



# The Griffin

ISSN 0383 7335 *A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*

Vol. 11, No.3

SEPTEMBER, 1986

## HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM NOTES, 1986.

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, September 11, 1986

MR. ALLAN DUFFUS, Architect - Information meeting re: McDonald House - in Public Archives of N.S., 6016 University Ave., Halifax.

### Thursday, September 18,

PAMELA B. COLLINS, Program Chair - Special General Meeting re: Sale of McDonald House and Property - Membership Vote - Heritage Trust Tours Past and Present - at N.S.M.

### Saturday, October 4

VALLEY DAY TOUR to Windsor, Wolfville and Grand Pre Winery (Shand House, Clifton, Windsor, Wolfville Art Galleries and Book Stores, Grand Pre Winery Tour and Taste) - see separate sheet for details.

### Thursday, October 16

MRS. MARIE ELWOOD, History Curator, N.S.M. - Recent Additions to the N.S.M. (Lord Dalhousie, Woolford and Inglis/Quinlan Collections - at N.S.M.

### Saturday, October 18

DAY TOUR to Memorial Bells, Fort Needham, Memorial Tower Fleming Park, York Redoubt, Greek Orthodox Church Purcell's Cove - see separate sheet for details.

### Saturday, November 15, 1986, Heritage

Trust ANNUAL DINNER - Chateau Halifax, Bluenose Room overlooking the Harbour. \$25. per person including tax and gratuities. Menu and details to follow. .... NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE AND DATE.....



### Thursday, November 20

MISS GEMEY KELLY, Dalhousie Art Gallery - Sketchbooks and Letters of Arthur Lismer, Principal, Victoria School of Art and Design 1916-1919 - at N.S.M.

### Thursday, December 18

HILARY and MILES GRANT - Britain and Wales Revisited and Church Rubbings - at N.S.M. - Brass-rubbing participation: small \$3., large \$5.

## COSTUME WORKSHOP at LOUISBOURG, C.B.

September 26-28, 1986, - Costume Society of Nova Scotia will sponsor a Workshop at Louisbourg - 1744 Louisbourg Fashions and Footwear, with speakers from Parks Canada Staff, Fortress Louisbourg, Gaelic College, and Mrs. Isobel MacAuley-Jones. See separate sheet for details.



# Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

1579 DRESDEN ROW

HALIFAX, N.S.

B3J 2K4

423-4807

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# Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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## EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, 1986 - 1987

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Past President	Dr. Fred W. Matthews 1168 Studley Avenue Halifax, B3H 3R7	423-2155 (r)
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FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIAN HERITAGE  
FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 24-26, '86. YARMOUTH

RUM BY GUM

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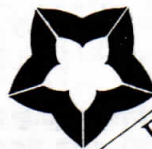
The Federation has organised a fall conference which should be of great interest to all Nova Scotians. It runs from October 24-26 inclusive. The topics covered are Rum and Early Settlement, Rum and the Law, Rum and the Museum, Rum and the Economy, Rum and Folklore, Rum and the Navy, Rum and Temperance.

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, attracting attention to an important historical theme not previously fully documented at a time when the region is still rich in resources (i.e. material cultural and oral tradition). These aims will be accomplished by introducing Conference members to historical issues and research related to rum, as well as artifacts currently held in museum collections throughout the region.

It is also the aim of the Conference to provide experiences in interdisciplinary study of this subject through records found in museums, universities, governments and the corporate sector and to demonstrate how these findings are applicable to the collection, research, exhibit, education and interpretation functions of a museum or heritage site.

The Heritage Trust is a member of the Federation and as members of the Trust the invitation is out - y'all come.

Via Rail will put on a "Rum Run" to Yarmouth for \$40.00 return. The application form reproduced here gives you the opportunity to apply to the Federation. Call their office: 423-4677, and ask for Carla Calhoun for further information.



**Federation of  
Nova Scotian  
Heritage**

5516 Spring Garden Road  
Suite 305  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1G6  
Tel: (902) 423-44

### FALL CONFERENCE '86 REGISTRATION FORM

In order to be fair to individuals from all Atlantic provinces, there is one fee for all. A discount is provided for early registration.

