



The Griffin

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JUNE, 1984

This issue includes
ANNUAL REPORTS - 1983/1984
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PROGRAM NOTES -

Thursday, July 26, 1984 -

Concert in St. George's Round Church - 8 pm - by John Grew of Bass River. Harpsichord concert of Baroque music, followed by a reception in the church hall. Tickets: \$5.00/ \$4.00 students and senior citizens. Reservations at Trust office, 423-4807, or admission by ticket at church door.

Sunday, August 11 -

Tour of Historic Dartmouth - 2 pm - we will visit the Museum, Christchurch Anglican Church, the restored Quaker House, Tom Forrestall's art gallery, and the Shubie Canal, and view Dartmouth's excellent Mainstreet Program. The tour will conclude with an English tea at 'Evergreen', followed by live entertainment.

Total cost - \$5.00; registration deadline - August 1; phone or write Trust office, 423-4807. Wear walking shoes; use the ferry or make up a car pool.

Saturday, September 15 -

Day Tour to Pictou - mark your calendar, details to follow.

Thursday, September 20 -

8 pm at N.S. Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax. Dr. Jim Morrison, Dean of Arts and Science, St. Mary's University will speak on the Treasures and Heritage of China.

Weekend of October 5, 6, 7, 8 -

Thanksgiving Weekend Tour of St. John New Brunswick - mark your calendar, not all details finalised yet, but should appear in the September issue of The Griffin.

Thursday - October 18 -

8 pm - N.S. Museum - Dr. N. Konczacki and Hilary Grant will present a slide talk on this spring's tour of Stately Homes and Landscaped Gardens of southern England.

Watch for details of the Trust's 25th Anniversary Dinner to be held in the Fall, and for the November and December programs.

McNAB'S ISLAND - ISOLATION AREA-

(A digest of a report by "Peter McNab" - pseudonym for Jean Archer - on the Cholera Epidemic of 1866, when McNab's Island was used to quarantine passengers and crew of SS "England" to avoid spreading the epidemic).

Recently I received a grim reminder of a short, but grisly, phase in the history of McNab's Island - the three-week Asiatic cholera epidemic of 1866.

Brought on by lack of fresh air, nourishing food and sunlight, and prior to our modern medical science, a cholera epidemic could kill 40-60% of those attacked. The report deals with the sufferings of the passengers and crew aboard SS "England" en route to New York in March 1866.

In brief - shortly after leaving the United Kingdom the ship ran into a raging storm and for four days the captain had to batten down all hatches. Cases of cholera soon began to appear among the 1202 steerage passengers crowded below decks and the voyage had to be cut short at Boston. Permission to land was refused so the ship headed for Halifax, arriving on April 8 with 46 passengers already dead. By May 1st, when the epidemic had run its course, about 250 persons had died. A further 100 emigrants 'jumped ship' and escaped from the Island, according to the records of the Master of SS "England". However, none of the 13 upper deck cabin passengers and only six or seven of the crew succumbed - those who enjoyed fresh air and good food.

McNab's had been intended as a quarantine station in 1793, because of a threatened cholera outbreak, so SS "England" after again being refused landing permission, but with the Port Doctor aboard and flying the yellow plague flag, was moved to the Island. HMS "Pyramus" was sailed over as a hospital ship. Well passengers were accommodated in tents in impossible conditions during dreadful late winter conditions.

Dr. John H. Slayter, the Port Doctor, was the man on the scene of a great human effort to contain a tragedy, while Dr. Charles Tupper (later Sir Charles), the man with the wider vision of the Prime Minister of the Colony, used his medical training to reduce chances of cholera decimating the population. There were a few cases in Halifax - the pilot and his two sons, and individuals who had picked up articles thrown overboard from "England" when she was stripped and fumigated and which had washed ashore.

Aside from volunteers Drs. J.B. Garvie and Charles Gossip and medical student Frank F. Garvie, who were sent out from Halifax, the only nursing care available was rendered by two unnamed priests among the passengers and a priest from St. Mary's in Halifax who later volunteered and served till the epidemic burned itself out. Three Sisters of Charity set up a nursery in the vacant McCurdy home to care for the "well" orphaned children.

