

THE BARBIE BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Barbie Doll Club



OCTOBER 2004



On the Cover: Vintage Halloween Post Card

Rebecca Douglass took photos from the meeting; they will appear on her website for our club www.members.accesswave.ca/~douglass/barbie/ - Album 2.



This Newsletter

Has been prepared by Rebecca Douglass Since we no longer have a regular newsletter editor, members of the NSBDC agreed to take turns producing a newsletter. At each meeting we ask for a volunteer to produce the next issue, and I offered to do it this time. Remember, this is not a huge job: each volunteer is free to do the newsletter as she pleases; there is no set form. Even if all you want to do is a one-page meeting report and notice of the next meeting, this is fine—the important thing is that the Bulletin is produced after each meeting and sent to all members.

Thanks to Rebecca Douglass for hosting, at her home, October 9, 2004 meeting to celebrate "Halloween" Barbie of course had the perfect Party! One might think that a meeting of four Barbie enthusiasts is no meeting at all; but if you count all the Barbies in who were present, it was very well attended. Even if it was just a Halloween *Party*, it was lots of fun. We enjoyed food and tea and setting our dolls in different poses for Rebecca's camera.

We met at **1PM on Saturday, October 9th, 2004** Rebecca Douglass, Minnie Mollins, Sandi Little, and Eileen Graham. The weather was beautiful and sunny and Minnie was able to attend from New Brunswick. You will, of course, be able to see some of the Barbies present in the photos here, but as you know, Barbie is a doll who is best appreciated in person.

We mention about the Displays that the Members had at the **Mayflower Doll Show and Sale** went over tremendously with the Public. Sandi had her **Barbie Coke Display**, **Eileen Her Silkstone'** and **Rebecca had Vintage Barbie's in Wedding Scene**. We had 3 tables of Displays and one Information Table. Rebecca has the Photos on line of the Show. Here is the Link:

<http://community.webshots.com/user/rj30h>

<http://www.members.accesswave.ca/~douglass/barbie/>



SHOW AND TELL

Eileen found a treasure at the Sackville flea market: a Vintage Barbie dress, **Sheath Rust** in color with white dots 1960's \$1.00.

Sandi has developed an appreciation for vintage dolls since joining the club, and indulges this interest by collecting the New Silkstone Barbie's with vintage faces, as well as the reproductions. She purchased **Gold Label Repro "Open Road."** She also received from her Swap at the Silkstone Group a Purple Hat and Purse, Chic by Dorothy. A doll dressed in 1950 called **Mickey and Pals NRFB.**

Minnie brought her **New Halloween Barbie** called "**Boo Tiful**" 2004 gift from her Husband for her Birthday. She also brought a doll called **Elle 15 inch** by **Jakks Pacific.**

Rebecca got a **Vintage Red Bubble** for \$20.00 this past month. **Walking Barbie Mod Era** with perfect face but lower legs and feet are cued for a \$1.00 at the church sale. Boots will cover and a Mod pantsuit and an Alan head on knock off body for \$2.00. And Rebecca purchased the **Hallmark Sterling Silver Barbie Bracelet** for Barbie's 45th

Anniversary. Minnie brought Rebecca one of the Halloween Masks she got at the Value Village for \$3.00; so she could add to her Halloween Dioramas.

**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS: PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS!
EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY,
WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND PICTURES TOO!**

OUR CHRISTMAS PROJECT: Sandi reported that she will donate Barbie dolls to Coverdale at Christmas on behalf of our club. Remember, our Christmas project is ongoing, and it is never too soon to collect those thrift store dolls to refurbish and redress for December. It is important that our club continues with this charitable effort. **Rebecca and Eileen** have already turned in 50 Charity Dolls to Sandi for the Christmas packages. If you have any items for Sandi please contact her as they have to be in before we meet in December. Be sure to bring any play Babies you have collected for donation new or refurbished. Bring extra outfits and accessories, including shoes and brushes, and let's have fun combing and dressing beautiful Babies and slipping them into colorful Christmas bags.

Did You Know?

The Nova Scotia Barbie Doll Club is six years old! The first meeting was held on January 18, 1998 in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, and the "Original Six" members were Danielle Graham, Toby Jodrey, Toni LaRusic, Lyn Millward, Heather Munro, and Val Smith.