**Basic Registration fee includes:**

- Reception Thursday evening
- All Coffee and Doughnut Breaks
- Friday Evening's Rum Dessert
- Sunday's Closing Brunch
- Conference Kit Material

**A. Registration fee:**

prior to August 15th	\$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
after August 15th	\$65.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
after September 15th	\$95.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B. Additional Expenses:**

VIA Rum Run —	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box Supper — (Thursday on Rum Run)	\$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rum and the Museum — (open to the public)	\$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday Banquet — (open to the public)	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C. Total Package (A & B)**

prior to August 15th	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
after August 15th	\$120.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
after September 15th	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia is an organisation which over the years has become a highly respected voice for Heritage in all its aspects. This reputation is well deserved and is due to the dedication and efforts of volunteer members since the time of founding. It is a great honour to be your President.

My ambition is, I think, to maintain an environment in which members of the Trust can work effectively to achieve the goals in which we all believe. The Trust is not a static but a continually developing organisation, and it may be time to clarify our goals, and especially the means of achieving them. To ensure a smooth, efficient achievement of these goals will require the constant exchange of information and ideas between the membership, the Board and the Executive. I hope that this can take place in the most efficient manner possible.

I look forward to working with all members of the Trust during the coming year, and to the interaction which our mutual interest in heritage can generate.

Lucille C. Stewart



COLPITT BEQUEST

Heritage Trust has recently become the beneficiary of a bequest of \$60,000, under the terms of the Will of Marjorie Bernice Colpitt who died March 26, 1983.

Marjorie Colpitt was one of three daughters of Parker and Isobel (Perry) Colpitt. Her father was Halifax City electrician for some years, then university electrician at Dalhousie. Miss Colpitt was a stenographer in the City electrician's office for thirty years, then after a period of keeping house for her mother, became assistant curator of the Kipling Collection at Dalhousie Library.

For many years Miss Colpitt lived in the family home on Coburg Road, near Henry Street, where, like her sister Merle (Mrs. Howard Bronson), she kept a beautiful garden.

Miss Colpitt is survived by her sister Mildred (wife of Dr. Jim Reid) and her niece Judy Reid. A member of the First Baptist Church of Halifax, she is buried in Camp Hill Cemetery.

(Information supplied by Margaret Martin).

TRUST TOUR TO ANNAPOLIS ROYAL AND  
CHURCH POINT.

The two-day Heritage Trust tour to Church Point and Annapolis Royal on 11/12 July, proved most enjoyable, thanks chiefly to the efforts of Pamela Collins and Audrey Crawford, who organised and took care of the preliminary 'legwork' and looked after our interests on the tour.

At our first stop, Middleton Museum, we were welcomed with tea, coffee and cookies before taking a short tour of the exhibit rooms and the 'Valley Habitats' display growing in the greenhouse adjoining the old Macdonald schoolhouse.

We continued on to Université Sté. Anne at Church Point where several of us were delighted to renew acquaintance with Fr. Maurice LeBlanc and his sister, Roselind, our good companions on last year's tour of the Scottish Border country and northern England. After lunch, Professor Alphonse Deveau showed us around the new Exhibition Hall, with its large standing wood panel displaying the coats-of-arms of the Seigneurs of Acadia, and outlined for us the history of St. Annes. He also pointed out the latest developments at the College, which include a rink, swimming pool and additional residences.

Then, over to Ste. Marie's to be introduced to the history of the church by a charming, rotund little Acadian gentleman with a beret, who looked as though he could easily have stepped out of a French illustration.

Sté. Marie's is beautiful - light, and airy, with magnificent stained glass and a beautifully-painted vaulted ceiling. Leo Melanson, the architect, who could neither read nor write, had taken the original plans, which were for a stone building, and transposed them into wood! The 185ft spire is the tallest free-standing wooden spire in North America and in its 81 years has withstood many buffetings by gale-force winds.

