

2021 Board of Directors for the Yarmouth County Historical Society

President and EducationJohn Sollows

John Sollows was born in Yarmouth and is a seventh-generation Yarmouthian. After graduating from high school, he attended Dalhousie University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Biology in 1976. John was a summer student during the Museum's first year on Collins Street in 1969. He is a life member of the Yarmouth County Historical Society and joined the board in 2005 as Education Chair. John spent most of his working life in aquaculture and fisheries development projects in seven countries in Africa and Asia. He returned to Yarmouth in 2004 with his wife (boss), Nguyen Thi Nhung of Pleiku, Viet Nam. Besides his work with the Society, John is a Director Emeritus of the Tusket River Environmental Protection Association, Secretary of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association; Secretary of the Nova Scotia Heritage Fairs Society, serves on the Saint Ambrose Refugee Committee, helps others with immigration and settlement issues, and tutors kids, mostly in mathematics.

1st Vice President and Historic SitesMike Cunningham

Michael Cunningham joined the Yarmouth County Historical Society in 2004 and became a member of the board in 2018. Mike was born in Yarmouth and his family first settled in the area around Cape Sable Island in 1785. Mike retired in 2018 after a 38 year career as a commercial pilot, the last 22 years of which was spent as an aircraft accident investigator. Herbert Cunningham, his grandfather, was chief Light-keeper at Cape Forchu Light Station between 1922 and 1952. His historical interests and research experience includes: lighthouses of southwestern Nova Scotia; Yarmouth in WWI; Yarmouth shipping and fishery history.

2nd Vice President, Ways and Means and VolunteerRoss Taylor

Ross Taylor has lived in Yarmouth for two years with his wife of 34 years. They love the small town life they have found here. Ross loves to play golf and garden. As a lover of history he was immediately drawn to what the museum has to offer. He is excited to be a member of the Board of Directors and to help the YCHS continue to move forward.

Past President and NominatingPeter Eldridge

Peter Eldridge was born in Saint John, N.B., spending his formative years there, living on the same street as the N.B. Museum. Peter is a retired high school teacher of English and related subjects and an administrator at Yarmouth Memorial High School (from 1965 - 1994), receiving a N.S. Provincial Community Volunteer Award in 1989 for activities in both the community and school. A long-time member of the Board of the Yarmouth County Museum, during the late 1900s he served as co-chair of fund-raising for the \$2.4 million expansion of the Museum and Archives. Since 2008, he has also been co-chair of the Yarmouth Area Community Fund, which assists all aspects of the community. A fan of historical connections, and avidly interested in the outstanding history of the Yarmouth area, for many years he provided a regular column in the monthly Museum newsletter (Historigram), titled "Celebrating Our History!". Peter was president of the Yarmouth County Historical Society from 2018 to 2020.

SecretaryIngrid Deon

Ingrid Deon has been a member of the Yarmouth County Historical Society Board of Directors since 2017 and was the Assistant Director of the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives for nearly two years, from 2014 to 2015. Ingrid lives in Middle West Pubnico and is CEO of a social media marketing agency called word-craft inc. Ingrid's interest in the history of Yarmouth County began when she worked at the Musée des acadiens des Pubnicos as a university student. Ingrid is one of only a few Acadians who is also a Mayflower descendant.

Assistant SecretaryCharles Webster

The Rev. Charles M. Webster is a Yarmouth native from a family with long-standing ties to the medical profession. He is Grandson of the 2nd President of this Historical Society, Dr. Charles A. Webster. His strengths and interests were never the sciences but History and Theology. He Graduated from Mount Allison University with his B.A and Major in History. He received his M.Div. from Emmanuel College U of T and initially ordained by the United Church of Canada and in 1991 received into the Reformed Church in America, the church the Dutch Loyalists left when they came to Tusket. He spent 10 years in Saskatchewan and worked towards an Education Degree at University of Regina in early 1980s. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1985 serving the United Church's Port Mouton Pastoral Charge near Liverpool in 1985 and was Member of the Queens Country Historical Society. During 1993 -94 he taught Communicative English for the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania, and in north-east China from 1997-2000 as a Mission Volunteer. He returned home in 2000 and became a Member of this Society shortly thereafter. He is intricately connected to the Doctor's Office in the Museum!!

