

Archives & Collections Society

Canadian Society of Marine Artists

Mission Statement

[This document revised, to accompany the Press Release of 15 November 2006]

The big and exciting news we have for today is that the Archives and Collections Society, along with the Canadian Society of Marine Artists, is beginning a building and expansion project that will bring us to the forefront of community resources. This is a resource with an impact far beyond Prince Edward County. What we are doing has national and international importance, and it is happening right here, on the Main Street of Picton.

The Archives and Collections Society and the Canadian Society of Marine Artists will be moving from their current tiny facility to the old Post Office and one-time Customs House. In that facility, suitably renovated, the fantastic and steadily growing collections of both societies along with their expertise and varied activities will become easily accessible and available to all. We believe this building as it takes on a new role, will quickly become a cultural meeting place for residents and visitors alike, people of all ages and backgrounds will find something fascinating there to explore. While our core focus has been primarily nautical, larger premises will allow broader horizons and a vastly expanded inclusion of other community interests.

Of course you will want to know more about these two Societies, what they are, what they do and what you will find in the building once the transformation is complete.

Who we are – Archives and Collections Society (ACS) and Canadian Society of Marine Artists (CSMA)

We are two not for profit federal organizations and the ACS has additional federal charitable status, with the general policies of both Societies involving conservation and preservation, education and research, requiring enlarged surroundings that are conducive to our goals and to the wellbeing and quality of life of our community.

We here at the Archives and Collections Society has a mandate to promote a broader understanding of certain aspects of local, regional and world history by preserving collections of material about the ships and the boats, the waters and the men and women who constitute our maritime heritage. By establishing an enlarged cultural centre that will contribute to the knowledge, growth, wellbeing and quality of life of our local and expanded community. This great facility will include a library, gallery and reference, research and academic resources with specific emphasis on youth accessibility and activities.

It's our prime focus to include young people in our broader educational role in the area of maritime heritage and history, marine tradition, and nautical conservation. We hope to do this by facilitating cultural research and education in a centre providing means to excellence for students, scholars, artists and authors and promote collaboration with other centres.

The Canadian Society of Marine Artists thrives on a mandate to bring together the finest marine painters, sculptors and model makers to encourage excellence in marine artistic expression. Through this

collaboration we will make such fine arts available to the public in general and youth in particular. The Society continues to keep these ideals and traditions, established twenty years ago, as we go forward dedicated to our marine heritage, and to the conservation of our traditions. This will add excellence in fine arts that is the hallmark of the CSMA to the ACS's dedication to the written word can only add to the richness of Canadian culture.

The acute need for enlarged premises has launched the board of directors of both organizations on a project that will provide for gallery space for artwork that we are already holding together with storage, preservation and restoration areas, and space for the other collections – books, journals, periodicals, photos, charts, video and audio library. Buy-in, both supportive and financial, by other compatible organizations (Sea Cadets, service clubs, art groups, historical societies and possibly some municipal activities) will be actively encouraged.

The envisioned facilities will be designed for:

- exploration, discovery, enjoyment and involvement opportunities for people of all ages and interests
- classroom visits and group venues (tourism, buses, etc)
- art classes to promote personal expression via the techniques of different mediums of the fine arts
- spaces for youth to present and develop traditional and historical interpretive scenes

a conference facility with full amenities

- all components to be complimented with modern technology - internet café, interactive components, etc
- a gardening resource to include a knowledge resource and teaching component leading to facility maintenance
- lecture/video/audio room area that is dynamic with focus on community history, modern technology applications
- celebration of the diverse cultures that have made us with sufficiently frequent dynamic changes to ensure member/visitor returns.

Our Nautical Path

A unique opportunity is approaching with Canada Post's move to new premises on Main Street, Picton. The Societies wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to acquire the building that historically contained the Customs House. The local concerns of the municipality concerning revitalization makes the idea of restoring the old façade and making a walk-way from Main Street to Benson Park most attractive and engenders a positive image; this should be a catalyst project that encourages others to join in a truly remarkable County renewal.

We are hoping to close on this property in early 2007. Once we get possession, it will open up a huge opportunity, not only for Picton, and the entire County, to become the biggest library in Ontario for Marine subjects including Books, Art, and Artifacts, and will become a tourist attraction far beyond our dreams.

The ACS has charitable status and is the umbrella organization for the CSMA.

2, Gladstone Ave., Box 125, Picton Ontario, Canada – K0K 2T0

Telephone 1-613-476-1177 Fax 1-613-476-7598
www.AandC.org www.UltraMarine.ca