As no help was forthcoming to bury the dead - and by April 10 150 bodies were waiting to be buried - Dr. Slayter and his medical staff were forced to do the job themselves. Unburied, they remained a source of infection. They carried the coffins across to Thrum Cap, accessible only at low tide and on foot.

In mid-April, exhausted, cold and debilitated, Dr. Slayter suddenly succumbed to the disease after an illness of only a few hours. He was 35 years old and left a wife and five children. At the time of his death he was Port Doctor and Justice of the Peace; his duties included preventing communicable disease from entering the city and Colony where ships from all over the world put in at Halifax.

On May 1, after fumigation, the SS "England" sailed for New York with the 875 remaining steerage passengers, 13 cabin class passengers and 116 crew members.

The full report is interesting and well worth reading. I have a copy in my file which anyone who wishes may read or have Xeroxed.

Doris Butters.

THE BELL FAMILY PAPERS
Prepared for The Griffin
by
Lilias M. Toward, Q.C.

Few people are aware of the wealth of historic material to be found at the A.G. Bell National Historic Park in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. I knew that the Bell Family Papers had been transferred in 1975 from the Library of the National Geographic Society to the Library of Congress; but it was not until some years later that I learned that copies of much of this material was given on a long-term loan to the A.G. Bell National Historic Park. I understand that it was the late Dr. Melville Grosvenor who arranged to have the Home Notes, Lab Notes, the Bulletin of the Aerial Experiment Association and the Beinn Bhreagh Recorder copied at his own expense and placed in the library of the A.G. Bell Museum. When Dr. Mabel Grosvenor offered on a long-term loan the 180 bound volumes of letters and biographical material gathered by her father over a period of 55 years, she made a tremendous contribution to Baddeck. It would have been understandable if the Grosvenor family had chosen to place this material in the National Archives in Ottawa, but instead, they chose Baddeck. Although the value of this collection may not be generally recognised at the present time, it will be more fully appreciated when the indexing which is now being done, is complete and the contents of the collection becomes better known.

The collection consists of about 400 volumes. In the Home Notes, Laboratory Notes, Dictated Notes, the Bulletin of the A.E.A. and the Beinn Bhreagh Recorder we have a record of Bell's thought processes as he and his associates laboured to bring into existence his many inventions. Included in the 180 volumes are 23 volumes under the heading "Contributions to Knowledge" which includes Bell's writings on the deaf as well as

those on scientific subjects. The rest of the collection is composed of typed copies of correspondence to and from various members of the Bell family, addresses, articles newspaper clippings, reminiscences and other biographical material. Not only do these volumes contain a wealth of material concerning Dr. and Mrs. Bell's life but from it may be gleaned a vivid picture of the times both in Cape Breton and in Washington. I drew heavily upon this source for the biography of Mabel Bell which I have just completed. As there was no index when I was working on this material, it was a very time-consuming task to extract any particular item.

As a result of that experience Mr. Jack Stephens, Superintendent of the Museum, and I recommended to the Alexander Graham Bell Institute of the University College of Cape Breton that it would be a very worthwhile project to have this material indexed. During the summer of 1982 the Institute employed two honor students to make a start on this project under the direction of Dr. Morgan of the Beaton Institute. By the time the students returned to college it was very apparent that the value of this collection would be greatly enhanced by having it indexed. Arrangements were made for two ladies from Baddeck to carry on during the winter months. In the spring the same two students returned and one of the ladies continued to work with them so that by the middle of the summer the indexing of the 180 volumes was completed. The A.G. Bell Institute agreed to continue the project until the whole collection is indexed. At the present time there are four people engaged on the project and when it is completed, it is hoped to have the index put on a computer.

