



The Society Times

Volume 3 Number 7 FALL 2023

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Important Notice:

To receive a paper copy of newsletter sent by mail, there will be an annual charge of \$10.00.

Our mission is to preserve, promote, and enhance Government House as a public heritage site.

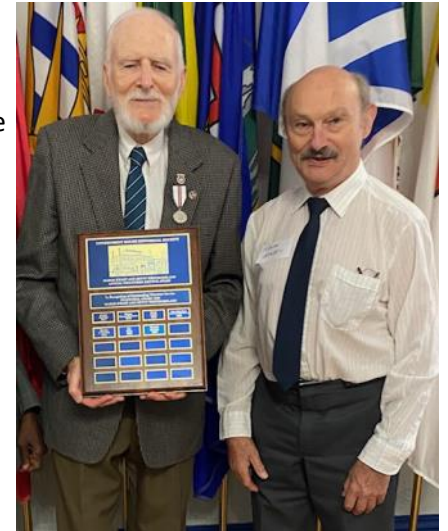
President's Message

Three major Society events occurred since the last edition of the *Society Times*. These were the *Members' Meet with the Lieutenant Governor*, the *Volunteer Recognition Tea* and the *Roarin' 20s* mystery night.

This was the first opportunity since the appointment of His Honour, The Honourable Russ Mirasty and Her Honour Donna Mirasty, to hold this event. The previous event was 5 years ago when the Honourable Tom Molloy was appointed. The format of an informal pie and coffee social was again used. His Honour Russ Mirasty was introduced by Sheila Carson, President at the time of his appointment. I believe His Honour is the sixth LG during Sheila's time with the Society. His Honour gave a short address which included a brief description of his recent meeting with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace and also expressed his appreciation for the contribution the Historical Society makes to Government House.

The *Volunteer Recognition Tea*, which recognises the contribution of volunteers, by both nomination and hours donated, was well attended with 66 in attendance. I had the pleasant task of introducing the winner of the Marge Ewart, Betty Westmoreland Service Award with this short note:

"I first met this year's recipient, not at GHHS, but soon after I arrived in Regina when he was leading walking tours downtown. His enthusiasm for local history was immediately apparent and, as I now know, extends to his being a member of the Society and supporting many of our activities ranging from Vintage and Collectibles to becoming a seasoned decorator and more carefully, a de-decorator of the House at Christmas. He has worked for a considerable time helping the House personnel in cataloguing their collection of photographs and artifacts, although I suggest it is unwise to ask about the finer points of the fineness of the thread, pattern and size of lace doilies. It is not unusual for an artifact before him to prompt a comment or story which might have even some factual origin. This trait may have come naturally to a person with an Irish family name who grew up in a town named after a fictional character, Josiah Flintabbatey Flontin. In many ways this recipient is a background person, willing to help when asked, and frequently as a hands-on, backroom person supporting the Society and not seeking personal glory. I have pleasure in awarding the Marge Ewart Betty Westmoreland Award to 'Not Who but' Vincent Murphy."



Vincent Murphy, the recipient of the highest award with Adrian Golbey.

(Continued on page 3)

Government House

The calendar days continue to roll to another exciting season at Government House. We are all about Halloween and Christmas...yes, I said it, Christmas...these days.

Let me start by telling you a bit about the current art show which will be up until January 15, 2024. *Through a Granddaughter's Eyes* features two artists, Leann Clifford and Donna Clement. Leann Clifford describes her work as an interpretation of stories told with hints of humour by her grandfather, but evident between the lines is the danger, the loneliness, and the need for self-reliance. Donna Clement describes her work as pieces that explore various elements of her grandparents' migration journey and their joys and struggles.

By the time you read this most of Halloween may already be fading back into the night. Know that we did our best to share all of Government House's spooky tales over several events and evenings. That leads me into the splendor that is Christmas! When registration for Christmas programming opened all spots were filled within the first two days. We will be having one class after another starting November 21 right through to December 20.

Decorating the house for the season is always a great experience. As a bonus it will also be the starting week of our new Assistant Manager, Robin Lynch (We'll feature Robin in the next issue). Be sure to reach out to Rebecca if you are interested in helping. To make sure everyone gets lunch, for decorating we will need to know the number of people by November 9, for undecorating we will need to know by January 10.

