



# STANHOPE TIMES

*Past & Present*

*Published by the Stanhope Historical Society*

" PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE "

November, 2016

Vol. 23, No. 11B

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The Annual Meeting (AGM) is an important occasion for its members. It is convened for the purpose of the election of the Executive for the following year, presentation of reports and financial statements, and the transaction of other business. Following the business meeting, the members and visitors in attendance were treated to an outstanding presentation by Capt. Greg Gallant, Curator of The Prince Edward Island Regiment Museum.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM and Program were held October 24, 2016. The AGM was convened by Vice President, Allen Stoolmiller. Following the reading and acceptance of reports, the proposed slate of officers for 2016-2017 was moved and adopted without dissent.

### 2016-2017 Executive

Office	Officers
Past President	Louis Watts
President	Allen Stoolmiller
Vice President	John Baird
Secretary	Rosemary Vigeant
Treasurer	Donna Thompson
Directors	Dorothy Johnston John MacDougall Lorna Thompson Charlotte Vriends

The incoming President thanked Louis Watts for his service and for the opportunity to have worked with him during the past year. Allen said that he was pleased with the composition of the new Executive and that he was looking forward to meeting with the group in the very near future.

## THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND REGIMENT MUSEUM

The Stanhope Historical Society was extremely fortunate in having been able to schedule the presentation by Capt. Greg Gallant, Curator of The Prince Edward Island Regiment (PEIR) Museum, so near Remembrance Day.



Capt. Greg Gallant

Once the date of Capt. Gallant's presentation was confirmed, an SHS member wrote the following comment:

*It will be an interesting meeting as I know that Capt. Greg Gallant is passionate about the museum. I have been there, and it is a treasure trove of information made very personal by the many donations of uniforms, medals and other items from veterans and their families.*

The member quoted could not have been more accurate! Capt. Gallant provided a fascinating illustrated talk about the PEIR Museum.



The Queen Charlotte Armoury is home to the Prince Edward Island Regiment Museum

The Museum opened in June, 1990. Currently, the more than 5,000 artifacts are viewed by over 4,000 visitors per year. The PEIR Museum is located within the Queen Charlotte Armoury at 3 Haviland Street, Charlottetown. It is the only officially recognized Canadian Forces museum on Prince Edward Island.

Capt. Gallant referenced a number of historic actions that occurred in the Stanhope area. For example, the NO#4 Company Queens County Regiment in 1876 and later the F or NO#6 Company, 82<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Covehead in 1895 mustered on the John MacMillan Farm.

The photo of D Company from the neighbouring community of York, was taken on the Hardy farm.



Other photos bore well-known local names such as Allan and Watts. More than 7,000 persons enlisted from PEI, which had a population of only 85,000 at the time of the Great War.

Capt. Gallant related the gripping tale of Major Wyle Allen, MC, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps. During the attack on Drocourt, Queant Line 2 in September 1918, he exhibited conspicuous gallantry and initiative. Two hours after his Commander was wounded. Major Allen took command and kept his Company in action until they were relieved on the night of 4th/5th.



Cpl. Reuben N. Watts [shown on right], born in Grand Tracadie, was a member of the 13th Battalion Black Watch. He won a medal at Passchendaele

and suffered wounds in action at Canal du Nord. Cpl. Reuben Watts is interred in the York Cemetery.

Capt. Gallant not only delivered a fascinating illustrated talk in which he referenced both sites and individuals from this area, but he brought and displayed an impressive array of banners depicting Canada's involvement in different aspects of the First World War, the uniform of a local citizen and trays of military artifacts. Pictured below are a few vintage Officer Badges and a Helmet Plate.

Capt. Gallant remained at Stanhope Place for conversation with grateful and appreciative SHS members during the social period which followed his formal presentation.



Lloyd & Mary Gates with Capt. Gallant



SHS Secretary, Rosemary Vigeant, views some of the exhibits



Islanders of all ages would benefit from a visit to the PEIR Museum for one cannot help but be impressed by the military contributions of Island residents around the world through the years . An appreciation of the hardships endured, including the sacrifice of time, physical and mental fitness and life itself, gives cause for thoughtful reflection.

