



The Griffin

A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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December 1980

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT -

It is appropriate at this Christmas Season, a time of giving, to thank members and friends for their generous support of our appeal against the proposal to build high buildings near Citadel Hill. The results of this appeal are not yet known.

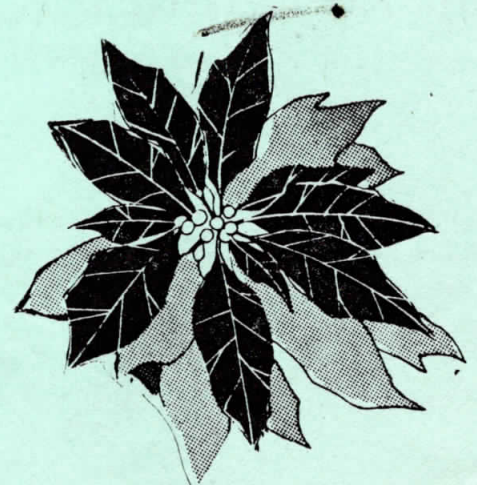
The Halifax house tours were very popular. We have plans to arrange more tours in the near future. These are major undertakings calling for one hundred volunteers, wet and dry weather routines, one million dollars of insurance and much more. As it is arranged by volunteers and the printing is donated it is difficult to predict when such things as tickets will be ready. We try our best to get the word out.

The MacDonald House near Windsor is beginning to look rather elegant after a great deal of repairs. It has been suggested that it might be used by Trust members occasionally for small weekend house parties. Anyone wishing to consider such a function should contact Hilary Grant at the Trust Office.

I thank the many, many devoted and hard working trust members for their support, work and advice. In particular I would single out those not living in the Halifax area as they must frequently feel they are working alone. Not so! We are interested in Heritage anywhere in the province.

I look forward to a full and busy year. I hope each and every one of you has a real family holiday this Christmas and a full and rewarding new year in 1981.

Ian F. McKee
President.



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY -

At the October Executive meeting of the Heritage Trust Hilary Grant was named representative on the Shubenacadie Lakes Advisory Group.

At its November meeting the Board of the Trust named John Lazier Vice-President to fill the vacancy left when Joyce McCulloch resigned on leaving the province.

At the same meeting Judith Tulloch was nominated to fill the office of Resources Chairman. This person is responsible for collecting and storing records of the Society in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (By-law 28-5).

At the fall conference of the Federation of Museums, Heritage and Historical Societies, Mr. Greg Kerr, Minister of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness, spoke about the Heritage Property Act, Bill #34. Mr. Don Crowdis, Heritage Advisor to the Department, has been examining criteria set up by the other provinces and, based on these, has tried to establish desirable criteria for this province. He has drawn up a list of names for an Advisory Council. This list has been submitted to the Cabinet who will make the final selection. Mr. Crowdis said it would be the aim of the Council to cooperate with such societies as ours.



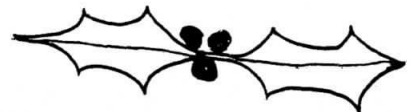
OUR PAINTED ROOMS-

Members of the Friends of the Painted Room Society, undeterred by lack of success in keeping the Karsdale Painted Room in the province, are seeking provincial protection for other painted surfaces scattered throughout Nova Scotia.

Since 1977, helped by a provincial grant, Mrs. Joyce McCulloch, retiring chairman and Mrs. Cora Greenaway, have been identifying, cataloguing and photographing, "a surprisingly large number of decorated surfaces in old buildings" throughout the province.

They want them protected under recently enacted heritage legislation.

They will also seek help from the National Gallery of Canada in evaluating the works and ask the provincial government for funds to help pay for the services of a conservator, in cases where restoration is required.