Decorating Day is Thursday, November 16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Un-decorating Day is Tuesday, January 16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Old Fashioned Victorian Christmas returns Friday, November 24

at 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. If you'd like to help during this event, please let Rebecca know by November 16. There are many areas that need assistance, and we need a bit of time to organize a schedule. It is always a great event, with horse-drawn wagon rides, caroling, hot chocolate & cookies, and special visitors from the North Pole, not to mention all the visitors.

I apologize if I somehow made Fall seem too short by mentioning all things Christmas! I figure if we must start thinking about it so should everyone else

Dare I say it...Happy, fast approaching, holiday season!



Chad Debert
Manager



These works are examples of the artists telling the stories of their grand parents uniquely and creatively. Whenever you are in the House, stop by to enjoy the art show on the second floor



President's Message cont'd

From the anecdotes I have heard, the *Roarin' 20s* event was remarkably successful. This, the inaugural event of this magnitude, took considerable planning and effort in finding or cajoling volunteers to act in various capacities over the last 18 months or so. It is a credit to all those involved. This event shows that Society members have diverse skills and abilities that are often hidden until challenged to undertake activities outside the Society's well-established events.

Adrian Golbey, President.

From The Lieutenant Governor's Office

The Lieutenant Governor is our Sovereign's representative in Saskatchewan. One of Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty's many enjoyable responsibilities includes welcoming visiting heads of state and diplomats to the province. During his time in office, His Honour has had the pleasure of hosting numerous representatives from other countries at Government House. Often, they exchange gifts, and the visitors sign the LGO's official guest book.

On August 22nd Lt. Governor Mirasty met with Irish Consul General Janice McGann.

On July 24th, His Honour showed His Excellency David L. Cohen, Ambassador of the United States of America, the Saskatchewan Residential School Memorial.

His Honour most often meets with foreign dignitaries in the Receiving Room including:

ZHAO Liying, Consul General of the People's Republic of China on April 14th

Her Excellency Fatima Braoulé Méité, Ambassador of Mali on April 6th



His Honour met with His Excellency David L. Cohen, Ambassador of the United States of America at the Saskatchewan Residential School Memorial



His Honour with Her Excellency Fatima Braoulé Méité, Ambassador of Mali



His Honour with ZHAO Liying, Consul General of the People's Republic of China



Irish Consul General Janice McGann with His Honour

GHHS VOLUNTEERS: The Society's Invaluable Asset!

2023 is gradually rolling out because everyone is now focusing on Christmas and other events surrounding it. The *Christmas Tea* request forms were collected and guests are already aware that they were picked.

GHHS Volunteers are always willing to step in to help when needed. This is greatly appreciated. To get enough volunteers, I look forward to when I will not have to book volunteers to work double shifts, especially during the tea.

Please watch out for an update request form that will be sent to all volunteers and even members to update information and also allow volunteers to indicate/reconfirm areas of interest. I encourage all volunteers to start thinking about this before getting the form so that you can indicate at least two or more areas in which you will want to continue to volunteer. For example, for volunteers who work in the ballroom during the tea, choosing at least two areas allows you to work every month if you so desire. This also allows me to have more volunteers in each area who could step in when needed. In a nutshell, it broadens volunteers' experience and gives them more opportunities to work as much as desired.

I want to use this opportunity to thank you all for your continued commitment. It seems early, but since this newsletter is the last one for the year, I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy year in 2024.

Rebecca Otitoju, Volunteer Coordinator



Rebecca Otitoju, presenting the Volunteer Recognition award to Gayle White

Important Notice - Volunteer Hours

It is very important that I receive, on a monthly basis, all your hours of volunteer work you did outside of Government House or in your home. Majority of our awards are determined by the hours recorded to you. Here's the link <https://govhousesociety.ca/volunteer/hours/> to access the online form you need or call me to get a printed copy. Thank you for your commitment.

