expenses were diminished, which is a huge plus for Greenwood! Kudos to all our volunteers for a remarkable gift to our community.

Treasures in the Attic 2012

Once again, our annual fall event, Treasures in the Attic, was a huge success. We had a wonderful day with apple pies, appraisers and auctions bringing in many people.

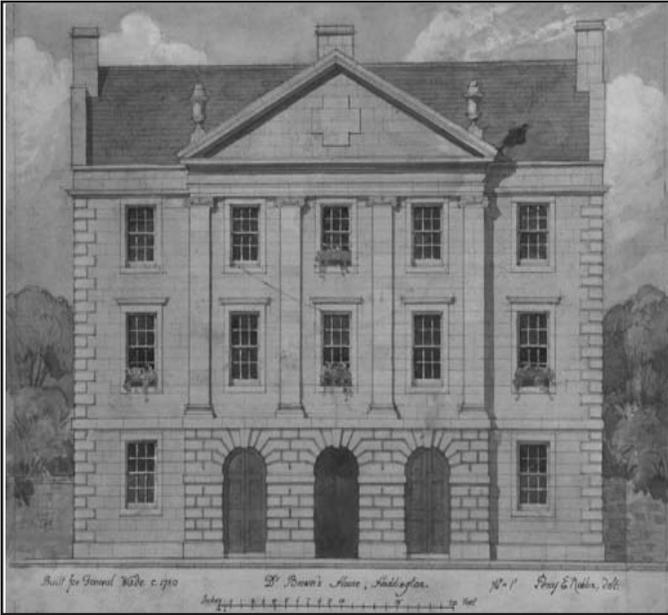
Our appraisers Kevin Colgan, Jennifer Millen, Roberto Menard, Maureen Descelles, Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin were kept busy all day and we thank them. The famous apple pies baked from scratch by June Kendall and her team in the graciously loaned kitchens of the Hudson Legion were consumed down to the last crumb. And the afternoon was brought to a close by the auctioneering expertise of Michael Lawrence. Special thanks to the amazing team of Julia and Richard Currie, who oversaw, organized and transported all of the donations to the live and silent auctions.

Thanks also to regulars Audrey Gray, Liz Rozon, Barb Gibb, Grace Thom, and Donna Seaman, who manage our event, and to the over 30 volunteers who work during the day to continue to make this such a successful fundraiser.

Adopt a Greenwood Artifact

Adopting a Greenwood artifact often amounts to **saving** a Greenwood artifact from the toll that time can take on these uniquely original works. This stunning watercolour pen and ink scale drawing, for instance, should be professionally cleaned and re-framed to archival standards if it is to be preserved for the enjoyment of generations to come.

It's a fine example of Percy Nobb's skill as a draughtsman and artist and depicts his grandfather's home in Haddington, Scotland. The house dates back to 1750 and was built for General Wade who was sent to Scotland by the British Government to build a network of military roads.



*Haddington Hall- drawing by Percy Nobbs
photo courtesy of May's Studio*

This year, Greenwood is especially grateful to Larry Freedman, Lesley Henshaw and family, Sam McClintock, the Sabourin family and friends of the late Betty Teasdale. Their generous contributions to our *Adopt an Artifact* program have funded the reupholstering of eight regency chairs in the dining room, as well as the reframing of several Notman photographs using UV protective glass. The *Hat Collection* has also been inventoried, and custom display stands were built to permanently showcase part of the collection in Phoebe's bedroom.

A special thank you goes to David Leishman who restored both a vintage typewriter and a record player, and to Jim Norcross who took on the project of transposing all of Phoebe's recordings from LP to disc.

We urge you to consider carrying on this important work by adopting an artifact, either in your name, as a gift for someone else, or as a memorial. One of our many projects will certainly 'speak to you' so please give us a call.



Early 20th Century Hat by Italian Designer Elsa Schiaparelli

Christmas at Greenwood

December brings the return of the very popular Old Fashioned Christmas, always a highlight of the holiday season. On both Sunday, Dec 2nd. and Sunday Dec. 9th. at 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm, we will be pleased to offer a programme of seasonal reminiscences, including readings from the Hudson Players Club, traditional music of the Kitchen Ceilidh, storytelling and the talented Greenwood Singers. While here, you can enjoy a glass of our famous mulled cider and delicious home baking, in the atmosphere of a home decorated in the traditional style of years gone by.

On Wed. Dec 12th. at 7:30 pm in St. Mary's Church, the Greenwood Singers present "Carols for a Mid-Winter Night". There will be a Dessert and Coffee Reception at Greenwood before the concert and a Reception following the concert, also at Greenwood..

As the Christmas events are very popular, we suggest that you call ahead for reservations as space is limited.



Re-enactment Day Summer 2012