Scotia Historical
Society meets monthly
between September and
May to hear and to discuss
individual papers about
personalities, places, and
events integral to the
history of Nova Scotia.

For more information about the Society, including a list of publications available, visit our website at:

**RNSHS.CA** 

## The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society



Schedule of Meetings Fall 2017 Since the establishment of the Society in 1878, 44 volumes of the Society's *Collections* have been published. In 1998, the Society began publication of the *Journal* of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, a successor to both the *Collections* and the *Nova Scotia Historical Review*. It is published annually, and Society members receive a copy as well as notification of the Society's lecture series and general meetings.

## Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society Publications Price List

	Members	Non-Members
Current Issue of <i>Journal</i>	Free	\$30 Canada
		\$35 USA
		\$40 International
		\$20 Student
Back issues of Journal	\$15	\$20
Back issues of Collections (limited availability)		\$5 each

To join the Society, or to order any publications, send a cheque or money order with this slip to:

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society P.O. Box 2622 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P7

You can also join on-line by visiting our website: RNSHS.CA

Membership: \$30.00 Canada \$35.00 U.S.A. \$40.00 International \$20.00 Student Application Form

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
Fmail:



## The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society P.O. Box 2622

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P7

## THE ROYAL NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lectures are held at 7:30 pm. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Nova Scotia Archives, 6016 University Avenue (at the corner of Robie Street). Society lectures are open to the public and are completely free, except for the RNSHS's annual banquet lecture. Please check our website, RNSHS.ca for details, as well as biographical information on all presenters. Please note that the December lecture is held on the second Wednesday of the month.

September 20,2017 7:30 pm

Folklore - Is it Relevant in the 21st Century?

Phyllis R Blakeley Memorial Lecture

**Clary Croft** 

October 18, 2017 7:30 pm

The End of the "Gentlemen's Agreement": the Collapse of Catholic Education in Nova Scotia

Robert Berard

Mount Saint Vincent University

November 15, 2017 7:30 pm

"The people's rights we have sustained"

The Nova Scotian Repeal and Annexation Movements (1867-1869)

**Mathias Rodorff** 

LMU Munich and Dalhousie University

December 13, 2017 7:30 pm City's Saviours: The Military Response to the Halifax Explosion

Col. John Boileau (Ret'd)

Once known as the study of Popular Antiquities, then Folklore and, now, Intangible Cultural Heritage, the collection and analysis of oral and material culture is often seen as quaint and irrelevant in today's society. Nothing could be further from the truth. Folklore researcher, Clary Croft, whose mentor was Dr. Helen Creighton, will explore the traditional aspects of Nova Scotia folklore and discuss his impressions of this field today.

This paper looks at the history of the so-called "Gentlemen's Agreement" between Nova Scotia Premier Charles Tupper and Archbishop of Halifax Thomas Connolly to provide limited public support for Catholic schools within a non-denominational public school system, particularly at the collapse of that informal arrangement just over one hundred years later. Demographic, political and cultural changes in Nova Scotia within the Catholic Church put an effective end to the "Gentlemen's Agreement" and, in turn, to the closure of most non-public Catholic schools in the province.

In September, 1867 the Dominion of Canada was challenged by the newly elected Nova Scotian government which wanted repeal and by anti-confederate groups from Yarmouth calling for annexation to the United States. Although these opposition movements failed, they had significant impact that merits re-examination. Mathias Rodorff will discuss the causes and courses of the Repeal and the Annexation Movements, the controversial role of the Mother Country and the contribution of the press and thus will offer new perspectives on the relationship between Confederation and the people of Nova Scotia.

When the Belgian Relief ship Imo collided in the Narrows of Halifax Harbour with the munitions-laden Mont-Blanc at about 08:45 on the morning of December 6, 1917, it started a fire that eventually resulted in an earth-shattering explosion at 09:04:35, perhaps the largest man-made, non-nuclear explosion in history. Halifax and Dartmouth were unable to cope with the scale of the disaster and emergency assistance was desperately required. Other cities and towns in Nova Scotia quickly mobilized help and American assistance from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York also was dispatched to the stricken city. In the interim it was the large number of Canadian, British and American soldiers, sailors and nursing sisters who were in the city at the time that immediately came to the city's rescue. Their response saved lives, prevented further destruction and stopped looting—in short, they prevented the disaster from becoming greater than it was. The important role the armed forces played in the rescue and recovery operations has never been given the formal recognition it deserves. It remains a mystery why the contributions of the servicemen and women who offered so much in the explosion's aftermath have never been officially acknowledged.