Behind the nave is a small museum, cramped and inadequate, but housing very beautiful and valuable pieces of communion plate and richly embroidered vestments, as well as photographs and artifacts - all worthy of larger, temperature-controlled accommodation.

A little later we had an opportunity to contrast this lovely old wooden structure with the Gothic stone church of St. Bernard's. Another impressive edifice to the Glory of God, built by the men of the Parish early this century.

From there we drove to Digby for an overnight stay at Mountain Gap Inn. We had hoped for a dip in their outdoor pool and a ramble through the grounds with its view across the water to Digby Gut. But the sky had become overcast and the wind strong and cold. A good dinner in pleasant surroundings was followed by a slide talk on Annapolis Royal by Jim How present owner of the DeGannes-Cosby house on St. George Street. Jim admits a liking for speaking to Trust groups because they understand and appreciate what has been done and is still being done to restore life and vigour to one of Canada's oldest established towns. "But," he says, "it savours a little of preaching to the converted."

At sundown the wind dropped, the clouds lifted and we saw the last of a bright and glowing sunset, right in the gap.

By 8.45 next morning we were off to Annapolis Royal, our first stop being the open-air market and the Gallery in the town square before starting the Historic Tour of Annapolis Royal and Area. By this time the sun was warm and bright, the wind a gentle breeze - perfect conditions for the tour.

We visited 10 or 11 of the homes open that day as well as the Tidal Power Project and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, where we lunched in the new 'gazebo'.

We made a final stop at Henniger's Market (of course!) before heading home and running into the dull, damp, cloudy conditions that had bedevilled Halifax all that day.

Each home on the tour had something unusual or rather special to display, or in its history, and it is hoped that at least a few of the 50 or so who went on the tour will send in to Maud brief accounts of those things which 'took their fancy' or had special appeal. Put together, even brief write-ups will flesh out this bare-bones account of a very satisfying trip.

Doris Butters

STELLA McGUIGAN was the first member of the group to send in an account of her impressions of the trip .....

"The morning of July 11 dawned fine, a good omen for the start of our visit to Church Point and Annapolis Royal. It was with a feeling of warmth when entering the bus, to see several travellers from the trip to Scotland in May 1985.

After a few stops en route we eventually arrived in Church Point to visit the university and beautiful old wooden church. And what a delightful surprise for those of us who had been to Scotland to be greeted at Church Point by Maurice and Roselind LeBlanc, who had taken time to join us for lunch, even though they were leaving that very afternoon for a holiday in Quebec.

Later, we went on to Smith's Cove to spend the night at Mountain Gap Inn, where we were treated to a most informative slide talk by Mr. Jim How, whose home we were to visit the following day.

On Saturday we were again blessed with a sunny day as we started our tour of the restored homes of the area. There were too many to see in one day and time sped by so quickly. Each home was unique in its own way and shown with such love and pride by its owner.

For me it was, in some ways, a day of renewing old acquaintanceships. About mid-morning I found Charlotte Wade to be the hostess in one of the houses and in the Gregg Kerr home, his mother, Shirley, was co-hostess, a lovely person whom I had not seen in years. Later, at the delicious tea-party in the Baptist Church Hall, Helen Swansburg and her sister-in-law, Agnes Carmichael, timed their arrival for the bus tour people to appear. The first question asked by all who had been to Scotland was - "What can you tell us about the proposed trip to Wales and Devon in 1987?"

All the homes we visited showed the foresight of the present owners who had spent so much time and effort to accomplish their goals, but my favourite was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zavitz. Theirs was truly a labour of love. The house was originally the Delancey house built in 1791. When the present owners decided to

restore it, it was in a state of great disrepair and it took them about two years to reach a stage where they could move in to it. During that time they were living in Yarmouth and commuting at weekends and holidays to work on it. I got the impression that they were young people determined to 'get back to the land'.

Mr. Zavitz was our guide and explained in detail the restoration of the house from the strengthening of the frame of the building to the interior detail. He didn't dwell too long on the physical labour involved but we could see it had been a monumental task. Now a very liveable place, complete with baby, dogs, a vegetable garden and a few farm animals.

