



The Griffin

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A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Vol.10 No. 1.

MARCH, 1985

HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM NOTES -

The regular monthly meetings of the Trust are held on the third Thursday of the month in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax at 8.00 p.m.

Thursday - April 18 --- Architect KELL ANTOFT will present "New Life for Old Buildings", based on his work on re-cycling buildings north of the Citadel on Cogswell Street.

Thursday - May 16 --- Prof. J. ALPHONSE DEVEAU authority on our Acadian heritage will present a paper on "Early Acadian Life" based on early Acadian diaries. Acadian Singers - to be confirmed.

Thursday - June 20 --- Annual Meeting.

Upcoming Events --- to be confirmed:

- Spring Tour
- July Tour to Charlottetown and "Anne of Greengables" Theatre Night
- September - 75th Anniversary of RCN.

DR. PHYLLIS BLAKELEY RETIRES -

Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley has announced that she will retire from her position of Provincial Archivist as of March 31, 1985.

A founding member of Heritage Trust, Dr. Blakeley served in many capacities and made outstanding contributions to the work of the Trust serving as President from 1976 to 1978. Dr. Blakeley joined the staff of the Archives in 1945, became Assistant Archivist in 1959, Associate Archivist in 1977, and Provincial Archivist on April 1, 1982.

Dr. Blakeley has had an illustrious career and brought many honours to her beloved Province. She was made a member of the Order of Canada in December 1978. Heritage Trust members wish Dr. Blakeley a long and happy retirement with much joy and continued success in her researches into Nova Scotia history.



Deadline for June issue -

15 MAY 1985

HERITAGE DAY 1985 -

To celebrate Heritage Day - Monday, February 18 - Heritage Trust, Parks Canada and the City joined in a tour of downtown Halifax and the Citadel, followed by a lunch at St. Matthew's Church.

The morning was sunny and bright as the activities organized by Pamela Collins got underway at 10 a.m., at the Grand Parade where a large group was welcomed at City Hall steps by tour leader, Dr. Lou Collins, Town Crier Peter Cox and Boomer the Beaver, official mascot of Parks Canada's 100th year anniversary.

Guests included a group of exchange students from Alberta and their Halifax hosts and hostesses, who received a special welcome. Mayor Ron Wallace welcomed the group to the Halifax Room in City Hall and Dr. Collins gave a brief history of the building.

Leaving City Hall the group moved to St. Paul's Church where Dr. Collins outlined its history. Next we proceeded to Province House to tour the building with a special look at the historic Red Chamber. Thence to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, where we met our bus and were taken to the Citadel. Carol Whitfield, Citadel historian, conducted a tour of the Library, Soldiers' Coffee Bar and the Barracks in the restored Cavalier Block.

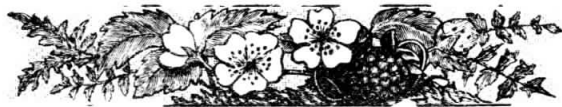
Following the Noon Gun signal, the large group was taken by bus to St. Matthew's Church for a delicious Heritage Day Chowder Luncheon, prepared and served by home economics students in the food and nutrition departments of the J.L. Ilesley and Queen Elizabeth High Schools. Dr. Fred Matthews presided at the head table as the students in period dress served the Heritage Menu consisting of fish chowder, Louisbourg soldiers' bread, porridge bread, Irish soda bread, cranberry muffins, Scottish oat cakes, German apple cake, tea and coffee.

Ceremonies included the presentation of Parks Canada Heritage Awards to Lou Collins, the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage for their contributions to heritage education.

To mark the 100th anniversary of Parks Canada there was a display from the Citadel arranged on the stage and tables in the Church hall.

The day was indeed a success thanks to the marvellous organizing abilities of our energetic Program Chairman Pamela Collins, our knowledgeable Civic Historian Lou Collins, a beautiful sunny day and a large, enthusiastic turnout.

Marjorie Austin.

