

Memory Lane Heritage Village 25th Anniversary

Village Champions Fundraising Campaign

The Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society is a non-profit, provincially registered society (2429150), with federal charitable organization tax status (# 892899568RR0001)

The Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society was founded in 1995 in response to the imminent loss of a local iconic heritage building, the Hosking General Store, Oyster Pond, built in 1894/95 - 130 years ago! Since then, the Society has broadened its mandate to preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the coastal communities of the Eastern Shore from Lawrencetown to Ecum Secum and inland to Mooseland.

On July 1, 2000, Memory Lane Heritage Village opened its doors to the public having just moved six local heritage buildings - a store, school, church, homestead, barn and garage - to the site and successfully restored them. With an outpouring of community labour, a replica cookhouse was also ready for opening day!

Since the official opening in 2000, there have been many significant additions. Today, we can say that the Society's founding mission to operate "*the best, financially self-sustaining, living-history museum in the Province of Nova Scotia by focusing on the authentic re-creation of a typical Eastern Shore coastal village for the time period of 1940 to 1950*" has been achieved. Not only do we have Memory Lane with its heritage buildings, housing nearly 6,000 associated artifacts, but we also have the award-winning Eastern Shore Archives with 400 linear metres of textual records, some 500 reference files related to the 1940s, over 300 audio oral history recordings, and 5,243 high-resolution scans of local heritage photos. Plus, we have just finished upgrading the Artifact Storage Facility so it is now climate controlled to better protect the almost 3,000 additional artifacts that comprise the back-up collection. And, to top it off, with the latest addition of solar panels, we remain 100% solar powered on a net annual consumption basis - the only solar-powered museum in Nova Scotia, and possibly in Canada!

As we did in the beginning, we still need to look to the future, but now in a different way. Rather than focussing on founding and growing, we now need to focus on ensuring that what has been achieved endures in perpetuity, well beyond the next 25 years. This will require adequate financial resources for the long-term!

Over the last 25 years, the Heritage Society has received nearly \$2,000,000 from a combination of federal, provincial, and municipal programs. Crucially, local residents and distant supporters have also made significant financial contributions. In 1999, the donation of four acres of land and a successful fundraising campaign demonstrated to public sector funding agencies that the community at large supported Memory Lane Heritage Village and were serious funding partners.

In 2009 the Heritage Society launched the **Eastern Shore Heritage Preservation Fund**, which has been managed by the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia ever since. As of December 31, 2023, the fund balance was \$109,023 with the Society receiving \$9,133 in income from the fund in 2024.

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary, the Society is focussing on three main commemorative events – **a Village Champions Homecoming on May 25th, a Re-creation of the July 1, 2000 Ribbon-Cutting on July 1st, and a Village Champions Fundraising Campaign throughout 2025** to significantly increase the fund balance.

If you would like to donate to the fundraising campaign by making a charitable tax donation to the Eastern Shore Heritage Preservation Fund go to visitmemorylane.ca and click on "DONATE", or email info@visitmemorylane.ca, or call: 1-877-287-0697. Thank you.