To the Zavitz's this was a dream come true and we appreciated their sharing of a dream with us, even in a small way. Their courage, hard work and great foresight are greatly to be admired.

For a city-born person like myself, it appeared they had accomplished the impossible; however, I must confess, I was content to return to my own little niche in an urban setting. "



DEADLINE  
for DECEMBER issue:

November 1, 1986

MUSIQUE ROYALE -

A short item in the June issue of Griffin heralded the first season of concerts to be put on by Musique Royale. This is of special interest to members of the Heritage Trust, since the Trust sponsored the first gala concert held in the Red Chamber at Province House. The concert was followed by a reception in the Halifax Room at City Hall hosted by Mayor Ron Wallace. This was an outstanding evening, with good music heard in a period setting, and a reception held in a newly-restored room of beautiful proportions and decor.

The regular series was held in August, a different concert for each of four weeks. The Halifax concerts were held on Tuesday evenings in St. Paul's Church, another beautiful and historic setting. The atmosphere which exists in these beautiful old buildings adds greatly to the enjoyment of the music. This wedding of historic settings with music of the same period as the buildings was the concept which the artistic director, John Grew, developed into this summer series.

Concerts were held in Old Holy Trinity Church in Middleton - much praised for its acoustic properties; Trinity Anglican Church in Liverpool; and in Cape Breton St. George's and the Lyceum Theatre in Sydney or St. Matthew's Church in Inverness or St. Margaret's in River Denys.

The musicians are all young, many originally from the Maritimes and now based in Vancouver, Montreal, and Cologne. They all specialise in music of the 17th and 18th centuries, and many performed on period instruments or replicas. The programs included music for voice, harpsichord, strings and wind instruments.

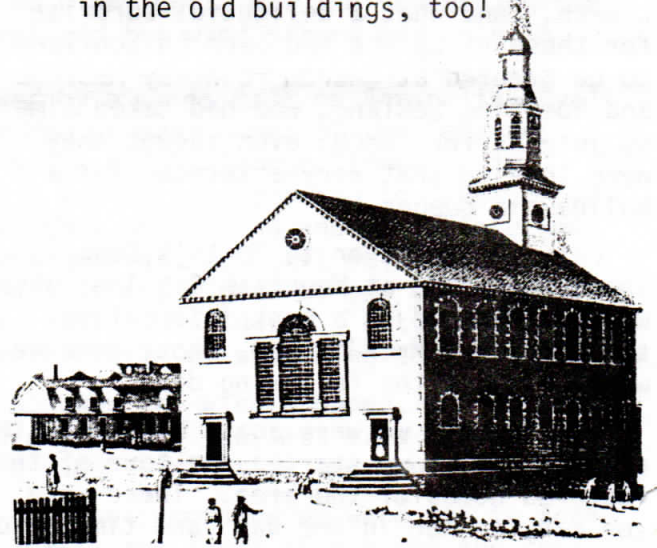
The series in Halifax attracted a small but loyal audience, and the reviews were enthusiastic.

It is the hope of Musique Royale to repeat the series in future years, performing in different historic buildings in different towns.

It is the hope of the Trust that those who experienced a pleasant, satisfying evening of music in an historic building will learn to love these old buildings - indeed all of our built heritage, and then be motivated to help us save as much as we can.

Lucille Stewart

P.S. The musicians enjoyed playing in the old buildings, too!

NOTICE

The Costume Society of Nova Scotia invites Heritage Trusters and friends to their monthly meetings held in the Public Archives, 6016 University Avenue Halifax, at 7.00 pm on October 27 and November 24:

Monday, October 27 - "History, Care and Maintenance", by Professor Lusby, Home Economics Costume Collection, Acadia University.

Monday, November 24 - "Unreasonable Dress in the Age of Reason (18th Century Dress of Britain and Europe)" by Dr. Nina Konczacki, History Department, Mount St. Vincent.