Welcome New Volunteers & Members

Margaret Dagenais V

Dolores (Dolly) Dyck V

Kathy & Chris Hebert M

May Hobbs M

Betty & Dale Knapp M

Lucy Mazden V

Magi McFadden MV

Joann McKay V

Chad Debert & Lisa Merk M

Peng (Hans) Meng V

Sandra & Gunter Niklas M

Jocelyn Torjusen M

Katherine Yesensky V

Sandy Zelinski V

M = Member MV = Member & Volunteer V = Volunteer

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless
Sherry Anderson

Victorian Tea Room

Afternoon tea has been popular since the early 19th century when the Duchess of Bedford needed a little something to overcome “a sinking feeling” between breakfast and a late dinner. I often wonder if, in 1991, Marge Ewart and Betty Westmoreland ever imagined their idea of a tea at Government House would persist for so many years beyond its one-year expectation.

Many things have changed over the years but the original vision and the dedication to excellence of those pioneering volunteers persist to this day.

We are already into preparations for the Christmas tea which promises, once again, to be a sold-out event.

Sheila Carson, Tea Room Coordinator



Richard Taylor working in back landing at one of the teas.



Adrianna Conrad in the kitchen



Dianne Emmins, a ballroom volunteer was one of GHHS volunteers who received the Pin award

Vintage & Collectibles

It's hard to believe that as I write this at the end of a deliciously benign September, I am planning for our Christmas sales. But such is the life of a member of the Vintage and Collectibles (V & C) committee. Given the timing of our sales, our Christmas starts early, at the November sale and gathers full force in December.

We have spent the summer gathering all sorts of goodies for our sales and the storage room is bursting at the seams with well loved crystal, china and linen donations as well as some oddball items—like a small cupboard shaped like an English telephone box; just the thing to display a collection of small items.

So if you are looking to enhance your Christmas display, add to the sparkle of your festive table or finding a gift for that special someone at affordable prices, seek us out. Buyers and browsers, all are welcome.

Susan Hogarth, Chair



Gayl Hipperson and Elaine Miller, preparing for the sale during a tea weekend

Upcoming Events & Announcements



Dickens Singers

Dickens' Yuletide Singers Christmas Concert



in the Ballroom at Government House
Saturday, December 9, 2023 and
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Concerts begin each day at
1:00pm and 3:00pm.

Our gift to the community

Christmas Decorating

- **Christmas Decorating Day** is Thursday, November 16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

- **Christmas Un-decorating Day** is Tuesday, January 16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Please call Rebecca Otitoju 306-787-5363 or send her an email at rebecca@govhousesociety.ca if you are available to volunteer for any of the above events.

Old-fashioned Victorian Christmas

at Government House

Friday, November 24, 2023

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Visit Government House website:

www.governmenthousesk.ca

for details.

Please note: Volunteers are needed for this event.

Please call or email Rebecca Otitoju if you are available to help.

Christmas Gifts

Some of the best gifts possible
are a copy of our
history/recipe book, with our
own tea blend

***All of Us Together & Victorian
Tea Blend.***

Besides delicious tested recipes,
and a taste of our Victorian Tea,
these two are very good for your
relaxation time. Please consider
them for gifts or as Stocking
Stuffers.



Not for Profit Lifecycles Capacity Building Project

The Board spent the summer developing a Strategic Plan for our Lifecycles project, which was then vetted by facilitator, Gwen Dueck. The plan was based on the information gathered from the surveys in which all GHHS members were invited to participate.

It was decided to begin our second phase of the Lifecycles project with board education. This will, in turn, include some restructuring as well as focusing on By Laws and Policies. Continuing work on other areas such as communication will unfold as we proceed. An Education Workshop will be facilitated by Gwen Dueck in late November.

Thank you to everyone for participating in the surveys. Our organization is growing and improving because of your engagement. GHHS is noted for its strong force of committed volunteers. We are building on that cornerstone in the areas of administration and management.

Jeanne Alexander & Lorna Bingaman, Not for Profit Capacity Building, Spearhead Committee

“Capacity is another word for organizational capability and confidence.” (P.12) Nonprofit capacity requires practical solutions, grounded in solid diagnosis, to produce organizations that are strong, durable, and capable. (P116) Susan K. Stevens, PH D, in “Nonprofit Lifecycles”, 2008

Past Boards Training Events:

- Communications between Board and Committees, offered in January 2023, by Brie Hnetka and Chad Debert.
- Social Media Workshop, offered on March 16, 2023, by Elizabeth Hill and Chad Debert. All interested volunteers and the board were invited.

