

Historically Speaking

Presque Isle Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

Apr 2011 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 17

NEXT MEETING NOTICE

The next general membership meeting of the Presque Isle Historical Society will be held at NMCC in Room 207 on Wednesday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our annual meeting and the election of the upcoming year's officers will be held. In addition, we will have a presentation on "The Contributions of Arthur R. Gould to Presque Isle".

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Historical Society has presence during National Women's History Month

Historical Society Board Member Pamela Sweetser gave a lecture on March 17 on "The I's of a Diary: writing history from a personal narrative" as part of NMCC's recognition of Women's History Month. Her research of the diaries of her husband's great-grandmother and her daughter were published in a three part series in "Echoes" magazine.

In addition, the Historical Society had an exhibit on Vera Estey in the E. Perrin Edmunds Library at NMCC for the month of March also in observance of National Women's History Month.

News Bits:

\$\$ - Historical Society member Steve Sutter presented a series of lectures on the environmental history of the Aroostook River at UMPI in October as one of the fall class offerings to Seniors Achieving Greater Education (SAGE).

The Maysville Museum will soon be a reality

In late December, the Presque Isle Historical Society began raising funds with which to purchase the former Maysville Grange building on the corner of US 1 and the Brewer Road. The property has great historical significance to the area having served as the Maysville Town Hall, school, and Grange building. A unique opportunity presented itself in that there is a distinct possibility that a national monument to the Aroostook War may be placed on the site.

The Historical Society raised the \$10,000 in just one month from very generous donors in order to purchase the property. Closing was held in February and plans are now being prepared for renovations to the building. The building will serve as a museum for the Historical Society primarily on the Aroostook War, the Maysville Grange and the societal benefits to all by the Grange movement, as well as on some of the "movers and shakers" of Maysville such as John Allen and Elisha Parkhurst.

Several local businesses have also stepped forward to lend their hand to this project by offering "pro bono" services. These include BR Smith & Associates, NorStar Title, ANL Construction, Job Corps, and SW Collins.

Construction materials and some office furnishings are still needed for the location. It is hoped that the space will be open to the public by late summer.



Craig Green and Phil Brown "dig" in during the first clean-up day held recently at the Maysville Grange building.

Sandy Gauvin (far right) presents a check in the amount of \$2,000 from the Gauvin Family Lighthouse Fund to Kim Smith, Treasurer of the Historical Society to be used towards the purchase of the property. This property, once open and operating, will help the Society leverage funding from larger grant sources such as IMLS for the fire station restoration project.



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Observance of 150th anniversary of Civil War

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Company B 20th Maine Volunteers (an American Civil War re-enactment group) and the Presque Isle Historical Society will have a booth at the Aroostook Centre Mall on Saturday, April 23 from 10 - 4 pm. Please stop by!

Other upcoming events:

1. **April 30** - a free presentation on "The Life & Times of Vera Estey" will be held at 12 noon in the Edmunds Conference Room at NMCC.
2. **Date TBA** - The Presque Isle Historical Society will be hosting a Garden Tour this summer. Please watch for more details!

DATES FOR 2011 FREE GUIDED WALKING TOURS:

The Guided Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Presque Isle are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. These tours are of great interest to tourists and residents alike! The tours take approximately two hours and cover two miles. The tours start at 10:00 a.m. and begin and end at the Vera Estey House at 16 Third Street. On street parking is available. Special tours for groups can be arranged as well. 2011 dates, weather permitting, will be:

April 30
May 21
June 11
July 23
August 27
September 24



The Historical Society set up a 1960s style living room for exhibit at NMCC's Kick-Off event held in January in celebration of its 50th Anniversary. The event had a 60s theme and was very well received.



Estey exhibit in NMCC library

The Presque Isle Historical Society now has available for purchase a CD of the 1887 Roe & Colby Aroostook County Atlas. This is a great tool for those tracing genealogy! The CD contains maps of 17 towns, 13 villages, and 20 plantations from Amity to Fort Kent. Available for only \$20 plus \$2.50 shipping/handling. Contact the Historical Society at pihistoricalsociety@hotmail.com, or (207) 762-1151 to place your order today!

