

# Paradise HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of the Paradise  
Historical Society newsletter.

## *A Glimpse into Paradise's Past*

### Extraordinary Entrepreneurs of Paradise

If you walk into the *Handcrafted Hair Salon* on Paradise corner, you will be agog at the respectful and creative adaptation of the space and you will enjoy a great cut or style. What you will not know is that Emilie is the latest in a long line of extraordinary entrepreneurs who have carried on business in that very spot.

The first entrepreneur we know of was the fascinating Joseph Roland. From 1820 to 1830 he made felted beaver hats in a factory across the road from *Handcrafted Hair*. That building is gone now. He sold his hats in a shop on the site of *Handcrafted Hair*, in a building also now gone.



Image: Paradise Corner in the 19th century looking north. The building at the head of the street is noted to be Ambrose Bent's store. It is located where Joseph Roland's hat factory was, so may even be the same building.

#### The Person

Joseph Roland, according to *Paradise Terrestre*, was a French hatter and also one of the Emperor Napoleon's famous Light Horsemen known for their bravery in battle.

Napoleon rose to power as a military commander during the French Revolution, staging a successful coup in 1804 and crowning himself Emperor. He then waged war on neighbouring European countries and expanded his empire, a rising star for a time. But then he fell. His disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812 led to his abdication and exile. He briefly returned to power, but his final defeat at Waterloo ended it all.

Somewhere in there Joseph Roland, hatter and member of the elite Light Horsemen, deserted. Many did at

the end of Napoleon's empire. Four soldiers died of illness for every one in battle, and Waterloo was the doom waiting to happen. Perhaps Joseph smelled defeat in the air. And somehow made his way to Paradise, in 1820, just as our village was itself rising. That's all we know about him. There is a marriage recorded in Halifax between a Joseph Roland and Olive Clark in 1815 but who knows if that was the same person?

### **The Hats**

Felted Beaver hats were huge from the 16th century to the early 19th. Roland probably got in on the tail end of the trend. Beaver was ideal for felting because the soft under-fur of the pelt was barbed, so cohered. This water-resistant, easily shaped material was ideal. The hats were practical and valuable for both men and women. So popular were they that European beavers were nearly trapped to extinction, and the only thing that saved our beavers was the decline of the trend. Here in Paradise, beaver hats with bell-shaped crowns were sold for \$5.00 at the shop and peddled by wagon as far as Clare, where they were popular.

### **The Business**

The business was backed by the "venture capital" of Simon Starratt of Paradise and Samuel Chipman, MPP, of Lawrencetown. Joseph's sons worked with him, and it was said that Joseph, his sons, and his apprentices, were a jovial lot who sometimes enjoyed a bit of libation on site. The temperance movement was not yet firmly rooted, so no judgment would have been attached.

### **Its end**

Of this we know nothing. How much more there is to learn about this interesting venture and the man who once rode a Napoleon Light Horse in battle and had a different kind of courage - to start a major industry in his new country.

## ***A Look Back in Time***

In 1927, Confederation was 60 years old. Paradise, and Canada in general, was still very connected with the notion of ourselves as part of the British Empire. Here the students of Paradise School enact a pageant representing the various countries in the Empire. Presumably, the young woman in the chair was Queen Victoria?

**Can you spot any of your ancestors in this photo?**



# *On Our Website*

## Share Your Memories of Paradise



The Paradise Historical Society is working on a project to rekindle old memories and relive our community's culture and heritage. We have a small collection of memories that you can read on our website, but we'd love to have more to add to this collection.

Please join us by sharing your personal stories, big or small. From childhood adventures to historical events, your memories are a valuable piece of our community's heritage. Let's work together to preserve and share these stories for generations to come.

For all the information you'll need to share your memories, please visit our website at <https://paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/memories-of-paradise/>. We can't wait to hear from you!

# *Upcoming Events*

## Mark Your Calendar!

### *Weekly Drop-In Mornings*



Join us for a relaxing morning at the Heritage Centre.

Enjoy a cup of coffee or lemonade while browsing through historical artifacts, books, and records from 9:00 to noon every Wednesday morning until November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Discover old school photos, our spinning wheel, and the "Paradise Gazette," a newspaper created by local schoolchildren in 1936. Also, explore local history books, genealogy resources, and historical minutes from the Paradise Women's Institute dating back to 1918!

## *Christmas Craft Market*

**NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

Get ready for a festive shopping experience at our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Craft Market. Discover unique handmade crafts, from quilted items to wooden creations and more. Indulge in delicious homemade baked sweet and savoury goodies. And don't forget to enter our raffle for a chance to win one of three beautiful items donated by local artisans.

The market will take place on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Paradise Heritage Centre at 10307 Highway #1.

Stay tuned for more details to come on Facebook, our website, and in the *Bridgetown Reader*.



## *Recent Accomplishments*

### *Hidden History Conference a Success*

Our recent *Hidden History* conference was a resounding success! Attendees were captivated by engaging presentations from Brenda Thompson, Laura Churchill Duke, County Warden Alex Morisson, and Heather LeBlanc, who shed light on lesser-known aspects of Annapolis County's past.

The positive feedback from participants has encouraged us to explore more opportunities for similar events in the future.



## Discover *Cindy's Garden*

We invite you to take a moment to appreciate the beauty of *Cindy's Garden*, our pollinator haven planted in memory of Cindy Caldwell, the beloved director of the *Jack and Jill Pre-School* that once occupied the Heritage Centre.

Come wander through the vibrant blooms and enjoy all the buzzing activity as nature settles into autumn.

## *Stay in the Loop!*

Don't miss out on upcoming events, workshops, and Heritage Centre open days.

Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Paradisehistory/](https://www.facebook.com/Paradisehistory/)) or visit our events calendar on our website - [www.paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/events-calendar/](https://www.paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/events-calendar/).



## *How You Can Help Support Us*

### Support Our Fundraisers

You can help us continue our work by participating in our annual raffle and quilt sale.

**Raffle:** Win a stunning queen-size quilt made by the Paradise Quilters, a beautiful painting by Janice Leonard, or a hand-hooked wool rug. The draw will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Quilt Sale:** Purchase a beautiful queen-size quilt made in the "Nine Patch" pattern in shades of deep blue. To view the quilt in person please come by Wednesday mornings during our drop-in hours.

To see all the items in our fundraisers, please visit our website. Your support makes a difference!

For more about our raffle, visit - <https://paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/2024-fundraiser/>

For more about our quilt sale, visit - <https://paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/quilt-sale/>



## Help Us Get Upstairs

We were so happy to receive a grant from the municipality to support our project of installing an elevator-style lift to help us develop the second floor of our beautiful building so that we can expand our programs and services.

We are grateful as well for the donations that have started to come in. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 from a donor campaign, and every donation helps.

If you would like to help with this, you can donate through CanadaHelps, mail a cheque, or simply send an e-transfer to [shop@paradisehistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:shop@paradisehistoricalsociety.ca). If you do any of these, please indicate in a comment that you are donating to the "lift fund", as we use e-transfer routinely for workshops or other transactions

Since we were given the deed to this property we have come so far and are very excited about all that the future holds.

To donate using CanadaHelps please visit - <https://paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/make-a-donation/canadahelps-donation-form/>



## Become a Volunteer

Many hands make light work. Please consider volunteering your time, whether on the board of directors, or on a per-project/need basis. We'd love to have you join our team of volunteers!

Please call Barbara at 825-9198 to express your interest and learn more.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of our newsletter. We're always excited to share stories from our community's history, our latest accomplishments, and our upcoming events with you. Your continued support is invaluable to us.

