



The Griffin

A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

VOLUME ONE NO. 4

DECEMBER 1976

1977 PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1. Jan. 18, regular monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.

Speaker: Jon Murray

Topic: "The Evolution of the Halifax House"

2. Feb. 17, Heritage Day - to be announced.

3. Feb. 20, regular monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.

Speaker: Stephen Archibald

Topic: "Decorative Cast Iron"

4. March 17, regular monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.

Speaker: Tim Randall

Topic: "Neegumaage the Indians called it" - from Mic Mac times to the present, illustrated with slides.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There have been many interesting events taking place in our organization in the past few months apart from our regular meetings - the successful summer series of Concerts in Historic Settings arranged by Lorne Rozovsky and held at St. Paul's Church and at Province House; the bus tour to Sherbrooke Village where Al and Leah Lomas entertained us for tea; Open House at the Harringtons; and during the Joseph Howe Festival there was a pictorial display on buildings in downtown Halifax that Howe was associated with. Also for the festival, there was the Heritage Walk on Brunswick Street, organized by Pam Collins in co-operation with the Old North End Community Association; among some 300 who attended, were Premier Gerald Regan and several of his children who toured the Little Dutch Church and other buildings.

On November 4, George Rogers, our past president and author of "Granville Street - a Sense of Place", unveiled a plaque at the entrance to the promenade on Granville Street in honour of William Thomas, the architect who designed the buildings on Granville Street after the fire of 1859. This is the first time that an ar-



Greetings

chitect has been so commemorated by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and recognizes that the buildings are of national significance. This is gratifying to so many of our members who have worked so hard over the years to save these buildings from the wrecker.

For the first time, the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has been bequeathed an historic house! This is Richmond Hill Farm at Windsor. On June 19, 1971 the Heritage Trust had an "expedition" to Ellershouse, Windsor, Falmouth and Wolfville. I can remember having a picnic in a field at Richmond Hill Farm at Windsor and how hospitable Mrs. Helen MacDonald was and how proud of her house, which is described on page 20 of Seasoned Timbers Vol. 1. It was probably built about 1810, but may be on an Acadian foundation.

Later Mrs. MacDonald asked Allan Duffus if the Trust would like her property after her death to care for it the way the National Trust of England does. Allan replied that the Trust had always hoped to own historic buildings, but we were a volunteer organization without an endowment fund or paid staff. This July, Mrs. MacDonald died. She left Richmond Hill Farm to the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, together with the residue of her estate, which will support the house.

The executive has appointed the following committee for liaison with the executor and trustee, Mr. George Robertson --- Allan Duffus, Douglas Price, George Rogers, Pamela Collins, George Stephenson ex officio as treasurer and myself ex officio as president. The members of the executive and board of trustees who were not on vacation visited the MacDonald house in August, and slides

taken by Pam Collins and David Sutherland were shown at the recent meeting of our board, who will be discussing future plans in January. A tour of Richmond Hill Farm will be arranged in June so that all members of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia may visit. This is a gratifying and challenging bequest.

- Phyllis R. Blakeley, President.



Heritage Trust House

COLE HARBOUR HERITAGE

This has been an eventful - if exhausting - year for our heritage society, which is now three years old. An exhibition relating to the history and natural history of the Cole Harbour saltmarsh was put on in the Cole Harbour Meeting House. This display was made possible by the Nova Scotia Museum, and with the help of the Department of Lands and Forests and many other kind people who lent us mounted specimens of birds and animals which can be seen in and around the saltmarsh. The Halifax Field Naturalists dug up and labelled saltmarsh plants for us and the N.S. Bird Society lent us photographs and slides of local birds such as shore birds, Herons, Canada Geese, Ospreys

and Black Duck. Saltmarsh artifacts such as an eel spear and eel pot were on show, also a clam rake and hod. An "Old Salt" made us a genuine lead line - as used by seamen to measure the water depth for chart-making, and we had a photo of part of the chart of Halifax Harbour by Captain Cook R.N. which showed Cole Harbour. There was also a model of the Giles "Saltbox" House and plans relating to it. The display was seen by over 1300 people, including about 300 elementary school children.

Giles House Moved

Some years ago Warden Ira Settle took steps to save the old Giles Saltbox House from demolition. The Cole Harbour Heritage Society was anxious to restore this and a few other buildings. The N.S. Housing Commission, in its plan for the Forest Hills development, proposed a parkland area and the preservation of some historic buildings. Many meetings later and after much work, the proposal developed into a conservation complex of several old farm buildings at the former Stuart Harris farm; it was decided to move the Giles House there and recycle the buildings for recreational and educational use. As a first step, the N.S. Housing Commission made a grant available to the heritage society to move the saltbox house. Our mover did a remarkable job of easing the house on its flatbed out onto the Cole Harbour Road and Westwards along it to the new site. Maritime Tel and Tel eased their wires over the roof as the saltbox proceeded on its slow and stately way along the highway - causing some traffic holdups of course, but fortunately drivers were patient, and even interested. There were some dicey moments as the house climbed a small hill, and again when it lurched and tipped on one side. However it was put safely in place and those with imagination can see what an attractive

