



# The Griffin

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## 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.

### HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM NOTES

Thursday, March 20

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

Thursday, April 17

MARY SPARLING, Director, Mount St. Vincent Art Gallery - "Heritage Aspects of the Mount St. Vincent Gallery Exhibits".

Thursday, May 15

DR. CYNTHIA NEVILLE, History Dept., Mount St. Vincent University - "Scottish Country Houses in the Eighteenth Century".

Thursday, June 19

ANNUAL MEETING - Also speaker Lewis Billard, Director of Research and Multi-Media, Dartmouth Schools - "Dormers, Dentils & Gingerbread" with slide and music track presentation.

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Prepare for the upcoming spring tour to the Wine Country of France co-sponsored by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Wine Circle, by a

### JOURNEY TO FRANCE VIA FILM

SUNDAY MARCH 16, 1986, 3 - 5 p.m.  
NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM AUDITORIUM  
SUMMER STREET, HALIFAX.

Enjoy a preview of the places we will visit in May, for example the Chateaux of the Loire and the Bordeaux wine region. No charge. All welcome.

**Musique royale** was founded in 1985 by a group interested in presenting classical music concerts in historic buildings of Nova Scotia. The artistic advisor is John Grew, Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at McGill University. John gave a very interesting concert in St. George's church in Halifax two summers ago.

During August of 1986 the society will present 16 concerts in six locations of the province. In order to present these concerts the Society plans a fund raising concert in June. John Grew and one of his students, David Sandall will give a duo harpsichord recital. It is hoped that \$ 2000 toward the summers expenses can be realized by pre-selling tickets to our patrons and supporters for this event. A wine reception will be held after the concert.

This fine concert will be held in Halifax in June. **WATCH FOR IT!**



#### SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

Dr. Konzacki, who planned our tours to England and Scotland in '84 and '85, gives courses at Mount Saint Vincent University on the social and cultural history of England and France. As well as fascinating lectures, one is treated to a pictorial glimpse into the past through Dr. Konzacki's superb slide collection. If you contemplate joining any of our tours, these courses are an excellent introduction to the architecture, furnishings, paintings, sculpture, gardens and costumes that you will see. If you don't intend touring, these courses allow you to travel vicariously. It is possible to audit the courses if you don't wish to gain credit and if you are a senior, the courses are absolutely free. Think about it and consult the Fall Calendar at the Mount for details.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Trust members are saddened by the passing of a long-time member, Mildred MacLaren, on November 5, 1985. Mrs. MacLaren was a noted Halifax librarian who held positions at the Halifax Memorial Library, the Nova Scotia Archives, the Kellogg Health Sciences Library and the Killam Library of Dalhousie University. Mrs. MacLaren was keenly interested in the cultural life of Halifax and was a generous supporter of many cultural groups among them Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to which she bequeathed \$5,000.00. An announcement will be made later as to the disposition of this much appreciated bequest.



Nova Scotians mourn the loss of one who made outstanding contributions to many areas of our lives in the death, in November, of Dr. Arthur Lister Murphy, noted surgeon and playwright and member of many provincial organizations including Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.



#### W A N T E D

CUPBOARD - to be left at Nova Scotia Museum to store supplies for Heritage Trust monthly meetings. Suggested size: 30" wide X 36" high (or higher) X 12" deep. Anyone possessing such a cupboard gathering dust in their attic or basement and wishing to donate same please contact Audrey at the office, 423-4807.

SPRING TOUR OF FRANCE

May 14 - June 1/86

The cost, \$1900.00, includes air fare, all transportation outside Canada (coach & ferries), hotel double occupancy, breakfast, entrance to Museums, etc., a closing dinner in Paris and a donation to Heritage Trust. Our tour this year is co-sponsored by Heritage Trust and the Wine Circle, as our intent is to visit the most famous wine regions of France.