FEDERATION AWARD TO PAMELA B. COLLINS

Heritage Trust Program chairman, Pamela B. Collins has been chosen as the winner of the Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley Lifetime achievement award given by the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage. This award is designed to "honour an individual who, for a period of not less than twenty years, has been outstanding in the promotion, development, and preservation of our Nova Scotian Heritage."

Heritage Trust members are very proud and pleased that the Federation chose to honour Pamela Collins with this prestigious award at its banquet at the Henry House on May 31, 1986. Pam Collins has been a most active worker in the Trust since 1960, serving in many capacities. All Trust members have appreciated Pam's creative approach to her work as Program chairman 1974-1980 and 1982-1986. She has given us consistently fine monthly programs, annual dinners, and well-organised, thoroughly enjoyable tours in all areas of the province, providing us with well-researched material on the places. She has been a faithful and very active Board member and served as secretary to the Macdonald House Committee 1978-1982.

Pam Collins has been tireless in promoting knowledge of the heritage of her adopted province (Pam was born in Gosport, England) teaching our history to young people from grade 3 to 11, lecturing to teachers-in-training, church groups, and to seniors at Spencer House and Northwood Manor. She has organised and directed walking and bus tours for visiting national and international groups in the Halifax area, Mahone Bay, Lunenburg and Annapolis Valley. In collaboration with her husband Dr. Lou Collins, Halifax Civic Historian, she has conducted highly successful and enjoyable summer courses in Nova Scotia's heritage at Saint Mary's University from 1980-1986. She is a skilled photographer and provided the photographs illustrating her husband's work: In Halifax Town.

Many other community organisations such as the Guides, the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra, the Halifax Ballet Theatre and the Association for Preservation Technology have benefited from Pam's capable and enthusiastic leadership.

It would take a whole issue of the Griffin to do justice to Pam's achievements. We are sure all Trust members join us in saying: "Thank-you, Pam, and Congratulations for a well-deserved honour."

Editor.



PRESS NOTES

forwarded by Dr. Phyllis Blakeley

The Communique of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO dated June 25, 1986 announced that on July 3, 1986 Quebec City would become the first North American city to be placed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Quebec was named to the prestigious UNESCO list in December 1985 at a meeting of the 21 member World Heritage Committee in Paris. It joins a small group of other historic cities including Tunis, Cairo, Florence, Damascus and Havana that have been designated since the World Heritage Convention was established in 1972.

The Hants Journal of July 2, 1986, carried a picture of the unveiling, by Cora Etter, Hants East M.L.A., of the Provincial Heritage Property Plaque received by Uniacke House at a public ceremony on June 22nd. Uniacke House is the 18th property to receive the Heritage Property Plaque marking it as a provincial Heritage Property included in the Registry of Heritage Properties protected from alteration or demolition unless approved by the Provincial Cabinet.

The Weekly Press reported the efforts of two East Hants community groups to find funding for repairs and renovations to their buildings. Florence Benere of the Enfield Women's Institute and Helen Haley of the South Rawdon Museum presented briefs to the Advisory Council on Heritage Properties, describing work the groups had done on their buildings and outlining other urgent repairs requiring funding. However, as Brian Cuthbertson, Head of the Heritage Section of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness explained, the Council's function is advisory only, and it has funds only for planning and such things as architectural fees, not for implementation. Cora Etter, Hants East M.L.A., felt community groups should be encouraged to raise their own funds for the upkeep of Heritage Properties and indicated some funding might be available through the Mainstreet Program.



"HALIFAX ARTIST WINS COMPETITION FOR  
GRAND PRÉ STAINED-GLASS WINDOW -

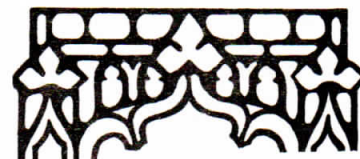
"A Canada-wide competition to design a stained-glass window for the Memorial Church at Grand Pré National Historic Park was won by Halifax artist Terry Smith-Lamothe.

