



The Griffin

A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

VOLUME TWO NO. 2

MARCH-APRIL 1977

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1. Thurs., April 21, regular monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.
Speaker: Gernet Taylor
Topic: "Nova Scotia Silver"
2. Thurs., May 19, regular monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Museum.
Speaker: Evan Petley-Jones
Topic: "Investing in Antiques"
3. Thurs., June 16, Annual Meeting, time and place to be announced.
4. Coming soon - summer tour to the Heritage Trust House (MacDonald Farm).
More details later.



THE HERITAGE TRUST HOUSE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam:

I was very interested in reading David Jones' letter in the October-November issue of The Griffin, in which he expressed the wish that 'the books, pamphlets and other publications of our province' be preserved. May I assure him that the Legislative Library is already undertaking this task.

One of its functions, as a division of the Provincial Library, is the collection of Nova Scotia material, current and retrospective, with the result that the library possesses a very valuable collection of several thousand items of Nova Scotiana, including printing within the province and titles concerning Nova Scotia published beyond its borders.

If a title can be duplicated, whether in hard copy or microfilm, we are happy to make it available through interlibrary loan. Consequently we are regularly meeting requests for Nova Scotia material from libraries in both Canada and the United States, while we recently sent a microfilm copy of the 1836 Edition of The Clockmaker to a professor in Germany.

Local histories are most frequently in demand, but in the last year we have complied with such varied requests as The natural history of the double-crested cormorant, by Harrison Lewis,

Dawson's Acadian geology and Beothuck and Micmac, by Frank Speck. I would venture to say, however, that we wouldn't be prepared to loan our one copy of Metzler's Illustrated Halifax, for like Mr. Jones, we prize it very highly.

I might also add that the Library has an unbroken run of Halifax and Dartmouth street directories from 1869 to the present. Heritage Trust members intent on research have already found them to be of inestimable value.

We would gladly welcome visitors to the Library who might be interested in seeing our collection.

With best wishes
- Shirley Elliott,
Legislative Librarian

THE PAINTED ROOM

The fact that the Painted Room of Karsdale (Pages 110-113, in Seasoned Timbers Volume I) had been sold to the Federal Government and was being removed to Ottawa, was drawn to the attention of the Heritage Trust last summer. A Committee was formed to investigate the matter, headed by Mrs. Joyce McCulloch and Mrs. Cora Greenaway.

Joyce is well known to members in various parts of the Province, as she was at one time the Tour organizer for the Trust. Cora has been an active member of the Book Committee for many years.

The Committee's objective was to provide a suitable home for the Room after restoration and exhibition in Ottawa. A large amount of money was donated, including a cheque for \$25,000 from Mr. J. Kendall, Windsor (son of the late Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. J.S. Kendall). Mr. Kendall is very interested in the maritime history of Nova Scotia and the murals

are supposed to have been painted by a seaman, who arrived by sailing ship around 1847.

The bank advised that these donations should be held in trust by a Society organized to be separate from the Heritage Trust. Accordingly, Joyce and Cora formed the "Friends of the Painted Room Society".

Their campaign has continued until recently, when Mr. Bernard Ostry, Director of the National Museum, agreed to meet with Joyce, Allan Dufus, and Robert Manuge at 8:15 a.m., one morning when he was scheduled to be in Halifax. Mr. Ostry, the Cultural Czar of the present Federal Government, offered absolutely no hope that the Painted Room would ever return to its native province.

A meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Kendall in Windsor on the 22nd January, 1977. The meeting with Mr. Ostry was discussed and it was decided that, as there appeared to be no hope of obtaining the return of the Painted Room within the immediate future, the donations should be returned. A cheque was handed to Mr. Kendall with the grateful thanks of the Society, he kindly donated the accrued interest to pay the expenses of the Society.

The delegates voted to continue the Society on a "Watch Dog" basis, hoping that time, changing events, and the increasing interest of Nova Scotians in their history, would ensure the eventual return of this irreplaceable piece of Folk Art. Joyce and Cora were elected Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer respectively, a Committee was appointed to draft a constitution, and meetings will be held as, and when, necessary.

