



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

April 30, 2020

Following up on our 1st Year Update (available at <https://glenaladalepei.com/present/>) it seems about time to catch you up on this past year's activities at Glenaladale.

There have been times for those most involved with the Estate when it's felt like things were moving too slowly. However, looking back, we're reminded instead that "one should never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world" (attributed to Margaret Mead). Our goals are far from changing the world, but we hope you will agree that with the help of many of you, our small group has indeed made progress in the regeneration of this "National Treasure on a Small Island"!

OUR BOARD

Our team continues to evolve. In 2019 our devoted Board member Cathy Corrigan took a step back, although she continues to be one of our most active hands-on volunteers. Marc MacDonald (of the "Little Pond" MacDonalds) has joined Mary J. Gallant, Aggi-Rose Reddin, Cheryl Dalziel, Carolyn Pendergast, Wayne Corrigan, Mary Bradley, Mary Boyd, Terry Howatt, and Angela McDonell on the Board. Marc is a lecturer in UPEI's History Dept. His insights and assistance are much appreciated.

Members of our Board give countless hours of their time and energy so it's only fitting they should also get to have some fun! This year a Pen-Turning Workshop using wood from our elm tree was held, after which the Board was joined by our most active 2019 volunteers for an Appreciation Luncheon. Thank you to McAskill's Woodworking for the workshop and to Cheryl and John Dalziel for hosting the luncheon.

As we move forward, we continue to count on the background advice of many people—please know your assistance is greatly appreciated!



Marc MacDonald turning his pen at our Board's Pen-Turning Workshop.



Our great team of this year's most active volunteers receiving their pens at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

THE COMMUNITY

The greater Tracadie area has a strong community focus and we certainly benefit from that. We greatly appreciate those involved with the Tracadie Community Centre in allowing us to use the Centre for special events. And "the guys" from the local Timbermart came to our rescue the day we were finally able to take a big step forward with the installation of our sign.

We were saddened however, with the passing of 3 members of our Glenaladale "family": Clare (MacKinnon) Mullen, Donald MacDonald and Patricia Bradley. Clare has left us with a priceless gift by having her memories of growing up at Glenaladale recorded on video, Donald gave us the gift of his



Installing the Glenaladale sign, 24 August 2019.



Clare MacKinnon Mullen sharing her memories.

talents as a photographer, and Patricia gave us both her daughter, Board member Mary Bradley, and her deep appreciation of her Scottish roots. They will all be missed.

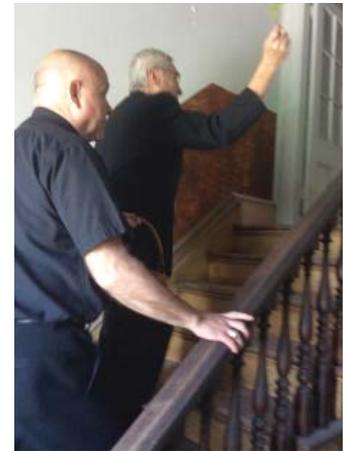
Two members of the community came forward this year to give us winter access to the Estate. With their reliable snow-clearing, Roger Townsend and Austin McQuaid have ensured we will be able to develop our winter programming as time goes on.

We are very pleased to have leased the farmland to local farmers Donnie and Philip Hughes of Belle's Pond Farm, the Bysterveldts of Winter Bay Farm, and Robert Hughes, who we know will help to bring the soil back to a healthy state.

OUR VISITORS

2019 marked the first summer of Glenaladale Estate being open to the general public. To mark the occasion and to honour the ancestors who worked so hard for the benefit of those living today, we held a Blessing of Glenaladale House and Estate on June 23rd. Fr. Keith Kennific, Fr. Paul MacDonald, and Fr. Gerard Chaisson officiated while serendipitously ensuring the Irish, Scottish and Acadian voices of the property were heard! Keptin John Joe Sark welcomed everyone and performed a moving Mi'kmaw "Four Directions" ceremony.

