

## Sharing Common Goals

By Christine Renaud

The Prince Edward County Archives, as part of the County of Prince Edward Public Library, plays a major role in preserving the history of the County as does The Prince Edward Historical Society. The two organizations also share specific goals as outlined in the Historical Society's mission statement, "to preserve, protect and promote the history and heritage of Prince Edward County." Another mission is "bringing together members of the community interested in preservation, research, and promotion of local history and heritage." To that end, the Historical Society regularly features speakers to educate and entertain on a variety of history related topics. On Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Society presented Marc Seguin who spoke at the Picton Town Hall about the lighthouses of Prince Edward County.

The Archives, likewise, has two projects underway with comparable goals of preserving and promoting the rich history of the County. One is a "Digitization Day" planned for December 10 at the Archives adjacent to the Wellington branch of the library at 261 Main Street from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

Digitizing historical documents is an important aspect of historical preservation and aiding research. The public is invited to bring items such as postcards, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, newspaper articles, legal documents or photos to be scanned. "Many people have papers that are significant in telling and preserving the stories of Prince Edward County," says Archives Manager Krista Richardson. "The idea of the Digitization Day is to encourage people to bring their documents, photos, letters and so forth to us to have them scanned so that they can be preserved digitally."

Those who bring in materials will have the originals returned and will also receive a copy of the electronic scanned version. This can then be shared with others through e-mail and in other ways. They can be printed too.

Digitization is an important aspect of archival storage and retrieval too. Many pieces of history in paper form can be lost, damaged or will deteriorate,

and scanning helps record these for posterity. "The postcards, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, newspaper articles may then, if not copyrighted, be made available through the Internet for others to retrieve and examine," says Richardson. The library has been fortunate to receive, from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, a Museums and Technology Funds (MTF) grant to hire a digitization assistant for a limited time.

Another upcoming project of the Archives is the creation of The 2012 County of Prince Edward Public Library & Archives historical calendar. The calendar will feature events with information based on the vignettes by Peter Lockyer and History Lives Here Inc., as well as other images from the past, including a month highlighting County lighthouses and one month featuring the historic Carnegie branch of the County of Prince Edward Library.

For more information on the Archives and the Prince Edward Historical Society, contact Krista Richardson at 613-399-2023 or e-mail: [krichardson@peclibrary.org](mailto:krichardson@peclibrary.org). Please visit the Historical Society's website at <http://pehistsoc.wordpress.com>.

## F Y I

By Barb Proctor

Councillor for South Marysburgh

***FYI is MIA because Barb has been away but her column will return next month.***



The night after the full moon, November 11, 2011  
(Photograph Courtesy of Juanita McMahon)