CORRECTION -

In the December issue of The Griffin we regret that an error was made in the report on the Thanksgiving Tour of Saint John, N.B.In the paragraph on St. John's Church regarding the stone from Steyning in England, the county should have read SUSSEX, not Suffolk. Our sincere apologies. DEB.

SOME REFLECTIONSON
THE HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1963-1985,Part II.

Since its reorganization in 1963, the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has participated consistently in heritage issues in Nova Scotia in general and in Halifax in particular.

It has also, by reason of its many tours, its monthly speakers, its participation in heritage conferences and its extensive publications program, helped to raise the level of 'heritage consciousness' throughout Nova Scotia. The Heritage Trust's publications continue to provide a ready source of information and encouragement to the other heritage organizations and are of general interest to residents and visitors alike.

The imperilled and often critical situations involving important aspects of local heritage, have, of necessity, tended to focus many of the most intensive efforts of the Heritage Trust on the local scene. This has been true consistently since the submission of the Heritage Trust Brief in September 1964, to Halifax City Council, in which the Trust strongly supported the preservation of the Historic Waterfront Buildings. Since that time, the Heritage Trust has probably been the principal voluntary, non-profit Nova Scotian organization promoting the cause of heritage conservation, especially in Halifax, the capital of the Province.

Members of the Heritage Trust were appointed to the Halifax Civic Advisory Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings (1965-70) and to the Halifax Landmarks Commission which succeeded it in 1970. A former President of the Heritage Trust, Gilbert Hutton, served as Chairman of the Halifax Landmarks Commission's sub-committee on the Historic Waterfront Buildings. Mr. Hutton and his sub-committee drew the Call for Proposals for the restoration of these buildings that eventually resulted in a local bid being accepted by City Council and the buildings being restored. Today, the resulting, extended complex is known to

us as Historic Properties with the original waterfront buildings preserved as a unique National Historic Site in which commercial enterprises are housed.

In 1967, Dr. Allan Duffus, another former President of the Heritage Trust, chaired a special voluntary, unpaid committee consisting of local architects, engineers and realtors who made a detailed survey of Brunswick Street from Cornwallis to Gerrish Streets. This survey was later published with illustrations provided by Commander L.B. Jensen, also a member of the Trust.

Canada's Centennial Year also saw the preparation and publishing of the Heritage Trust's first major publication Founded Upon a Rock, which was underwritten in part by a Centennial Grant from Halifax City Council.

In the critical years between 1968-70, the Heritage Trust became the principal local voluntary organization urging City Council to retain the Historic Waterfront Buildings. Members of the Trust faithfully attended City Council meetings, served on committees, stuffed envelopes, supported petitions, and accepted membership on such other organizations as the Downtown Committee. Probably the highlight of this struggle was the preparation of a ballot printed free by a local printer and distributed by the Heritage Trust. A copy of this ballot calling for the preservation of the Historic Waterfront Buildings also appeared in local newspapers. When the City Clerk dumped the hundreds of ballots received on a table in front of members of Halifax City Council, this visible evidence of citizen concern probably marked the turning point in the long debate and helped prepare the way for its successful resolution.

The Heritage Trust also continued its educational work and support of the preservation of Brunswick Street buildings. Maude and Januz Rosinski became especially well-informed about the remaining heritage structures on the street and recorded their research in several publications.

Similarly a Heritage Trust committee under the leadership of George Rogers, a former Trust President, prepared a detailed report on Granville Street between Duke and Buckingham.

Betty Pacey and a Trust Committee researched and published a detailed, illustrated report on the buildings at the corner of Prince and Hollis Streets. These are the buildings that are currently being incorporated in whole or in part in the Founder's Square project after a long and tedious campaign for their preservation.

In the mid-1970's the Heritage Trust vigorously supported the efforts of the Halifax Landmarks Commission to have the City of Halifax establish appropriate view planes for Citadel Hill. Betty Pacey also became involved in this frustrating struggle and her book The Battle of Citadel Hill, is the best available summary of that affair, echoes of which are still being heard. The need to develop suitable height restrictions for buildings on Brunswick Street still has not been satisfied. The Heritage Trust has participated in discussions with City Council concerning three proposals for structures on Brunswick St. and has twice appeared before the Municipal Board in order to contest two major development proposals.

