

INTERNATIONAL RUNIC STONE SYMPOSIUM

Yarmouth County Museum and Archives
Sunday, September 4th, 2011
22 Collins Street from 8:30 AM- 4:00 PM
Admission is FREE!



The public is invited to participate as these stone detectives examine clues, challenge theories, and maybe even finger the stone carving ancient visitors that left us a millennium old message. Who were these people, when were they here, why did they come and what did they want to tell us? Or is it all a hoax?

Join us for a Meet and Greet Saturday Night, September 3rd, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. For more information and symposium daily schedule, please check the Museum's Facebook Page or the Museum's Website:

<http://www.yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca>

Questions? Please contact the Museum at (902) 742-5539.

The official conference hotel is the nearby Rodd Grand Hotel

<http://www.roddvacations.com/rodd-grand-yarmouth>

Yarmouth “Runic” Stone Symposium

Everyone loves a mystery and Yarmouth has one that may be over a thousand years old. This one has clues etched in stone, four hundred pounds of stone to be exact, and its secrets lay in the Yarmouth County Museum for all the world to see. And eyes from around the world will in fact be riveted on Yarmouth County’s runic stone (also known as the Fletcher stone) as an international symposium gathers to attempt to unravel its secrets.

The Yarmouth "Runic" Stone symposium is taking place on September 4 at the Yarmouth County Museum (YCM). The Yarmouth "Runic" Stone (also known as the Fletcher Stone) has been the subject of wonder, mystery, and controversy ever since it was discovered in 1812 (almost 200 years ago). Overall, the symposium program will address the known history of the Fletcher stone, as well as many of the theories that have been advanced to explain it.

After Dr. Fletcher discovered the stone near a path that led to a primitive ferry dock, he moved it to a spot near his home, where it stayed for the next 60 years. Around 1872, it was moved to the grounds of a local hotel, and later put on display at the Yarmouth Library. Shortly before World War I, the Fletcher Stone travelled to Christianna (now Oslo), Norway, where it was shown at an international exhibition. It was then taken to London, England, where it would remain in storage at the offices of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as ocean travel during the war was hazardous, and it was deemed too risky to transport the stone. It finally returned to Yarmouth sometime after the Armistice of 1918.

After some debate in the 1960s over who actually owned the Stone, the artifact was eventually granted to the Yarmouth County Historical Society, and moved to its current location at the YCM. Although the nature of the inscription is still a matter of debate, the Norse rune theories have persisted (while being hotly controversial), thus giving the Stone its common name, the Yarmouth "Runic" Stone. In the interest of scholarship, the YCM prefers to remain neutral and does not support any one theory. Research materials on the Fletcher Stone are available in the Archives of the YCM.

The symposium on September 4 has been organized as one of the special events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Yarmouth by settlers from New England. Some of the speakers at the symposium will also discuss the other mysterious, and possibly related, stones from the Yarmouth area, such as the Bay View Stone, the Lent's Island Stones, the Plymouth Stone, the Tuskett Cellars, etc. Some of the speakers will also try to place the Fletcher stone in the context of a wider theory of early exploration in North America.

The public is invited to attend this symposium, as these stone detectives examine clues, challenge theories, and maybe even finger the stone carving ancient visitors that left us a millennium old message. Who were these people, when were they here, why did they come and what did they want to tell us? Or is it all a hoax?

<http://yarmouth250.com/our-events/events/view/yarmouth/342-runic-stone-symposium>

http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca/runic_stone.html

Yarmouth “Runic” Stone Symposium — Program

The symposium takes place at the Yarmouth County Museum (YCM)...

<http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca/index.html>

Saturday, September 3, 2011

7:30 PM — Meet-and-greet reception and registration, YCM.

8:30 to 9:00 PM — Informational video.

Sunday, September 4, 2011

8:15 AM — Doors open at the YCM. Coffee and registration (no charge, but YCM accepts donations).

8:30 AM — Town Crier, Dave Ollie, issues opening proclamation.

8:35 AM — Opening remarks: YCM Director/Curator — Nadine Gates,
Symposium Coordinator — Arthur Geisel,
Yarmouth Mayor — Phil Mooney,
Symposium Convener — Terry J. Deveau.

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM — Rob Rondeau, *Vikings in America*.

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM — Ken Langille, *The Runic Stone*.

10:30-10:45 AM — Coffee break.

10:45 AM - 11:25 AM — Dr Richard Nielsen, *Postulated Yarmouth Stone Stutt Rune Row*.

11:25 AM - 11:55 AM — Alan Wilson, *The Fletcher Stone is a Coelbren Inscription*.

11:55 AM - 1:30 PM — Lunch break. Attendees are responsible for their own lunch. Those who wish to go as a group to a local restaurant (*Rudders*) can sign up for that at registration.

1:30 - 2:15 PM — Ken Langille, *Other Stones in Southwestern Nova Scotia*.

2:15 - 3:00 PM — Steve Voluckas, *Crossing Paths Crossing the Atlantic*.

3:00 - 3:15 PM — Coffee break.

3:15 - 3:35 PM — Kris Cann, *Markers or Graffiti*.

