

# Mary Anne Riordon-Barry

## Bathurst Branch



Mary Anne, a 2015 retiree from District 16, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics and a Bachelor of Education degree. Her love for history and genealogy has resulted in her fulfilling a goal of writing a history of the rural community where she grew up and where she and her husband, Allan, currently live.

Mary Anne has written, translated and designed a brochure entitled ***Cead Mile Failte, The Heritage of Pokeshaw, Black Rock and Surrounding Areas***. The brochure is available at her community's Recreational Centre.



In the summer of 2017, Mary Anne chaired a committee for a **COME HOME Reunion** for the community. The turnout was large and the event was a huge success.

She has written a biography of her father, Guy Riordon Sr, a former Gloucester County Councillor, who was honoured for his 26 years of volunteer service, and as a life-long builder of the civic, agricultural and church communities in the larger area of Grande Anse and of the county of Gloucester. She says that she learned much about his life when he was away from the farm. Her research resulted in a report which is now on the Wall of Honour in the Museum.

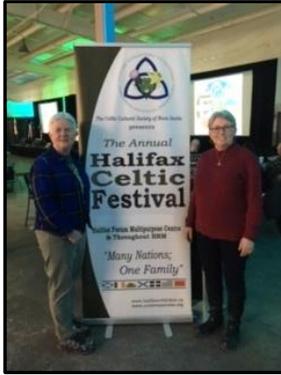


Asked to be the Curator of the Irish Gallery in the Museum, Mary Anne researched, prepared and presented "***The Movement of Peoples To and From Ireland***" (found on the east wall) and "***New Brunswick's Irish People***" (found on the west wall). She has made displays of authentic artifacts for the Gallery, among which is a display from Archives NB of the "***Famine Ships That Arrived.***" She says that the Irish Gallery is not finished and that she keeps adding things as she learns about them.

Mary Anne has written interpretive panels for the Pokeshaw Park, a NB Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture VISTA PROJECT site. These panels, printed on aluminum, welcome the public and explain the history of the community. They will be installed in the spring of 2020.



Mary Anne's involvement in genealogy has given her the opportunity to help individuals search for their Irish and Scottish roots so they can travel to their ancestors' homeland. She organizes an annual tour through Maritime Travel Miramichi for twenty-six persons to afford them the excitement-filled experience of visiting the lands where their ancestors once walked.



Retirement has given her time, especially during the winter season, to complete research and to write about such things as the role Irish immigrants and their descendants played in New Brunswick. *“There will be many more winters, God willing. Many of my other hobbies sit waiting for me.”* She has had time to travel with her husband, Allan, to some of his work areas and to vacation in the south and in Europe.

Mary Anne and Allan have two children in Calgary and their youngest is at Dalhousie University. She says, *“We are enjoying these years with good health and, so we must!”*

If you have an idea for a *SPOT LIGHT Feature*, contact Larry Farrell: [farell@rogers.com](mailto:farell@rogers.com)