Minnie told us of a new Barbie Club started in Bangor Maine, "Pink Shoe Society" She hopes to attend their second meeting November 22 2004 Monday afternoon; As she and her husband are going to Bangor for a Holiday 22 to 29th.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Rebecca Douglass on **MONDAY** afternoon, **December 6th. 1 to 4 PM weather permitting.** What to bring? **Desserts to share** and a **gift for the exchange** with a value of \$10-15. **The Theme for DECEMBER** meeting was decided on as **"BALL GOWNS"**. And Sandi has agreed to do an article on **Fashion Royalty Dolls.** She said **My Favorite Doll is have it First Convention of these dolls in 2005**



Victoriana Halloween History

The resurgent popularity of the holiday Halloween during the Victorian era is rather amusing. Along with the séances that were popular and other forms of divination and "spiritualism," it was believed that if a girl looked in a mirror on midnight October 31st, she would see reflected there the image of her husband to be. The postcard at right says: "Don't be afraid on Halloween. If you take a lighted candle and a mirror clean. At the stroke of twelve, look in and there's seen the face of your lover that I wean [imagine]."



There were other ways a girl could divine her intended's identity: if she peeled an apple in one long strip, and threw the peel over her shoulder, the fallen peel would form the letters of her husband's initials. Or, she could sleep with the peel under her pillow that night and dream of him. This romantic period of history had a lot of girls very curious about whom they would marry. They gladly risked missing sleep, slicing a finger, and staining pillow cases, all for love! (Tongue planted *firmly* in cheek.)

The Victorian society, for all its apparent stiffness, was a lively and rich period of history (if you were comfortable, financially). Interest in the occult flourished in this time, and many charlatans took money from credulous people who wanted to know what the future held. Palm reading, dream interpretation (largely due to Freud and Jung), tea leaf reading, and even "Ouija" boards were common at parties as parlor games. And why not? America and England were prosperous places. England, in fact, was at its height of power, and the "sun never set on the English Empire" due to Victoria's colonization. The Western world was a pretty good place to be in the early 1900s.

Yes, I know, it wasn't all wine and roses. But what period of History is? Turn-off-the-century sensibilities gave us Dana Gibson's beautiful drawings of the ideal Feminine Beauty (and it was *not* Barbie). Winsch Publishing gave us gloriously rendered postcards for any and every occasion imaginable.



Halloween hasn't always been the candy-begging holiday it now is. Once upon a time, before Christianity was widespread, agricultural societies celebrated the last harvest of the year at this time. The celebration (in the

British Isles) was called "samhain" (pronounced "sow-en"), a Celtic word meaning "the last harvest." This big party was in part to give thanks to the gods and goddesses of harvest, but also an affirmation of life. Winter was coming, and if the harvest was poor, many would not survive it.

Those farming folks also believed that the "veil" that existed between the living and the dead was thinnest on this day, and ghosts could want among the people once more. It was considered courteous to set a place at the dinner table for any departed family members.

The name "Halloween" comes from All Hallows' Evening, the day before All Saints Day. When the Christian church had trouble converting the Pagans to their way of thinking, they moved All Saints Day (a day of honoring the dead) to coincide with the Pagan Samhain (also a day for honoring the dead). It was in this fashion the Pagans started mixing the two holidays, and within probably only a few generations of "pretending" to believe the church teachings, the people did begin believing the teachings and a set of cultural beliefs was largely wiped out.

Many of the common symbols of today come from this time in history, and misconceptions about the Pagan roots of this holiday. The **Ghost**, as mentioned above, is the walking spirit that has passed through the veil for the night. **Witches** are the wise ones of the village. She was probably a midwife and a healer, she may have read tea leaves, but she didn't make cows go dry. The **Black Cat** comes to us from the witch trials, when cats were believed to be the souls of witches wandering out of their bodies to spy on people, or the witch's familiar (who was also a spy). With witches and cats, you get the **Broom**. The idea of a witch flying is just silly. It is possible that village elders used hallucinogenic herbs and roots much the way American Indian shamans use peyote today, but no one ever got on a broom and flew. The besom is actually a witch's tool, symbolically cleaning and purifying her home. The **Cauldron** was also a tool. It cooked the various remedies a wise woman (or man) would have used for healing. It also cooked supper. **Owls** are night birds, and also sacred to the Greek goddess Athena, which is likely where we get that image. Pumpkins and **Jack O'Lanterns** come from the Irish folktale about a wicked man named Jack who made a pact with the devil. He ended up having to walk the earth for Eternity with a glowing coal in a carved-out turnip for a lantern. When the Irish came to America, they found a fruit that was easier to carve, plentiful, and much larger than their turnips: pumpkins! So, the modern jack o'lantern was born.

