



The Griffin

A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Volume 6: No. 1.

ISSN 0383 7335

MARCH, 1981.

APPEAL DECISION UNFAVOURABLE -

Members will be disappointed to learn of the Provincial Planning Appeal Board's decision to allow a high building (Market Place Plaza) across from Citadel Hill.

In the opinion of our lawyer, Howard Epstein, the Board's cursory written decision displayed an inadequate treatment of a serious case. For example, a major part of the appellant's case dealt with the adverse impact of the building on the Old Town Clock; yet, at no point did the Board's decision deal with the matter. Also, the Board agreed with the appellants' that the development would "impair the present view of the Harbour from Citadel Hill". The Board did not, however, offer a solution such as a reduction

in height or a change in design, but merely let the point lapse. Furthermore, many of the arguments raised by the appellants (regarding citizen participation, land use, alternative designs and architectural compatibility) were completely ignored in the Board's written decision.

Hundred of persons have attended public hearings, signed petitions and made financial contributions to the appeals in an effort to protect the Nation's most-visited historic site. It is for this reason, that the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Trust and the Executive of the Federation of Museums, Heritage and Historical Societies have voted (on February 28th and 21st respectively) to challenge certain aspects of the decision before the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

by Elizabeth Pacey.

A SECOND PAINTED ROOM -

by Cora Greenaway.

What I had dreamed of, hoped for and dismissed from my mind as wishful thinking has come true: a second Painted Room has been discovered.

It was snowing heavily that Friday when I was picked up in Middleton to go to South Williamston. The house itself is an interesting structure; a double house with much use of brackets and elaborate ornamentation. It has seventeen rooms and fifty-two doors! The building date has not yet been established with certainty, but when the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, took down an inside wall, a coin fell out of the plaster. It was a French coin with Emporor Napoleon III's likeness on it, and the date 1854.

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Parker decided to redecorate the last room in the house, the left front parlour. She steamed the layers of wallpaper and as she began to strip off the soggy mess, shapes appeared on what should have been blank plaster. Her curiosity aroused, she stripped a little more. In the end the Parkers found they had their very own "Painted Room". Mr. Parker who has lived in the house since 1926, had never seen or heard of paintings on the walls.

The exposed walls show various scenes. Over the mantel is an arrangement of fruit and flowers. One wall has a stone bridge with three arches. Boats ply up and down the river; a paddle wheel steamer, a square-rigged ship and smaller sail and rowboats. The two most interesting scenes show a boat ready to be launched with a workman on one side and possibly the proud owner, dressed in a black frock coat and wearing a black hat with round crown. The other

scene shows a long, long road leading to an imposing structure built of the same grey stone blocks as the bridge. In the foreground is seen a lady walking towards the building. She is dressed in blue and wears a bonnet.

Who painted these walls and when? I have not been able to find a date or signature. However, there is still hope, as not all the wallpaper has been removed. Judging by the clothing and the ship, it was painted in the 1860's. Who was the artist? So far there is no clue, probably an itinerant house-painter.

The first question I am asked is always: is it like the Karsdale Room? No, not in the least. I have always felt the Karsdale Room had been painted by a person with training. Cadets at Woolwich Military Academy in England were taught topographical drawing. Recently there was an exhibition in Halifax of early New Brunswick prints and they had the same accuracy to detail and precise drawing that can be seen in the Karsdale Room. Our man in South Williamston was a folk artist. He was a joyful decorator who painted his walls and loved doing it.

Though there is no resemblance between the two rooms, there is a link of another kind. Mrs. Croscup of the Karsdale Room had two daughters. Her second daughter, Mary Hester or Esther, married William Judson Shafner, a distant relative, in 1867. Till her early death in 1871, she lived in the house in South Williamston. But to this day not a soul knew that a "painted room" lay hidden under the layers of wallpaper. Who knows how many more "painted rooms" are hidden by wallpaper, waiting like Snowwhite, to come back to life.

