

## **2021 Merit Award Citation – Bridgetown Historical Society**

As with so many other Affiliated Societies, Bridgetown has been busy during the past two years and COVID doesn't seem to have stopped them! Bridgetown, with their small number of active volunteers has demonstrated a number of innovative ways to bring local history to the Bridgetown community and make it interesting. The Society mounts two exhibitions a year in their Museum in the former Police Station. The interpretive panels were recently upgraded and the interpretive material also includes audios, with snippets from the Society's oral history collection, and a visual screen showing documentaries and photographs. To assist the visually impaired, the Society has also begun creating two braille brochures, with tactile maps. Easy to Read Cards have already been installed next to the new interpretive panels.

Further engagement with the community is done through regular Facebook posts and school and tourist groups regularly visit the Museum which is opened three days a week by volunteers. An interesting activity for the winter months is ghost walks through the town. They have proved popular as they are always booked out. Regular cemetery walks take place during the summer months.

Another great idea, that has recently been implemented via the Society's Facebook page, is to request community members post their memories on the Society's newest Facebook page called: Memories of Bridgetown. A wonderful way to collect information easily and quickly!

Not content with all of that work, the Society is currently researching the orcharding industry in Bridgetown/Greenbushes that will culminate in a publication sometime in 2021/22. All of this activity takes place against the daily backdrop of regular research requests, photo requests and monthly meetings. A busy Society with some very innovative ideas!

Congratulations Bridgetown Historic Society!