



# The Griffin

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DECEMBER, 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. - unless otherwise stated.

Thursday, December 19 -

Note:- **CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE** - Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 6152 Coburg Road at 8.00 p.m. Guest speaker will be MR. BERNIE RIORDON, Director of AGNS, on "AGNS Lives - New Home and Future Direction of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia" followed by a tour of the Galleries.

Thursday, January 16, 1986 -

Guest speaker DR. JOHN GODFREY, President, King's College - "Banks Island and the Franklin Expedition Revisited".



Monday, February 17 -

HERITAGE DAY - program to be announced.

Thursday, February 20 -

Guest LEWIS PAYZANT, Dartmouth Museum Society will speak on "The Inclined Plane and the Shubenacadie Canal, Past, Present and Future".

Thursday, March 20 -

PROFESSOR ROGER DIAL, Dalhousie University will be our guest speaker - "New Wine in an Old Province - The Grand Pré Winery".



COSTUME SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA -

At its regular meetings held on the last Monday of the month, at 7.30 p.m., the Society presents talks and displays on various aspects of costume. This fall there have been interesting programs on the traditional dress of China, India and Japan. The series continues on January 27, 1986, with a program by Anna Katrina Naas on the dress of Scandinavia, in the Board Room at 5516 Spring Garden Road. On Feb. 24, in the Public Archives Clary Croft will talk about the Paisley Shawl and on March 31 The Glovers, from Bear River will be at the Public Archives

to display and talk about the dress of Mexico.

— For further information call Pamela Collins at 455-6093.



MARITIME HISTORY COURSE

St. Mary's University, Halifax, is offering a six-lecture, non-credit course on the history of the Maritime Provinces beginning on January 30, 1986, at St. Mary's. Course fee is \$25.00. For full details call: JIM SHARPE, 429-9780.

The Green Market was an important part of Christmas in Halifax, for Haligonians visited the Market Square near the Ferry Wharf when the air was spicy with ever-greens, and there selected a Christmas Tree from the hundreds of graceful firs covered with powdery snowflakes. The City Market was so small that the country people sold their goods on the streets surrounding the Post Office, and the Mayor worried about women and children being exposed to storms. Large numbers of country people brought poultry to the Market, and did their Christmas shopping.

The editor of the British Colonist on December 22, 1868, pictured the following scene:

*Everybody goes to market as the "Holidays" approach. In the self-satisfied ease with which a banker, or a rich merchant - (perchance a judge or a bishop) - as he trudges home at midday, swings a turkey by the legs, or daintily dangles a pair of plump chickens in his hand, we see the first symptoms of the approach of "the season" - In the important strut of the mechanic or labourer, as he too makes for home with his geese or rabbits, ever and anon holding them up between himself and the light, to gaze admiringly on the bargain he has made, we see a symbol that the time for "good cheer" is at hand .....*

It was already an established custom for families to make a tour of the "downtown" streets to admire the windows in jewellery stores, dry goods shops, and even the hard-

ware establishments. The confectionery store windows were heaped with fruit and nuts, and with candy clear-toys - in the shape of pigs, horses, cows, rabbits and firemen - and with striped candy canes five feet long. "Pa" scarcely had a moment's peace till "Mamma" and the fair ones, with him for a chaperone, explored Granville, Pleasant, George, Hollis and other streets on which the "sights" are to be seen. "Pa", too, must see the interior of some of the attractive jeweller's or drygoods establishments; and then "Pa" goes home victimised.

One English army officer who had been stationed in the Halifax Garrison in the last decades of Queen Victoria's reign wrote that

*Whenever I may happen to be when Christmas comes round, my heart and memory always go back in fond remembrance of the unique pleasure of a Canadian winter, especially a Halifax one. I seem to see again the spruce and fir trees in Point Pleasant Park, with branches heavily laden with their weight of snow; its winding roads along which pass and re-pass sleighs with their well-muffled occupants in the snug old town with its church steeples and comfortable residences; - the Citadel and glacis down whose steep sides I see the swift toboggans glide rapidly but silently over the crisp snow, whose fresh rosy-cheeked girls make the frosty air ring again with peals of merry laughter - there too is the old town clock overlooking one of the finest harbours in the world."*



### CHRISTMAS IN RURAL NOVA SCOTIA IN THE 1850's



When he was an old man William Charles Archibald remembered boyhood Christmases on the farm at Musquodoboit in his autobiography Home-making and Its Philosophy.