In the spring of 1983 the Trustees of the Bell Institute asked me to go to Washington to examine the Bell Papers in the Library of Congress and compare them with the holdings in Baddeck. In making my report to the Institute I pointed out that of necessity my conclusions were based on a small sample of the total material contained in the Bell Family Papers. As a result of that visit to Washington I was convinced that in Baddeck we had practically all the material to be found in the Library of Congress pertaining to the Bells. Baddeck

offers certain advantages to any researcher working in this area. In the first place, the material becomes alive when studied in conjunction with the exhibits in the Museum. A further advantage is that much of the trivia to be found among the material in the Library of Congress has been carefully weeded out by Dr. Grosvenor, ably assisted by Mr. Fred De Land, and yet they have preserved intact the letters and notebooks of Dr. and Mrs. Bell. But the great advantage in working in Baddeck rather than in the Library of Congress is the indexing.

TRUST MEMBERS HONOURED

Miss Shirley Elliott, a long-time member of Heritage Trust, and presently a member of the Board of Trustees, received the degree of Doctor of Civil Laws, *honoris causa*, at the Spring Convocation of Acadia University on May 7, 1984. This well-deserved honour was conferred in recognition of Miss Elliott's outstanding services on behalf of Nova Scotia

heritage. Among the many accomplishments of her distinguished career as legislative librarian of the province, of particular interest to the Trust is her work in rescuing from oblivion many historical treasures, and organising them into the Nova Scotia Collection at the Legislative Library, also compilation of the Nova Scotia Book of Days published in 1980.

Phyllis Blakeley, provincial archivist of Nova Scotia, and a past president of the Trust, was the subject of the lead story in The Nova Scotian of April 28, 1984, A People's Papers. This excellent article by Ruth Tolmie describes Dr. Blakeley's contribution to Nova Scotia heritage during her service at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia since 1945. Dr. Blakeley's fascination with Nova Scotia history, her keen interest in people, and her creative abilities have resulted in a large number of books and articles and the amassing of a wealth of material for the use of researchers who come from far and wide to consult the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

OBITUARY -

Trust members were saddened to learn of the death on April 26, 1984 of Mrs. Dorothy Goodday, an enthusiastic participant in Trust activities for many years.

Mrs. Goodday was a musician of note as piano teacher, choir director and church organist. She was also well-known as a prize-winning gardener.

Her cheerful presence on Trust tours and outings will be greatly missed.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS 1983/84

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 1983 marked the Loyalist Bicentennial, the anniversary of the great influx of those loyal to the British cause pursuant to the Declaration of Independence by the thirteen colonies to the south. As the Provincial Archivist, Phyllis Blakeley, pointed out, the population of the province doubled in one year. The Loyalists brought with them skills, courage and determination, all traits that the developing Canadas would use well. The visit of the Heritage Trust to Shelbourne in the Fall of 1982, set the stage most appropriately. We were again exposed to the radiant enthusiasm of Mary Archibald last Spring when she spoke to us on the Loyalist landings in the Shelbourne area.

The theme of the Loyalists was further represented in the visits to Middleton and Maitland. The long-hoped-for visit to Cape Breton was accomplished in fine style last Thanksgiving weekend. The extensive restoration of the Fortress of Louisbourg by Parks Canada is a credit to the growing work of this organisation. At the same time the examples of restoration in the Sidney area were an inspiration to us all.

The Program Committee, under Pam Collins, came up with a fine series of Thursday night meetings that were informative, inspirational and entertaining. For the relatively small proportion of our membership that attend, they are an important part of the Trust program. Heritage Day - the third Monday in February - is becoming a tradition which provides an opportunity to call attention to our activities and to those of other groups active in Heritage work.

This year saw the start of "Founders Square" - the development that will take place at "Prince and Hollis", as the project was known for eight years in which the Trust was actively seeking preservation of the historic buildings in this block. The plan preserves the buildings on Prince Street and the facade on Hollis Street. Not full restoration, which is the ideal, but buildings preserved and incorporated into a plan which recognises the heritage carried through from the early nineteenth century. For the part which the Trust played in this project, we can take some well-earned credit.

