

Buttons

I really like buttons and we find buttons often on historical archaeology sites. A button speaks to what people were wearing. And I really like to visualize, it helps me to visualize, a period of the past when I'm working on an archaeology site. And part of that visualization includes thinking about the people that were at a particular site and what they were wearing. What kinds of clothes and how do those clothes speak to their daily lives and the activities that they were doing. At the Africville Seaview Church we found quite a few white buttons porcelain [buttons] in particular and glass- that speak to basic, regular clothing of the day, and that actually we wear today. I mean, many of our shirts have these basic white, round buttons. So, again, another artifact group that has been studied extensively and has many intricacies to it. But at Seaview Church we see a range of buttons that speak to local community folk going to the church for regular service or special occasions.

-- Catherine Cottreau-Robins, Curator of Archaeology, Nova Scotia Museum