



The Griffin

A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

VOLUME ONE NO. 3

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1976

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1. Oct. 31, Open House at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harrington, 5248 Morris St., Halifax, from 2-4:30 p.m.

2. Nov. 12, regular monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.

Speaker: Rosemary Eaton

Topic: "Cole Harbour, it's history and need for control and protection of our green spaces" - illustrated with slides and maps.

3. Nov. 13, Fall Workshop and Annual Dinner at the Jubilee Boat Club. Workshop sessions will begin at 9 a.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Some topics will be:

- a) Identifying and Photographing architectural styles and detail.
- b) How to refinish old furniture.
- c) On restoring and rehabilitating an older home.
- d) Genealogy - How to trace your family.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam:

First may I say how thoroughly enjoyable we found the latest Griffin - our Heritage Trust newsletter and publications are an important resource to expatriate Bluenosers!

I wonder, however, through your columns if you might bring forward a suggestion.

I fear we may be neglecting the preservation and support of the thought, ideas and values of Nova Scotians of the past - in written record. While the Provincial Archives and other agencies do a fantastic job of supporting this sort of project, could we of the Trust not aid in some way?

A major aspect of what I am referring to is the books, pamphlets and other publications of our province. I am, for example, the proud owner of a volume of "Illustrated Halifax" - dated 1891 and a treasured work.

Could we not encourage the development of a heritage library, or alternatively, encourage donations to the Public Archives - whatever it would take to ensure that at least one volume of each of these items is retained for all to have access to.

All the best to you and the members of the Society.

David G. Jones
Fort McMurray, Alberta

THE PAINTED ROOM

For those of you who have been following the drama of The Painted Room of Karsdale, a breakthrough was made on August 21. The Hon. Garnet Brown, in a news release, stated that the Provincial Government was renegotiating for the return of the Painted Room to Nova Scotia.

This announcement came 9 weeks after the formation of the Friends of The Painted Room Committee in Granville Ferry. From that meeting petitions were circulated in the valley and elsewhere; over 1200 names were collected. Coupons in the Halifax newspapers brought in another 354 names.

The Friends of The Painted Room Committee was incorporated under the Societies Act of N.S. in order to receive the first generous and unsolicited donation of \$25,000 from Mr. John Kendall of Windsor. In addition, nearly \$1,000 in small contributions has been received from Nova Scotians and other interested people.

The Committee met with Mrs. Jean Trudel, Chief Curator of Early Canadian Art of the National Gallery, and Mr. Mervin Ruggles, Chief Conservator of the National Gallery. Mr. Ruggles explained that only in the laboratory of the National Gallery could the murals receive full and proper restoration.

In a telephone conversation with the then Secretary of State, Hugh Faulkner, the Chairman was able to explain personally the wishes of the Friends of The Painted Room. He advised the Society, "Don't give up".

In the most recent news release of September 30, the Hon. Garnet Brown said that the Province is awaiting a reply to their letter to Mr. Bernard Ostrey, Secretary General of the National Museums Corporation. Now, the ball is in the federal court.

- Joyce McCulloch
Chairman, Friends of The Painted
Room Society.

SCOTIA SQUARE STAGE IX

In June, officials of Halifax Developments Ltd. presented a proposal for a 15 storey apartment building to Halifax City Council. The building, stage IX of the Scotia Square development, was to occupy the site of the old Police Station. The original Scotia Square development agreement called for a lower 10 storey building on the site.

In a letter to Mayor Morris and City Council, President Phyllis Blakeley expressed concern at the height of the building and its impact on Citadel Hill. She noted that a building of that size so close to the Citadel "would create a stone wall effect". The proposed building, approximately 250 ft. high, would tower approximately 25 ft. above the ramparts. "This area was not considered in developing the view protection legislation," she pointed out, "because it was assumed that the terms of the development agreement would be met.

Later in the month, representatives of Heritage Trust and other interested groups met with the developers. It was the feeling of the citizen representatives the Scotia Square Stage IX should be redesigned to lessen its detrimental impact on the Citadel.

