

Bonne Bay Historical Archive

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The year 2025 marked substantial progress for the Bonne Bay Historical Archive. With strong community support, successful fundraising, and a partnership with Memorial University, the Archive is well positioned to continue preserving and sharing the rich history of Bonne Bay for generations to come.

One of our most significant accomplishments was securing an agreement with Memorial University's Digital Archive Initiative (DAI) to host our growing collection of historical photographs and stories. The DAI is a rich online resource for Newfoundland and Labrador history, available, free of charge, to anyone with internet access. By storing our materials there at no cost, we ensure long-term preservation and open access.

Charlie Payne continued reaching out to families around Bonne Bay and beyond, gathering permission to copy their historic photographs. Preparing these materials for inclusion in the DAI required months of effort, supported by the technical expertise and hands-on help of Michele McCarthy. As our collection grows, more stories, photos, charts, and documents will be added to the DAI.

We were also fortunate to have assistance from our summer student, Joseph Reid of Pasadena, an archaeology co-op student from Memorial University. His work - supported in part by provincial and federal summer student grants - was invaluable in sorting, cataloguing, and helping organize our public events.

Our website, www.bonnebayhistory.ca, remains the primary gateway to the Archive. Throughout the year, we added many new stories, photographs, and audio recordings. We also maintain an active Facebook page.

The fundraising campaign that began in December 2024 and continued into January 2025 was highly successful, raising nearly \$15,000. This has enabled us to set up an account to cover the costs of assembling the archive and holding community events to promote the history and culture of Bonne Bay. The strong response reflects the deep interest among residents and visitors with family connections to the region.

In late 2024, the Archive obtained legal status (non-profit) with the NL Registrar of Companies as the Bonne Bay Historic Archive Corporation. We are working now with the Gros Morne Cooperating Association to allow us to give tax receipts to donors.

During 2025 we held the following public events:

- **July 6:** We introduced the Archive to Trout River at a public meeting at the Lions Club there. A slideshow of historic photos from Trout River and Chimney Cove

received strong interest, as many people recognized familiar faces. New contacts were made with seniors who had other historic images and stories.

- **July 26:** During the Woody Point Regatta, we hosted a booth featuring a continuous display of historical photographs, which attracted steady attention.
- **August 22:** As part of the Writers at Woody Point Festival, we held an open house at the Woody Point Library. At this event, we announced the successful sale by silent auction of a donated 1925 watercolour of South Arm.
- **September 25:** The Archive participated in a “walk-around” organized by the Sonic Harvest Festival. Due to poor weather and high winds, the event was moved indoors to the Heritage Theatre.
- **September 27:** A major fundraiser was held at the Woody Point Legion, featuring a talented group of musicians organized by Charlie Payne. A loop of some 100 historical photos played throughout the evening: a copy of these photos was given to the Woody Point Legion for their future use. The Legion was filled to capacity, and the event raised \$3600.
- **October 2:** The Archive sponsored a screening of a new video about world-renowned sports fisherman Lee Wulff at the Discovery Centre in Woody Point.

The enthusiastic Archive Committee is made up of nine volunteers: Tony Berger (Chair), Carol-Ann Griffin (Secretary), Rosetta Parsons (Treasurer), Charlie Payne, Mary Taylor-Ash, Lorraine Major, Debrah Hann, Marilyn Wight, and Ryan Young.

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