

PresidentAnne Sweeney

Anne Sweeney is of Acadian descent. Originally from the Clare region, her grandparents moved to the Yarmouth area where her parents grew up. Anne was born and brought up in Ontario, but the family visited Yarmouth frequently. She moved back to her roots in 1985. She had a lengthy career in the federal government, with over 30 years at Fisheries and Oceans in Yarmouth. Anne is active in the community, including SHYFT, Toastmasters, local rug hooking groups, and the Kritosophian Club. She is a lover of history and was the editor of our Historigram newsletter for 5 years.

Past PresidentRobert M.J. Prince

Robert M.J. Prince was born in Hamilton, Ontario on May 29th, 1956 and has lived in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He attended St. Thomas University from 1973-77 and received an Honours Degree in English and obtained a Law degree from UNB in 1980. He practiced law at Hood and Fraser in Yarmouth. In 1986, he was appointed to be Crown Attorney at the Department of Justice. In 1994, he was selected as a Judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia and sat throughout the Province conducting proceedings in French during his 22 years. In 2010, he was the President of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges. He currently lives in Yarmouth County.

1st Vice President, Historigram and PersonnelJanet Sollows (she/her)

Janet Sollows was born in Halifax and raised in Dartmouth. She received an Integrated Bachelor of Arts and Education degree from Mount Saint Vincent University. In 1982, she moved to Yarmouth and taught at Arcadia Consolidated School. She has three children Jennie, Emily and Steen. She received two Masters of Education degrees from Mount Saint Vincent University (1995 & 2005). She was Principal at Carleton Consolidated and Arcadia Consolidated Schools. She retired in 2015. Janet is active at Beacon United Church serving various roles on various committees. In 2018, she graduated from the Atlantic School of Theology with a Certificate in Theological Studies. She is now a Licensed Lay Worship Leader with the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region of the United Church of Canada. She is chair of the Division of Ministry Resources for the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region and secretary for the United Church Camp Meeting Association (Berwick Camp). She is also the Vice Chair of the YACRO Board of Directors and is President of the Kritosophian Club. Janet sings with the Yarmouth Community Chorale and plays recorder with the Accidental Consort. She volunteers at the front desk of the Yarmouth County Museum. In her spare time, she enjoys making crafts and selling them at craft fairs.

2nd Vice President and Gift ShopKathryn Davidson

Kathryn Davidson was born and raised in Toronto and lived in and around the Greater Toronto Area all her life until retirement beckoned. Over thirty-five years ago, when she was working for the Credit Union System, a series of work-related contracts brought her to Nova Scotia, where she was involved in setting up ABM machines and financial systems for Credit Unions throughout the Maritimes. She quickly fell in love with Nova Scotia. Kathryn associates very strongly to the people of Nova Scotia with their warm hearted nature and generous spirits and sense of community. She also feels that strong pull of the ocean, as her Grandfather was a Seaman on HMS Highflyer during WW1 and was present during the Halifax Explosion. Her Father was also an able-bodied Seaman throughout WW2. So, at the age of 60 and newly retired, she and her husband decided that Nova Scotia was the place

for them, more specifically, Yarmouth. Kathryn and her husband Norman have lived here in Yarmouth since June 25th, 2022.

Kathryn majored in History at the University of Toronto and has always had an affinity for “all things old” – like her much-loved home, built in 1872. So, joining the Historical Society, as an initial part of settling in, was a matter of course. She and Norman have been members since 2022. Kathryn has served on the front desk and is also actively involved on the Ways and Means Committee. In Kathryn’s book, getting to know and become part of the community necessitates getting involved in community activities. So, besides the Historical Society, she is also President of the Yarmouth Garden Club, involved with the Police Advisory Committee, the Waterfront Improvement Committee, the Planning Advisory Committee, The Tusket River Environmental Protection Association, President of Seafest and is a past volunteer with the SPCA. Besides history and community involvement, Kathryn enjoys gardening, ceramics, puzzles, travel, reading and her many beloved pets.

