

## **NEWS RELEASE:**

### **Inlet Historical Society: An impressive beginning and a permanent presence for the future.**

In the Spring and early Summer of 2009, a group of interested individuals, both Inlet and seasonal residents, established the Inlet Historical Society, elected officers and approved by-laws. In order to attract interest in the organization and the Town's history, four historical presentations were given since then concentrating on Inlet's past and present, as well as describing the early beginnings of Inlet. While two were advertised as repeat events, enough was changed to attract second time viewers.

The success of these events is evidenced that the Society has already attracted over 120 individual and household memberships. Furthermore, attendees and others have offered photos, postcards and other artifacts as well as family histories for us to preserve. We are not presently ready to receive them. The Society's Board is focusing its efforts to qualify as a permanent historical society and asset to the Town of Inlet.

The Society has been offered museum and archival storage space from three donors: space above the Post Office Building by the Inlet Public Library, Arrowhead Park Cottage #4 by the Town of Inlet and a Main Street building by the American Legion's Leonard-Mick-Roberts Post. The Society intends to make full use of the offered locations; but chartering and non-profit status must be achieved first.

We have filed with the Department of Education (DOE) for a Provisional Charter as a Historical Society. Upon approval of the provisional Charter, the Society will be able to apply to the IRS for a 501(c) (3) non-profit recognition.

While DOE-required revisions to our by-laws must be approved by the membership next summer, one change mandated was to establish two new classes of membership: Contributing/Sustaining Membership (for those wishing to make larger contributions than Individual or Household categories), \$50, and Institutional Membership for organizations, \$20. Our new membership form and website reflect these revisions. In appreciation, charter member names will be displayed permanently and Contributing/Sustaining member names will be displayed annually. Also, we plan to hold monthly membership gatherings starting next year.

The Board will soon examine funding sources such as state, local and Federal grants for historical associations and non-profit organizations. This is necessary because membership dues can not be expected to cover infrastructure costs such as building repairs and maintenance, as well as computers, printers, scanners and other office equipment and supplies for preserving artifacts.

What can members and the public do to assist our efforts? The Society established several committees in July when membership was small. If you wish to contribute your talents, we invite you to contact the Society if you wish to be on any of the following committees: Publications, Membership, Funding, Auditing, Finance, Collections, Museum, Nominating and By-Laws. Also, since the Society plans to accept a building, we ask if someone wishes to donate legal services for this transfer.

We are also asking Town businesses and Inlet property holders to provide the Society a copy of their Abstract of Title, especially if that property was formerly a place of business. Town and seasonal residents can examine their records and prepare a family/property history, perhaps enhanced by family photographs. Maps, Abstracts of Title, photographs, family/property histories can go a long way towards assisting our building the history of Inlet. Hopefully, we will in the near future be able to store and protect that history.

Finally, we plan a “locals’ history event” in February 2010 when local and seasonal residents will be invited to bring in their photos, postcards and other Inlet memorabilia and share their histories. We expect to be able to scan appropriate items for purposes of sharing with the audience as well as for the Society’s future records.

Thank you for your support; we continue to receive new memberships. Thank you also for your interest in preserving Inlet’s history. for membership and other information. We invite your suggestions for what you’d like to see on our website and at future presentations.

Visit our website at [www.InletHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.InletHistoricalSociety.org)

Charles Herr, President  
Inlet Historical Society