

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

SHAND HOUSE MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To introduce the story of the upper-middle class Shand family, businessman and pioneer cyclist Clifford, his wife Henrie, and the significant professional achievements of their children Errol, a celebrated glass chemist, and Gwendolyn, an early social worker.
- » To tell the story of the 1890s house and its original features and furnishings in the context of Windsor's industrial and economic history, and the link between the two in the Windsor Furniture Factory.
- » To present the social history of first half of the 20th century Windsor and the early history of the community.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities: How did Windsor differ from other small communities?

C. EXPLOITING

C.4 Commerce

- Internal Nova Scotia Commerce: Furniture making as a local/regional business; use the Shand example to communicate how small manufacturing operated in the 19th and early 20th century.

D. RELATING

D.5 Education

- Higher Education: What was available? Explore the success of both Errol and Gwendolyn.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life: How did a house like this function?
- Childhood Experiences: Was the life of the Shand children markedly different from others in Windsor? How so?

E.2 Communities

- Coastal Towns/Villages

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Architecture: Style and construction of the house. How long would it have taken to build? Where did the fittings come from?

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

B. EVOLVING

B.6 Agents of Change

- Human Activity and the Environment: Avon River (view plane and causeway) is a popular conversation piece.

B.7 Understanding Our World

- History and Sociology since 1945: Daughter Gwendolyn was a pioneer in the establishment of the Maritime School of Social Work. In later years, she was a well-known and respected local historian.

C. EXPLOITING

C.3 Industry

- Manufacturing Initiatives: The Shand-owned furniture factory; a significant local factory and employer representing change brought about by the Industrial Revolution.

D. RELATING

D.2 Governance and Politics

- Women's Rights & Universal Suffrage: How did the rights of women evolve? What were the benchmarks?

D.3 War and Defence

- Nova Scotians at War: Shand's son, Errol, fought in WWI; archival material and artifacts exists. Explore the impact of WWI on the province, not just Halifax.

D.7 Social Equality

- Privilege/Social Circles: The Shands were an affluent, privileged family; not your typical Windsor family. Was there a social elite in Windsor? What was the impact of Halifax on their life?

E. LIVING

E.3 Recreation

- Informal Play: A collection of Gwendolyn and Errol's toys exists to explore the nature of early 20th century childhood play.
- Organized Sports: Bike racing is an important Shand story.

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

C. EXPLOITING

C.4 Commerce

- Banking and Business Services

B. EVOLVING

B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

- Outmigration: 20th Century

B.6 Agents of Change

- Rural Depopulation since 1945

D. RELATING

D.2 Governance and Politics

- Better Terms/'Maritime Rights'
- Women's Rights & Universal Suffrage: How did the rights of women evolve? What were the benchmarks?

E. LIVING

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Literature/Poetry/Drama

E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Philanthropy & Social Conscience: Daughter Gwendolyn Shand was one of the first instructors at the Maritime School of Social Work and a founder of the NS branch of the Canadian Association of Social Workers.

CONCLUSIONS

The site demonstrates that a whole host of interesting stories can be developed that comment on small towns in Nova Scotia in the early 20th century; upper-middle class life, manufacturing, and educational opportunities.