Again in the 1970's the Heritage Trust and the Halifax Landmarks Commission made a joint presentation to Halifax City Council recommending that the downtown core of the Halifax Townsite be designated an Historic Precinct. The Landmarks Commission and the Heritage Trust later presented this proposal to the Cabinet of the Government of Nova Scotia. Unfortunately neither level of government chose to accept and support this timely proposal to preserve the historic ambience of the City's core.

In the mid-70's, members of the Heritage Trust, including former President, Dr. Phyllis Blakeley, sat as invited members of a joint sub-committee of the Halifax Landmarks Commission charged with preparing an evaluation of heritage resources in the City of Halifax.

Unfortunately the work of this sub-committee was later placed in the hands of the Halifax City Planning Department in very much the same manner as the View Planes project had been at an earlier date. Subsequent difficulties with both of these very necessary aspects of local heritage planning might well have been avoided had a wiser and more co-operative procedure been adopted by City Staff.

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia early saw the need for appropriate heritage legislation both local and provincial. To that end it promoted the review of heritage legislation in place elsewhere in North America and in Great Britain and convened the first major Nova Scotia conference to study and promote such legislation.

While the Heritage Trust has been able to encourage and support heritage organizations elsewhere in the Province, the establishment, with Provincial Government support, and the subsequent growth, of the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage has provided an umbrella of services for the benefit of all heritage organizations. This augurs well for the future of our heritage.

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has always been supportive of national organizations dedicated to the study and preservation of all aspects of our Canadian heritage, especially Heritage Canada and of Parks Canada, a Federal Government agency. Both have recognised and honoured the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia as an independent, voluntary organization for its heritage work. Individual members of the Heritage Trust have also received awards of distinction from both Heritage Canada and Parks Canada to mark their efforts to preserve our heritage and promote its rational re-use when possible.

In 1974 the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia acted as local host to the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) with Pam Collins acting as local co-ordinator for this major international conference, then holding its annual meeting in Halifax, with a concluding stage at Louisbourg. At the APT conference in Williamsburg, USA, the following year, the American delegates who had been at Halifax and Louisbourg the previous year, were still talking admiringly about "the way the Canadians do it".

During the years under review, many individual members of the Heritage Trust, as well as sitting on various appointed boards and commissions, have pursued heritage-related activities on a more personal basis. Cora Greenaway has become a nationally recognised authority on painted rooms in Nova Scotia. Betty Pacey, Allan Duffus and George Rogers have jointly prepared and published books on historic Nova Scotia Churches, and Betty Pacey has published a number of local walking tours. With the encouragement of Mary Sparling, Director of the Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery, Lou Collins prepared and mounted the first Ephemera exhibition of its kind in Atlantic Canada, which later toured museums and galleries in Nova Scotia under the auspices of the Nova Scotia Museum. Phillip Hartling has written a book and published papers based on his detailed research into life on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. Over a period of some three years, Pam Collins has studied French colonial food

preparation and costume at Louisbourg under the direction of the local staff of Parks Canada. Maude Rosinski has published numerous heritage articles.

Such a list of personal activities must, of necessity, be selective and incomplete, but does represent something of the depth of concern and the wide range of interest in our heritage felt by individual members of the Heritage Trust.

One of the most distinguished reflections of that interest in our heritage may be seen in the life and professional career of Dr. Phyllis Blakeley, a founding member and a Past President of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, whose retirement as the Provincial Archivist of Nova Scotia has recently been announced after forty years of faithful and dedicated service in the preservation of our provincial heritage.

Lou Collins.





The Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage has a new format for its quarterly publication, Federation News, and if the first issue is indicative of the future it will be a great success.