group of buildings it will be - if enough help is forthcoming from people, agencies, municipalities and provincial departments, to complete the job. The farm complex, which lies beside a small pond, could be of value to local schools, and a centre for crafts. A photo museum relating to Cole Harbour is also planned. It may include a darkroom in the Giles House to cope with the photographic work of the society, and perhaps a camera club could be started. There is no lack of ideas, just the inevitable setbacks and lack of funds to complete them! If only the carpenters would come, if only the winter storms do not blow our barn down ... perhaps we will be able to invite Heritage Trust members to come and visit the site next summer.

- Rosemary Eaton.



Giles House
1804

FEDERATION CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL

The first one day Conference of the Federation of Museums, Heritage and Historical Societies took place at St. Mary's University on the 16th October, 1976. Funds of the Federation are provided by the Recreation Department, and annual subscriptions paid by the member Societies. The Conference was ably organized by the Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, and the President, Mr. Allan Dunlop, presided over the meetings.

Interesting reports were given on conservation topics by Mr. Henry Ross, Yarmouth Museum, and Mr. Louis Collins, Heritage Trust. A movie on tourism in Nova Scotia was shown by Mr. Charles Zed of the Provincial Department of Tourism, who gave a short talk and also answered questions. Workshop sessions were held and there was an interesting exchange of ideas; the delegates found that they had many problems in common, and in some areas of the province, these problems had been successfully solved.

There was a common interest in the urgent need to obtain from our older residents reminiscences of an earlier way of life, but it was felt that special workshops should be held, and interested persons should be taught the use of complex electronic equipment, and the art of interviewing to obtain specific information. The delegates felt that there should be a central registry to preserve this information after it is recorded.

Among the topics discussed were, the need to map early cemeteries, and record the eroding inscriptions on tomb stones, funding and obtaining buildings for local museums, researching genealogies, the tender loving care needed for artifacts ranging from books and papers, to early steam locomotives.

There are approximately 150 Societies in Nova Scotia eligible for membership in this Federation; they represent a total of thousands of interested residents. It is awesome to contemplate the hours of voluntary work that are undertaken each year by the members of these Societies.

Residents of towns all over the province attended this Conference; they were people of both sexes and all possible age groups, who share a common interest in Nova Scotian history and a determination to make this fascinating subject more widely known. In order to arrive in Halifax at 9:30 a.m., they had been forced to rise early, and drive through the darkness from Pictou, Amherst, the South Shore, etc., displaying a degree of dedication more usually associated with trout fishermen, skiers and rally drivers - not members of historical societies!

Take heart fellow Heritage Trust members, history is alive and well in Nova Scotia.

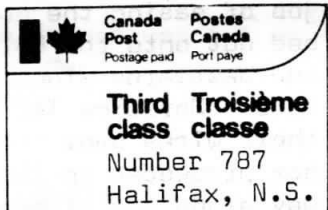
- Jean Petley-Jones
Granville Ferry, N.S.

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SPECIAL PROGRAMME

February 6, 7, 8, 1977 Desmond Guinness, President Irish Georgian Society, slide-lecture series.

1. Sunday, February 6, 1:30 & 5:30 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.
Topic: B.B.C. T.V. 50 minute coloured movies -
 - a) Georgian Architecture in England and Ireland
 - b) Landscape with Buildings - Regency Architecture
2. Monday, February 7, 10 a.m. - 12 noon at the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Dalhousie Arts Centre, seminar with Desmond Guinness.
Topic: Why Conservation?
3. Monday, February 7, 8 p.m. at Queen Elizabeth High School Auditorium, Desmond Guinness, slide-lecture.
Topic: Irish Houses and Castles (past and present)
4. Tuesday, February 8, 9:30 a.m. - 12 (noon) at the School of Architecture, N.S. Technical College, slide-lecture by Desmond Guinness.
Topic: Thomas Jefferson, Architect
5. Tuesday, February 8, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. workshop at N.S. Museum.
Topic: Decorative Arts in Georgian Ireland
6. Tuesday, February 8, 8 p.m. slide-lecture at the School of Architecture.
Topic: Georgian Dublin.

HALIFAX PLANNING

City Staff has prepared four important documents which deal with planning for the downtown, for the waterfront area, for neighbourhoods, and for overall development distribution in the city. Briefs from citizens' groups on these areas of concern must be submitted by January 29, 1977. If you are interested in helping to prepare Heritage Trust's briefs, please contact Phyllis Blakeley, President, or any member of the executive.

BYLAWS UNDER REVISION

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on October 30, 1976, a committee was formed for the purpose of updating and revising the By-laws of the Society.

Members are invited to submit in writing suggestions for changes to Stan Shaw, 1688 Preston St., Halifax, before the end of December.