We arrive London May 15 and travel to Bayeux in our coach by way of Portsmouth and Cherbourg, hopefully touring the Tudor warship Mary Rose before boarding the ferry in Portsmouth. At Bayeux we will see the famous tapestry before driving to the Normandy Beaches. The next three nights are spent at Tours in the heart of the Loire valley. We will visit some of the one hundred chateaux close by, which are amongst the finest country houses ever built, and their wine cellars. At Vouvray these are in caves which were formerly quarries extending deep into the white chalk hillsides. Rabelais described the wines of this region as September Soup, so delicate you can drink a full pitcher without hurting yourself. After leaving Italy, Leonardo da Vinci lived in this region in a house given to him by King Francis I, which we shall visit and which is connected by underground passage to the king's Chateau of Amboise.

Our next stop will be for three nights at St. Emilion, outside Bordeaux, in the heart of wonderful wine country. We will visit and sample the wines of the Medoc, Graves, Haut Brion, St. Julien, Margaux, etc. While in this Dordogne region, we will also visit five medieval fortresses and cathedrals and a prehistoric shrine.

We will spend one night at Carcassonne, to the south, a charming old walled city beside the beautiful Canal de Medi.

Our southern stop will be at Avignon, in Provence, surrounded by superb Roman arches, temples, monuments and aqueducts. At Aigues Martes, another fine old town with ramparts, where the crusaders embarked, we will test the warmth of the Mediterranean.

On route to Beaune, where we will spend three nights, we will sample Rhone wines. From Beaune we will take trips out to Chateaux, sampling wines of Chateaufort du Pape, Pommard, Burgundy, Beaujolais and Chablis. We will visit charming little towns like Cluny, described in 1098 as the light of the world, site of the largest church in the world before St. Peter's in Rome was built. It is in this region, too, that we can see France's highest mountain, Mount Blanc.

We will visit the elegant chateau of Fontainebleau, redecorated by Napoleon and much as he left it in 1814, on our way to Paris for four days. In Paris we are free to tour as we wish, but guidance will be given if it is your first visit. We then visit the Canadian Memorial at Vimy and cross from Calais to the white cliffs of Dover, travelling to Heathrow, where we will spend our last night, via Canterbury.

Anyone wishing to stay on in England can do so if they inform us when signing up for the tour. The group is limited to 30 so we recommend signing up as soon as possible. Please call Audrey Crawford at the office (423-4807) for further details and application forms.



# Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

## 10th Anniversary Fall Conference

# Call for papers

"Rum - sea-farer's companion, sailor's reward, medicine and solace for settlers, test of maturity, home-wrecker and demon pleasure. A cause for temperance, prohibition, rum-running and fortune-making; a tool for political persuasion, even a symbol of class distinction."

"RUM, BY GUM," a major conference scheduled for October 23-26, 1986, in Yarmouth, will examine how this immensely popular item has pervaded Atlantic Canadian history and culture at virtually every level.

The aim of the Conference is to explore the history of rum in Atlantic Canada and its effect on the social, political and economic development of the region and its people from early settlement to the present. as reflected in museum collections and original documents. It is also an aim of this Conference to attract attention to an important historical theme that has not previously been fully documented, at a time when the region is still rich in resources (i.e. material culture and oral tradition) related to that theme. These aims will be accomplished by introducing museum personnel to historical issues and research related to this theme, collections currently in existence and resources available in both the museum and academic fields.

**Conference themes are:** Rum & Early Settlements; Rum & The Law; Rum & The Museum; Rum & The Economy; Rum & Folklore; Rum & The Navy; Rum & Temperance.

Please submit 300 word Abstract by April 1, 1986. Notification of those accepted will be by April 30, 1986, with papers requested by September 30, 1986.

Conference proceedings and special papers generated by this Conference will be published within the following year, via Federation Conference, Series, National publications and as individual Papers on request.