3:35 - 4:10 PM — Terry J. Deveau, *Fitting It All Together*.

4:10 - 4:20 PM — Concluding remarks: Symposium Convener — Terry J. Deveau,
YCM Assistant Director — Adrienne Beaudette.

4:20 - 6:00 PM — Optional guided tour of local area, including the location where the Fletcher Stone was found and Cap Forchu (participants are responsible for their own transport, but car pooling is encouraged).

6:15 PM — Optional farewell group dinner at a local restaurant (*The Colony*).

Presenter: **Rob Rondeau**

Vikings in America: Separating Fact from Fiction

Marine archaeologist Rob Rondeau is looking for Vikings. Since 2009, he's been working on several projects in western Norway. He's also well versed in Viking lore here in North America – part fact and part fiction. Join him as he tries to separate one from the other!



Rob Rondeau has been studying shipwrecks for almost 20 years both here and abroad. He's passionate about protecting Nova Scotia's marine heritage and helped convince the Province last year to abolish its Treasure Trove Act.

He also teaches an introductory marine archaeology seminar several times each year at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic — in co-operation with the Nova Scotia Archaeological Society — and encourages volunteers to get involved with his projects.

Rob Rondeau is the senior marine archaeologist for PROCOM Marine Survey and Archaeology. His company provides its services on a contract basis to both the public and private sectors worldwide. He is an active Scuba diving instructor and he's also a former occupational diver. His area of speciality is diving wrecks and he is the only PADI diving instructor in Canada to teach the distinctive specialty course, Advanced Wreck.

Originally from the prairies, Rob is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan – where he earned an Advanced Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in both Archaeology and Anthropology.

He has just finished his first book, “Titanic Lives: the Famous & the Forgotten,” which will be published early next year in time for the 100th anniversary of the late great liner's sinking.

Rob now makes his home near Lunenburg.

Presenter: **Ken Langille**

The Runic Stone: Fake, Fraud or Fact

This session will look at the history of the Yarmouth Runic Stone and the various researches into it since its discovery in the 1800's — including various theories on its origins and the reports of scholars and academics who have attempted to unravel its mystery.

Stones and Formations in Southwestern Nova Scotia

This session will be a review of the numerous stones located and recorded over the years at numerous sites throughout Southwestern Nova Scotia. Besides the Runic Stones, others addressed will be the Lear Island Stone, Green Island Stone, Pubnico Stone and others. Are these evidence of Pre-Columbian activity or merely scratches and frauds.



As a hobby, Ken Langille has been exploring evidence of Pre-Columbian contact in Atlantic Canada for more than 30 years. He is a retired teacher, history buff and life member of the Yarmouth County Museum.

Presenter: Dr. Richard Nielsen (prerecorded video)

A Postulated Yarmouth Stone Stutt Rune Row Compared to the Stutt Runes on the Gursten Stone of Småland, Sweden, the Narssaq Runic Stick in Greenland, and the Ladoga Runic Stick in Russia, Dated Respectively Circa 900, 1000, and 850 AD

Finally some sense might be made of the Yarmouth inscription stone of Nova Scotia. Old Norse words can be determined on the Yarmouth inscription by using a Stutt rune row from Sweden (c. 900) with certain key assumptions to make a one to one correspondence to the signs on Yarmouth. These signs are also compared to the Narssaq Runic Stick (c. 1000) of Greenland, and Ladoga Runic Stick (c. 850) of Russia, both carved in Stutt Runes. Since Narssaq was found on Erik the Red's farm in Greenland, Yarmouth might even originate during the voyages described in the Leif Eriksson's Sagas. Time will tell.

No attempt has yet been made to confirm that Old Norse **mark** (forest), **alla** (all), **jæmn** (such a), and **ær** (is) suit the grammar, spelling and vocabulary of Old Norse in the period 850-1000. This still requires a detailed investigation by experts in Proto-Norse. We are dealing in the dim past here and still much can be learned about Old Norse and Stutt Rune usage of this period.



Dr. Richard Nielsen is an independent researcher, who has been studying the Kensington Rune Stone and other North American runic writings for three decades. Having completed master's degrees in mathematics and marine engineering leading to his former career in the U.S. Coast Guard, Dr. Nielsen earned a doctorate in technology for the University of Denmark. He has worked as an engineer all over the world in the Oil and Gas business and lived for lengthy times in Lebanon, Paraguay, England, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Norway and Spain. His many years in Denmark and Norway enabled him to study runes, learn to read Swedish and Norwegian, and perfect his knowledge of Scandinavian history. "My work with distinguished Swedish scholar, Professor Henrik Williams, is the best thing I have accomplished for advancing research on the Kensington Rune Stone of Minnesota, the Heavener Rune Stone of Oklahoma, the Narragansett Stone of Rhode Island and the Spirit Pond Rune Stones of Maine".

His most recent work has been the initiation and supervision of a 3-D imaging analysis of the Kensington Rune Stone. Dr. Nielsen, now lives in Houston, TX. To see his latest research, visit his website at www.richardnielsen.org.

