

Developing Topics on Atlantic Canada for the Begbie Canadian History Contest

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Between May 24 and June 12, 2010, my wife and I visited a number of archives, universities, museums, historical sites, art galleries and libraries in Atlantic Canada to search for primary source materials suitable for future Begbie Canadian History Contests. (See the accompanying itinerary for details.)



DSCN0985Cape Race NL

Prior to the trip I consulted with Glenwood, NL, secondary school teacher Eithne Smith and retired Antigonish, NS, secondary school teacher Bill Timmons, both of whom have been involved with the contest for a number of years. I also sought advice from Dr. Margaret Conrad (Honorary Research Professor, Department of History, University of New Brunswick) and Dr. Alan Sears (Professor, Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick). During the trip I met with Alan Sears at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and spoke with local residents and with archivists and librarians working in the various institutions listed in the itinerary.

In the process I acquired useful material on several topics related to Atlantic Canada:

- bilingualism in New Brunswick
- the Labrador–Quebec border dispute
- the battle at Beaumont Hamel, W.W.I
- the seal hunt
- tidal power
- the razing of Africville, Halifax
- the failure of the cod fisheries
- federal–provincial dispute over offshore resources
- the sinking of the Titanic
- Springhill mining disasters
- Churchill Falls
- the USA lend lease agreements and the Second World War
- the effect of 9/11 on Newfoundland
- Viola Desmond and racial discrimination
- the entry of Newfoundland and Labrador into Confederation
- Atlantic Canada and W.W.II
- the Voice of Women in Atlantic Canada
- several Atlantic Canada cartoonists
- Pier 21 and immigration



DSCN1019 A bilingual welcome NS

The material collected will be invaluable in preparing multiple choice, short essay and document-based essay questions related to Atlantic Canada for future Begbie Canadian History Contests, and correct a previous lack of content on this area of the country.

Atlantic Canada Research Trip Itinerary

- Sun May 23 Vancouver, BC, to St John's, NL (overnight)
- Mon May 24 arrive in St John's
- Tues May 25 The Rooms (provincial archives of NL)
- Wed May 26 The Rooms
MUN (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
- Maritime Museum
- Centre for Newfoundland Studies
- Thu May 27 MUN
- Centre for Newfoundland Studies
-St John's public library at MUN
- Fri May 28 MUN
-Centre for Newfoundland Studies
- Sat May 29 The Rooms
Signal Hill and Cape Spear national historic sites
- Sun May 30 Avalon peninsula: colony of Avalon 1621, Cape Race
- Mon May 31 Johnson Geo Centre, St John's, re Titanic
- Tues June 1 Avalon peninsula: Cupids 1610
- Wed June 2 St John's, NL, to Halifax, NS
- Thu June 3 Provincial archives of NS, Halifax
Dalhousie University library
Halifax public library
- Fri June 4 Provincial archives of NS
Dalhousie University library
- Sat June 5 Provincial archives of NS
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
Halifax public library
- Sun June 6 Springhill Miners Museum, Springhill, NS
Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB
-university library and art gallery



DSCN1050 Titanic cemetery, Halifax, NS

- Mon June 7 Centre for Acadian Studies, Moncton, NB
Moncton public library
Provincial archives of NB, Fredericton
- Tues June 8 Meeting with Alan Sears, University of NB, Fredericton
Provincial archives of NB
University of NB library
Beaverbrook Art Gallery
- Wed June 9 Fredericton (via St John, NB) to Digby, NS
Tidal power project centre, Digby
- Thu June 10 *Vanguard* newspaper office, Yarmouth
Acadian village, Lower West Pubnico
- Fri June 11 Fisheries Museum, Lunenburg
Acadia University library, Wolfville
Titanic cemetery, Halifax
- Sat June 12 Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia, Dartmouth, re Africville
Halifax public library
Pier 21, Halifax
- Sun June 13 Halifax, NS, to Vancouver, BC