The Mi'kmaw name for Tracadie is Tlaqatik "the place where people gather". How appropriate then that we should find our first year showed the Estate is just that. We were pleased with how our many visitors have responded to the house and property, and delighted in additional bits of serendipity that happened. On one tour some of our visitors discovered they both lived in the same town in Massachusetts even though they'd never met before coming to Glenaladale. And imagine our delight when two MacKinnon cousins—one from Boston and the other from Halifax—who hadn't seen each other for many years just happened to be "home" at Glenaladale at the same time!



Keptin John Joe Sark and Fathers Chaisson and Kennific.

We also welcomed several descendants of Capt John back home and were pleased to have Macdonald College grads share their obvious respect for Sir William C. His philanthropy and vision ensured they received an excellent education in rural studies.

Our vice-chair Aggie-Rose Reddin gave several presentations to community groups including Women's Institute and PROBUS Retiree Social Clubs. In September we welcomed participants of UPEI's Seniors College to the Estate for very well attended sessions on the MacDonalds "Ancestry and Innovation" and the MacKinnons "Entrepreneurs and Artisans".



Macdonald College Grads visit Glenaladale.



A full house for Seniors College session in September.

We were also able to welcome representatives of our public funders, with visits from our local MLA and Minister of Agriculture for PEI Hon. Bloyce Thompson, Minister of Fisheries and Communities Hon. Jamie Fox, and Minister of Economic Development Tourism and Culture Hon. Matthew MacKay. And Rebecca Moyes, Regional Manager of Arts and Heritage for Canadian Heritage, and Monica Gallant of the Charlottetown office enjoyed beautiful weather for their visit.



Hon. Matthew MacKay, Wayne Corrigan, Aggi-Rose Reddin, Hon. Bloyce Thompson, and Mary J. Gallant, 18 February 2020.



Aggi-Rose Reddin, Monica Gallant, Rebecca Moyes and Mary J. Gallant, 5 November 2019.

Our piper (and Board member) Angela McDonell greeted members of the Red Dirt Tour as they came by in their antique cars. Angela also hosted our summer ceilidh and was able to successfully bring our set of bagpipes back to life. We look forward to hearing them once we are open again.



"Angela's Ceilidh", 27 July 2019.

*photo left: Mary J. Gallant and Angela McDonell.
above: members of the Heritage Social Dance Group at Beaconsfield performed several dances with members of the audience joining in.*

The last weekend of September included our inaugural Glenaladale Rum-running Festival. As you can see from the photos (over), it was a jam-packed weekend and we look forward to bringing it back.



The inaugural Glenaladale Rum-running Festival included a display of artifacts (above left), a story circle with Reg "Dutch" Thompson (above centre) and our Speakeasy ladies joining forces with a Temperance member to promote the weekend event (above right).



(above) Attendees took in a tour of Tracadie Bay to learn more of the rum-running stories of the area. (photo credit: Brian McKenna)

(above right) Award-winning spoon player Brendan Peters entertained in character at the ceilidh.

(right) Enjoying a ride in one of the antique cars that took part in the Festival.



Our summer students Aidan Campbell and Mia Fradsham dug right in with their work. Aidan received excellent feedback for the visitor's guidebook he prepared and the many tours he gave, and Mia tackled the painting and other restoration chores with an impressive attitude and ability. By summer's end she also took on the challenge of touring people through the house. Both Aidan and Mia proved to be tremendous assets to a successful first summer and we hope they will be back again!



Summer students Aidan Campbell and Mia Fradsham helping volunteers Leo MacDonald and Morley Smith clear out the back porch.

We would also like to express our gratitude to those visitors who left heartfelt comments or followed up with letters and cards about their visit to Glenaladale. It means so much to us to know that others see what we see when it comes to just what a special place Glenaladale is.

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association continues to be our lead partner. It's been a very rewarding experience to work with this dedicated crew in bringing schoolchildren and other groups to the site for tree planting, shoreline cleanup, and some environmental and history education.