(c) CORA GREENAWAY
February, 1981. No part of this article may be used or reproduced without permission of the author.

to: THE EDITOR OF THE GRIFFIN -

Dear Editor,

An article in the Chronicle Herald and Mail Star of October 1st, 1980, and an abbreviated version in the December issue of the Griffin associated my name with comments made without my prior knowledge or consent and implies that the Friends of the Painted Room Society are associated with my present research into Decorated Surfaces in Nova Scotia which is financed by Canada Council.

For professional reasons it is important to correct the foregoing and I request this letter be inserted in the next issue of the Griffin in its entirety.

Following my discovery of the Karsdale Painted Room in 1961 and my subsequent fifteen year campaign to arouse interest in this unique form of art and to preserve it in Nova Scotia, the National Gallery purchased it and prepared to move it to Ottawa.

Because I still believed that it should remain in Nova Scotia regardless of ownership I suggested action to the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, from this the Friends of the Painted Room Society was formed. Due to heavy personal and professional commitments I could not accept the chairmanship.

The sole purpose of the Friends of the Painted Room Society was to retain the Karsdale Painted Room in Nova Scotia, but it was not successful, the Painted Room was transported to Ottawa, restored, and is displayed there.

The Nova Scotia Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness provided a small grant to investigate the possibility of other

painted rooms in the Province.

My present research under Canada Council grants is not related to the earlier project and does not involve the Friends of the Painted Room Society or any of its members.

Cora Greenaway.



OUR CYCLING HISTORY -

to be written by Heather Watts.

To the Editor:

I am preparing a history of bicycling in Nova Scotia for the centenary celebrations of the Canadian Cycling Association in 1982. Because of your society members' familiarity with local history I am hoping that you may be able to refer me to people, information or artifacts in your area that might otherwise be overlooked.

In particular I would like to trace the location of cycling clubs in Nova Scotia and to contact anyone who took part in long-distance and local races, tours and other activities prior to 1950. Perhaps someone in the community has, or knows of, an early bicycle, trophies, photographs or stories of cycling in earlier days. If so, I would be grateful if that person would contact me.

Would you be kind enough to publicize this request to your members through your newsletter or by other means? Sincerely,

Heather M. Watts (Mrs)
19 Wyndrock Drive
Halifax, NS., B3P 1R8

GREAT STRIDES AT
ANNAPOLIS ROYAL -

A press release from the annual meeting of the Annapolis Royal Development Commission, January 20, 1981, indicates there will be exciting new things and some equally exciting discoveries for Trust members to see when we visit Annapolis Royal in August.

The Historic Gardens being constructed under the DREE/Tourism program are expected to be open to the public for the first time this summer. Ducks Unlimited will cooperate in the construction of a bird habitat, and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture will aid in the building of both modern and Acadian style marshland recovery projects.

The Facade program, Streetscape program and Main Street program are all well in hand. The Main Street program has already resulted in the start of construction of a Farmer's Market on the old D.A.R. property. This will provide a 95-car parking lot for the downtown area.

The O'Dell Inn, the McNamara-Robertson School House and the Pickles and Mills building, all operated by the Historic Restorations Society, will be ready for the 1981 tourist season. The Scenic Walkway is also scheduled for completion in time for this year's season.

A completed project is the Parker Building, now known as Newman's Restaurant. This is a good example of how the Commission is working to restore structures with a view to returning them to commercial use.

Efforts to acquire the King Theatre are continuing.

The Muise Hotel came in for special attention in the Chairman's report. The start of renovations disclosed that it was much older than previously thought. A two-storey structure which existed prior to the 1880's was discovered, and further examination showed that the building started life as a one-storey structure of Acadian style, as evidenced by the many panels of mud infill still in the walls. The Development Commission has engaged Dr. Barry Moody to supervise restoration of the building to the two-storey structure which dates from the 1780's.