"It was down our chimney that Santa Claus came each Christmas with wonderful things... My first gift, I recollect, was a little wagon made by Mr. Robinson, our

schoolteacher, who boarded with us when I was about five years old. The wheels were sawed off the end of an oak log of the right size, and were very neatly painted in plum brown, with red and light blue lines. The stock must have been most wisely chosen for the wagon lasted ten years and stood all sorts of uses...

Just before Christmas the chickens, swine and beeves were killed and dressed, and their lard, fresh, pure and sweet, was made ready for future use... The rallying point for Thanksgiving and Christmas was the wholesome manufacture of cookies and twist-cakes or doughnuts. Mother was chief in the culinary department, but of course the girls did the rolling, larding, mixing, twisting, cutting, sweetening, spicing and carrying to the pans; but for crisping and frying well-browned while hot and dispensing none but mother could hold the pans. The younger boys helped with the fires, for a smart heat was needed. For every armful of sticks they took in, out went their blistered hands filled with as many boiling larded twisters. Arthur and George did more of this than I. I think I hinted to them that they would hear of this again. They were larger for their age and had more room, and the vacant space had been waiting almost a year and was hard to fill. In fact their very activities at these special times helped much to work them down... The Christmas cakes were always eaten hot, and never like the cold, leaden ones of today.

Families were invited in or out for Christmas, and merrily beat our hearts with the music of the sleigh bells. The large Yule log was not forgotten in the good old times of the brick hearths. The preparation for Christmas keeping was delightfully kept in view weeks ahead, as now.

Of course Christmas dinner was a great feature of the day. A sample menu for a family of six was published in the *Suburban News*.

The meal consisted of oysters on half shell, cream of celery soup, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, turnips, celery, olives, chow-chow, plum pudding, mince pie, ice cream, ice cream wafers, nuts, raisins, fruit, coffee. The cost of this was \$5.63 for the complete dinner. Some of the prices quoted were  $\frac{1}{2}$  peck of oysters 20 cents; 1 quart of milk, 6 cents; 1 turkey, \$1.25;  $\frac{1}{2}$  peck potatoes, 10 cents; turnips, 5 cents; olives and chow-chow, a quarter; total of 95 cents for the pudding. 25 cents for the mincepie, 50 cents for ice-cream - including one quart of cream costing 30 cents!

Many families dined at an hotel. The Queen Hotel gave its Christmas Dinner on Sunday, and the Halifax Hotel on Monday, so it was possible to have a festive dinner both days.<sup>2</sup> In 1890 these menus were published in the *Acadian Recorder* and I thought you might be interested in the food served at the old Halifax Hotel.

from *Acadian Recorder*, December 26, 1890  
p.3, col. 4. HALIFAX HOTEL Christmas  
Dinner Menu.....

Oyster on half shell  
Green Turtle Soup. Consomme, a l'Imperial  
Clery (sic), Olives, Caviar, Tomatoes  
Boiled Fresh Salmon, a la Rotschild. Fillet  
of Sole, a la Normandy. Cucumbers  
Pommes Parisienne  
Sweet Breads Glacees, a la Foulouse  
Fillet of Beef Pique, aux Truffes  
Squab Grille, a la Maitre d'Hotel  
Turkey, Cranberry Sauce.  
Roast Ribs of Prime Beef  
Yorkshire Pudding. Saddle of Lamb,  
Currant Jelly  
Goose, Apple Jelly.  
Boiled Ham. Tongue. Corned Beef  
Boiled Fowls. Parsley Sauce  
Boiled Potatoes. Haricots Verts. Mashed  
Potatoes and Cream. French Peas.  
Tomatoes. Sweet Corn. Cauliflower. Asparagus  
Punch, a la Romaine  
Red Hed Duck, Currant Jelly  
Haunch of Cariboo, au Jus. Quail on toast  
Roast Partridge, Bread Sauce  
Newfoundland Ptarmigan  
Lobster Salad. Chicken Mayonaise. Lettuce  
Queen Pudding. Mince Pie. Deep Dish Apple-  
Washington Pie (Pie  
English Plum Pudding, Brandy Sauce  
Lemon Meringue Pie. Charlotte Russe  
Champagne Jelly. Assorted Cakes  
Chocolate Ice Cream and Sponge Cake  
English, American, and Canadian Cheese  
Bananas, Oranges, Grapes, Apples, Raisins  
Almonds, Figs, Nuts, Candied Fruits  
Bon-bons. Coffee.