Presenter: Alan Wilson (prerecorded video)

The Fletcher Stone is a Coelbren Inscription

Coelbren is the ancient alphabet used by the ancestors of the Welsh people for many centuries. These people were called Khumry and their language Khumric. There still exist many ancient Coelbren-inscribed Khumric stones in Wales, and other parts of Britain. Such stones can also be found in other parts of the ancient world from where the Khumry (who were the ancestors of all the Brittonic peoples of Northwestern Europe) migrated and voyaged. A number of such stones have been found in North America, due to a Khumry migration from Britain in 564 AD.

The Fletcher stone was recognised as bearing a Coelbren/Khumric inscription by Dr. William Evans, and a translation was published by him in an article in the Welsh magazine *Y Drych* dated April 15, 1948. Wilson and co-author Baram Blackett have made a different translation, correcting certain errors made by Dr. Evans, and have determined that the Fletcher Stone appears to be a very important record of a great king of the Khumry, who's desiccated body was transported from Yarmouth back to Wales for burial in 579 AD, after having been assassinated in North America. Ancient historical texts in the Khumric language, still extant in Wales today, provide corroboration.



Alan Wilson and Baram Blackett have been researching these authentic British histories for well over 35 years, and unfortunately have met with nothing but extreme opposition from the academic community. They are the authors of nine books on the subject of ancient Khumric history and archaeology.

<http://kingarthurslegacy.com/index.html>

(Additional biographical information here:

<http://treasure1.tripod.com/wilson.html>)

Presenter: Steve Voluckas (prerecorded video)

Crossing Paths Crossing the Atlantic

Nova Scotia has been an important cross road in the exploration of North America by Europeans. This presentation examines some locations in Nova Scotia where Norse explorers/settlers may have visited and attempted a settlement, as interpreted from the Icelandic Sagas. It also discusses how another group of explorers may have arrived at the same location, 400 years later, perhaps utilizing information learned from descendants of the Norse. How and where these two groups crossed paths and how they utilized the knowledge of those who went before is the subject of this presentation.



Steve Voluckas is a pilot for Island Airlines in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and Producer/Director of public access TV programs at C3TV Comcast channel 17 on Cape Cod. He is involved with Multicultural Festival of Cape Cod, Cape Cod Immigrant Center, and Lithuanian-American Community of Cape Cod. His interest in possible Norse (and other unexplained) sites between Nova Scotia and Rhode Island began in 2005. He participated as a volunteer in archaeological digs at the Newport Tower in 2006, 2007, and 2008. Steve has also conducted research into the origin of Dighton Rock, and how it may have a connection to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. He joined NEARA in 2006 and now serves on the NEARA Board.

Presenter: **Kris Cann**

Markers or Graffiti

It was once written that: *Along The Annis (Salmon) River, there was once found two strange inscribed stones, one on an island in the mouth of the river. Another at the head of the tide.*

As a child I was absolutely mesmerized by that strange black rock with a line of scribbles sitting in the Yarmouth Museum and the possibility of its connection with the Viking sagas. Ever since, I have not been able to resist looking at rocks in every province that I have lived for some sign of marks or graffiti left by some indigenous peoples. You can just imagine my surprise when, after sitting discussing local lore, my brother-in-law presented me with a university text with the aforementioned quote in it.

Living on the Annis River, I was quick to consult the locals of any mysterious things they may have seen. Armed with fresh information, I jumped into my canoe and headed for some rediscovery.



Kris Cann is a professional pilot by trade. After a cyclic low in the industry he moved to Yarmouth and obtained employment at the local airport as a weather observer and operations supervisor. Kris has spent every summer of his childhood combing the banks of Lake Vaughn looking for arrowheads and curious features when the lake was drained. This has led him to research the life and decline of the past inhabitants of that area, and he has spent over a decade searching the woods and waters for curiosities that history may have left behind.

Presenter: **Terry J. Deveau**

Fitting It All Together

After 200 years of controversy, how can we seriously assess the Yarmouth “Runic” Stone? This presentation will weigh the evidence for the different theories that attempt to explain the Fletcher Stone inscription. It will also discuss other notable findings that were made in the vicinity over the years, many of which are not widely known, and the extent to which they may fit into the Fletcher Stone puzzle.



Having grown up in Lake Doucette, Clare District, Digby County, Terry J. Deveau now lives in Herring Cove, Nova Scotia, and works as a senior scientist in ocean acoustics (environmental science and defence contractor), specializing in computer models of underwater sound, ocean data analysis, and sonar performance. He holds a BSc in Math and a Diploma in Engineering from Saint Mary's University, as well as a Master of Science in Acoustics from Penn State University. Terry has devoted much of his spare time to historical study and investigating reports of unusual stone ruins in Nova Scotia since 2002. Terry has been a member of the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) since 2003 and its Regional Coordinator for Maritime Canada since 2005.

Terry is currently Secretary of the Nova Scotia Archaeology Society (NSAS), Secretary of the Mi'kmaq Burial Ground Research and Restoration Association (MBGRRRA), as well as a member of the Nova Scotia Historical Society (NSHS), the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), and La société historique acadienne (SHA).