Another accomplishment of the Annapolis Royal Development Commission was the acceptance of the Heritage Property Act for the protection of heritage in Annapolis Royal. In connection with this, a study of all buildings in Annapolis Royal prior to 1930 was conducted by Mr. Barry Yanchyshyn under the coordination of the Heritage Resource Study, which is the most comprehensive Heritage examination of buildings in Nova Scotia. Heritage Canada has purchased the Queen Annex, which is being restored by the Commission's work crews, and has continued its support of the restoration project.

Members of the Annapolis Royal Development Commission are: John C. Johnson, chairman; Stuart L. Brown, John Akin, Dr. J.R. Kerr, James How, Eileen Kelleher, Donald Beattie, Roderick MacArthur, Wilfred Wetmore, Gerald Coolen, Harold Fancy and Dr. C. Henry Reardon. All executive and committee appointments were reconfirmed for the coming year. Mr. Paul Buxton, Executive Secretary of the Commission was given an expression of appreciation for his leadership and guidance in all projects.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE -

Our hard-working Legislation Committee responded quickly when the Province's Planning Act Review Committee released its Report in February 1981. They studied the Report in detail and compiled a very comprehensive Brief showing why the Planning Act, as well as the Heritage Property Act must make provision for Heritage preservation. We cannot reproduce this excellent Brief in full but the following is a summary of the main points and recommendations:

- "We believe that heritage preservation is an integral part of planning and cannot be wholly satisfied by the listing of certain historic buildings.
- We are glad that the PARC Report recommends that architectural control by zoning remain in the Planning Act. We would like to recommend further changes to the Act which would enable heritage preservation to become an integral part of planning throughout the Province.
- It is recommended that the definition of "development" should be expanded to include not only construction, addition, alteration, replacement or relocation but also restoration, renovation and demolition, destruction or removal.
- We strongly recommend that if any building is structurally sound then its demolition should not be permitted until a replacement project has obtained its approvals.
- In Halifax, we all know of sites that have stood empty for years because plans have not materialized; yet the demolition went ahead without debate and the tax revenue from the previous structure was lost. Municipal Councils should be able to make a clear choice between retaining a sound building, its elimination, and the construction of an alternative building on a site.
- The Planning Act should establish preservation policy as a legitimate planning objective for Municipalities to pursue, through the creation of Heritage Conservation Zoning.
- It is recommended that the Planning Act create a new zoning enabling Heritage streetscapes and areas large and small to become the subject of planning and be incorporated in the urban or rural design of the municipality. This zoning should be known as Heritage Conservation Zone, or "H" Zone. This designation would be an overlay on existing land use.
- The U.S. and U.K. each has several hundred Heritage Conservation areas. France has practically her entire architectural heritage covered by "zones protégées". In Canada, the Ontario legislation has "mirror" provisions for individual properties and for areas. In New Brunswick, the Heritage Legislation is called the Municipal Heritage Preservation Act and deals primarily with areas. (A building is

(contd.....

here a "portion of a municipality".) Finally, it should be noted that Heritage Canada has been a consistent advocate of the area preservation approach. In fact, Heritage Canada will invest only in established conservation areas.

- The Heritage overlay zone would basically deal with architectural and environmental controls. The detailed plan for the area under the municipal plan, if any, should of course be informed by the general purpose of heritage preservation. However, the establishment of detailed area plans is a lengthy process and Heritage zoning could be used as soon as a Municipality is capable of exacting zoning. Where there is no municipal plan, the designation could be done by the Minister at the recommendation of Heritage Advisory Council.

Recommendations include that: each Heritage zone should :

- have its boundaries clearly defined. It is recommended that, generally, both sides of a street be included in the streetscape or area.
- have a preamble stating the justification for designation such as:
 - the presence of a number of designated or recommended Heritage buildings,
 - the presence of other Heritage or environmental resources, for example - topographical features, historic aspect of a site or street bed and old roads, statuary, bridges, steps, stone walls, pavement, etc.
- alterations to existing non-heritage properties and any new construction will be controlled by general design guidelines appropriate to the particular area...
- the zoning should provide for control of demolition of heritage and non-heritage buildings in the area by withholding demolition permits until a replacement is ready to be built and by controlling the form and density of the replacement.