Brunswick Street - on the harbour side of the Citadel - was again the scene of major activity on the part of the Projects Committee under the leadership of Betty Pacey. Many citizens of Halifax believe that the city would not be improved by a pair of high-rise buildings at Sackville and Brunswick, a critical location relative to the Citadel. The hard-fought "view-planes" legislation showed the deep concern of many citizens but the literal letter of this protective legislation is not enough. This case shows that stronger and more specific legislation is needed.

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In the publications area, our newsletter, The Griffin, has provided a regular update of the activities of the Trust, reports on meetings attended by members, and historical notes to inform us and to inspire further study. The work of Maud Godfrey and her associates is much appreciated. The Publications Committee, under the direction of Judith Tulloch, has initiated a third publication in the series Seasoned Timbers, this time covering Colchester, Cumberland and East Hants areas. The Committee is working on a new edition of Founded Upon a Rock - our initial publication concerning buildings in the City of Halifax. The Rogers Photo Album - 1871, which sold out completely, has been republished, and a new title Researching a Building in Nova Scotia is now available.

We are not alone. For much of our twenty-five years we seemed to be the main voice for Heritage. This year especially has seen extended cooperation with the Foundation of Nova Scotia Heritage, Friends of the Citadel and Friends of the Public Gardens. This has been a most welcome development. We look forward to future activities where each can help the other in forwarding the cause of heritage in Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and in Canada.

Fred Matthews - President.



TREASURER'S REPORT.

I have prepared the accompanying table to summarise the expenditures and revenues of the Trust for 1983 and the total assets on December 31, 1983.

The total expenditures for the year were \$29,379. This was an increase of \$13,373 over 1982 expenditures and was due mainly to increased costs of operating the office, and to projects associated with the proposed developments to the Prince and Hollis buildings and the Citadel Motors site. The tours also cost more in 1983 but tour revenues increased to cover about 96% of costs. The net revenue, or difference between revenue and expenditures, was \$18,619 for 1983; a decrease from \$33,088 for the previous year. Some of this decrease was due to the increased expenditures mentioned above and part is due to the sale of furniture from the Macdonald house in 1982 which pushed revenues for that year higher than they would have been under normal conditions.

The total assets at the end of 1983 were \$401,577 compared to \$382,958 at December 31, 1982. This latter figure has been increased by \$1965 from last year's annual report to reflect a correction of an arithmetical error.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR TO DEC.31,1983

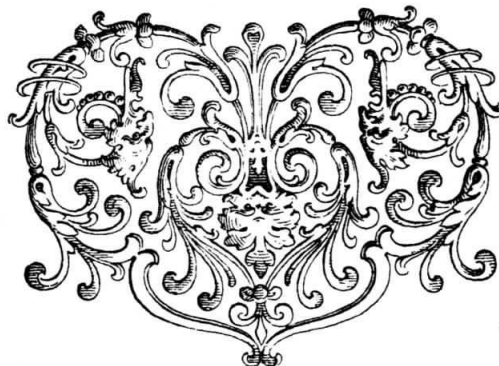
	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Newsletter	2079.64	
Air-page	435.48	
Donations	1000.00	125.00
Travel	740.00	
Fees	80.00	
Bank Charges	15.18	
Membership	547.56	4602.83
Book Sales		1029.12
Office	6317.16	
Macdonald House	6175.63	4950.00
Tours and Programs	8432.88	8114.06
Projects	3555.19	500.00
Interest		28677.19
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	\$29,378.72	\$47,998.20

Assets

Land (approx.45 acres)	60,000
Building (including 1 acre of land)	55,000
Book Inventory	10,171
Bank Accounts	4,211
Investments.	272,195
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	401,577

NET ASSETS	31.12.82	382,958
NET REVENUE	1983	18,619
NET ASSETS	31.12.83	401,577

John Lazier, Treasurer.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

I would like to thank the speakers for our ten monthly meetings; all who helped with City walks and the tours to Shelburne and area; Liverpool; Maitland and Noel Shore, and the Thanksgiving Weekend at Baddek, Iona and Louisbourg. My thanks also to the staff and students of Halifax high schools' Home Economics and Career Exploration programs, who prepared and served the Heritage Day Luncheon and to the Nova Scotia Museum for the facilities provided during the year.

