

“Save Nova Scotia’s Electoral Boundaries”

Presentation to Law Amendments Committee, Nov. 15, 2012

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As a teacher of **40** years in the province of Nova Scotia, and as an **avid historian**, I feel it incumbent that I share my concerns on **behalf of the present and future students of Shelburne County**. Many of these students are nearing **voting age** and I feel it also behooves me to speak to and for them, regarding the **“historical” boundary changes** which are about to take place.

For eight years, students of Barrington Municipal High School have been attending the **International Gulf of Maine Institute Conferences** in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. They have learned to share environmental concerns such as invasive plants, tidal surges and oil-spill disasters. We have also shared our **common heritage** and are proud of how culturally connected we are.

The **Town of Shelburne** was of course founded by the **Loyalists** who travelled up from the Thirteen Colonies in **1783**. These “New England Loyalists” naturally spread throughout Shelburne County. There was also a large **“Black Loyalist”** contingency who called Shelburne and Birchtown home. The **Township of Barrington**, founded in **1759**, was settled by New England Planters, who followed after the Expulsion of the Acadians in 1755. Cape Sable Island and other Shelburne

County fishing communities can trace their ancestors back to the **New England fishermen** who came up to fish on the Grand and Georges Banks and then to settle here.

The residents of Shelburne County are proud of their heritage! The **Shelburne County Genealogical Society** is recognized internationally. In the early 1990's, I helped organize for **Discover Shelburne County**, a special **Genealogical Research Tour** of Barrington, Shelburne and Lockeport (three Shelburne County towns). One of the participants, from North Carolina, was able to **personally** handle "**Family Land Grant**" papers from 1783! How thrilling and **memorable?**

How do we **expect our present and future generations** to continue to have **pride in their heritage** if we are a **divided** county? We will be the **only** county in Nova Scotia with **no county voice** in the Nova Scotia Legislature! Founders of **Barrington Township** have always served in the Nova Scotia Legislature since the 18th Century, ie. John Sargent represented **Barrington Township in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly from 1793-1818**. Who will represent us **now?** If we can't teach our students to **appreciate their past** we will fail to give them a reason to care about improving their present environment or **to want to have their voices heard!**