On July 28, it was reported in the Mail-Star that the developers had "placed the whole project in abeyance" for economic reasons.

NEW PROJECT - PUBLIC TOUR

It is the intent of the Heritage Trust to hold a public tour of historic houses in the spring. We plan to charge a fee for the tour; the proceeds will go to the Heritage Trust as part of our fund-raising effort.

We will need individuals who would be interested in working on a committee to organize the tour. Anyone who would like to help in this undertaking, or who can suggest locations of interest, should contact Evan Petley-Jones, Projects Chairman 423-1253.

NEW BOOKS

1. The Wallace Drawings

Final arrangements were made during the summer whereby the Heritage Trust will be able to publish the Album of Drawings of Early Nova Scotia Buildings by architect Arthur W. Wallace, with the help of a generous grant from the Nova Scotia Museum. Mr. Wallace, now living in Ontario, worked in Nova Scotia in the 1930's and recorded many provincial buildings in sketches and measured drawings at that time.

The album will be published in two sizes: a large, hard-bound edition, and a smaller size in soft cover. Text accompanying the drawings describes interesting features of the buildings and gives some historical background, with an extensive bibliography and a glossary of architectural terms. Buildings included are: Province House, Government House, Gorsebrooke, Uniacke House, Prescott House, Martock, and many others.

This is a more ambitious publication than the Trust has previously done, but members of the Publications Committee, who were busy through the summer preparing it for printing, believe that making these drawings available is an extremely worthwhile project. There will be a special pre-publication price to members offered within the next month.

2. Exploring Halifax and the South Shore

This new book, scheduled for publication in November 1976, should be of interest to local citizens as well as tourists. Written by a committee of the Nova Scotia Architects Association, the book will contain tours in and around the city and along the south shore. Book committee chairman was Mr. George Rogers, past-president of Heritage Trust.

CONCERTS IN HISTORIC SETTINGS

"What Salzburg and Athens can do, Nova Scotia can too!" With these words as a motto a Heritage Trust Committee of Mr. Lorne Rozovsky representing the Board, Prof. Kent Hurley of Nova Scotia Technical College and Mr. A.G. Scott-Savage of the Department of Education started a series of "Concerts in Historic Settings". This pilot project consisted of four noon-hour instrumental and vocal recitals in St. Paul's Church and an evening concert in the Red Chamber of Province House. The Red Chamber concert which was an evening of Victorian popular music was subsequently broadcast over C.B.C. Tickets for the Victorian Evening were donated by Manuge Galleries Ltd.

The public response, due in a large measure to the promotional work of Mrs. Pam Collins and Mrs. Elizabeth Pacey, was most impressive. It appears that the Halifax public is interested in the unique combination of our architectural and musical heritage. The concerts attracted people to the two buildings who had never before admired their beauty. This principle that historic structures can be used and enjoyed was re-affirmed.

The concerts were arranged by Mr. Scott-Savage and co-sponsored by the Department of Education and were performed by an excellent array of young and rising Nova Scotia artists.

An assessment of the series will now be made by a committee of the Board of Trustees in order to determine their future. Given proper financing and continued public interest, it is quite possible that concerts which have placed names like the Baths of Caracalla, Herod Atticus, Caesarea and Avignon on the musical map of the world will put Halifax and Nova Scotia on the map as well.

- Lorne Rozovsky

THE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Objectives and Policies

In June the City Planning Department produced a document entitled "Statement of Objectives and Policies for the Halifax Waterfront Development Area". The document recommends the preservation of existing views and the creation of new views (such as views of the harbour down streets) where possible. Historic buildings are listed in two categories: 1) landmarks

that will not be demolished (Historic Properties, Old Post Office, Keith's Brewery, Keith Hall), 2) buildings that should be retained, including the Prince and Hollis buildings, Morse's Tea, Robertson's Hardware, Sperry building, Irving Arch, Post Office Garage and others. The document also states that any request for the demolition of these buildings should be referred to City Council.

Please send articles and items of interest to the editor, Elizabeth Pacey, 1345 Edward St., Halifax, N.S.



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