Borrow the CVAF Banner

Our committee purchased a banner which can be used for any GHHS event. It is stored in the storage room. We also purchased a photo stand with cutout headspaces and a Victorian man, woman and child's body painted on the front. Folks had lots of fun getting their photos taken in this. It, too, is available for any GH or GHHS function. Contact Jeanne Alexander.

Culture Days

“Create, Share and Celebrate”: GHHS Vintage & Collectibles Sales were featured on the federal initiative, culturedays.ca. September 22 to October 15, 2023. They were also featured on *Toast 'n Coffee* CJTR 91.3fm, and on *Talk of the Town*, Access Now, as part of *Culture Days* celebrations. Good publicity for GHHS.

Jeanne Alexander, V&C PR Committee



Congratulations to our GHHS board member and volunteer, **Jeanne Alexander**, who won the Arts and Culture Category of the *Saskatchewan Seniors' Volunteer Awards*, on Sunday October 1st.



Volunteer Recognition Committee (VRC)

The 2023 Appreciation Tea was a successful event, a time for volunteers to meet each other and socialize as we enjoyed the dainties prepared by Shannon Coleman and her staff from Indulgence Fine Foods and Catering. We received good feedback, some of which the committee will use to improve future events.

During the Appreciation Tea, 29 volunteers received different awards based on the hours they worked in 2022 and two awards were by nominations for the Marg Ewart and Betty Westmoreland award (MEBW) and the Volunteer Recognition award. This year, we also had the GHHS Pin award for all volunteers who had been with GHHS between 15 and 19 years. On behalf of VRC, I congratulate all volunteers who received these awards, you all deserve it. See the list of award recipients and pictures from the Appreciation Tea on pages 8 and 9.

As I have always mentioned in the past, recording and submitting your hours worked outside of Government House (GH) is very important. I respect the options of some volunteers, not wanting to be recognized, however, submitting those hours helps to record the contribution of GHHS to GH and to the province of Saskatchewan in general to keep this historic site open and accessible to the public.

Please take note of the new Volunteer Code of Conduct on page 12. This form is replacing the Volunteer Policy that is currently signed at the annual workshop and the new volunteers during the required information session. I started using this form for the new volunteers who attended the information session in October. This form will be made available to all GHHS volunteers to read and sign.

I thank the VRC members, Lorna Bingaman, Gail Bradley, Bonnie Fladager, Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre, Doreen Patel, and Pat Taylor for their hard work in ensuring a successful event of saying thank you to GHHS volunteers. They did a wonderful job planning and executing the event. Thank you all!

Rebecca Otitoju, Chair, VRC Committee



Right: A section of GHHS volunteers at the Appreciation Tea

Below: Adrian Golbey, GHHS President presenting Vincent Murphy with the MEBW award.



I wish to express my sincere appreciation on the occasion of being the recipient of the 2023 Government House Historical Society Marge Ewart & Betty Westmoreland Service Award. It has been, is and will continue to be a great pleasure to participate in the various GHHS activities - with such a dedicated group of enthusiastic supporters of our beloved museum.

Cheers! Vincent Murphy



A Big Thank You
to all our door prize donors

GHHS ("All of Us Together")
Cookbooks & Victorian Tea Blend
Vintage & Collectibles (Gift Basket
& Jewelry)
LGO (Coronation Mugs)
GH (Gift Certificate for 2 for Boat
Ride)
Victorian Tea (Gift Certificate for 2
to the tea)

Volunteer Recognition Committee (VRC)

Congratulations: All Award Recipients

Award Recipients

A special congratulation to all GHHS Volunteers and to the following volunteers who received their awards at the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Tea on August 27, 2023.

**Marge Ewart and Betty Westmoreland (MEBW)
Annual Volunteer Service Award**
Vincent Murphy

Volunteer Recognition Award
Gayle White

Dedication Award
Sheila Carson, Adrian Golbey, Susan Hogarth, and Gayle White

Loyal Award
Jeanne Alexander, Charlene Balion, Terry Bedard
Lorna Bingaman, Sharon Hurst, Elaine A. Miller,
Doreen Patel, Bonnie Racz, Debbie Rainville
Catherine White, and Jacqueline Wight

New Volunteer Award
Janice Ackerman, Veronica Bosche, Debbie Boulanger
Marlene Callfas, Adriana Conrad, Linda Detta
Eileen Fisher, Hassan Ghafoori, Mary Loewen, Shirley Paterson
David Thompson, Catherine White, and Kathy White

