

Paradise HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

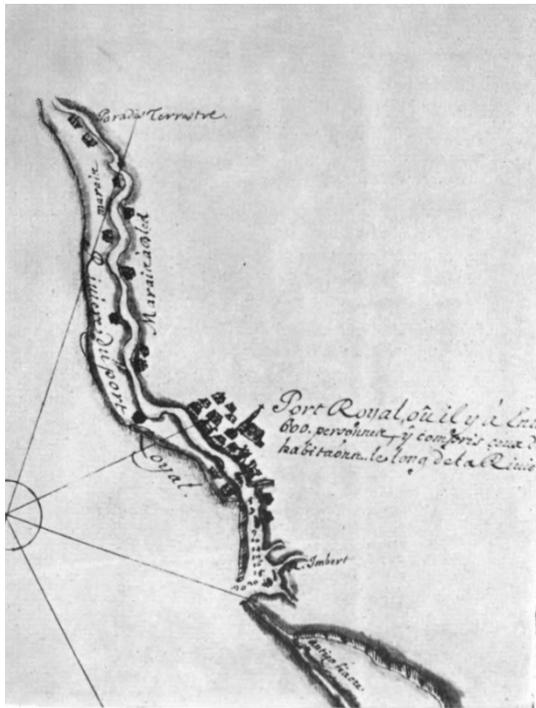
We are thrilled to share with you stories from our community's rich past, new features on our website, upcoming events and workshops, and our vision for preserving Paradise's history.

A Glimpse into Paradise's Past

Where did Paradise get its name?

Three hundred and thirty years ago a French colonial mapmaker named Lalanne published a map of the Acadian villages along the river which we know as the Annapolis River. These villages were extended family groups and named after the families. But there was one exception.

One family lived in a village identified by Lalanne in 1684 as "Paradis Terrestre" (meaning "Earthly Paradise") on the north side of the river. The interesting thing about this village is that it was the only one not identified by the name of a particular family. We don't know why.



LALANNE'S MAP—Paradis Terrestre—1684

Image Source: Local History of Paradise, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia (1684-1936) by William Inglis Morse, D.Litt., 1937

In 1687 the ill-fated Nicholas Gargas, *écrivain principal* (main writer) came from the King's court in France with orders to do a census of the colony of Acadie. In his census he identified the family who lived at the head of the tide as the final easternmost house, which he numbered house number 23 as "au bout du monde" (the "end of the world") on the river. In that house were "seven souls" – a man, a woman, one boy over 15, one girl over 12, and three girls under 12. They had "7 horned cattle, 12 wool-bearing cattle, 1 gun, 4 acres of marsh under cultivation, 1 ½ acres of upland." This seems to have been before the mill and dam were constructed.

We owe this information to William Inglis Morse, scholar, cleric, and historian born in Paradise at the former Bastarache village south of the river. Morse travelled to France and in the archives in Paris he found the long-forgotten census of Gargas. We also believe the words of Mi'kmaq patriarch Heggie Luxie (1834-1941) identified remnants of the mill constructed by an Acadian family on this same site.

But the name "Paradis Terrestre", though pinpointed in this first map and in the Gargas census, stuck and was applied as well to the lands west of this site on the north side of the river, the present community of Paradise.

A deed in 1776 refers to 100 acres along Highway 1 purchased by brothers John and George Starratt as land “further known by the name of Paradise.” And that land was the western part of Paradise. The brothers would divide the property later, with John owning the half east of the brook that runs under the railbed bridge and beside the Paradise Cemetery, and George the half west of that line.

So “Paradise” is not just a cute pun for a nice place. It is a proud and honourable name commemorating the Acadian families who once made this their home and were not forgotten by the settlers who came after them.

A Look Back in Time

Like many communities in Nova Scotia in the 40s and 50s, Paradise had its own baseball team – and the team did well! This photo is from 1947.

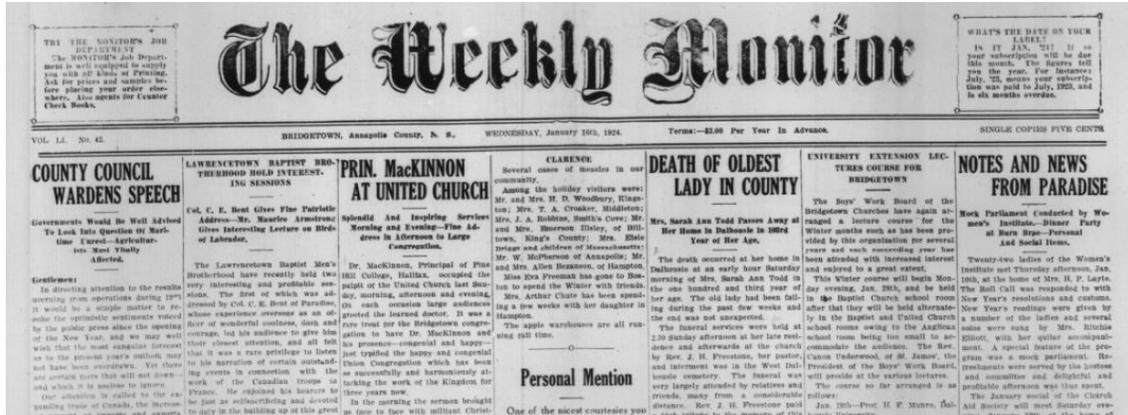
Can you name any of these baseball stars?