1. *Suburban News* (Rockingham), Dec.19, 1903, p.26, F90/SU7
2. *Mail*, Dec. 27, 1898, p.7., col.6.

The Trust has in the main been concerned with the conservation of buildings, the preservation of streetscapes and the retention of views. Recent events in Halifax have been concerned with the conservation of paper and of art, the former at the Weldon Law Library and the latter at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

In the law library fire, ninety thousand books from the fourth floor were recovered and although wet and blackened with soot, they have been restored and returned for use in the education for and the practice of law. Rescued is perhaps a better term, for without quick action, mildew will destroy damp paper in a very few days. The removal of the books from the fire required a magnificent response of volunteers backed by a very good organization. Many local people spent long hours of backbreaking work in the handling of heavy boxes from the building and the spreading of books for air drying. Twenty thousand of the wettest books were placed in frozen storage to await vacuum drying by the California firm, Documents Reprocessing.

The effort put forward by so many is further evidence of the support of the citizens of Halifax for conservation.

The decision to restore the Dominion Building built in the year of Confederation 1867, on the square formed by George and Hollis Streets, Bedford Row and Cheapside, in the heart of Halifax, for the use of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia involves conservation at two levels. First, the restoration of an important historic building and secondly, the conservation of art in a modern facility. The Province has needed a permanent home for its art gallery, a building adequately equipped for the preservation and display of our artistic heritage. In addition to galleries and seminar rooms, the plans include space for the recording, restoration and conservation of the collection; functions which are very necessary for the care and preservation of art for the inspiration and education of us all.

The plans for the new facility are on display at the present home of the Gallery at the corner of Coburg Road and LeMarchant Street. The Building Fund Committee has prepared and presented plans and given them good publicity. The rest is up to all of us to support this conservation project.  
Fred Matthews.



REVIVING MAIN STREET -

Windsor and Bridgetown Nova Scotia are two of the seven communities in which Heritage Canada Foundation will conduct pilot projects for its proposed seventy main street revitalisation programs. The campaign to bring life and prosperity back to the hearts of Canada's small towns is described in a newly-published book Reviving Main Street edited by Deryck Holdsworth for the Heritage Canada Foundation and published by the University of Toronto Press at \$25.00 cloth, \$12.95 paper. It is illustrated with 200 photographs including before-and after shots, and includes chapters on history and conservation of architecture, landscaping, design, etc., and a foreword by Pierre Berton.

ST. PAUL'S RESTORATION -

The October 19 issue of the Real Estate Guide carried an illustrated account of progress in the five-year ground-to-steeple work to restore St. Paul's to its original architectural structure.

Workers have encountered many surprises in their examination of the building, including an unexpected crypt beneath the foundation.

The 92 year old stained glass window at the rear of the church has been sent to a stained glass specialist's studio in New Brunswick for restoration and when returned will have 3/4" clear, unbreakable lexan shielding. The work is being carried on with painstaking attention to detail and materials and methods are as close as possible to those used in the original construction.

HERITAGE TRUST ANNUAL BANQUET, 1985

The Annual Banquet of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has become an eagerly awaited event in the life of the Trust.

This year's Banquet, on Saturday night, October 26, was organized by Pam Collins, Programme Chairman and lived up to the fine tradition begun over two decades ago when our first annual banquet was held in a casement of the Halifax Citadel.

Our banquet this year found us enjoying the hospitality of the new Halifax Sheraton Hotel where we were so graciously received when some 90 members of the Trust toured the Sheraton last June. In a very real sense, our current Programme Chairman has helped us to open two of the major projects on our historic waterfront since we were the first Society to hold an annual banquet at the Clipper Cay restaurant when it first opened in Historic Properties.

This year's banquet was held in the gracious elegance of the Halifax Room of the Sheraton where 168 members of the Heritage Trust gathered to mark the passing of another vigorous year in the history of the Trust under the current Presidency of Dr. Fred Matthews, who chaired the banquet.