In conjunction with their team and ECOPEI's MacPhail Woods Ecological Forestry project, work has also begun on converting the woodland from plantation-style to a fully sustainable forest.

(right) Students from Stonepark Intermediate School listen attentively to an explanation of PEI's native animals as part of their day at Glenaladale.



(below) Members of Veterans Affairs Canada's Research Division take part in a team-building event planting trees at Glenaladale.



Our provincial archaeologist Helen Kristmanson and her team are developing a deep attachment to Glenaladale! We certainly admire their patience and shared in their delight that last summer's results have shown it has all been worth it, with the walls of Capt John's "mansion" slowly being revealed. When we asked Helen how long she expects to be at Glenaladale, her prompt reply was "the rest of my life!" While that's not likely to be the case we do look forward to working with them again this year as they peel back more of the layers of early life on the property.



(left) Provincial archaeologists Erin Montgomery and Helen Kristmanson with volunteer Claude Arsenault at the dig. (right) Aggi-Rose Reddin pointing to some original plaster on the stone wall of Capt John's c 1801 mansion house.



Although our discussions with Holland College to formalize a partnership were sidetracked by Covid-19, we expect they'll pick up again once life gets back to some semblance of normal. And in the meantime, students from the Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program held window clinics to rebuild one on the third floor and repair one in the dining room. These proved to be valuable learning experiences for the students.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Spring 2019 kicked off with our 3rd Git'er Done Day; this time focused on clearing paths and work areas for the archaeologists. Volunteers had a few good hours of exercise and sunshine and made things much easier for Helen's team.



(above) Installing the last piece of the rebuilt 3rd floor window, 10 May 2019.



(above right) Replacing the sash cords in the dining room window, 5 February 2020.

(left) Students and instructors of Holland College Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program, 10 May 2019.



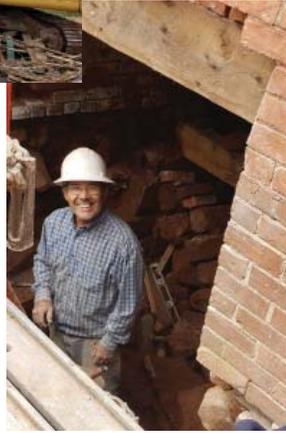
Students and instructors of Holland College Heritage Retrofit Carpentry program, 5 February 2020.

Developing community and volunteerism is an important element of the vision for Glenaladale. This year special mention goes to: Morley Smith, Fred Power, and Ethan Spenceley who helped Board members Aggi-Rose Reddin and Wayne Corrigan with restorations; Bernie Power, Cathy Corrigan, and Leo MacDonald who made a great team sorting and cataloguing artifacts (Leo also helped with restorations and Cathy took charge of the gardens and orchard, along with Board member Terry Howatt); Frank and Juanita Lechowick for their knowledge in sorting our library; Patricia Power for help with fundraising; Anna Brazil, Gwen Vessey, David MacPherson, David MacDonald, and Kent Affleck for help with tasks related to the land; and Roger Gallant for building our raised beds.

SUPPORTIVE GRANTS

Regeneration of Glenaladale also depends on financial assistance from our government and community organizations. Three grants from PEI Community Foundation allow us to build a display cabinet for Glenaladale School, restore our antique tractor, and build an interpretive panel for the archaeology site.

Through the provincial Community Revitalization program we received assistance to help with the costs of preparing Glenaladale School for its upcoming move to a new location and for work on Glenaladale House: removal of the back porches, landscaping to correct the elevation around the



Considerable progress has been made regarding the repairs to Glenaladale House as shown above and to the School—below. Once the dropped ceiling in the school was removed, the original wood tongue and groove ceiling was exposed. To stabilize the school for its upcoming move, it was jacked up, a new floor was installed and the exterior was closed in.



foundation, more repairs to the brickwork, upgrading of the electrical service, and a new furnace, pump and modern compost toilet. This spring we'll have the lawn reseeded, create a gravel walkway, and finish a ramp for better access to the house.