The Nova Scotia Cultural Foundation had its first Board of Directors meeting in Halifax recently. The Foundation is charged with the responsibility of "generating, operating, accepting and investing funds for cultural purposes". This is not a money-dispensing agency, but hopes to ensure that art and heritage objects important to Nova Scotia are not lost to the province.

HISTORIC HOUSES - An Inside View -
and Heritage Tea -

The Projects Committee of the Trust sponsored two tours of historic houses and a heritage tea, on Saturday, October 25, as fund-raising projects. Committee members wish to thank all those who helped, whether by allowing the use of their homes; by providing free goods and services or by acting as volunteer guides or waitresses.

The first tour included Pine Grove, 764 Tower Road, home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Manuge; Pryor Terrace, homes of Mr. Howard McNutt, 1348 Hollis Street and Mrs. Lucille Stewart, 1352 Hollis Street; the Sisters of Service Residence at the corner of Tobin and Barrington Streets; the Queen Street Inn, 1266 Queen Street, owned by Mr. Tony Saulnier and 2135 Brunswick Street, owned by John Chamard and Peggy Simmie.

The second tour included the Caldwell House, 1714 Robie Street, owned by Mr. Aza Avramovitch; two houses at 1320 Birmingham Street owned by Mr. Lyndon Watkins; the Bollard House, 1597 Dresden Row, owned by Mrs. Joyce McCulloch; St. Mary's Glebe at the corner of Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road; the home of the President of the Technical University of Nova Scotia, Mr. Clair Callaghan at 1334 Barrington Street, and St. Patrick's Convent at 2287 Brunswick Street.

The Heritage Tea was held at St. George's Anglican Church on Brunswick Street, with two sittings, from 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. and from 4.00 to 5.30 p.m. Featured were home baking, sandwiches, tea, coffee, cider, and fresh roses on the tables.

The Committee wishes to thank the following contributors of goods and services to the Heritage Tea:

Baxter Dairies
Bean Sprout Traditional Foods
Bens Ltd.
Cake Box
Dominion Stores Limited
Dover Mills
Farmers (Twin Cities) Co-operative Dairy Limited
Fisherman's Market
French Pastry Shop Limited
Harmony Farms Limited
I.G.A. (Bolands)
Java Blend
Mary Lee Millington -The Velvet Rose
J.E. Morse and Company Limited
MacFarland's Rentals
Salo Natural Foods
Sobey's Stores Limited.

with Special Thanks expressed to:

Prof. R.M. Dawson
The Joseph Howe Festival
Mrs. G. Sitland and the ladies of the Committee of St. George's Anglican Church.

The Committee wishes to thank the following firms for donating printing services:

McCurdy Printing for the tour pamphlets
Norman Wade for the posters
Bounty Print for the advance flyers.
Manuge Galleries and Zwicker's Galleries contributed the sale of the tickets.

Approximately 100 persons acted as tour guides or waitresses on the day of the events.

Proceeds of the tours and tea were \$3,700, expenses were \$500, and the net contribution to the Trust was \$3,200.



The Wilfred Bissett House, November, 1977.
Bringing Eel Grass from Cole Harbour, N.S.

NOTES FROM COLE HARBOUR -

The Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum was opened officially in June with a reception and ribbon-cutting ceremony in the big barn. The Saturday morning green market was held in the barn all summer long. A new stall-holder was a twelve-year old boy who baked his own bread and brought it for sale. The market ended with a harvest festival and the barn was decorated with autumn-red maple leaves, sunflowers, bul-rushes and golden lanterns. The scent and colour of the fresh vegetables and fruit in the setting of the old barn were enjoyed by many customers.

Melvin Harris, whose father owned the farm, demonstrated the making of sauerkraut - which was a tradition in Cole Harbour as many of the early settlers came from Lunenburg.

Joleen Gordon and Elizabeth Corser put together a display of baskets and photographs. Eel pots, a clam basket and market baskets were on show besides the photos of Cole Harbour farmers and market scenes.