Dr. Peter Waite of the History Department, Dalhousie University, was guest speaker. Dr. Waite is a former member of the Halifax Landmarks Commission and was for nine years the Nova Scotian representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The Board has the responsibility of reviewing and, where appropriate, recommending historic and heritage sites to the Government of Canada for recognition and designation.

Dr. Waite recalled particularly the designation of the Halifax Historic Waterfront Buildings as a National Historic Site and the subsequent struggles to preserve them, in which the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia played so prominent a part.

Dr. Waite was introduced by Dr. Lou Collins, President of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society and thanked by Mrs. Lucille Stewart, Vice-President of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Dr. Fred Matthews, President of the Heritage Trust, then reviewed the activities of the Trust during the past year and gave members present a comprehensive picture of the many heritage activities in which the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has participated, both in Halifax and elsewhere in the Province, due to the dedicated efforts of members.

Another successful and varied Heritage Trust year thus passed into history.

Lou W. Collins



SHAND HOUSE -

Shand House Museum in Windsor, bequeathed to the Nova Scotia Museum by Gwendolyn Shand, daughter of Clifford Shand, noted businessman and cyclist, was opened for four days last summer during the Sam Slick festival and was visited by over 1500 people. Two hundred guests attended a tea on August 11 when copies of the Museum's latest publication Silent Steeds, a history of bicycling in Nova Scotia written by Heritage Trust member Heather Watts, were presented to Windsor's Mayor Earle Hood and to Veronica Connelly, president of the West Hants Historical Society.

1985 HERITAGE TRUST HISTORY TOUR  
of  
STATELY HOMES AND GARDENS OF SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN ENGLAND

Here are more memories of this year's spring tour to the U.K.....

PAULINE HILDERSHEIM describes her favourite houses:-

Being plentifully supplied with relations in the south of England, who are kind enough to take me to country houses, I had not expected to find myself part of a tour in the British Isles. When I heard that Dr. Nina Konczacki had arranged to visit Mellerstain and Culzean, two of the great Adam houses of Scotland, I knew that this was an opportunity which must not be missed.

Mellerstain, the home of Lord and Lady Binning, alone would have made the tour worthwhile. The house was built in two stages - the two wings in 1725 by William Adam and the large central block by his famous son, Robert. The eighteenth century library, regarded as an outstanding creation of Robert Adam, contains one of his best decorated ceilings in the original colours of 1775. Adam green predominates along with a soft peachy-pink, blue-grey and white. The original pinkish shade dominates the ceiling of the charming drawing room which is ornamented with griffins and vases. Robert Adam also designed the drawing room fireplace and two satinwood tables flanking it. For those who delight in beautiful staircases, Mellerstain has a most graceful double main staircase. Mellerstain is still privately owned and deserves to be better known.

Culzean Castle was given in 1945 by Charles Kennedy, fifth Marquess of Ailsa to the National Trust for Scotland and is a good example of the fine care the National Trust for Scotland takes of its buildings and grounds. The oval staircase at Culzean, surrounded by creamy Corinthian columns on the principal floor and shorter, slimmer Ionic columns for the second floor to exaggerate the perspective, and thus the height, is surely one of Robert Adam's finest achievements.

At Hopetoun House, home of the Marquess of Linlithgow, the State Apartments were created by William Adam, but decorated

by his sons Robert and John. The furniture for this suite of rooms was specially made for Hopetoun House by James Cullen, a little-known but important contemporary of Thomas Chippendale.

One house I want to recommend particularly to people interested in the work of the Adam family is Nostell Priory in Yorkshire. The fifth baronet, Sir Rowland Winn, who succeeded in 1765, commissioned Robert Adam to complete the interior of the house his father had built on the estate held by the Winn family since 1650 in newly-fashionable Neo-classical taste. The furniture was made by Thomas Chippendale who was born nearby in Otley. Nostell Priory was given to the National Trust in 1953 and is lived in by Lord St.Oswald, Sir Rowland Winn's direct descendant to whom the contents of the house still belong. Nostell Priory is managed and shown to visitors by the St.Oswalds. We were most fortunate in being shown around by the curator. Nostell Priory charms the visitor in a way which a country house - such as Temple Newsam, which now forms part of the Leeds City Art Galleries complex, cannot. This is not to say that Temple Newsam, which contains the finest publicly-owned collection of English decorative art outside London, is not worth visiting.