During the past several months a Committee chaired by Peter Latta has been hard at work gathering opinions from the member groups of the Federation concerning the material they would like to see in their magazine, and the form in which it should be presented. Most of the ideas submitted to the committee were excellent. The committee organized the material into a Recommendation to the Executive, and the result is Federation News, Vol.9, No.1, Winter 1985. The staff of the Federation has worked most effectively to implement the directions of the Executive. Special thanks are due to Marina Nawrocki for her generous contribution in time and skills to the attractive issue which has appeared.

This number consists of several sections: Editorials, Features, Notes and Quotes - brief items of interest - and Between Ourselves - information about member groups of the Federation. The feature articles are: Marketing for Heritage Organizations - Mark Webb; Holiday Traditions in N.S.; The Citadel Appeal Decision - Elizabeth Pacey; Archives in the Home - Hugh Taylor; Heritage Trust Celebrates 25 Years - Cora Greenaway; and pictures of Personalities at the Fall Conference - Elizabeth Ross.

The Federation News, and information about the program of the Federation are sent to the groups who are members of the Federation, and to individuals who are 'subscription members'. Other benefits to subscription members are discounts on fees and expenses of the Conferences and Seminars held by the Federation. At \$12/year this is a very good value. Subscriptions may be obtained by sending a cheque to:

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage
5516 Spring Garden Rd., Ste.#305
Halifax, B3J 1G6.



The Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness has set up a Heritage Unit, with Brian Cuthbertson as head and Daniel Norris as Heritage Officer. Culture Minister Billy Joe MacLean has said that this is a major step in "ensuring that the history of Nova Scotia as it is reflected in our buildings and structures is preserved."

Dr. Cuthbertson has been for ten years in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and holds degrees from McGill, U.N.B., and King's College, London. Mr. Norris has training in architectural technology, and a B.A. in industrial design. He came to Nova Scotia after serving as heritage officer with the city of Edmonton.

The Heritage Letter is to be issued four times a year, and is designed to inform Nova Scotians of what the Heritage Unit is doing, and what is happening in the heritage field in Nova Scotia. The following notes are taken from the first issue.

The main focus of the Unit in the near future is the promotion of the Heritage Inventory Policy. This is intended to record in an organized manner architectural and historical data on all pre-1914 buildings, and any post-1914 buildings of special merit in the province.

The Heritage Unit provides administrative support to the Provincial Heritage Advisory Council. This Council, set up under the Heritage Property Act, is responsible to the Minister, and advises him on what properties should be registered under the Heritage Properties Act. To date 38 properties have been so registered.

The Act also provides for a registry of heritage property and an advisory committee at the municipal level. The Chairman of the Halifax Committee is Commodore Andrew McMillin, and in Bedford is Allan Duffus.

In upcoming issues of Heritage Letter will be items about the Heritage Unit, the Advisory Council (provincial) and Advisory Committee (municipal).

These Letters should be of value to those interested in following the support government is giving to heritage concerns.



BOOKS OF INTEREST TO TRUST MEMBERS -

Halifax's Other Hill: Fort Needham from Earliest Times. Paul Erickson with an introduction by Phyllis Blakeley. St. Mary's University Occasional Papers in Anthropology, Special Publications 1984. \$7.50 (including postage and handling).

Dr. Erickson, who for a number of years lived adjacent to Fort Needham, leads his readers through all major stages of the fort's development beginning with the American Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods through to the modern period when Fort Needham became a park. Excellent photographs complement the text.

St. Paul's Cemetery. Daniel M. Shimabuku and Gary F. Hall. St. Mary's University Occasional Papers in Anthropology, No.10. \$5.25 (incl. postage and handling).

The work is an intensive archaeological and historical study which includes the history of the cemetery, a complete list of those buried in St. Paul's, illustrations of some of the design themes represented on headstones, and a partial list of epitaphs.

These books may be ordered from:
Occasional Papers in Anthropology.
Department of Anthropology
Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.,
B3H 3C3 -- or phone

902) 429-9780, local 249.