Treasurer.....Mary Eldridge

Mary Eldridge, a life member, joined the Board of the Yarmouth County Historical Society in 1986. She has been treasurer since 1990 and has served as Finance Chair, Membership Chair and serves on the personnel committee. During 1997 to 2001 Mary was co-chair fundraising for, and administered, the \$2.4 million museum expansion. Mary has spent most of her life volunteering on many local boards in Yarmouth and in Halifax, currently with Sunset Terrace, Yarmouth Public Library, Yarmouth Area Community Fund, Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. For her volunteer work she has been honored by St. Francis Xavier University, the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, and received the Governor General Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers.

Finance.....Vaughn Bullerwell

Vaughn Bullerwell has been involved with the Yarmouth County Historical Society since 1993. He has worked as a volunteer and casual employee in the museum and archives, and has served on the YCHS board in various roles including as President. Vaughn is a faculty member in the School of Business of the Nova Scotia Community College, Burrigade Campus.

Gift ShopElaine Howatt

Elaine Howatt was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and attended Mount Allison University, Class of 1978 and Holland College, Class of 1980. She retired in 2013 after a long career with the Nova Scotia Civil Service. A Yarmouth resident since 1998 she believes in volunteering and community good. She also enjoys history and learning. She is the Chair of the Mast Head Gift Shop, and serves on the Membership and Volunteer Committees. In 2014, she received the Town of Yarmouth and Municipality of Yarmouth Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding volunteer services benefiting our community.

HistorigramAnne Sweeney

Anne Sweeney is of Acadian descent. Her grandparents (Comeau, Deveau, Thibodeau and Maillet) were from the Clare region. Her parents grew up in Hebron and the Town of Yarmouth. Anne grew up and was educated in Ontario. She moved back to her roots in 1985. She had a lengthy career in the federal government, with 30 years at Fisheries and Oceans in Yarmouth. She retired in 2015 as Area Chief of Resource Management for Southwest Nova Scotia. Anne is on the board of directors for SHYFT and is a member of Yarmouth Toastmasters and the Yarmouth Write Away Group. She is married to Larry and they have two children, Elizabeth and Lee. She has been the editor of our Historigram newsletter since October 2019.

MembershipSeamus Murphy

Seamus Murphy is a Yarmouth native whose interest in this county's history was ignited when working as a summer student in the museum for two years. Seamus returned to the area in 2018 and works as the managing lawyer of the Yarmouth office of Nova Scotia Legal Aid.

Pelton-Fuller HouseSusan Winship

Susan joined the Yarmouth Historical Society in 1993 and immediately volunteered for the Costume Department. She is presently the head of the Department. When the Pelton-Fuller House became a part of the Museum in 1995, Susan became a committee member and later, after Audrey Kenney stepped down, Susan became the chairperson. Susan is also on the Ways and Means Committee and a Board member. Though born in Liverpool, N. S., Susan has always lived in Yarmouth, which is her Ancestral home. Her people came as Planters and Empire Loyalists. Susan has always had a passion for history and the Museum is the perfect fit.

ProgramsDavid Sollows

David Sollows is a native of Yarmouth County where he developed an interest in local history early in his life. For five summers he worked as a summer student at the Yarmouth County Museum before working in the field of education. Following his studies at Acadia University, he returned to teach in Yarmouth and later served as principal at Milton School, Central School and Meadowfields Community School. He has been a supervisor of student teachers for the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Mount Saint Vincent, St. Francis Xavier, Acadia University and Cape Breton University. He is a past president of the Yarmouth County Historical Society and currently Programs Chair.