The annual "Farm Days" event was held in July with many craft demonstrations - from sheep-shearing and horse-shoeing to wool-processing. Mrs Clayton showed how she made her market baskets and some of the children made their own small baskets. The Society was able to employ several students to help with research and recording the rapidly changing face of Cole Harbour in photographs.

The old Russell House in Wood-lawn was burned down this fall and bulldozed.

L.B. Jensen made for the Society a drawing of the Wilfred Bissett House with its yard full of friendly animals. Mr. Bissett was shown with horse and cart, bringing up a load of eel grass from Cole Harbour to insulate the foundations of his home.

One of our older members, Margaret Kuhn Campbell, was honoured this summer by a Nova Scotia Cultural Life Award. Two society members contributed to a travelling exhibition produced by the Nova Scotia Museum. This display may be seen at the DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater from December 7.

Over 5,000 people visited the Heritage Farm this summer and groups of school children learned a little of the history and 'natural history of Cole Harbour.

Another barn has been repaired and a small crib barn is being re-shingled by the Lawrence town/ Cole Harbour Kinsmen. This is most welcome help to our small society.

NOTE - A Christmas service will be held at the Cole Harbour Meeting House at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 21 - Heritage Trust members are most welcome.

Rosemary Eaton



NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN FEATURE
MAUD LEWIS -

Nimbus Publishing Ltd., of Halifax, has just produced two very attractive books for children: Christmas with the Rural Mail and From Ben Loman to the Sea. These bring to print for the first time the paintings and hand-painted Christmas cards of Maud Lewis, who portrayed simply and colourfully the life she saw around her, as she lived in her tiny house by the side of the road in Marshalltown, Digby County. The work of Maud Lewis, who died in 1970, has been drawing increasing attention in the field of folk art over the

past decade. The paintings are accompanied by the verses of Lance Woolaver, which link them together in a simple narrative. The paintings are from Woolaver's own collection.

Lance Woolaver is a native of Digby, a graduate of Acadia University and currently attending Dalhousie University Law School. The task of fitting verse to previously unrelated pictures to create a story is a difficult undertaking and the author must be given credit for weaving this connecting thread. His rhymes, however, are not always true and the metre is sometimes uncertain. Whether the stories they unfold will grab the interest of children remains to be seen, but the pictures will have unquestionable appeal, and not only for children. Here is an opportunity to see a wide variety of Maud Lewis's work, well produced in miniature. The design is attractive and Nimbus is to be congratulated for making these happy paintings available to a wider audience.

At \$4.95, the price may seem a little high for such small books (approximately 5" x 6", with 32 pages) but considering the costs of publishing, particularly in colour, there is no doubt that the value is there. These would make attractive Christmas gifts for almost anyone on your list.

Barbara Shaw.



August, 1981

A weekend tour to ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, principally to see the newly-opened gardens. Details later.

NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE LEGISLATION

BILL 34.

The Heritage Property Act, Bill 34, passed by the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 1980, came into force on August 15, 1980, with the exception of Section 20. Section 20 deals with the power of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and of local municipalities to raise and/or expend funds on properties designated under this Act.

STRUCTURE

Two-tier in nature, i.e. it establishes or permits establishment of:

- 1) a Provincial Advisory Council, consisting of from 5-12 persons appointed by the Cabinet. (Indications are that this Council should be appointed by mid-December at the latest). Members of the Advisory Council have no fixed term of office but will be paid expenses and remuneration to be determined.
- 2) enables municipalities to establish a heritage advisory committee consisting of 2 Council Members and as many other individuals as the Council shall determine. The details of the municipal heritage advisory committee must be outlined in a by-law which is subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