The PEIR Museum is open year-round, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm and Thursday evenings 7 pm to 9 pm. Phone 902-368-0108

Capt Gallant's email address is [Greg.Gallant@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Greg.Gallant@forces.gc.ca)

## WINNER OF THE FALMOUTH TROPHY FOR 2016



Site of the *Falmouth Trophy*

On the *Falmouth Trophy* is an image of the stone cairn located at the Club entrance. The cairn was erected in 1970 to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the ship, *Falmouth*, from Greenock, Scotland, on June 8, 1770 and to acknowledge the families who first settled Stanhope, Covehead and Brackley.

The story of the building and dedication of the cairn was the topic of

an article which appeared in the October 2015 issue of the *Stanhope Times* [pages 3-7]. A hyperlink to that issue of the newsletter is given below:

[http://communityofnorthshore.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/4/9/24496888/february\\_2016.pdf](http://communityofnorthshore.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/4/9/24496888/february_2016.pdf)

The SHS had a *Falmouth Trophy* designed in 1993, incorporating the cairn likeness, and presented it to the Stanhope Golf and Country Club that same year.



The *Falmouth Trophy* is presented annually most improved golfer at Stanhope Golf and Country Club by the SHS. Club members vie for this honour each year, and Craig Yeo was that individual in 2016.



Presentation of the Falmouth Trophy to Craig Yeo by Allen Stoolmiller on October 23rd

In a conversation with Craig's father, we learned that Craig is a direct descendent of James Yeo (1789-1868), a man possessed of enormous physical and mental energy and business acumen. Craig's genetic heritage probably explains a comment overheard in the clubhouse before the awarding of the trophy, "I don't know Yeo well, but he can hit the ball a country mile!"

In that this is an historical society, we decided to take a look at the life of the first Yeo to have immigrated to the Island.

Following some professional disappointments and the death of his first wife in 1818, James Yeo remarried in 1819 and immigrated to Port Hill, PEI. Yeo began working as superintendent of local lumbering gangs and helped with the management of the stores in the lumbering, shipbuilding, and mercantile business established by Thomas Burnard. In 1826, after Burnard's death, his Port Hill business was turned over to William Ellis, a master shipbuilder, who had migrated to PEI from the same English district as that of James Yeo.

By the 1830's James wielded considerable influence in Prince County and he acquired the Port Hill business from Ellis. In 1840 Yeo began shipbuilding on a large scale and soon became the greatest of the Island's shipbuilders. As such he played a vital part in the colony's economic development in the middle years of the century, when new ships built for sale in Britain were by far the most important Prince Edward Island export. He was responsible for the construction of at least 155 ships, from the *Marina* (1833) to the *Magdala* (completed just three days before his death in 1868).

Yeo's unflagging energy and abilities saw him succeed in many business interests. He became a large-scale

exporter of agricultural products, including oats, potatoes, and livestock. In the 1830s and 1840s relatively little money was in circulation in the colony; and it was said that in this period Yeo was the only man in Prince County from whom settlers could obtain cash. He built up a role as financier until by the 1860s he was making large loans to the government.

James Yeo could total figures quickly, and was able to make rapid assessments of the value of timber stands, crops, ships and their cargoes, and business enterprises. He personally supervised his operations, riding on horseback all over the Island -- often sleeping in the saddle.

Yeo was first elected to the Island assembly in 1839, and he had a long political career through which he exerted great influence in Island politics because of his wealth and the power this brought him with his numerous debtors. Contemporaries consequently nicknamed him the "Ledger Baron of Port Hill" and the "Driver of the Government."

James Yeo's part in the development of shipbuilding, shipping, and the export business in Prince Edward Island in the mid-19th century was unique both in

scale and in the breadth and complexity of his operations. If these snippets pique your curiosity here is a hyperlink to James Yeo's biography in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. It's indeed a fascinating read.