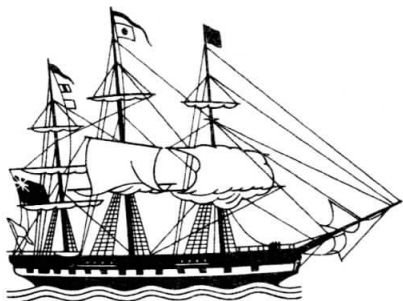
NATIONAL PARKS CENTENNIAL EVENTS -

- May 19.—Exploring Georges Island. -
at Georges Island.
- June 7-9.—Centennial Spring Festival
Kejimikujik Nat.Park..
- Jun.14. — Children's Festival - Alexander
Graham Bell Nat.Hist.
Park, Baddek
- Jun. 16.—Discover York Redoubt - Halifax.
- Jun. 19.—Fashions of Louisbourg - Sydney.
- Jun.22/24.—Micmacs Honour Membertou -
Port Royal.
- Jun.29/30.—Wilderness Hike - Cape Breton
Jly.1. National Park.
- Jun. 30.—Gala Kite Weekend - Alexander
Graham Bell N.H.Park,
Baddeck.
- July. — Fashions of Louisbourg - Sydney
- Jly. 1. — Celebrate Canada Day at the
Citadel - Halifax Citadel.
- July.& — Fortress of Louisbourg Dinner/
Aug. Concerts - Fortress of Louisbourg.
- July.& — Fortress of L'bourg Candlelight
Aug. Tours - Fortress of L'bourg.
- Aug.21. — Birthday at the Bell - Alexander
Graham Bell NHP

For further information on these events
contact Gillian L. Pullen, Centennial
Projects Officer, Parks Canada, Upper
Water Street, Hfx., N.S., B3J 1S9. or
phone: 902) 426-7909.



ATLANTIC CANADA INSTITUTE
13th ANNUAL VACATION SUMMER SCHOOL.



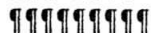
This year the Atlantic Canada Institute will join forces with Parks Canada in July and August to celebrate 100 years of heritage conservation in the Atlantic region.

Week 1: - July 21 to 26

Place: - Memramcook Institute, St. Joseph, New Brunswick

Topic: - "De Fil en Aiguille en Acadie" -

— French-language program co-sponsored by la Société historique de la Vallée de Memramcook - focussing on the transmission of culture among the Acadian people, it will introduce participants to folklorists, artisans and local historians; take field trips to historic sites; and have a lobster dinner.



Week 2: - July 28 to August 2

Place: - University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI.

Topic: - L.M. Montgomery and "Anne of Green Gables"

Speakers:- Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph - Dr. Francis W.P. Bolger -

— The lectures will be on the diaries, letters and works of Montgomery and include the speakers' experiences in Poland where "Anne" is a popular literary heroine. A theatre performance of "Anne..." at Confederation Centre will be followed by a reception to meet the actors. There will be field trips and lectures by Dr. F.W.P. Bolger, author of The Years Before Anne, further developing the "Anne" theme.

— Other programs during the week include: Parks Canada restoration of Province House, Green Gables, and Ardgowan House; on Island life; and on Maritime islands such as Grand Manan, Pictou Island, etc.



Week 3: - August 4 - 9.

Place: - University of King's College, Halifax.

Speakers:- Parks Canada staff;
Dr. Lou Collins; Halifax Civic Historian;
A staff member from Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa;
Terry Punch and Alan Marble of the Genealogical Association of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society;
Joan Payzant of Dartmouth

— Parks Canada will lecture on its restoration of Halifax defences, including the Citadel; on restoration challenges, e.g. uniforms, using interpretive art, Annapolis Valley sites. "Historic Aspects of the Fishery" including lectures on the Bluenose and on women in the Tanook fishery; "Halifax in the Wars will look at the city from the American Revolution to the V.E. Day riots. "Notable 19th Century Women in Nova Scotia" by Lou Collins on Adele Hugo and three powerful Victorian women in Halifax. A special Genealogical Workshop on Researching one's Military Ancestors will be given by a staff member of the Public Archives of Canada from Ottawa and researchers Terry Punch and Alan Marble.