He has served as a volunteer on the Community Health Board, The Yarmouth Communities in Bloom Committee, Beacon United Church Council, Board of 100 Guys Who Share, the Congregational Church of Chebogue Preservation Society, the UNESCO Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association, and is a charter member of the Yarmouth Shantymen. He is interested in all aspects of Yarmouth's rich history and the people who made it the community it is today.

House Ken Cleveland

Ken joined the Historical board this year. He was born and raised in Yarmouth and "retired" back to Yarmouth in 2019, after a career mostly as an electrician with the last 23 years at a Toyota factory in Ontario. He just started a retirement career at Southwest Lobster Science Society as project manager. Besides raising a family, he's been involved in various organizations, and just completed his 100th blood donation. He's also the recent proud puppy parent of a slobbery Newfoundland St Bernard mix 140 pound puppy, Frankie. His father, Paul Cleveland, was instrumental in creating the Firefighters Museum in Yarmouth, and was also a keen railroad history buff.

PublicationsSusie Sweeney

A native of Hants County, Susie came to Yarmouth to work as a Home Ec. Representative for the N.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Her intent was to do a 2 year stint, and here it is, a few years later, and she's still here. She tells people that "Yarmouth is like barnacles - it grows on you!" Since then she has had a wide range of employment, but one resulted in the Museum / Archives being the place where she spent many hours. The Yarmouth Development Corp. felt that Yarmouth's history was a real marketable asset, and, as a result, she was involved in much of the research for their projects. She served on the Board some years ago - long before it was its present extensive facility. Although she is now retired from the 'paid' workforce, she still gets involved in things that require her to use the exceptional archives, and its staff, and expect that they will continue to have her asking weird questions, knowing they will be answered. Susie says, "It is amazing what you can learn - did you know that a local theatre raffled a baby?"

Personnel Robert M.J.Prince

He was born in Hamilton Ontario May 29th, 1956 and has lived in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He attended St.Thomas University from 1973-77 and received an Honours Degree in English and obtained a Law degree from UNB in 1980. He practiced law at Hood and Fraser in Yarmouth. In 1986, he was appointed to be Prosecutor at the Department of Justice. In 1994, he was selected as a Judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia and sat throughout the Province for 22 years. In 2010, he was the President of the Canadian Association of Provincial Judges. He currently lives in Yarmouth Co.

Publicity..... Sean MacLellan

Bio not available

Promotions vacant

Hospitalityvacant
Assistant TreasurerVacant

Member at LargeGrace Amirault

Grace Amirault was born in Yarmouth, NS and raised in Ontario. In 2017, Grace retired in Yarmouth, and has been actively exploring her Acadian heritage. Grace is a Veriditas labyrinth facilitator and certified event planner.

Grace founded Path Adventures in 2014 to further enable her work hosting and teaching labyrinth walks and events. Drawing on more than 20 years' experience in event planning using proven abilities to interact well with clients and team members, Grace demonstrates solid business acumen to craft activities that achieve their objectives. Grace leads the planning and coordination of week-long retreats held in Mavillette, Nova Scotia, where pilgrims can witness the deepening of their own spiritual selves in a contemplative ocean-side setting.

Grace is a graduate of the QC Career School Event Planners Certification course. She holds diplomas from Algonquin College in Recreation Leadership and Executive Secretarial Studies. Grace is currently studying Sacred Magical Arts with the Avalon Mystery School.

Member at LargeDebra Camelin

Debra Amirault Camelin is an Acadian with ancestral roots in Pubnico and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Known for her poetry, Debra has been published in numerous anthologies and has won prize money for several poems. In 2019, she released a self-published book of poetry, *Light in the Mist*, (a Baret Days book). Her poems are described as transporting readers through time and through space on a journey both emotional and geographical. Debra has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from Carleton University in Ottawa and more than 30 years of experience working in the area of performance and learning. She is currently associated with Path Adventures, an organization that promotes walking labyrinths as a meditative and spiritual tool.

Member at Large Livinus Numfor Nkwenti

Bio not available

Member at LargeBill MacConnell

Bio not available