A grant from the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund will help us make significant headway in Glenaladale Woods via a new path to gain access deeper into the forest and planting of a range of native trees and shrubs to improve wildlife diversity.

DONATIONS OF MATERIAL CULTURE

We have also received generous donations of material culture, including antique accessories, furniture and textiles. While we do not guarantee all such items will remain in the house, we are grateful for them and to honour their importance to the donor, will ensure they will be properly displayed or exhibited in other buildings such as Glenaladale School.

We are grateful for donations of research material received thus far. Our intention is to have Glenaladale as the premier site for Scottish family history on PEI—to be a link to Scotland, as well as a centre for relevant research regarding other aspects of life involving the people of Glenaladale: settlement, political, and land use history; agricultural development; folklore and craftsmanship; and fox-farming and other entrepreneurial exploits.



An invaluable donation made to the Trust last year was a detailed sketchbook by well-known pen and ink artist Sterling Stratton “Exploring Glenaladale: Home to the MacKinnons and MacDonalds”. Sterling spent countless hours taking photos and developing sketches of the buildings, artifacts, and aspects of the Glenaladale landscape. He then went the extra mile to add historical commentary, ensuring this book will be valued for years to come. We were delighted that Sterling received a PEI Museum and Heritage Award for his work. Copies of Sterling’s book and other items are available through our website: <https://glenaladalepei.com/shop/> with all proceeds going to the regeneration of the Estate.



MOVING FORWARD

Life for everyone has changed so much in the past few months. Many of you are mourning not just the loss of freedom we all feel but may have lost people close to you from Covid-19 or from the senseless tragedy in Nova Scotia. You have our sincere sympathy.

For those simply having to cope with the isolation and adjusting to life under the current public health restrictions wherever you live, we also share your frustration. It is not easy but we know that we are stronger together and perhaps we have learned more about just what is important to our sense of family and community.

This summer at Glenaladale will certainly not be as we had planned it, but we look forward to opening our doors again as soon as we are able, and in the meantime there is much work happening behind the scenes.

We had anticipated promoting a fundraiser made possible through the generous donation of 2 tickets anywhere Westjet flies, but that of course has been put on hold for now. Be sure to keep an eye on our website www.glenaladalepei.com and Facebook page for more word on this and other aspects of life at Glenaladale.

The year 2022 will be an incredibly important one for Glenaladale as it is the 250th Anniversary of the arrival of the Glenaladale Settlers in 1772. We continue to develop plans for the year and hope that it will bring many people—Scots or otherwise—to the Estate to enjoy the many events, highlighted by the Glenaladale Festival of Celebration and Commemoration in late June.

Regeneration of the Estate for 2022 has 3 main elements, with significant capital costs: the opening of Glenaladale School as a vibrant cultural centre, continued improvements to Glenaladale House, and Phase 1 of Glenaladale Sculptural Forest.

While we anticipate some government assistance, we will also need considerable financial support from everyone who believes in what Glenaladale represents and ask that you keep us in mind as you decide where to place your charitable donations.



To those of you who have already contributed, a heartfelt thank you. Perhaps you might consider a regular donation —easy to do via our website: www.glenaladalepei.com/donate or through Canada Helps or PEI Community Foundation’s Glenaladale account. Official tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20. For those who are able to do more, we offer a full range of options for larger amounts, so please get in touch with our Chair Mary J. Gallant at 902-394-6131, via email at glenaladalepei@gmail.com or visit our website to learn more.

*(above) Sterling Stratton accepting his PEIMHF Award from Lt. Gov. Antoinette Perry.
(photo credit Dan McAskill)*

(left) Trust Chair Mary J. Gallant accepting the donation of an antique roasting jack aka spit engine from Rodney Clark on behalf of the Estate of Mrs. Hazel J. A. Clark; also pictured is Jennifer Argles.