Some of the memories that keep coming back again and again to SYD GOSLEY:

We all of course enjoyed the great houses, and the priceless furniture and paintings they contained - that thrill goes without saying.

Edinburgh with its castle, the Royal Mile, and its many shops, was indeed beautiful. In fact, the whole tour had great appeal.... so what, then, were the highlights from my point of view?! I think mainly of several small, and just one main incident. I will deal with the smaller one's first.



Memory takes me back to Culzean Castle and the little Irish guide who after showing a treasure of that great collection, would say in her fascinating accent, "Lovely, isn't it?", and Lady Rosebery who took time out to show us her house, Dalmeny. What a beautiful personality she had. My memory also returns to Keswick and the wonderful day when we walked down to Lake Derwentwater. The sunlight mixed with the clouds rolling down the langdales was so soft and the air so still, one could imagine the many artists and writers who had walked there. I have amusing memories of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shops, and the girls up to their elbows in sweaters and whatever else took their fancy. I also remember Maurice with his sketching pad and Ethel with her binoculars.

The City of York was my hometown for many years and my memories are nostalgic; I always think of it as part of my life. So what, you may ask, was my greatest thrill and lasting memory of the tour?

It happened at Castle Howard, on the bleak and windy day we visited there. It did not happen in the house, either, great and majestic and so grand. It happened on a grassy walk when just a few of us ventured out with Nina to look at the Mausoleum. At a certain place she stopped and asked "What do you see about you?" Looking south one could see a pyramid, a monument to that great early civilisation. To the east was the Temple of the Four Winds, its architecture reminiscent of ancient Greece. To the south-east, the Mausoleum, Roman without a doubt. Below was the lake shaped to resemble a river, and spanning it a magnificent bridge. Across to the west one could see a tall column with the remains of a cross, and to the North, the great house with its fantastic baroque architecture, the peacocks and the tranquility. "Here", said Nina, "you see what really sums up our tour." I believe it, these people were indeed the New Romans.

To Dr. Konczacki (Nina) and to my friend Hilary, and all others who helped organise this tour, my grateful thanks. Anne and I hope to be with you in 1987 and get another educational and exciting tour of Cornwall and Devon.

Here are impressions left in MARGARET HALLETT'S mind:-

I was asked to contribute a few comments on our spring tour of Scottish castles and Stately Homes. As a non-student of ancient art and architecture, I found it was so helpful to have Dr. Nina Konczacki as our tour director and teacher. Her simple and elegant descriptions of every castle, house and garden were so informative they made my tour doubly interesting. From each place we visited I learned so much and enjoyed every one. Each was so different and all had such varied backgrounds.

Driving past the green, green fields with their grazing sheep and gambolling lambs, and to see so many daffodils in all their grace and beauty, was truly a delight.

My appetite has certainly been whetted for another, similar experience.



And here are STELLA McGUIGAN'S impressions of our tour:-

First I would like to say that my pre-conceived ideas of Scotland were all wrong. This being my first trip there, I thought the countryside would be bare, barren and craggy. Instead I saw lush green fields and daffodils blooming everywhere, giving me quite a lift, having left cold weather and some old, dirty snow banks behind me in Halifax.

The fields were inhabited by large herds of cattle, one species which I had never before seen, had long, shaggy hair of a taupe colour. Also, as far as the eye could see were sheep with their lambs which had been born in March. The marvellous thing about all this was each lamb knew its own mother and they stayed together in little family groups. As our tour progressed and neared its end we could actually see that the lambs were growing fast.

We soon became aware of the genuine warmth of the Scottish people toward us, especially on finding out that we were Canadians. They couldn't have been kinder or more helpful! Personally, I think this

was the best tour I had been on, it was so relaxed. Our nine nights in one hotel in Edinburgh meant no packing and unpacking every other day. It became a little more hectic as the tour moved on though not too bad as we had one two-night stay and then three or four nights each. Perhaps we were a little spoiled by our long stay in Edinburgh.

The group consisted of 31 very congenial people. The tour director was Dr. Nina Konszacki assisted by her husband. As a history professor at Mount St. Vincent University, Dr. Nina is well qualified for this type of touring. Before entering each place of interest, she briefed us on the important things to look for, then on our return to the bus there was discussion on what we had seen and the surrounding area, giving us a further history and geography lesson.