BOOKBINDING JULY 4 - 11, 1981

Mr. Emrys Evans of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library will be at the School of Library Service, Dalhousie University

He will offer an advanced course, limited to 14 people, entitled "Forwarding and Finishing: the Technique of Hand-binding in Leather". The fee will be \$125,00 per person. For Registration form and details write to:

Mrs. Jennifer Brownlow,
Admin. Asst., Dalhousie Un.,
School of Library Service,
Halifax, N.S., B3H 4H8.

Seen any old Griffins lurking anywhere?



Libraries and research workers often ask us for copies of previous issues of the Griffin. But our own file is incomplete! If you have any copies, especially of any issues of V.1, 1976; V.2, 1977, or even later issues you no longer need, the Griffin Committee would like to have them.

Take or send them to - 1579 Dresden Row, Halifax, or mail to P.O. Box 217 Halifax, B3J 2M4; bring them to the next general meeting, or phone Maud Godfrey at 429-9742 for pickup anywhere in the Halifax area.



NEW GROUP FORMS -

For more than 30 years, National Parks in the United States have been aided by volunteer, non-profit co-operating associations. In general, the co-operating associations publish books and pamphlets about the particular Park, and operate sales outlets at the Park. Because of the success (both financial and educational) of the U.S. co-operating associations, Parks Canada became interested in the concept about 1975.

Recently, a number of co-operating associations have been established in the Atlantic Region. For example, in Newfoundland, the Historic Trust has agreed to take on the role of a co-operating association at Signal Hill, while at Louisbourg, there is Les Volontaires de la Fortresse de Louisbourg. In Halifax a new group - The Friends of the Citadel Society - was formed to become actively involved at the Halifax Citadel.

The Friends of the Citadel Society was formally incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act in December 1980. The Society's purpose, which is not as broad as those of established groups like the Heritage Trust, Ecology Action Centre or the Federation of Museums, Heritage and Historical Societies, is:

"to promote public awareness and protection of the historic and environmental value of the Halifax Citadel National Historic Park, to enhance the cultural and educational aspects of the Park by the provision of programmes and visitor services, and to support and participate in appropriate humanitarian activities related to heritage preservation".

In mid-January, the founding members of the Friends of the Citadel Society signed an official agreement with Parks Canada which establishes the fledgling group as a co-operating association. The special role of the Society, similar in function to that of a hospital auxiliary group, will enable its members to take part in the activities at the Citadel. For example, it is hoped that the Society will be able to open a sales outlet at the fort this summer, and there is also the possibility that the Society may be able to provide special information services to visitors.

In the future, the Society may want to participate in the period, mid-19th century soldiers' coffee bar and officers' dining room that are part of the long-term plan for the Citadel. As the multi-million dollar restoration progresses, there will be a variety of opportunities for interested citizens to become involved in this project.

The Friends of the Citadel Society will hold its first general meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 1981, at 8.00 p.m. at the Halifax Citadel in Gallery #1. If you would like to be involved, please attend! The membership fee is \$2.00 per person. Join now by sending your fee along with your name and address to the

Friends of the Citadel Society
P.O. Box 3666 South Halifax,
Nova Scotia, B3J 3K6.

ADAMS-RITCHIE HOUSE TO BE TIDAL
POWER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE -

According to an Annapolis Royal Development Commission press release dated January 16, 1981, the oldest documented building in English Canada will soon be providing information regarding one of Canada's newest projects. The Adams-Ritchie House, locally known as the "Muise", is to become the interpretive centre for the Tidal Power Project now being constructed on Hog's Island in Annapolis Royal. The building has been leased for three years to the Tidal Power Corporation until the construction of a permanent on-site interpretive centre is completed.

The novelty of the first Tidal Power Project in North America is expected to be a drawing card for both tourists and visiting professionals alike. In keeping with this, displays and presentations will be provided at the Adams-Ritchie house in downtown Annapolis Royal to explain the operation of the Annapolis Tidal plant, as well as giving information on the potential for larger tidal power projects already being conceived for the Bay of Fundy.