— Field trips will include Lunenburg; marine excursions will include a lecture on the Dartmouth ferry by Joan Payzant plus a ferry ride; and tours of Parks Canada facilities. On August 9-10, a special overnight tour of Annapolis Valley historic sites and Parks Canada restorations will be available.

— A children's program will be offered at each ACI location.. For further information on any of the programs write:

Atlantic Canada Institute
110 York Street
Mount Allison Un. Campus
Sackville, New Brunswick
EOA 3C0

Tel: 506)536-2040 ext.355 OR
Halifax 479-2271 (evenings).



McCULLY HOUSE SIGN UNVEILED AT A CEREMONY ON 23 FEBRUARY 1985.

Following are remarks made by JAMES St. CLAIR of Mull River, Cape Breton, at the celebration on 23 February to mark the working start of the restoration of the Jonathan McCully House on Brunswick Street in Halifax. Mr. St.Clair, Past President of the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage and Chairman of the McCully House Committee, called it "...an auspicious day".

"... for the next few months, volunteers, working under the guidance of experts, will begin the transformation of the interior of this house. In time, and with a great deal of effort and hard work, McCully House will become the Heritage House for the Province.

"Let us turn our minds to what it was like on Brunswick Street in 1859.... a street of new and elegant houses. The occupants were merchants and professionals. McCully House was the newest house on the block and we would like to think that passersby stood and admired it.

"In 1862, the man for whom the house is now named moved in with his family. Jonathan McCully was a distinguished lawyer and political writer, a member of the Legislative Council and Judge of Probate. Throughout the time he lived in the house, McCully was actively involved in making Confederation come about. He attended the London Conference of 1866-67 and was appointed to the Senate of the Dominion of Canada in 1867; in 1870 he became a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. He died in the house in 1877.

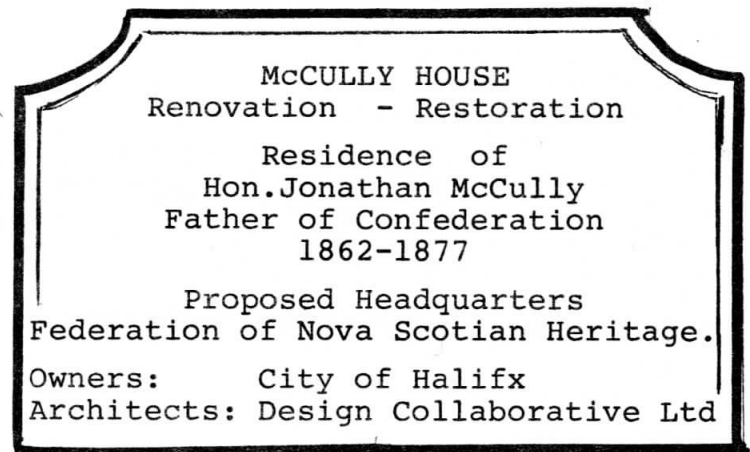
"After the home was sold by McCully's family, it had a number of tenants throughout the years. Within the last several decades the house has fallen on hard times.

"In 1984, the announcement was made at the Heritage Day Luncheon sponsored by Heritage Trust, that the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage and the City of Halifax had entered into an agreement to proceed with plans for the restoration of McCully House. Plans call for the house ...to become a Heritage House for the Province, with the Federation as its chief tenants.

"Now, in 1985, we stand where many others have stood admiring this house, prepared to dream of the time when the house will once again be admired. That will be another historic day for the City of Halifax and the Federation.

"To help celebrate the unveiling of the sign is the noted representative of this area in the Provincial Legislature, a distinguished Nova Scotian, a former Mayor of the City of Halifax, the Honourable Edmund Morris, Minister of Social Services.