"Mr. Smith-Lamothe's design, depicting in shades of blue, the Expulsion of the Acadians, was the unanimous choice of a seven-member jury representing Nova Scotia artists, the Federation Acadienne de la Nouvelle Ecosse and Environment Canada/Parks. Seven candidates submitted designs...

"The \$21,000 contract for the window is part of a \$200,000 exhibit project to commemorate the Expulsion of the Acadians in the Memorial Church at Grand Pré National Historic Park.

"Born in Louisiana of Acadian ancestry, Mr. Smith-Lamothe has worked in stained-glass since 1979. He designed and built the windows for St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Halifax. He teaches stained-glass techniques at N.S. College of Art and Design."

(From Environment Canada  
Newsletter "Envirogram" -  
April/May, 1986: #13



A WALK THROUGH AN OLD ENGLISH GARDEN  
ON McNAB'S ISLAND

No matter how many times I visit McNab's Island I always discover something new (new to me, that is). A late August trip with a group led by Alex Wilson of the Nova Scotia Museum on a bright, sunny Saturday morning, was no exception. This time it was to look at the sadly-overgrown remains of the Old English garden on the Hugonin estate. Owned and farmed from 1849 by Capt. Hugonin, the property was sold in 1885 to Frederick Perrin who created a garden after the style of those he had left behind in England.

On arrival and before starting our walk, Alex touched briefly on the colourful history of the Island, which to properly do it justice would make a nice topic for a Trust lecture. In the 1600's fishermen dried their catch on flakes at Maugher's Beach and ships took on water from a clear brook at the head of Findlay's Cove. The period of greatest activity was throughout the 1800's when about 180 acres was under cultivation, pleasure and picnic grounds catered to the enjoyment of visiting Haligonians and a small factory bottled and sold 'McNab's Best' soda pop. But perhaps the most important function of the Island was military.

The Island had been in the McNab family since about 1775, but during the latter part of the 19th century the military purchased part of the Island to defend Halifax against possible attack from the French. A Martello tower was built on the tongue of land where the lighthouse now stands and forts raised at three strategic points.

Then in 1849 Capt. Hugonin acquired the middle section of the Island where he built a home on the side of the hill overlooking the Harbour. He farmed the land until his retirement in 1865 and in 1885 Frederick Perrin bought the property and started to develop his Old English garden. A very attractive garden it must have been, judging by the remains.

An old photograph and a small sketch map which Alex passed around showed the Hugonin-Perrin house above a neat, terraced lawn surrounded by native and exotic plantings. Linden, European elm and horsechestnut have now reached majestic proportions, their rich massed green offset by a shapely, wide-spreading copper beech and two unusually large red Japanese maples on either side of the lawn. Native red pine, hemlock and cedar were also planted and now stand straight and tall. Alongside the path up the hill are black locust, and nearby the remains of an old cherry and apple orchard. Near the top of the rise Virginia creeper has wound its way up to a considerable height and formed a dense tangle on several tree trunks.

A variety of roses, mock orange, common and large-flowered Japanese barberry, English hawthorn, lilacs and other shrubs are now almost buried beneath a wild growth of weeds, spruce and alder. At one point we had to push our way through a huge thicket of Japanese knotweed. Wrinkled rose thrives in the salt air near the beach and the open hillside is thick with raspberry, blackberry and blueberry.

We digressed to check the foundation of the 'pop factory' - finding a few odd shards of broken bottles - and to look at the burned-out ruin of the old Findlay home, which still shows the extra-wide boards of the wall sheathing.

From the top of the hill - near a somewhat unsightly, unfinished attempt to raise an electricity pylon - there is a good overview of the Hugonin-Perrin garden and a magnificent panorama across the Harbour to Halifax with its developing concrete box outline.

Now that McNab's has been designated a park perhaps the Old English garden could one day be cleared and maintained in its former elegant state, despite the needed, but incongruously-placed tea room planted recently in the middle of the garden.

Doris Butters.



HERITAGE TRUST OF N. S.

1579 DRESDEN ROW.

HALIFAX, N S

B3J 2K4

