

Mulgrave & Derry Historical Society – December 2022

Hello MDHS members,

We are touching base to share the recent ongoings of the Historical Society and some good news! It was certainly wonderful to get back to in-person activities this year!

Board Elections In June we held our first AGM since 2019. After a review of the progress made through the quiet Covid years, we held a general election to fill all the Board positions since terms had variously expired during the pandemic. We welcomed two new Board members, Line Bastrash from Hawk Lake who became Treasurer, and Marie-France Gareau from the Derry sector. Sheila Ahtell will once again provide our essential secretarial support after several years' hiatus, and Don Smallian stepped down as President to become our first Past President, concluding 21 years at the helm! Don will continue to offer experience and guidance to his replacement Julie Cullen. Re-elected Board Directors include: Ashley Ahtell, Shirley Arthurs, Suzanne Daoust, Sharon Laird, Sandra Miller and Gary Teske.

MDHS in the community We had the pleasure of attending two events recently in the heart of each sector: the 50th Anniversary of the Hill & Gully Riders in September at their Mulgrave club house, and the 2022 edition of Journées de la culture (Quebec Culture Day) on October 1st, at La Chapelle in Derry. We appreciated these opportunities to bring some historical photos/books on the road, explain the beginning of Mulgrave and Derry, give a bit of history on how the Society came to be, and to welcome a few new members this season. We were also present in Sherbrooke for the book launch of "*Meet the Network: Profiles of Heritage Groups Across Quebec*", a publication describing various historical groups throughout the province within the Quebec Anglophone Historical Network (QAHN). We have a copy in the St Matthews parsonage and can provide the address to anyone interested in ordering a copy.

Successful Grant application news As a member of the QAHN, we submitted a Belonging and Identity Grant request, funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise. Our proposal was based on the need to upgrade our original website, and highlighted the importance of making online connections to succeed in today's world. Thanks to an excellent proposal prepared and submitted by Suzanne Daoust, we were given a grant of \$2,250 in support of our project to improve and reinstall the MDHS website. We have already begun our rebuild and expect to re-launch our website before the end of the year.

MDHS Website A friend of the Society began work in September on our site, with the goals of modernizing its design and functionality. Enhancements will include adapting contents for mobile devices, as we'd like to reach more of the community—especially the younger generations! We will showcase our projects and progress, and also launch an Instagram account and make more regular updates to our Facebook page to keep the Historical Society synced with today's faster pace. Tell your children and grandchildren about us...let's keep the interest in Mulgrave and Derry's heritage alive.

In closing, the Board would like to express appreciation for Jim Nicol's 11-year contribution as Treasurer, and to once again acknowledge the dedication and leadership that Don Smallian has shown over these many years since the launch of the Historical Society.