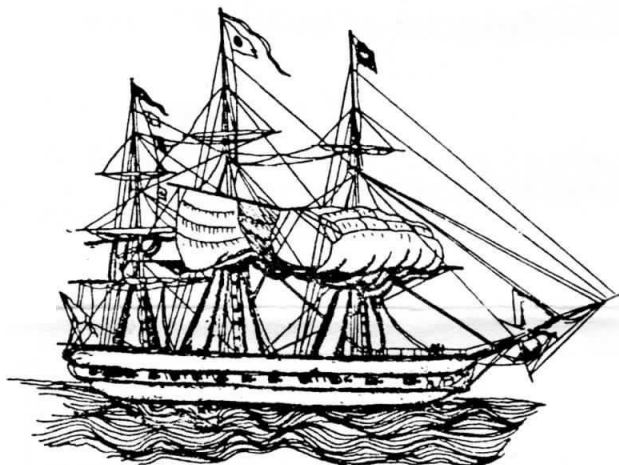
The grateful thanks of all who are interested in Nova Scotia's heritage must go to Joyce and Cora, for their hard work on this project.

The "Saga of the Painted Room" underlines the necessity for the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. Although many of the provincial members cannot attend meetings or participate in a tour (unless a tour should arrive on the doorstep!), they believe that paying their annual dues means that they have stood up and been counted as being in favour of the preservation of our provincial heritage. I believe they are correct in this assumption.

We may have no assurance of the return of the Painted Room, but by working together we have learned a lot, and our united efforts will certainly have made it more difficult for a comparable treasure to quietly leave the Province.

- Jean Petley-Jones.

ACI HERITAGE WEEK



THE MARCO POLO

There will be a special Heritage Week at this summer's session of the Atlantic Canada Institute's summer school at the University of Prince Edward Island, in Charlottetown. The Institute, popularly known as ACI, exists to spread knowledge of the Atlantic region, and has run

these very popular summer schools in Atlantic studies for the past four years.

Dr. Stuart Smith, art historian of the University of New Brunswick, will give a week's course on early architecture in the Maritime Provinces -- a subject on which he is passionately eloquent -- and there will be daily seminars on various ways of protecting and strengthening our heritage, with speakers who are expert in a number of the arts required.

The summer school session runs from July 11 to 29; the Heritage course will be in the first week, July 11 to 15, and should be of considerable interest to Heritage Trust members. Rates are reasonable.

For further information, write The Director, ACI Summer School, c/o Department of Extension, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown.

- Marjorie Whitelaw

IRISH HERITAGE

The lectures given in Halifax on the 6th, 7th and 8th of February, 1977, by The Hon. Desmond Guinness of the Irish Georgian Society were most informative, and extremely well attended.* Many members of the Heritage Trust had come to Halifax from various parts of the Province, and one young lady had journeyed from Fredericton.

The Heritage Trust had co-sponsored the lectures with a number of other Halifax Institutions and Societies. Pamela Collins was the Trust's delegate to the Joint Committee, and she was ably assisted by other Trust members.

At a reception given by the Federation of Museums, Heritage and Historical Societies, President Phyllis Blakeley, thanked the speaker for

reminding us that, though Nova Scotians often remember the activities of the Scots, Acadians and Lunenburgers in this Province, very little is known of the many Irish immigrants who came here as settlers.

Furniture in many homes will now be carefully examined to see if the "grotesque" carvings could conceivably be of Irish craftsmanship, and not a dish in an antique shop will go un-turned this summer - could it possibly have a harp stamped on the bottom?

The lectures served a useful, educational purpose, and hopefully, a similar series on a different "Heritage" area can be arranged in the future.

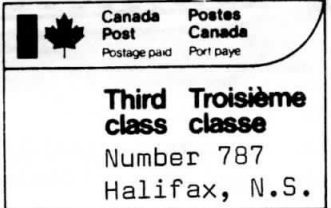
- Jean Petley-Jones

* Editor's note: The total attendance for the lectures was over 1000.

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



HERITAGE TRUST OF N. S.
P. O. Box 217
HALIFAX, N. S.



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1. Public Meeting - February 5th.

- Location Announced

Saint James Anglican Church gymnasium
12 Dutch Village Road (At the Armdale Rotary)

Topics to be discussed in the morning (9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.),
our future development strategy and neighborhood planning.

In the afternoon (1:30 - 4 p.m.), planning for the downtown
and waterfront areas will be discussed.

For more information, see the Article on Halifax Planning
in this issue.

2. February 15th - All-day seminar "Focus on the Waterfront"
(Details page 1 of this issue), is to be held at the Queen
Square Building (top floor), Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, from
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with a special session in the evening
at Saint Mary's University.

3. CORRECTION:

The Heritage Trust regular monthly meeting for February will
be held on Thursday, FEBRUARY 17th, and not on February 20th
as stated on page 1 of this issue.