The special three-week trial trip to Gt. Britain with Hilary Grant and Dr. Konczacki of Mt. St. Vincent, was an outstanding success and plans are already being made for a future tour.

A special reception was held at the Cambridge Military Library for the former Executive-Director of the National Trust of Scotland, Sir Jamie and Lady Mary Stornmonth Darling, during their visit here in May.

Pamela Collins - Chairman

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PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publications Committee this year has worked on several different projects. We have issued a reprint of the Rogers Photographic Album of Halifax, previously published by the Trust in 1971. The album, which contains fascinating pictures of Halifax streets and businesses of 1871 will be available by late spring (note - at press time the Album had been delivered to the Trust office). The Committee has also completed work on a brochure to help people who want to begin research on a heritage building. Titled Researching a Building in Nova Scotia, the booklet will serve as a valuable guide to the sort of records that are useful and where they may be found. It will be available early in the summer.

Preliminary work has begun on Volume III of Seasoned Timbers series, to cover Colchester, Cumberland and East Hants. We are also planning a revised edition of the Trust's first publication, Founded Upon a Rock, Historic Buildings in Halifax, which is now out of print.

Volunteer help for any or all of these projects would be welcomed.

Judith Tulloch - Chairman.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Public Relations Committee consists of a Chairman and three members who have individual qualities and professional expertise so essential for this important work of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

This year the Committee has produced a brochure which succinctly outlines the activities of the Trust. The brochure was especially designed to attract new members.

During the year, the Committee has also worked to develop a structure to ensure that the public relations activities of the Trust would be carried out effectively. Another important aspect of the Committee has been work on the consideration of the image of the Trust. This has resulted in a Committee consensus to develop a long-range plan for public relations and communications for the Trust.

On behalf of the Public Relations Committee, I would like to express our appreciation to all the Trust members who assisted us by supplying information required for our work.

Barbara Watt - Chairman

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

Issues of the Griffin published this year were: June 1983, Vol.8 #2, which contained the 1982/1983 Reports of the Trust; December 1983, Vol.8 #3; and March 1984, Vol.9 #1. A June 1984 issue is planned which will contain Trust Annual Reports for 1983/1984.

As chairman I am grateful for the very fine contributions of committee members Doris Butters and Lucille Stewart. Both have given a great deal to the Newsletter in creative ideas and in helping to secure material, as well as writing articles themselves. Doris Butters has again typed all issues in camera-ready copy for printing. Lucille Stewart provided transportation whenever the Griffin had to be moved from one place to another.

The Committee thanks members who have contributed material, thereby helping the Griffin to fulfill its mandate which is to keep Trust members informed of Trust activities and progress in the purpose for which the Trust was founded, to protect our legacy in the built environment.

The Committee also wishes to thank the Nova Scotia Museum for printing two of our three issues at no cost to the Trust.

Maud Godfrey
Newsletter Committee Chairman.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Macdonald House, Windsor, Nova Scotia.- Our first tenants, Mr. Michael Harris and family, moved out when their lease expired on 31 August 1983. They liked Windsor so much that they have bought a house in the town.

Sally Fergusson (nee Parsons - married in 1983), our agent in Windsor, started putting advertisements in the Halifax paper in late August. Although there were many responses, most were from people who were judged unsuitable as tenants. For example, several were in receipt of welfare. Although rent is too high for such people, they believed that by banding together with other family members and pool resources they could make a go of it. One applicant wanted to open a health food shop on the premises. Others, who might have been otherwise suitable, had to sell an existing property before they could sign a lease. In short, we had very considerable difficulty in renting the house. Eventually good fortune smiled and we were able to rent to Mr. and Mrs. Pat Loftus and their daughter, who have moved from Maryland to Nova Scotia. Mr. Loftus is General Manager at Halifax Industries Ltd. They signed a 12-month lease from 1st October.