"As the owner of the building and the agency which has kept McCully House alive during the past years, the contributor of many dollars and many hours of effort, the City of Halifax deserves commendation from us all. As its chief Executive and friend of the McCully House, His Worship, the Mayor of Halifax, the Honourable Ron Wallace will now unveil the sign which is the result of two years of planning and activity. "



MABEL BELL: ALEXANDER'S SILENT PARTNERby
Lilias M. Toward.*Reviewed by Shirley B. Elliott*

The name of Alexander Graham Bell has assumed an image of legendary proportions during this century, but little was known of Mabel Hubbard Bell, his wife. Now Lilias Toward has happily filled this lacuna with her Mabel Bell: Alexander's Silent Partner, the fascinating story of a dedicated life, told in large measure through her own words in letters to her remarkable husband and her daughter, Marian H. Fairchild. During summer vacations at Baddeck, Mrs. Fairchild shared these letters with Mrs. Toward, who was impressed with their maturity and high level of human interest. It is our good fortune that she has been able, through careful editing and painstaking research, to make these letters accessible to us today. To the text Hugh MacLennan, a cousin of the author and a native Cape Bretoner, has contributed a splendid introduction.

Mabel Hubbard Bell was born in Cambridge, Mass. in 1857, the daughter of Gardiner Hubbard, a prominent Boston and Washington attorney. At the age of five, while on a visit to relatives in New York, she contracted scarlet fever, which resulted in a lifetime of total deafness. Her father's fortunate interest in the education of the deaf, however, led to a meeting with Bell in 1873, when she was barely 16 and he in his late 20's. Though it appears he was attracted to her almost from the outset, Mabel's interest developed more slowly, culminating in their marriage on her 18th birthday in 1875. It was an ideal marriage in every sense; in spite of the age gap and her physical handicap, an excellent rapport existed between them, and Bell's genius was happily complemented by his wife's active and more practical approach to his inventions. This bond was severed with Bell's death at Beinn Bhreagh in August, 1922, while Mabel passed away five months later.

The Bells first visited Baddeck in 1885, when en route to Newfoundland. Charmed by the village and its environs,

they were to return the following summer, and within a few years the large sprawling wooden dwelling, Beinn Bhreagh, occupied a commanding position on the headland, Red Head. Originally intended as a summer retreat, their visits soon stretched over longer periods, particularly when Bell's laboratory was established on the shore below, and his experiments with Baldwin and McCurdy made Baddeck known far and wide. That is a familiar story, but little is known of Mabel's financial interest in these undertakings and of her active support of the ill-fated Aerial Experimental Association, in which she was affectionately regarded as 'the little mother of us all'. At the same time she was establishing a firm friendship with the people of Baddeck; through her initiative the Alexander Graham Bell Club, an organization for the ladies of the village, was begun and a public library and parent-teacher group, forerunner of the Canadian Home and School Association were established. Beinn Bhreagh became the focal point of the community, the site of many memorable events -- the first flight in the British Empire in 1909, the vice-regal visit of Lord Aberdeen in 1893, and the annual Harvest Home Celebrations, to name only a few.

It was in her relationship with her family, however, that her indomitable spirit is best demonstrated -- her concern for her three daughters, worries relating to financial matters, but primarily her love and devotion to her husband. This is a story of courage and dedication, not infrequently affected by adversity, which Lilias Toward has treated with sensitivity and understanding. Nova Scotians may be proud to claim its role in their heritage.

Shirley B. Elliott.

Mabel Bell: Alexander's silent partner,
by Lilias M. Toward. Toronto, Methuen,
1984. 220p. Illustrated.

While browsing through the Novascotian for 1833, David Sutherland came up with some interesting little items on Nova Scotia's past, Some of these gleanings are presented below and we hope to persuade David to provide a continuing feature for the Griffin of similar glimpses into our local past.

PUBLIC WELLS -

from Novascotian 28 August 1833

Mr. Howe, - Sir...The following brief sketch may illustrate what I deem the strides of improvement in retreat...It must be evident that in the course of 20 years, the population of Halifax has greatly increased; and that, though many individuals previous to the origin of temperance societies, made use of ardent spirits and malt liquors as the best beverages, there ever was a majority in favour of water to wet their whistles, and there ever will remain one in its favour, provided that the public will be a little more generous than heretofore.