**Jocko's Friends
Graduation Award (16 years)**
Adesuji (Suji) Adeneye

Dedicated Award



**Hillary Patel, who
helped with registration
at the Appreciation Tea**



**Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre with
Suji, the recipient of the JF
Graduation award**



**Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre with
Terry Bedard receiving the
award on behalf of her
grandson**

Other Awards

GHHS Pin Award for 15-19 years of service
Lorna Bingaman, Gail Bradley, Marlene Buitenhuis
Ray Buitenhuis, Sharon Cross, Bill Demyen
Dianne Emmins, Wanda Emmons, Bonnie Fladager
Ann Grahame, Sheila Henderson, Leona Howe
Natalie Ostryznick, Debbie Rainville, Dale Richardson
Janette Richardson, Linda Robertson, Lucja Sycko
Judy Taylor, Lizhi Wang, Eva Wasserle, and
Margaret Wilde



**Bill Demyen and Lizhi Wang
recipients of GHHS Pin award**

Roarin' 20s Committee



The *21 Club Speakeasy* and *Mystery Murder at the Gatsby Mansion* was a smashing success and the feeling of anticipation and excitement was noted in the air on September 23! The event received upbeat and positive feedback from both guests and volunteers, with everyone having a great time! Most of the guests dressed up in Roarin' 20s costume and had fun with their personal character descriptions. Entrance to the Speakeasy was by secret password located on their Membership card, which was provided to the Club Bouncer at the door. The goal of *friend raising* was achieved as ticket purchasers were mostly new to Government House from Regina and communities across Saskatchewan - many asking what events were on the horizon as they would like to attend!

The 21 Club décor with its black, gold, pearls and feathers made for an upscale and ritzy Speakeasy. The 21 Club Bouncers who took our guests through the secret tunnels with décor of brick walls, whisky barrels, graffiti and doors leading up to above ground establishments allowed our guests to feel like they were shifting from 2023 to 1923. Some guests even believed they needed to go back through the tunnels in order to get back to Government House to go outside! Chinese food was popular and exotic back in the 20s and our guests were pleased with their dinner. The guests had fun getting their drinks from the bartenders who helped take them back in time with conversation and *Giggle Water*. The GH Signature *Bees Knees* cocktail was enjoyed by all, with some guests even asking for the recipe!

The support from the volunteer actors and community was amazing and so appreciated by the Committee. The actors playing the role of 7 different suspects and one Gumshoe commented that they had a blast working on this project. The guests enthusiastically played the *Mystery Murder*, writing down motives, opportunities and clues on their investigation sheets, and then eagerly sharing their views back at their tables during Death by Chocolate dessert. The Whodunnit Reveal in the Speakeasy had guests laughing, clapping and interacting with each other and the Gumshoe! Twenty-three guests guessed the correct murderer, and one prize draw was given, along with 4 other door prizes.

Guests who played 50-50 had a chance to win big coin of \$330 and the game of *Heads 'N Tails* was played during the evening, allowing for more entertainment and interaction with the guests and another big winner of \$200 cash. There were many happy smiles, moving bodies and laughter as flappers and mobsters started hoofing it up during the instructed 20's dancing as the final activity for the event. The evening ended at 11:30, with a few hangers on not wanting to leave the party - volunteers and guests are saying this was a fantastic event and an experience enjoyed by all!

The Committee is so appreciative for all the volunteer help that went into making this event and would like to thank:

The Actors:

Zetta the Silent Film Star - **Kaydence Banga**; Maggie the Maid - **Annika Danielson**; Tommy 4 Guns - **Laurier Donais**
Mona the Charleston Dance Champion - **Lori Donais**; Ms. Wyleen Black the Reporter - **Anastazia Pearce**
Beanie O Dannon - **Jeff Ring**; Handsome Sam - **Harley Sinclair**; and Gumshoe Fouseau - **Tyler Toppings**

The Writers: Charlene Balion (Lead Writer and Producer), Lynn Ridgeway, Vincent Murphy and Elayne Bennet Foxx

The Steering Committee: Charlene Balion and Chad Debert, Co-Chairs, Iris Sirke, Secretary, Jeanne Alexander and Lynn Ridgeway.

