



FOLK ART SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA

PO Box 1773 – Lunenburg Nova Scotia – B0J 2C0

Email: folkartsocietyofnovascotia@gmail.com

Newsletter #4 – May 2025

Welcome! We are back in your inbox to keep you updated with FASNS matters. A lot has been happening in the interval.

Our new look

In this first edition of our 2025 newsletter we are pleased to launch our striking new logo. We thank Alison Mitchell for her excellent work in creating an image that reflects folk art and our rich seafaring history with a modern twist. You will see this bold new look on our website, social media, posters, and letters. We love it and hope you do too.

Exciting news

We are excited to announce that Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has approved our application for charitable registration. This means that we are a registered charity under the Income Tax Act, and we can now move confidently forward and approach prospective donors to secure the viability of FASNS in these challenging times. We thank Sheila Woodcock and David Oyler for their perseverance and work on our application.

Summer Exhibition

Unfortunately the Board has been unable to secure premises in Lunenburg to repeat our two previous successful summer folk art exhibitions, which attracted visitors from all over Canada and abroad. This setback is disappointing, but we continue to explore possibilities and will keep you posted.

Folk Art Museum/Centre

The Board continues to explore real estate options to acquire space for a folk art museum/centre in Lunenburg or Lunenburg county. We are considering either a new build or renovation of an existing property. A museum/centre will enable the Board to collect, preserve, and exhibit folk art of cultural, artistic and historical significance. It will serve as an educational and inspirational space, fostering learning, understanding and appreciation of folk art as well as providing opportunities for the public's enjoyment. We are in communication with property owners and developers and we will keep FASNS members informed about possibilities.

Recent Happenings

The FASNS Board held meetings on January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, and May 24. We welcome Kim Farmer as a new member of the Board.

Recent Events:

Congratulations, Barry Colpitts: In April, renowned Nova Scotia folk artist Barry Colpitts was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal at a special presentation ceremony hosted by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS). Sarah Fillmore (CEO) welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speakers —Ann Birks who gave a moving talk of her long friendship with Barry and Betty Ann, and Senator Colin Deacon who also spoke warmly of their enduring friendship and the importance of authentic events like this one in these difficult times. Barry graciously thanked the organizers and speakers, and everyone for coming. There were standing ovations all round and the event concluded with a reception and photographs.



Photo: Barry Colpitts at his home in East Ship Harbour, NS.

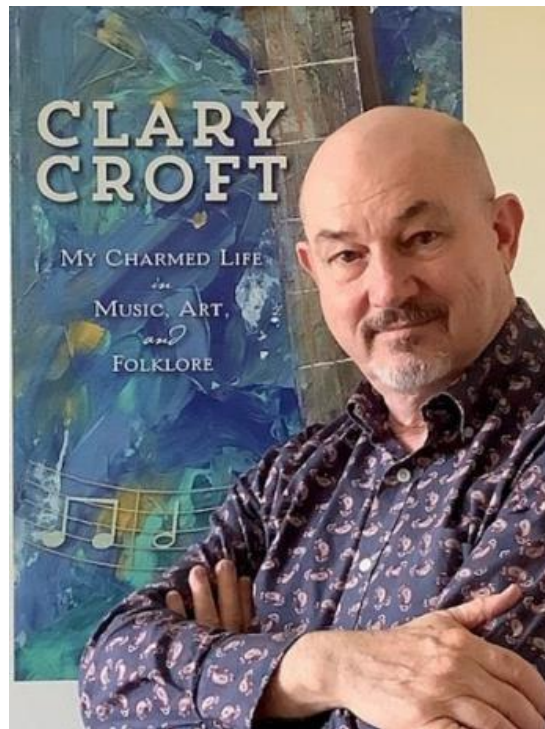
Miller and Miller Auction: East Coast Canadiana and Folk Art Featuring the Chris Huntington Collection, April 12.

FASNS members may be interested in viewing the results of the Miller and Miller auction of primarily Lunenburg County furniture and folk art from Chris Huntington's personal collection, retrieved from his homes in Blockhouse and Kingsburg, e.g. the Albert Lohnes chair, below. The sale also included works from the Ellen (Huntington) and John Williams collection. View the collection at millerandmillerauctions.com



Speaker Series, May 4: Clary Croft

Clary Croft, born in Sherbrooke NS, performer, author, folklore researcher, recording artist and producer, gave an excellent presentation on folk art. He is best known for his work with the collection of the internationally renowned folk law pioneer Dr. Helen Creighton. Clary offered several challenges as to what is folk art vs folk craft vs contemporary offerings called folk art. His spontaneous rendition of two folk songs —one in Gaelic and one in German —was an added plus to the afternoon. We thank Wendy Ross Eidson for videoing the event.



Upcoming Events

FASNS Speaker Series

New location: All events will be held at **St John's Anglican Church Parish Hall** (Corner of Cornwallis and Townsend Streets, Lunenburg). Admission free, donations welcome.

Sunday, June 8 at 2pm: Shannon Parker

Shannon Parker, Laufer Curator of Collections, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS). Raised in the Annapolis Valley, Shannon joined the AGNS in 2006 following work at the National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian) in Washington, DC, and Santa Fe, NM, where she managed the art collection of the Indian Arts Research Center.

Shannon will enlighten us on the AGNS collection of mid twentieth century whirligigs and show images from the gallery's folk art collection.



Sunday, September 14 at 2pm: Laura Kenney

Born in 1965 in Moose Jaw, SK, Laura Kenney began rug hooking when she moved to Truro, NS in 1998. Her work combines, fine craft, contemporary art and folk traditions with a feminist and environmentalist twist. In 2010 she was juried into the Nova Scotia Craft Council and in 2016 her work was included in *Terroir: A Nova Scotia Survey*, an AGNS exhibition looking at the NS fine art scene. Her works *Morning Routine* and *Waiting for the Cat to Let Her Out* have been purchased by the Nova Scotia Art Bank.

Laura will speak about her work as a fibre artist, including her recurring hooked images of “Judy” who humorously overcomes the pressures and challenges of everyday life.



Sunday, October 5 at 2pm: John Neville

Born 1952 in Halls Harbour, NS, John Neville is renowned for his intaglio prints and paintings that depict the folklore, boat building, and fishing tradition of Halls Harbour. His works appear in numerous collections including the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS), Confederation Centre Art Gallery PEI, Acadia and St. Mary's University, NS, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Geneva, Switzerland.

John will speak about his collection of over 30 hooked mats by Ellen Gould Sullivan (1907-2002) born in Black Rock, Kings County, NS, and renowned for her pictorial hooked rugs of domestic life, biblical scenes, and her childhood memories.



Acknowledgements

We thank Judith Carey for her expertise in developing posters and illustrations for our events, and Alison Mitchell for designing our new logo and constructing our multi media communication platforms. Their generosity and support is much appreciated.

And, we thank members, visitors, volunteers, and speakers for their support of our events and fund raising activities!

FASNS Board of Directors

Inge Hatton Iris Cosh Sheila Woodcock David Cosh Alan Deacon

Linda Eyre Marilyn Mackay-Lyons Kim Farmer James White Sue Kelly