The tour continued through the Lake District of England, then to York and finally on to London where we had three days on our own. Some of us went to the Chelsea Flower Show, the Barbican, took private tours, shopped and went to the theatre. One member was lucky enough to see four or five plays, and all the most popular ones at that.

However, to me a most puzzling sight presented itself on the last day in London. In one of the largest tube stations, way underground, I came upon a bride in a long white gown, a little pillbox head-dress with a long veil attached and a red floral bouquet, wandering around looking lost and completely alone!! I never did find out what she was doing there by herself! Too bad Sherlock Holmes isn't still with us to help solve the mystery.



GREENWOOD COTTAGE

#### OFFICIAL OPENING OF GREENWOOD COTTAGE -

On a sunny, late summer Saturday, members of Heritage Trust, along with other invited guests, attended the official opening of Greenwood Cottage in Sherbrooke Village. Guides in period dress escorted the visitors through the house which has been restored to its 1870s and 1880s appearance. Built for Sherbrooke merchant John Cumming in 1871, the house is the gem of Sherbrooke Village.

Guests saw the Victorian horsehair parlour furniture, bedroom suites, the wood graining throughout the house, and the stained glass in the hall's front door, to name a few interesting features.

Outdoors, the guests enjoyed the music of the Sherbrooke Old-Timer Band, which was followed by brief speeches by government and museum officials. Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, we were treated to a fashion show of clothing styles from 1790 to 1910.

The house is in a beautiful location behind a white picket fence and is approached along a tree-lined semicircular walkway. Greenwood Cottage will definitely be one of the highlights for visitors to Sherbrooke Village as it was for Trust members on September.

Philip L. Hartling.



## THE ART OF INTERPRETATION -

The Art of Interpretation is an exhibition of sixty artworks commissioned by Parks Canada, Atlantic Region. It includes paintings, drawings, figurines, wall-hangings and tapestry.

The artworks are part of a Parks Canada activity called "interpretation", which communicates the themes and stories at our parks. They offer visitors new understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Canada's historic and natural heritage.

This exhibition commemorates the National Park Centennial and is part of the celebrations taking place across Canada in 1985.

These artworks may be viewed by the general public from November 29, 1985, to February 28, 1986, at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, corner of Robie Street and University Avenue, Halifax. Admission is free.



## HERITAGE NEWSLETTER -

Nova Scotia's Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness has started publication of a Heritage newsletter. Issue No.3 informs us that 10 additional area inventory groups have been trained. Names and areas are listed, but anyone in Halifax interested in learning about local properties being researched should contact MAUD ROSINSKI, the researcher/sponsor for the City of Halifax.

A provincial local inventory slide show is being developed by the Heritage office and local researchers to take into the schools to supplement public relations efforts.

Approval has been given for grants to assist organisations with preparation of architectural plans and contract specifications. Locally, the Universalist Unitarian Church in Halifax is included in this program. G.F. Duffus & Co., have completed the first set of finished architectural plans, beautifully rendered in the A.W. Wallace manner.

Details are included of the past summer's activities: tours, seminars for the upgrading of researchers, and the partial completion of an inventory of Nova Scotia's 1800 pre-1914 'Churches by the Sea'.

A Heritage poster has been produced for general distribution.

.....For further information on the Heritage Newsletter, or greater detail on the topics mentioned above, contact BRIAN CUTHBERTSON or DANIEL NORRIS at 424-5647



DEADLINE for MARCH issue:

FEBRUARY 1, 1986

HERITAGE TRUST VISITS HEMLOCK  
RAVINE PARK.  
by  
Lou Collins.

The telephone began its merry chiming early on Saturday morning, October 19th last. No, the Heritage Trust walk to Hemlock Ravine was not going to be cancelled. While it had been raining during the night, the weather appeared to be moderating. The walk was on.

Consequently some 15 optimistic Heritage Trusters appeared in the parking lot at the top of Kent Avenue about 9 a.m. as scheduled. There we were met by our friendly and knowledgeable guide, George Cann, of the Parks and Grounds Division of the City of Halifax.