With **many, many thanks** and gratitude to all the volunteers who participated in making this event a reality: Marlene & Ray Buitenhuis; John & Sheila Citron; Samantha Dech; Jacqueline Donais; Lori & Laurier Donais; Dale Gareau; Ann Grahame; Sheila Henderson; Dan Hunt; Dennis Nagel; Dale and Janette Richardson; Shea Poncsak; Lhizi Wang; Jacque Wight; Gayle White and Joanne Wreakes

(Continued on page 11)

Roarin' 20s Committee cont'd

And last, but definitely, not least, we would like to thank the **Community supporters** for their donations of radio advertising from Rawlco Radio, hair and make up for the actors from Avant Garde College and Exquisite Events for providing table linens and centerpieces.

Charlene Balion & Chad Debert, Co Chairs
Roarin' 20s Committee



Gangster Dale Gareau



Mystery Murder at the Gatsby Mansion Cast and Lead Writer.

Top Left: Jeff Ring, Beanie O Donnan
Top right: Laurier Donais, Tommy 4 Guns,
Right to Left: Harleyn Sinclair, Handsome Sam, Annika Danielson, Maggie the Maid, Lori Donais, Mona the Dance Champion, Anastasia Pearce, Wyleen Black the Reporter, Kaydence Banga, Zetta the Silent Film Star, Tyler Toppings, Gumeshoe Fouseau and Charlene Balion.



Bar Tenders: Dale Gareau, Dale Richardson and Ray Buitenhuis



Picture of Tunnel decor, 21 Club Bouncer (Jeff Ring)



Guests at the event



Gayle White at the registration table

Contact us

GHHS

4607 Dewdney Ave.
Regina, SK S4T 1B7

We're on the Web!

www.govhousesociety.ca

Like us on  

PHONE:

306-787-5363

FAX:

306-787-5714

E-MAIL:

rebecca@govhousesociety.ca

Newsletter Committee and

Editorial Team:

Gail Bradley
Rebecca Otitoju
Gayle White

Information Update:

Have you moved to a different address or changed your email?

Please call:

306-787-5363 or email
rebecca@govhousesociety.ca
with your new information

Photo credits and resources:

George Carson, Chad Debert
Dale Gareau & Charlene Balion
Ann Grahame
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
James & Rebecca Otitoju
Gayle White
Toshiba Business Solutions (Copier)

**Deadline for submission
to The Society Times
January 5 2024**

*Alone we can do so little;
Together we can do so much
- Helen Keller*

Volunteer Code of Conduct

Volunteers will...

- Serve to the best of their abilities in their areas of interest and skills
- Attend mandatory information sessions, orientations and volunteers' events
- Treat others and be treated with respect
- GHHS supports and follows the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code 2018
- Receive and provide direction and feedback constructively
- Be dependable, committed and professional
- Report concerns to Committee Chair or the Volunteer Coordinator
- Always put safety first in all activities
- Not accept monetary offers or gifts in kind
- Record voluntary hours when checking in or out of Government House for security reasons and tracking hours. In addition, keep track of volunteer hours when working outside GH and forward monthly to the Volunteer Coordinator.

I, _____ have read and accept the Volunteer Code of Conduct.

(Print name)

Volunteer

Volunteer Coordinator
OR Committee Chair

Date

Editors Message

We are lucky enough to welcome a new member to our newsletter committee. Gail Bradley, a long-time member and volunteer, is now a co-editor on the Newsletter Committee. Welcome, Gail.

Congratulations to the Roarin' Twenties Committee for such a successful event. It seemed like a hundred volunteers took part in that. What wonderful volunteers we have!

The Board is still at work on the *LifeCycles Project*, to make improvements to help us all work together in a better, more united way. This project will be ongoing well into next year. Here is something for you to **think about** in the coming months: **Would you be willing to become a Board member?** To keep the Historical Society strong, we need committed board members from a variety of backgrounds who are willing to offer their ideas and opinions to the mix. The Board is there to support the volunteers and to help committees meet their goals. Please do think about it, you might be just what the Board needs. And a new year is just around the corner.

Gayle White, Co-Editor, Newsletter Committee



Adrian Golbey, presenting
Gayle White with the
Dedication Award

