

Collections Manager Report for the year 2022
Annual General Meeting, CHRHS
March 21, 2023
Heather Adams

Artifact Collections and Storage Reorganization Project

In March of 2022, our Digitization Technician, Danielle Brown, completed her Young Canada Works Internship with us. During her tenure at the Farm, she digitized approximately 600 artifacts from the Harris House basement, as well as created condition reports for objects in poor condition.

In February, we were visited by members of the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia, who added the hooked rugs in our collection to their Heritage Rug Registry!

During the summer season, we hired Kaelin George-Wegner as our Collections Assistant through Young Canada Works. Continuing on the work that has been done over the last few summers, Kaelin worked on storage reorganization in the upstairs storage room of the Giles House. She inventoried the items in the space, determining what objects were accessioned and which weren't, as well as which objects were not artifacts at all. She removed various items to better storage spaces on the site, or even to be displayed, and began organizing the items on the shelves so they would take up less space. Additionally, she worked on various smaller but necessary tasks, such as accessioning, re-doing numbers on artifacts, and inventory work. You may also have been Kaelin on our social media, as the star of Teacup Tuesdays!

Interpretation

In the area of Interpretation, the year has been a slow one. However, steps were taken to move forward. We continued in our efforts to update signage around the site, specifically in the Settle Barn. During the 2022 summer season, we hired Matt MacAllister as our Exhibits Technician, and he started to work away on designing new signs for various exhibits in the barn. By the end of the summer, the signs all have basic designs created, and the goal is to finish these signs, print them, and install them by the end of this year.

Archives

There has been a great deal of focus on Archives this winter! Last year, I applied for a grant through the Provincial Archival Development Fund (PADP), and we received it, allowing us to hire an Archival Assistant for 5 months in the Fall and Winter. We hired Brooke Barker in November 2022 to work on processing the Rosemary Eaton fonds, which had only been partially processed. She has spent the past five months working on creating finding aids for over 10 linear metres of textual material, as well as 177 Oral History recordings, 116 of which were created by Rosemary. She will soon finish up her contract with us, and is working on rehousing the textual material. While she has been working on that aspect of the project, I have been working on creating higher level archival descriptions for the fonds. The plan is to have the descriptions and finding aids uploaded to MemoryNS, the catalogue

administered by the Council of Nova Scotia Archives. This project has been a fantastic accomplishment for our archives, and Brooke has been absolutely wonderful and hard-working - her dedication has made this whole thing possible!

In other archival news, every Thursday morning, we have had a lovely volunteer from NSCC. Together, we have been steadily working on a single, easily searchable finding aid for the maps stored in the Giles House Basement. They also have done some digitization work for us, which was amazing!

Personal Note

I have completed ANSM's Museum Studies Program Certificate! This program, offered by the Association of Nova Scotia Museums, consists of eight courses, which I completed over the course of 4 years. I would not have been able to do this certificate without the Farm's support, and I am very excited to have finished it!

Looking Forward

As the summer season draws near, I look forward to once again working with Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs students on collections projects. Work on storage reorganization and inventory will continue, slowly but surely working to make our artifact collection more accessible. With more descriptions created for the Rosemary Eaton fonds, I hope our MemoryNS presence will come to reflect the richness of our archives, as we add more finding aids and build archival descriptions. I'm determined to install more updated interpretive signage, to improve our visitors' experience.

Conclusion

As always, I want to thank Janice and Emma for making the Farm a wonderful and collaborative place to work and for always being willing to listen to me think out loud and make terrible jokes. Thank you to Makayla Cole for being my partner-in-crime and driving buddy over the summer season. To the kitchen staff, Paige, Magali, and Autumn; thank you for keeping the coffee on, the biscuits fresh, and for tackling a part of the Farm that I find utterly daunting - Tearoom service. I must always thank our summer students, who work tirelessly over the summer season to help us care for animals, work on collections and interpretation, keep the garden beautiful, welcome visitors and answer questions, provide tours, help make Farm Camp a fun and exciting time, and so much more, every day. Thank you to Brooke Barker for your dedication and hard work on the Rosemary Eaton project. And finally, thank you to our volunteers; those who work in the garden, who provide much needed maintenance around the site, who support the staff as board members and committee members, and anyone who comes out to help for events and other programming. Working at the Farm is a truly collaborative effort, and it would truly be impossible to do all of this without the help and support of my co-workers and the volunteers at the farm.