

roots & folks: community spirit

Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society

Canso, NS

CANSO WAS flourishing in 1884, when the Commercial Cable Company established a small community at Hazel Hill, just two miles outside the town. In addition to having an office and maintenance buildings, the company provided more than 20 homes for married employees, a bachelors' residence, a clubhouse, a school and a church, as well as tennis courts and a cricket pitch.

In 1888, an impressive new brick and granite structure replaced the original wooden cable office; 11 years later the building was expanded again, making it the largest in the area.

Commercial Cable had a huge presence in global communications. By 1928, the company had laid seven submarine cables between North America and Europe and, at the peak of its operations, employed up to 75 people. For more than four generations, the company was a major employer in the area, promoting itself as being "the most technologically advanced cable station of its time."

The Hazel Hill facility operated until 1962, when the last superintendent of Commercial Cable, Charles Holness, sent the final message over the cable and turned the station off. The building was abandoned and remained vacant for more than 40 years.

The Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society, recognizing the contribution the company made to the area, is endeavouring to revitalize the old cable office for use as a contemporary business complex.

The online fundraising program includes the Virtual Wall of Commercial Cable Families; if your family has a connection to Hazel Hill, you might be interested in purchasing space on the wall for a biography and photo.

All donations will be recognized on the society's website.

For more information contact:

Harold Roberts, Chair

Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society

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(902) 533-4433

website: ccrsociety.ca



12th Canadian Baden-Powell Guild, Halifax, NS
Advocate District School, Advocate Harbour, NS
Aeolian Singers Association, Halifax, NS
Aliant Pioneers New Brunswick, Saint John, NB
Battle Harbour Historic Trust Inc., Portugal Cove-St. Philips, NL
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Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, Mahone Bay, NS
Bluenose Decorative Artists, Dartmouth, NS
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Osteoporosis Canada (NS Chapter), Halifax, NS
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River Philip United Church Women, River Philip, NS
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St. Andrew's ACW, Indian Harbour, NS
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The Flower Cart, New Minas, NS
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Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield, Spryfield/Halifax, NS
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Raise Funds for your Community Organization

Saltscapes Magazine Community Spirit Partnership is designed to help not-for-profit organizations raise funds for community-based causes by making subscriptions to *Saltscapes* available for sale. Eligible organizations receive \$10 for each new *Saltscapes* subscription sold. The good works of these groups also receive increased profile in the community: in each issue of *Saltscapes*, one Community Spirit Partner will be profiled.

In order to be eligible for a partnership, an organization must be not-for-profit, located in Atlantic Canada and involved in a community project that is of direct benefit to Atlantic Canada.

For more information and an application, contact:

Saltscapes Magazine Community Spirit Partnership

Attention: Cyndy Donkin

30 Damascus Road, Suite 209

Bedford, NS B4A 0C1

Or e-mail spirit@saltscapes.com

Saltscapes will review applications and respond within 30 days.