There is at present but two public wells between the Lumber Yard and 'razor row', on Water Street, while between Jacob street and the Navy Hospital, 4 are to be found. A few years since two were in requisition on Bedford Row, now both extinct. Hollis Street, from the Lumber Yard to the Ordinance, retains its original allowance of two.

On Granville street there were two in vogue, but only one remain. On Barrington and Pleasant streets, from Fresh Water Bridge to Buckingham or North Barrack Street, 3 are in existence; here has been an increase of one - the Tank, and the only one opened at the public expence, in this very short space of 25 years. Since the erection of Dalhousie College, the Parade well, as it is termed, has been scarcely worth the name.

Argyle Street has three, one is closed, and another, for all the good it is, might be served in the same way. Grafton and Albemarle Streets had two between them; they have but one now, and this is

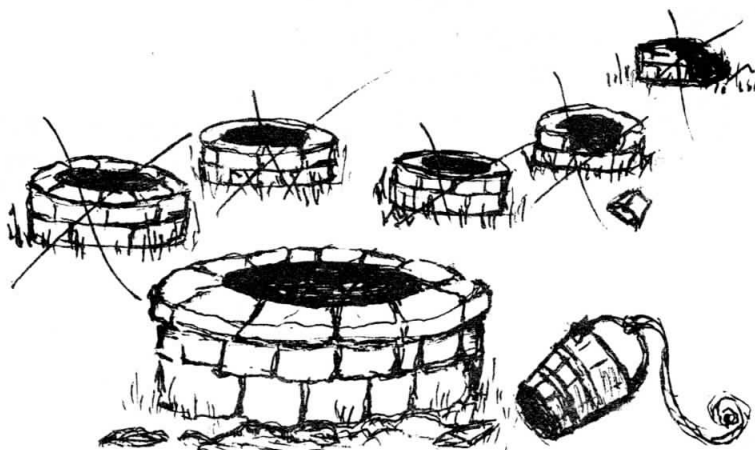
of little worth. The two new fangled ones (as my grandmother styles them) on Prince Street, are not worth a good pinch of snuff, and I am certain that none of our worthies of the mist would give a cigar for them.

By the above memoranda. it will be seen that, in 25 years one well has been opened, and five have been closed. Had the population been decreasing in an equal ratio with the disappearance of public wells, it might easily be ascertained why it was so; but when it has been on the advance, and that rapidly, it becomes a matter of serious attention, for we know not in what light of improvement we are to view these proceedings.

The question, therefore, that forces slowly into observation is, would it not be of more utility to make the money about to be expended in making a reservoir on the Common (which might as well be at Dartmouth at the eruption of fire) and sink half a dozen wells in the town, where they will be of use at all times and in all seasons, if properly attended to? It would relieve the acute wants of the public, were this measure adopted...

Should 'the powers that be', feel disposed to meet the necessities of those within their pale, it might not be amiss to point out a spring or two, which with little delay would furnish the desired object; one at the junction of the Methodist and Poor House burying ground enclosures, on Grafton Street; another in between Dalhousie College and the Garrison Chapel, on Barrington street. Many other situations may be discovered...which it would be well to have in immediate operation.

CURIUS



SPRING TOUR OF SCOTLAND, THE LAKE DISTRICT
AND YORKSHIRE —

There are a few places available on the above tour, May 2 - 26, 1985. To register or for further details call Hilary Grant at 423-4807 or 835-2795.

Prior to the tour there will be two illustrated talks given by DR. NINA KONCZACKI held in the auditorium of the N.S. Museum on Summer Street and open to the public.

SUNDAY - 17 MARCH - 2.30 p.m. --- topic will be "Man of Taste".

SUNDAY - 21 APRIL - 2.30 p.m. --- topic will be "Scottish Castles and Manor Houses".



HERITAGE TRUST OF N. S.

1579 DRESDEN ROW.

HALIFAX, N. S.

B3J 2K4