To submit Abstract or to request further information, please write to:

Elizabeth C. Ross, Executive Director,  
Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage  
5516 Spring Garden Rd., Ste.305, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1G6  
(or phone 1-902-423-4677)

Interesting item forwarded by Shirley Elliott from a December/85 issue of the Kentville Advertiser:

FATE OF OLD BUILDING HANGING  
IN THE BALANCE

One sunny morning last week I came round the bend at Starr's Point and stopped cold when I noticed what's happening at Acaciacroft. One of the oldest houses in the county is getting a facelift.

I think it's terrific that the 215-year old house and former barracks for British soldiers is getting insulation and fresh clapboard. We've lost or destroyed so much history around here that I find it exciting to see an aged structure return to usefulness.

But at what expense and to what purpose? The house was virtually derelict when it's previous owner, who'd lived there since 1921, went to a nursing home last winter. Now current owners Allen and Jenny Sheito are discovering just what a rotting dinosaur they have on their hands.

The morning I was there workmen installing the protective shell over the exterior uncovered a rotted second storey beam. Replacing it will be a massive undertaking and yet the Sheitos feel compelled to make the building tight until its future is decided.

The condition of the property reminds me of stories I've heard about what kind of shape Prescott House was in when Miss Mary Prescott purchased it. Used as a tenement house, apparently residents had ripped up floorboards for firewood and practically kept chickens inside.

Mary Prescott had enough personal finances and family interest that she went about restoring the house. Today the Starr's Point mansion is a drawing card for about 30,000 visitors annually, but the circumstances surrounding Acaciacroft are different.

Mind you I think the history of the place is just as impeccable. Standing not far from the site the Planters landed in 1760, the largely unchanged brick and frame structure is said to have been built in 1770 to house officers of the British Army.

The Sheitos have no interest in living in Acaciacroft. They dwell nearby on the property and have come in the last decade to regard the house primarily as a "fascinating monster." So what are the options facing this piece of history.

Since the future of the house became an issue last winter, the Sheitos have been frank about their desire to see it opened to the public. They still hope that a group of local residents will join them in preservation efforts.

Everyone agrees that a restored Acaciacroft would be an asset to the community and a definite attraction for tourists, but who's going to help raise the \$200,000 called for? It appears as if political loyalties are preventing any concrete steps in the direction of fundraising.

The history of the Planters and English settlement of the Valley is larger than the village of Port Williams, but it looks as if the residents of Wolfville, Kentville and surrounding villages have only their own communities at heart.

Kings County has a museum in Kentville and it deserves support. However, the preservation of Acaciacroft is a separate issue concerning living history. Is our Valley so insulated that the fate of an ancient building hangs in the balance of undivided loyalties?



### LORD DALHOUSIE COLLECTION

Until April 6 Nova Scotians will be able to see, at the Nova Scotia Museum, the collection of over 200 drawings, paintings and documents commissioned by Lord Dalhousie in the early eighteenth century and discovered by Marie Elwood, chief curator of history at the Museum. They were recently brought to Canada with the cooperation of the provincial and federal governments and opened to the public by Premier John Buchanan at a gala reception held at the Museum on February 25th. Many of the paintings are the work of John Elliott Woolford, Dalhousie's official draftsman and one of Canada's early professional artists who spent his later years in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

After April 6 the collection will be divided among the National Gallery of Canada, the Public Archives of Canada, the New Brunswick Archives and the Nova Scotia Museum. Nova Scotia's share of the collection will include a mint set of Halifax views by Woolford, architectural views of Province House, maps, and a journal and drawings by Lady Dalhousie.

### BRIDGETOWN -

Bridgetown Town Council has adopted a heritage property bylaw. A municipal registry of heritage properties will be set up under the Heritage Property Act. Demolitions and substantial alterations to the exterior appearance of properties designated as heritage properties will be controlled.



DEADLINE for June issue:

May 1, 1986



**HERITAGE TRUST OF N. S.**

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