Some additional money has been spent on the house since that date. The hall carpet and stair runner has been replaced, which necessitated repairs to the hall floor. A shower has been installed in the large bathroom and a number of electrical improvements carried out.

Water - or lack of it - is still a serious problem and we see no economically feasible means of overcoming it. The Loftus' were already buying water to fill the cisterns, even during the late, wet autumn.

Sooner or later the Board of Trustees will have to consider whether the Trust should continue to own and rent Macdonald House, or to sell all or part of the property.

Consideration would, of course, require some special attention to the disposition of the proceeds if such a sale were to take place.

V.W. Howland
Property Manager, Macdonald
House, Windsor.



DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE ... 15 AUGUST 1984.

PROJECT COMMITTEE REPORT

During the year the fate of the Prince and Hollis buildings was finally resolved. The preservation of these eight pre-Confederation buildings in downtown Halifax has been advocated by Heritage Trust since 1972. Over the years, Project Committee members have written articles for newspapers and magazines, have produced a booklet *The Prince and Hollis Buildings*, a brochure for prospective developers and government officials, and have held a major exhibition of photographs and drawings.

In October of 1983, the Provincial Government selected the Armour Group to undertake the Prince and Hollis project. Development will include the retention of the four Prince Street buildings in their entirety and a shop-width of the four Hollis Street buildings. A new office tower will be built on the vacant land behind the buildings. The developer, Mr. Ben McCrea, estimates the project will be completed by the fall of 1986.

Project Committee members have also helped, during the past year, with Heritage Trust's opposition to the ATC Properties proposal for two high-rise towers diagonally opposite Citadel Hill on the Citadel Motors lot. In September 1983 Halifax City Council voted to reject the proposal because of the adverse impact it would have had on the view from Citadel Hill and the neighbouring designated heritage buildings. The developer however, decided to appeal Council's public-spirited decision to the Nova Scotia Municipal Board.

The appeal case was heard in mid-February 1984. Heritage Trust, along with the Friends of the Citadel Society and the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, hired lawyer John Merrick QC. to help support the decision of City Council before the Board. Two witnesses, Lou Collins and Allan Duffus, were called on behalf of Heritage Trust. Mr. Merrick was also able to cross-examine witnesses for the developer. As yet no decision has been announced on the appeal case.

Betty Pacey - Chairman.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Life Members	15
Halifax City Council	13
Dartmouth City Council	15
Student	2
Single	138
Family	88
Senior Citizen	130
Senior Couple	47
Group	17

TOTAL at JUNE 1, 1984....465

Elizabeth Shatford
Chairman

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 1984/1985

President	Dr. F.W. Matthews
Past - President	Mr. Ian F. McKee
Vice - President	Mrs. Lucille Stewart
Secretary	Mrs. Beverley Thibodeau
Treasurer	Dr. John Lazier

Chairpersons;

Programme	Mrs. Pamela Collins
Newsletter	Miss Maud Godfrey
Membership	Mrs. E.E. Shatford
Publications	Ms. Judith Tullock
Projects	Mrs. Elizabeth Pacey
Publicity	Ms. Barbara Watt



HERITAGE TRUST OF N. S.

1579 DRESDEN ROW-

HALIFAX, N.S.

B3J 2K4



Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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N O T I C E

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION.

Hilary Grant is retiring and the position of Executive Secretary for the Heritage Trust office will be available as of 1 October 1984.

This position involves one-and-a-half days per week. Salary - \$4,400.00 per annum, with two weeks paid vacation. Applications should be mailed to Dr. F. Matthews, President, Heritage Trust, 1579 Dresden Row, Halifax, B3J 2K4, before 1 September.

The Executive Secretary provides administrative support to the Executive and Board of Heritage Trust under limited direction, and is responsible for secretarial, clerical and administrative functions. The Executive Secretary has full responsibility for the management of the office and all assigned duties with respect to the affairs of the Trust. This requires a thorough knowledge of Trust philosophy, policy and procedures.