Treasurer and FinanceMary Eldridge

Mary Eldridge, a life member, joined the Board of the Yarmouth County Historical Society in 1986. She has been treasurer since 1990 and has served as Finance Chair, Membership Chair and serves on the personnel committee. During 1997 to 2001, Mary was co-chair fundraising for, and administered, the \$2.4 million museum expansion. Mary has spent most of her life volunteering on many local boards in Yarmouth and in Halifax, currently with the Old Ladies Home Society, Yarmouth Public Library, Yarmouth Area Community Fund, Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. For her volunteer work she has been honored by St. Francis Xavier University, the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, and received the Governor General Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers. In 2023, Mary represented the Town of Yarmouth, receiving the Provincial Volunteer Award.

Assistant TreasurerShawnda Parnell-Shaw

Shawnda Parnell-Shaw is a native of Yarmouth, NS. During her time at Dalhousie University for her bachelor’s degree, and for several years after, she worked in tourism which she thoroughly enjoyed as she got to promote her hometown. After living in Halifax for over 10 years, she married and moved back to Yarmouth County where she lives with her husband, Kendall and their son, Duncan. She has worked in the financial industry since 1996 and has served on a variety of boards including the Big Brothers/Big Sisters board for over 20 years. Shawnda’s keen interest in history began at a very young age with the telling of her Parnell grandparents’ love story. They met during World War II when her grandfather was stationed at the Yarmouth Airport for RCAF training and were subsequently married in July 1945, bringing the first Parnells to Yarmouth. Also, her great-great-grandfather, Henry Doane, was one of the people killed in the Halifax explosion and her family still has the last postcard Henry wrote to his wife, Etta, discussing what they should get their son, Leslie, for Christmas. Leslie went on to be a well-known member of Yarmouth Town, as he was the bandmaster of the town band. Shawnda is a lifetime member of the Yarmouth County Historical Society.

SecretaryGrace Amirault

Grace Amirault was born in Yarmouth, NS and raised in Ontario. Retiring in 2017, she returned to Yarmouth and began to actively explore her Acadian heritage. This led Grace to volunteering with the Yarmouth Historical Society, thus following in the footsteps of Grandfather Simon Amirault. Grace is a certified Veriditas labyrinth facilitator and certified visual art journalist. She founded Path Adventures in 2014 to host and teach labyrinth walks and art journaling events. Grace holds diplomas from Algonquin College in Recreation Leadership and Executive Secretarial Studies and has certificates with the Visual Journaling Studio (Mexico) and the Avalon Mystery School (Wales) in Sacred Magical Arts.

Assistant SecretaryCharles Webster

The Rev. Charles M. Webster is a Yarmouth native from a family with long-standing ties to the medical profession. He is Grandson of the 2nd President of this Historical Society, Dr. Charles A. Webster. His strengths and interests were never the sciences but History and Theology. He Graduated from Mount Allison University with his B.A and Major in History. He received his M.Div. from Emmanuel College U of T and was initially ordained by the United Church of Canada and in 1991 received into the Reformed Church in America, the church the Dutch Loyalists left when they came to Tusket. He spent 10 years in Saskatchewan and worked towards an Education Degree at University of Regina in the early 1980s. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1985 serving the United Church's Port Mouton Pastoral Charge near Liverpool in 1985 and was a Member of the Queens County Historical Society. During 1993 -94 he taught Communicative English for the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania, and in north-east China from 1997-2000 as a Mission Volunteer. He returned home in 2000 and became a Member of this Society shortly thereafter. He is intricately connected to the Doctor's Office in the Museum.

Education, Nominations and VolunteersJohn Sollows

John Sollows was born in Yarmouth and is a seventh-generation Yarmouthian. After graduating from high school, he attended Dalhousie University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Biology in 1976. John was a summer student during the Museum's first year on Collins Street in 1969 and 1970. He is a life member of the Yarmouth County Historical Society and joined the board in 2005 as Education Chair. John spent most of his working life in aquaculture and fisheries development projects in seven countries in Africa and Asia. He returned to Yarmouth in 2004 with his wife (boss), Nguyen Thi Nhung of Pleiku, Viet Nam. Besides his work with the Society, John is a Director Emeritus of the Tusket River Environmental Protection Association, Secretary of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association; Secretary of the Nova Scotia Heritage Fairs Society, serves on the Saint Ambrose Refugee Committee, helps others with immigration and settlement issues, and tutors kids, mostly in mathematics.

