

Musical Memories

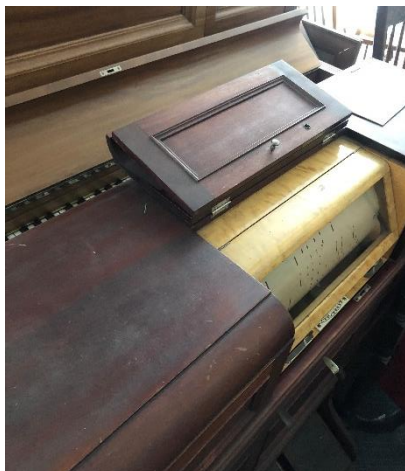


The Yarmouth County Museum houses many musical treasures from an era that seems wistfully carefree and nostalgic.



This **Olympia Music Box** was manufactured in the late 1890s by F.G. Otto & Sons in New Jersey. This type of music box produces its music from zinc-plated discs. The music box found in our display was donated to the museum by Mr. Robert Allen of Carleton, Nova Scotia and was used by his grandfather, Captain Robert Allen.

This **concert Roller Organ** is another example of mechanical instruments of years gone by. Patented in 1887 by an unknown company, this tabletop player is worked by cranking the external handle. Internal bellows, tuned reeds, valves and a roller, produce organ-like tones. The instrument, built in 1902, was probably used aboard some of Yarmouth's sailing vessels by ancestors of the donor, Mr. David Baker of Halifax, Nova Scotia.



The Farrand Organ Company made the "**Pinaola**" **piano player** in Detroit in 1902. Mrs. Ruth C. Specht of Barton, Nova Scotia, had purchased the instrument in Digby in 1927 in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph, and later donated it to the museum.



This **parlor organ**, donated by Mr. Russell Bond of Hampton, New Brunswick, was manufactured by Chute, Hall & Co. who crafted a variety of organs in Yarmouth, NS from 1883 to 1892. The parlor organ was made by an employee of the company, Mr. E.D. Simken and was tuned by Mr. A.R. Eames in 1888. The organ was refinished and restored by Mr. Frank MacIntosh. The museum has several Chute, Hall & Co. organs in its collection.

Each instrument in our collection that has been donated by family members or collected over the years at auctions and flea markets has a story to tell. Many were made in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, while others were crafted from different parts of the world. For example, one of our violins was played by the famous violinist, Fritz Kreisler, and the Guild "Square Grand" piano that was made in Boston in 1874 came to Yarmouth, NS as a wedding present given by Captain Sheldon Lewis to his granddaughter. The cost was \$170 (+ \$15 freight).