[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/yeo\\_james\\_9E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/yeo_james_9E.html)

Craig didn't have benefit of knowing his Port Hill ancestors as he grew up here on Covehead Road. He was introduced to golf by his father at about the age of 8 or 9, and he was an avid junior golfer. In his teen years other sports and extracurricular activities at Charlottetown Rural High School became competing interests.

Following high school, Craig completed a program of study at the Atlantic Police Academy. In the years since his graduation, he has held both provincial (three years) and now federal government positions in Nova Scotia.

This summer Craig travelled to and from the Island ostensibly to spend time with his girl friend. Both enjoyed golf memberships at the Stanhope Golf and Country Club this summer, and Craig took his return to the sport pretty seriously. He became the uncontested winner of the *Falmouth Trophy* for 2016.



Craig Yeo winner of the 2016 *Falmouth Trophy*

It is our understanding that Craig and his partner may soon be leaving the Island for Nova Scotia. If true, the Executive extends congratulations and best wishes to Craig and his partner. You will always be welcome at the Stanhope Golf and Country Club.

## MEETING OF THE 2016-1017 EXECUTIVE

The first meeting of the new Executive was on November 14, 2016.

A warm welcome was extended to the new members and copies of the original constitution were provided to them.

While there is no urgency, Allen suggested that the Executive may wish to propose some revisions to the document. Any changes could only be effected at the time of an annual meeting and after proper notice.

The present Executive sees merit in continuing to meet at Stanhope Place although it appears that Wednesday evenings are favored over Monday. Unless there is a pressing need to meet, the Executive has tentatively scheduled three additional meetings in 2017.

Last year program meetings had been routinely publicized in the *Stanhope Times*, *The Buzz*, *The Guardian*, and on the CBC Community Call-In. Upon seeking other suggestions Members have provided a number of other valuable suggestions.

The Executive urges everyone to keep an eye on the NSCC Cenotaph next spring. May showers may bring June flowers (and lots of them) if the work of a couple of Executive gardeners can be rewarded. Also, the cords on the flag poles will be replaced next May.

There was recognition that the Society should make a greater effort to publicize our community presence and programming during Canada Day festivities at the NSCC or elsewhere in the community.

The LM Montgomery Remembrance Day Literary Contest was a success. The students whose work was deemed most meritorious were featured in the November #11A issue of the *Stanhope Times* although complications in securing photos of all the students did delay distribution of that issue of our newsletter.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the initial Executive meeting was the fact that members have tentatively identified the subject areas and potential presenters for programs for the entire year.

Members of the Executive are currently working on a few projects, and progress regarding these will be reported periodically.

**2016-2017 Executive**

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Past President	Louis Watts
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The next meeting of the Executive is scheduled for February 8, 2016.

**WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS AND SEEK YOUR HELP**

Your Executive continues to welcome your feedback and actively solicits your ideas and suggestions for future programs.

The Executive perceives that distribution of our newsletter helps publicize our programs. Thus, if you know of organizations or individuals who might benefit or enjoy receiving our newsletters, please forward their email addresses to the Executive so that they might be identified as a “Friend of the Stanhope Historical Society” and begin receiving our publications.

At this time we would ask that such requests be forwarded to -

[s-rci@bellaliant.com](mailto:s-rci@bellaliant.com)

We know that this address may seem unfamiliar; however, it is a reflection that the Executive is looking into alternatives for our presence on the Internet, including a dedicated website on which we could promote our organization more effectively, publicize

our projects by word and photographs, and archive our newsletters and other pertinent documents for easier public access. We will be revealing our thoughts in this regard in future newsletters. Meanwhile, we would like to know your opinion on this subject.

Should you wish to direct comments or suggestions to the President, you may email or phone Allen directly:

[a.stoolmiller@islandtelecom.com](mailto:a.stoolmiller@islandtelecom.com)  
902) 672-1462

## DEEP THOUGHTS

Here are a couple Christmas-related quotes -

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

— Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

“Christmas is a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of family and friends.”

— Margaret Thatcher