The answer to who is in the photo is at the end of the newsletter.

New on Our Website

Take a step back in time with a new section on our website – *Paradise Society News!*



Dive into a collection of fascinating articles from the Paradise society columns, originally published in *The Weekly Monitor* newspaper 100 years ago!

Get a glimpse into everyday life, local events, and the very fabric of Paradise a century ago.

New articles will be added regularly, so be sure to check back often to see if your family's story unfolds on the pages of history.

Upcoming Events



APRIL 16, 2024

Keep Safe Online Community Presentation

Join us to learn great tips about keeping safe online. Feel free to bring your questions to this community presentation.

The event is free, but please register by emailing info@paradisehistoricalsociety.ca



MAY 4, 2024

Basket Weaving Workshop

Learn how to weave your own basket that's not just decorative, but practical as well.

(This workshop is sold out)

MAY 24-25, 2024

Hidden Histories of Annapolis County

History Conference

Delve into captivating stories waiting to be rediscovered as we present the *Hidden Histories of Annapolis County* conference this spring.

Our conference features a lineup of engaging speakers who will shed light on the lesser-known aspects of Annapolis County's past. Prepare to be enlightened and transported back in time.

Don't miss this opportunity to:

- Learn about fascinating, often untold, stories from Annapolis County.
- Engage with renowned local speakers and fellow history enthusiasts.
- Deepen your understanding of the rich tapestry of our local history.

Early Bird Discount! Register before May 1st for the conference and pay only \$50. The price goes up to \$60 after May 1st.

Please visit: www.paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/event/hidden-history/ to learn more and register.



Stay in the Know!

Explore our Events Calendar on our website for information about upcoming workshops, talks, and other community events.

<https://paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/events-calendar/>



Like and follow us on Facebook to get the latest updates on events, news, and historical tidbits delivered straight to your feed.

<https://www.facebook.com/Paradisehistory>

Building Our Future

The Paradise Historical Society is dedicated to not only preserving the community's rich history, but also ensuring it's accessible and engaging for everyone. This commitment extends to our very own Heritage Centre, the heart of our Society.

Recent Accomplishments

We're excited to share the ongoing progress we're making towards our vision.

Our cosy drop-in area is complete and ready to welcome you with comfortable seating, free Wi-Fi, and access to kitchen facilities – perfect for enjoying a cup of coffee, engaging in conversation, or collaborating with a small group. Please email us at info@paradisehistoricalsociety.ca to check on availability if you are interested in using this space.

We have also recently completed painting the main room upstairs, creating a bright and inviting space for future events and exhibits.

Our little library of local history and genealogy books and resources is nearing completion and will also be ready to welcome you soon.

Long Range Vision

We envision a Heritage Centre that is fully accessible – a welcoming space where everyone can meet and explore Paradise's history without barriers.

Looking ahead, several key projects are underway:

- Installing a Lift to the Second Floor: This major project will be a game-changer, allowing for full access to the second floor for individuals with mobility limitations.
- Renovating the Upstairs Restroom
- Accessing our collection of artifacts and acquisitions to begin developing exhibits and displays to tell the story of Paradise.

These projects represent significant steps towards our long-term vision, and we'll continue to share our progress.

Get Involved

We are constantly making progress in preserving and sharing our history, and we rely on the dedication of our members and supporters.

Here are two ways you can become a valuable contribution:

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 committed volunteers! Contact us to express your interest and learn more.

Upcoming/Immediate Needs:

- Heritage Garden Spring Clean Up and Summer Maintenance and Mowing
- Pies and/or plants for our fundraiser in June

Support Our Mission Through Donations: Every contribution makes a difference! Your financial support helps us with things such as restoring and preserving our heritage building, hosting workshops, and meeting

our operating expenses.

Visit our website for secure online donations: <https://paradisehistoricalsociety.ca/make-a-donation/>

We are thrilled to embark on this journey of sharing Paradise's rich past with you on a regular basis.

In this issue, we've explored fascinating stories, exciting new initiatives, and the vibrant community that keeps Paradise's history alive.

Moving forward, you can expect to receive a newsletter each quarter. We'll continue to delve into captivating historical topics, showcase upcoming events, and highlight the ways you can connect with the Society.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers and everyone who supports the Paradise Historical Society. Your contributions are the foundation for preserving and sharing Paradise's unique legacy.

Did you guess who is in the photo of the 1947 Paradise baseball team?

Answer: Information written on back of photo.

Back row: Mark Leonard, Allan Bishop, Art Jacques, Al Balcom

Next Row: John Phinney, Paul Spicer, Louis Walker (hidden behind trophy), Gordon Balcom, Norm Balcom

Boys holding cup: Alan Leonard and Arthur Phinney