POWERS

Provincial Advisory Council

Municipal Heritage Committee

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. May recommend inclusion of buildings, streetscapes or areas in a Provincial Registry of Heritage Properties. | Same as Provincial |
| 2. 30 days prior to registration the owner must be notified:

a) of the recommendation for registration;
b) the reasons for the recommendation;
c) a summary of the consequences of registration;
d) no alteration to the exterior of a building for 120 days unless the Minister refuses to register;
e) registered owner is invited to comment upon proposed registration. | Same as Provincial

e) notification of the right of the owner to be heard. |

3. Requests for alterations to or to demolish a registered provincial heritage property must be submitted to the Provincial Advisory Council:

Same as Provincial



The Council must submit a written recommendation on such a request to the Minister within 30 days;

Same as Provincial

The Governor-in-Council (Cabinet) may grant with conditions or refuse the Application

Alterations or demolition may take place one year after date of application but not later than two years after date of application.

Both the Minister and the Municipality may enter into written agreements with owners of registered properties.

Municipalities may acquire heritage properties.

Individuals who contravene provisions of this Act are subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than six months.

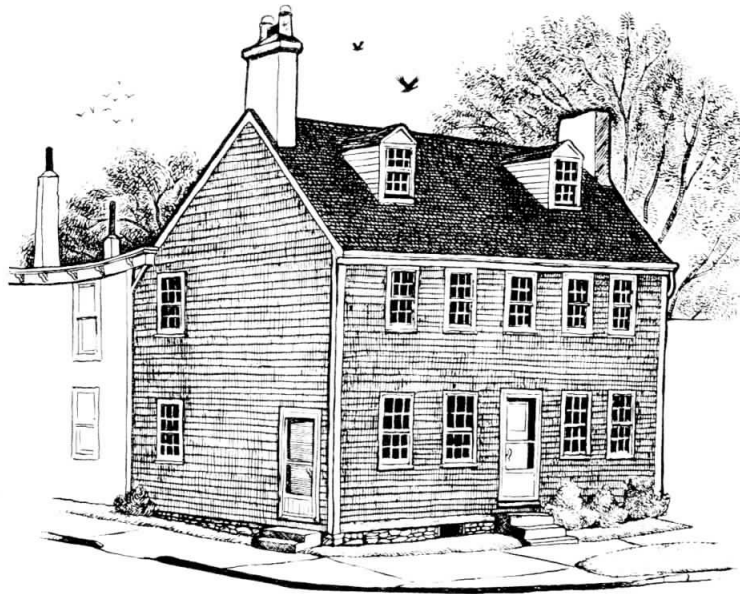
Corporate contravention of this Act can lead to a fine not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Section 27 of the Act applies specifically to the City of Halifax.

COMMENTS

The Bill is a necessary beginning. The most important task for individuals is to see that their local town or municipal council sets up its Heritage Advisory Committee and to hopefully ensure that at least one member of the local heritage or historical society is appointed to the Heritage Advisory Committee. This Bill will not produce wonders and it may not protect many buildings. It is implicit in the Bill that that which is designated a "heritage structure" can still be torn down. The Bill appears to delay demolition not to prevent it.

Those interested in obtaining a copy of Bill 34, The Heritage Property Act, should write their local M.L.A.



THE SCHMIDT HOUSE by Lyndon Watkins (an excerpt of an article for W1, the newspaper of the Ward One Residents Association) -

In the important process of deciding what our city should be, Halifax has still not fully embraced the democratic process. We have laws saying what may be built, but none saying what may be unbuilt. Loss of the Old Naval Victualling Yard, the Irving Arch and countless other worthy contenders for preservation suggests how vulnerable to destruction any building in Halifax is.

The almost unfettered right of demolition is defended by some on the basis that a Haligonian's home is his castle. What he pays taxes on, he can tear down.

The latest victim of this misguided interpretation of a citizen's rights is the little house at the corner of Dresden Row and Clyde Street, the pivotal property of Schmidville and possibly the House occupied by the family whose name is given to this distinctive area of the old south-end.

The Schmidts were among the many German, French and Swiss Protestant settlers to come to Halifax in its early years.