HouseKendall Shaw

Kendall Shaw is a native of Sandford, NS where he still lives with his wife and son overlooking the world-famous smallest drawbridge. He is from a long line of lobster fishermen, and he was also a lobster fisherman until his retirement. He is enjoying his retirement with gardening, building a chicken coop and wrangling the chickens as well as home renovations. He has always had an interest in history which began with the experiences his father shared such as, seeing the airships flying overhead and hearing the noise from the German U-boats overnight. As well, his father witnessed the launching of the

Bluenose II and the movie ship the Bounty. Kendall's grandfather witnessed the lights of the Shag Harbour UFO event while he was out fishing. Kendall is a lifetime member of the Yarmouth County Historical Society.

MembershipWendi Kleiner

Wendi was born at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital and raised in Chebogue. She is a direct descendent of the First English Speaking Settlers that arrived in Chebogue. Having been raised on a farm, Wendi knows the value of hard work. She has worked with the public all her working years and enjoys interacting with people. She loves supporting the Museum, to which she has a personal connection, because her great-grandfather was Rev. Gordon Lewis, the first president of the Historical Society, and looks forward to continuing that support as part of the Board.

Pelton-Fuller HouseSusan Winship

Susan joined the Yarmouth Historical Society in 1993 and immediately volunteered for the Costume Department. She is presently the head of the Department. When the Pelton-Fuller House became a part of the Museum in 1995, Susan became a committee member and later, after Audrey Kenney stepped down, Susan became the chairperson. Susan is also on the Ways and Means Committee and a Board member. Though born in Liverpool, N. S., Susan has always lived in Yarmouth, which is her ancestral home. Her people came as Planters and Empire Loyalists. Susan has always had a passion for history and the Museum is the perfect fit.

ProgramsDavid Sollows

David Sollows is an eighth generation native of Yarmouth County where he developed an interest in local history early in his life. For five summers he worked as a summer student at the Yarmouth County Museum before working in the field of education. Following his studies at Acadia University, he returned to teach in Yarmouth and later served as principal at Milton School, Central School and Meadowfields Community School. He has been a Pre-Service Teacher Advisor for the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Mount Saint Vincent, St. Francis Xavier, Acadia University and Cape Breton University. He is a past president of the Yarmouth County Historical Society and currently Program Chair. He has served as a volunteer on the Community Health Board, is now chair of the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Region Association, a member of the Yarmouth Communities in Bloom Committee, Chair of Beacon United Church Council, Secretary for the Congregational Church of Chebogue Preservation Society, Vice-Chair of the Starlight Development Society, Board Member of 100 Guys Who Share Yarmouth and a charter member of the Yarmouth Shantymen. He is the CBC volunteer Community Contact for the Town of Yarmouth and since 2019 he has served as the Returning Officer for the Town of Yarmouth. He is interested in all aspects of Yarmouth's rich history and the people who made it the community it is today.

Publicity/PromotionCandice Phibbs

Candice has called Yarmouth home since 2010. She works in various capacities in the region including a position with Nova Scotia Health, as an on-air personality with local radio station Y-95 CJLS and co-owns an event production company Mile East Productions. Since her relocation Candice has immersed herself in the community and done her best to learn about the rich history of the region. In 2016 Candice began offering walking tours to locals and tourists on various topics surrounding Yarmouth's history. The Yarmouth County

Museum & Archives was an integral piece in the research to put together these tours which have become a five-star rated attraction in the Yarmouth & Acadian Shores region. Outside of her work activities you'll find Candice working on various community projects or enjoying a meal at a local restaurant or cafe. Yarmouth may not be where she was born but she is proud to call Yarmouth home.