Immediately before us was Julie's Pond embowered in trees still retaining leaves dressed in autumn colours. Two wild ducks were resting quietly beside the little island in the heart-shaped pond, as we prepared to begin our walk.

While our guide pointed out that Julie's Pond may not have been heart-shaped in the beginning, the sturdy stone retaining wall recently erected around the pond by City of Halifax, does maintain the heart shape of romantic tradition.

The rain ceased as we set off after our tall guide along the paths of this unique 200-acre park. While it remained damp and overcast throughout our walk, the splashes of bright colours provided by the oaks and maples as we made our way toward Hemlock Ravine, made up for the lack of sunshine.

The paths, skilfully laid out and well-gravelled, narrowed to the north as we approached Hemlock Ravine. After proceeding in single file down the south slope of the ravine, we were finally walking on the floor of the ravine itself.

In 1970, on the recommendation of the Halifax Landmarks Commission, the City of Halifax acquired three acres around Julie's Pond. Subsequent investigation and discussion revealed the unique ecological character and value of the Hemlock

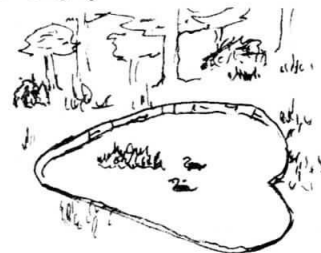
Ravine. With the aid of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and a leasing arrangement with the Province of Nova Scotia, a natural woodland park of some 200 acres was finally acquired and planned in detail and then approved by the Province in 1983. Thus the City of Halifax has, with the aid of the Province, provided for its citizens a park slightly larger than Point Pleasant Park, and one that is ecologically more interesting, especially in the area of the Hemlock Ravine.

In the Hemlock Ravine there are hemlock trees still standing that are judged to be over 300 years old. Thus some of them were growing in the Ravine before Halifax was founded in 1749. On the fragile floor of the Hemlock Ravine one finds a profusion of lichens of many kinds, moulds, fungi, and - in season - a variety of wild flowers.

The Ravine area, therefore, represents an unusually valuable and fragile ecological study area that it must be the responsibility of all citizens to use wisely and protect vigorously for future generations.

After a most interesting three hour tour, our enthusiastic guide led us back to the parking lot without incident and received the hearty thanks of the still enthusiastic Heritage hikers.

Certainly the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and all citizens of good will must be thankful to Mr. Doug Quinn, Director of Parks and Grounds, and Mr. Harold Oehmen, Director of Recreation, for the City of Halifax, and their respective staffs, for the magnificent Hemlock Ravine Park they are creating for the benefit of all who respect nature and enjoy the out-of-doors.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS -- LOOKING FOR AN IDEA?

Why not a year's membership in Heritage Trust, or one of the Trust's publications?

ORDER FORM  
to

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia  
Book Committee  
1579 Dresden Row, Halifax, N.S.  
B3J 2K4

A Trust membership would give the lucky recipient the year-round pleasure of interesting meetings, opportunity for bus trips to historic sites in the province and receipt of quarterly issues of The Griffin. Current fees are:

Student	.....	\$ 5.00
Single	.....	12.00
Family	.....	15.00
Senior Citizen	.....	8.00
Senior Couple	.....	12.00
Group (other institutions)	..	25.00
Life Members	.....	250.00

\_\_\_ An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings in Nova Scotia @ \$12.50 (paperback) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Seasoned Timbers, V.I: The Annapolis Valley @ \$5.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Seasoned Timbers, V.II: The South Shore @ \$5.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Lakes, Salt Marshes and the Narrow Green Strip (Dartmouth and Eastern Shore) @ \$6.95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Rogers' Photographic Advertising Album (Halifax) @ \$7.95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Nova Scotia Heritage Colouring Book @ \$2.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Researching a Building in Nova Scotia @ \$3.95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ A Sense of Place (Granville Street, Halifax) @ \$3.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ West House, Brunswick Street, Halifax @ \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find cheque or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postage and Handling \$ .75 per title.

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Heritage Trust pins and spoons also make very attractive gifts. The pins bear the Heritage Trust Crest in gold on a light green background and cost ..... \$5.00 each.

The Crest tops the handle of the silver plated coffee spoon priced at ..... \$7.50.



COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON !  
*from your Griffin Committee*



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