The land, on which the original 11-block suburb was built outside the city palisades, was known as Pedley's Field. From about 1820, Schmidville housed a burgeoning population of skilled tradesmen - coopers, sailmakers, carpenters and masons.

While the exterior of some of the homes lapsed into disrepair in recent years, the community defended itself against the developer incursions that nibbled away at its periphery for such things as the liquor store, and has recently emerged with new hope and vitality. It has a higher than average degree of owner occupiers and has seen a considerable degree of recent renovation. More than anything, however, Schmidville is a neighbourhood, a harmonious gathering of kids and cats, young and old, owners and renters of every segment of the social and economic scale.

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

PUBLICATIONS

The potential loss of the founding property of this community and the dispersal of residents both of the Schmidt house and three adjoining properties on Clyde Street, shocked the residents. When the buildings were sold and the new owner applied to City Council for commercial rezoning in order to clear the site and rebuild a one-storey Chinese restaurant, 150 people signed a petition asking that approval be denied. Others urged the Nova Scotia Liquor Licensing Board not to grant a liquor licence on grounds that there are already enough such premises in the immediate vicinity.

After an initial stay of execution where the owner was ordered to board up the property awaiting the outcome of his re-zoning application, the inadequacies of the city's right to legally prevent demolition became apparent and the owner became free to tear down the buildings if he so wished.

Given strong indications that re-zoning approval would not be given, the owner indicated a willingness to sell.

If they haven't already been removed, the buildings could still be recycled, the little Schmidt house being particularly attractive for sensitive restoration.

If it is lost, the principal blame must fall on that inadequacy in the planning laws that says it is only the owner's concern what becomes of his property. This is an outmoded concept and must be removed when Nova Scotia's new planning act is produced. The need for action is already overdue.

ORDER FORM

Book Committee
Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 1171
Dartmouth, N.S.
B2Y 4B8

(Postage and handling 50¢ per title)

Please send me the following titles:

- _____ An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings in Nova Scotia @ \$12.50 \$ _____
 - _____ Founded Upon A Rock @ \$5.50 \$ _____
 - _____ Lakes, Salt Marshes and the Narrow Green Strip @ \$6.95 \$ _____
 - _____ Nova Scotia Heritage Colouring Book @ \$2.50 \$ _____
 - _____ The Prince and Hollis Buildings @ \$1.75 \$ _____
 - _____ A Sense of Place @ \$3.50 \$ _____
 - _____ Seasoned Timbers volume 1 @ \$5.50 \$ _____
 - _____ South Shore: Seasoned Timbers (vol. 2) @ \$5.50 \$ _____
 - _____ West House, Brunswick Street, Halifax \$5.00 \$ _____
- I enclose cheque or money order for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____





A SENSE OF PLACE

A soft-cover book of 45 pages with many illustrations. This book, published in September, 1970, describes in a sensitive and imaginative manner the story of the east side of Granville Street, once the heart of the fashionable business centre. It gives detailed information on its architecture, and suggestions for new use. It is profusely illustrated with old and contemporary photographs as well as many street and detail sketches by L.B. Jensen.
Price \$3.50

SEASONED TIMBERS (VOLUME 1)

A soft-cover book of 150 pages and about 60 photographs. This well-illustrated book presents an interesting and varied cross-section of historic and architecturally interesting buildings erected in the counties of Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, and Yarmouth. Accompanying the photographs are brief accounts of the buildings' construction, and the people who built and lived in them.
Price \$5.50

SOUTH SHORE: SEASONED TIMBERS (VOLUME 2)

This is the second volume of a two-part set covering the entire South-Western area of the Province. A picture book of buildings of historic and architectural interest. It includes 67 assorted dwellings, court, bark and store houses, plus a mill, smithy and shops from St. Margaret's Bay, Lunenburg, Queens, and Shelburne counties to Tusket, Yarmouth County in 89 photographs with accompanying text. A soft-cover book of 150 pages.
Price \$5.50

NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE COLOURING BOOK

Fun for anyone to colour, it includes drawings of the Bluenose, the Arms of Nova Scotia, native fish and sea creatures, the mayflower, a Micmac quillwork design, a quilt pattern, the Samson locomotive, and much more ! Brief text accompanies each drawing.
Price \$2.50

WEST HOUSE, BRUNSWICK STREET, HALIFAX

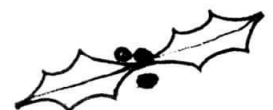
The book contains 52 pages, including many old and new photographs, sketches, a full colour plate of house flags, and plans for the proposed restoration of the West House. It tells the story of the West family, the West House, and the development of the West India Trade. The research was carried out by the Heritage Trust Brunswick Street Committee.
Price \$5.00

THE PRINCE AND HOLLIS BUILDINGS

This booklet consists of historical sketches of a group of eight pre-Confederation buildings on Prince and Hollis Streets in Halifax, with illustrations. The articles first appeared in the Chronicle-Herald and Mail-Star in 1975-1976.
Price \$1.75

LAKES, SALT MARSHES AND THE NARROW GREEN STRIP

An 88 page book illustrating the history and architecture of Dartmouth and the Eastern Shore of Halifax County - Westphal, Cole Harbour, Chezzetcook, Musquodoboit Harbour, Jeddore, Ship Harbour, Tangier, Sheet Harbour, Watt Section, Port Dufferin, Moser River, and Necum Teuch. 60 photographs of houses, churches, an artist and his paintings, and a portion of an old altar accompany the text.
Price \$6.95





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Price \$6.95



NOTICE OF THE 1981 PROGRAMME -

Our meetings are always held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 8.00 p.m in the Nova Scotia Museum auditorium. If you ever have any queries about the programme please telephone us at 423-4807. If no one is in the office, please leave your number with the answering service and we will get back to you promptly.

We have a very varied selection of topics for 1981. You may not receive another list of meetings so why not note them on your calendar NOW before the Griffin gets lost.

15 January, 1981 -

CUMBERLAND COUNTY -

Speaker: TIM RANDALL - an illustrated talk on the Parrsboro area, a section of the province Tim feels not enough of us are familiar with.

19 February -

FORT BEAUSEJOUR/CUMBERLAND

Speaker: BARBARA SCHMEISSER - an illustrated talk by a project historian with Parks Canada. Have you, too, driven by the sign pointing to the fort and vowed to visit it sometime? Now is your chance.

19 March -

THE SHUBENACADIE CANAL -

Speaker: MR. W. NAFTEL, senior historian with Parks Canada in Halifax. Dartmouth City has all sorts of plans for the future of the canal. Mr. Naftel will inform us of the canal's history to the present date.

16 April -

HIGHLIGHTS OF HERITAGE TRUST TOURS IN THE 70's.

Speaker: PAMELA COLLINS -
An illustrated talk.

21 May -

PRESERVING THE URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WORLD OF THE BRONTËS -

Speaker: KENT HURLEY - Assistant Dean at the School of Architecture, Technical University of Nova Scotia. An illustrated talk. Mr. Hurley made a study of the area in Yorkshire made famous by the Brontë sisters, when he was on sabbatical in England

18 June -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

If we have snow this winter we hope to have MacDonald House open to members for several weekends. It is an ideal spot for cross-country ski-ing. If you are interested in spending a weekend there with or without children, let me know by 'phone or letter. We will make a small profit for the Trust, but the aim is for members to enjoy the house in the relaxed company of other members. Ph: 423-4807

PROPOSED TOURS FOR 1981 -

30 May, 1981 - Saturday -

TOUR OF THE CANNING AREA with tea at Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Schaffner's country home. Details later.

1 July -

Tour on the nearest weekend to CANADA'S BIRTHDAY. Details later.

Hilary Grant -
Programme Chairman.