The selection of the Adams-Ritchie house as a temporary interpretive centre is especially appropriate as it served as the residence and place of business of the first important resident merchant in English Canada. Like the Tidal Power Project, John Adams, who built the Adams-Ritchie house, broke new ground for others to follow.

The use of the building also complies with the Annapolis Royal Development Commission plans for restoration of heritage structures in Annapolis Royal - not to have a street full of museums, but to restore structures while having them house activities that stay in

the mainstream of contemporary life.

The Adams-Ritchie house has a fascinating history. The property the building stands on was acquired from the Acadians by John Adams, soldier and merchant, who around 1730 built a large, one-storey house on the site.

Information uncovered during the reconstruction of the building by the Annapolis Royal Development Commission indicates that Acadian labour and building techniques were employed. Since John Adams was a member of the governing Council, which met in his home on a number of occasions, and briefly served as president in 1740, this is the oldest building in Canada associated with English Government.

Another important owner of the property was John William Ritchie, born March 26, 1808. He was one of the founders of the Union Bank of Halifax, forerunner of the Royal Bank of Canada, and one of the Fathers of Confederation.

The use of the Adams-Ritchie House by the Tidal Power Corporation will provide a sense of history to the visitors while acquainting them with the latest in engineering development.



HERITAGE PROPERTY ADVISORY
COUNCIL -

Seven Nova Scotians from the business and professional sectors, each with an expressed interest in heritage matters, have been named as initial members of Nova Scotia's first advisory council on heritage property by the minister responsible, Greg Kerr.

Dr. Robert Morgan, Sydney; Commander Evan Petley-Jones, Belleisle; George Piercy, Charles W. MacIntosh, Gordon H. Thompson and Louis Stephen, all of Halifax, and Elizabeth Ross of Jollimore, assume the responsibilities of advising the minister on a course of implementation for the new Heritage Property Act.



GRIFFIN COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Griffin needs a chauffeur. You can see his problem, trying to get to the printer, etc., carrying that banner with his head turned back over his shoulder!

If you could help, please call Maud Godfrey, 429-9742. If you have a flair for layout, or any other interest you think might help the Griffin, so much the better.



ATLANTIC CANADA INSTITUTE -

"Interiors", a colloquium on Cultural Patterns in the Atlantic Canadian Home, will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, at the end of September, 1981. It is the second in a series of colloquia to be sponsored by the Atlantic Canada Institute (ACI) and co-operating agencies which, in the case of the 1981 ACI Colloquium, will be the Newfoundland Museum and Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The conference organisers (Neil Rosenberg and Shane O'Dea of Memorial University, and Victoria Dickenson of the Newfoundland Museum) have brought together a collection of people working on furniture history, decorations and house custom for a number of individual sessions on these aspects of the home. Topics of presentations will range from furniture to wakes. It is also intended to have a single session which examines the Acadian House in all its aspects - a session which should represent a typical house study. Another session will deal with several aspects of the Newfoundland house. As the colloquium's title "Interiors" suggests, the concern is not with the architecture of the building but rather with the internal spaces and the objects and occasions that fill these spaces.

For further information contact:

ACI 1981 Colloquium
Folklore Department
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 5S7.

SPRING GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE -

Doris Butters
Pat Cunningham
Maud Godfrey.

MAY-FLOWER

What heart does not feel forgotten memories recalled, when, wandering along sunny banks in the firwoods, the first blossom of the fragrant May-flower is seen and culled? 'We bloom amid the snow', is the motto of our province; and the May-flower (Epigaea repens) is to us what the violet, sought in hedges, is to our friends at home -- entailing the same close search for its retiring blossoms, and evoking the same feelings of gladness and hope. And we cling to these balmy spring days all the more closely as we dread the chill easterly wind, and the dark sea-fog which may cover us with its gloom on the morrow.

(Campbell Hardy/Forest Life in Acadie 1869)