

## **REPORT OF MUSEUM COMMITTEE AUGUST 7, 2021**

Not all of you may have seen it yet, but you may have heard something about the Grand Opening of the Coal Shed Museum and its first exhibition "MacMahan in the Era of Coal and Ice." Cottagers searched their attics, living rooms, steamer trunks and kitchen drawers to offer treasures for display. We opened on schedule and with each item annotated with a detailed label telling its story and lit by display lighting donated and installed by Jay Rogers. It will remind you of a Tiffany window after dark. The logoed (thanks to Marty Zimiles) T-shirts donated by Artforms sold out in minutes. The motion-activated electronic frame is amazing. Ted Clausen's exterior sign is another of his notable works of art and is described in a label entirely in his own words.

Our appreciation also to Sandy Taft for his creative and inexhaustible carpentry, and to Nathalie both for her endless supply of free lumber just as commercial prices were quadrupling and for unlocking her "history barn." as acknowledged in many of the labels.

In the less than two weeks since then, the June-July session of our writing competition for juniors has been judged and prizes awarded. The August session is underway. It will end August 18 due to the judge's other commitments. Please alert the juniors you know to that deadline. A Museum-based Treasure Hunt organized by Judson Brown had families scouring the Island and more prizes flowing and melting. Other kid's projects are underway. One is "Coal Shed Coffee, just announced yesterday afternoon. The coffee grinding crew apologize for the smaller than expected inventory. As a sign of the times, a supply chain problem has stranded the coffee beans at the Five Island Farm Store, but is now expected to arrive on Monday.

Financially, all this was accomplished starting with \$0.00 and ending debt-free and cash in hand of \$414.85. With the advice of the SICO Finance Committee, we will soon be opening a Museum bank account.

Looking ahead, we intend to continue Coal and Ice into, and possibly through , next summer. We are talking with object owners about return or winter storage.

Finally, working with the Recreation Committee, we are in the planning stages of an exhibition featuring "Artists of MacMahan," to be shown in parallel with Coal and Ice and displayed between the windows of the Playhouse, as originally proposed by Paul Brown. Much work is required and volunteers are invited.

Submitted by Nick Stone; presented by John Welch