PublicationsDebra Amirault Camelin

Debra Amirault Camelin is an author and poet with Acadian ancestral roots in Pubnico and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Her first novel, "Nathalie: An Acadian's Tale of Tragedy and Triumph" (Ronsdale Press) tells the love story of her 4th great-grandparents who were teenagers during the expulsion of the Acadians. As a poet, Debra is published in numerous anthologies and won prize money for several poems. In 2019, she released a self-published book of poetry, "Light in the Mist," (a Baret Days book). Debra is currently associated with Path Adventures, an organization that promotes walking labyrinths as a meditative and spiritual tool. She has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from Carleton University in Ottawa and more than 30 years of experience working in the area of adult performance and learning for both public and private organizations.

Historic SitesGertrude Sweeney

Gert, as she is commonly known, of Acadian descent moved to Yarmouth in 1977. Now a retired nurse from Yarmouth School of Nursing after 44 years of nursing service to the Tri County areas. Gert started volunteering at the age of 13 in her hometown, high school and continues today in her home area. The antique and quilt shop started her love for these things with each article that passed through them. Saving the Cape Forchu light station was her main passion and she served for several years on the board of Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society as well as an advisory committee to the Canadian Coast Guard divestiture program. Gert is presently Chair of the Historic Sites Committee and served on the Ways and Means and Volunteer Kitchen group. She has been instrumental in her own community of Cape Forchu with many projects of the Litter Ladies' clean ups, signage and betterment initiatives.

Member-at-Large Kenneth Cleveland

Ken joined the Historical board in 2020. He was born and raised in Yarmouth and "semi-retired" back to Cape Forchu in 2019, after a career mostly as an electrician with 23 years at a Toyota factory in Ontario. He started a retirement career at Southwest Lobster Science Society as project manager. Besides raising a family, he's been involved in various organizations. His full-time job is the large drooling St. Bernnewf puppy you'll see leading Ken around, Frankie, who demands most of his time. His father, Paul Cleveland, was instrumental in creating the Firefighters Museum in Yarmouth, and also a keen railroad history buff. He is one of the organizers of a new charity in Yarmouth, Acts of Kindness Society running a free meal program and community pantry.

Member-at-Large Livinus Numfor Nkwenti

Livinus Numfor Nkwenti obtained his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry in 2007 from the University of Buea, Cameroon. After that, he taught high school Biology and Chemistry for 5 years before he immigrated to Canada in 2012 via the Quebec Skilled Workers Program. From 2012-2013 he did odd jobs in order to acclimatize himself to a new country and environment. He completed a Food Security Certificate Program at Ryerson University in

2014 and has a Master's in Public Health with a major in Health Promotion and minor in Epidemiology from the University of Guelph, Ontario. He returned to Cameroon after graduation where he did volunteer work in mass immunization against Poliomyelitis. In 2018, he returned to Canada where he began working part-time as a health promoter in a Smoking Cessation Clinic. In June 2019, he accepted the position of a Health Promotion Specialist with Mental Health & Addictions with Nova Scotia Health Authority, where he currently works in the Tri-County of Yarmouth, Digby and Shelburne to promote positive mental health and reduce harms for substance use and gambling in the community. In September 2023, Livinus also started working part-time at the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth as the Accessibility & Inclusion Coordinator, working to identify, prevent and eliminate barriers experienced by people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities.

Member-at-LargeSeamus Murphy

Seamus Murphy is a Yarmouth native whose interest in this county's history was ignited when working as a summer student in the museum for two years. Seamus returned to the area in 2018 and works as the managing lawyer of the Yarmouth office of Nova Scotia Legal Aid.

Member-at-LargeVirginia Stoddard

Virginia Stoddard, although not a Yarmouthian by birth, has made her home here for 50+ years—thus possibly achieving honorary status?!

Her working career was spent with Western Counties Regional Library; she retired as Deputy Director after 30+ years of service. She continues her library involvement as a member of the Yarmouth Public Library Board of Trustees. Her interests focus on the arts. She is a printmaker, working mostly on etchings, at th'YARC Print Shop with Cecil Day.

Volunteer activities, apart from the Museum, include the Hear Here Society, the Kritosophian Club, the Yarmouth Art Society, and the Sara Corning Society.

It's a good life!

Honorary MemberBill MacConnell