



# The Griffin

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*A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*

Vol.13 No.3.

SEPTEMBER 1988

## PROGRAM - FALL 1988

The regular monthly meetings of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia are held on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of each month in the auditorium of the N.S. Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, at 8.00 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Thurs. - 15 Sept. - 8.00pm -  
Guest speaker **BETTY PACEY** - topic: "Our Georgian Roots." - slide illustrated, by slides of England and Halifax N.S.

Come and meet some of the new members of the Executive.

## Special Events:

Saturday - October 22, -  
**WATER TOUR OF ISLANDS OF HALIFAX HARBOUR.**  
Details and registration form elsewhere in this issue of Griffin.

Thurs. - Oct. 20 - 8pm -  
**MAINSTREET IN NOVA SCOTIA.** What it means to our Heritage Structures; Heritage Canada Foundation film on Mainstreeting.

Thurs. - Nov. 17 - 8pm -  
**SCOTT ROBSON** of N.S. Museum. Topic: "Hook Mats and Hooking in Nova Scotia 1800's to contemporary" Slides and examples.

Thurs. - Dec. 15 - 8pm -

Details to follow

<sup>19</sup>  
Saturday - November 26 - 1988 -  
**HERITAGE TRUST ANNUAL DINNER .....**  
This year at the Historic Feast site in Historic Properties on Water Street.  
Mark your diary!! Details will follow.



HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA  
 #522 Roy Building  
 1657 Barrington St., Halifax  
 B3J 2A1 Ph. 423-4807.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

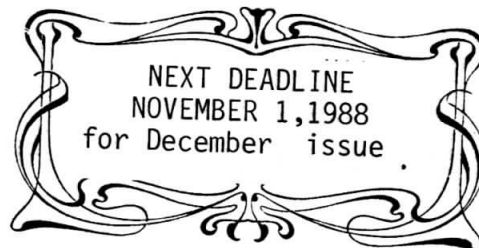
Since taking office as president only a few weeks ago, a great deal has happened on the heritage scene. The good news that the City Club and the old Church of England Institute were to be saved was heartily welcomed. Mayor Ron Wallace and City Council took the initiative to work out an agreement of purchase which will be cost-shared with the province. Restoration development proposals for the two buildings will soon be called for.

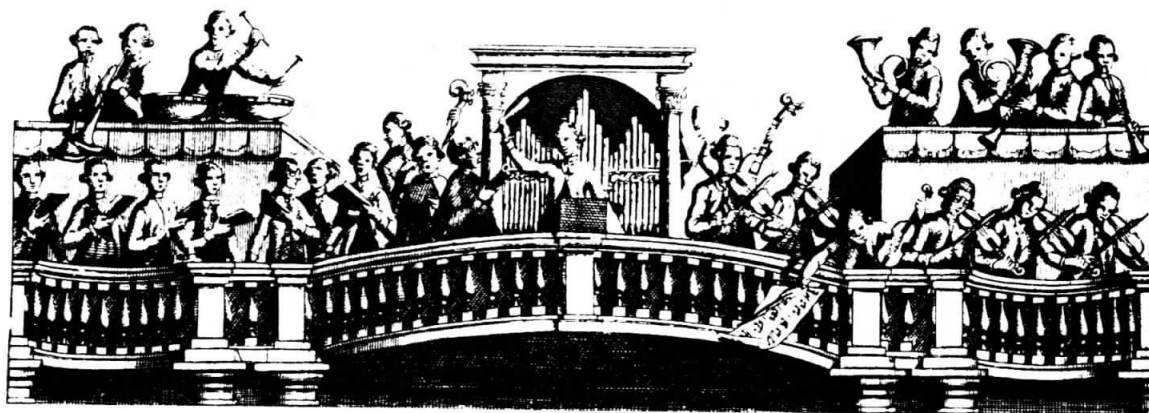
Unfortunately, bad news came quickly on the heels of the good. Brenhold Ltd. has proposed an extremely detrimental high-rise project across from the Public Gardens. Five historic buildings are in jeopardy as well as the environment of the Public Gardens. See the article in this issue for details.

Discussions are underway about strengthening the Heritage Act and about adding protection for conservation areas to the Heritage Act or to the Planning Act. Since Heritage Trust has had so much experience working with the two acts, we will make formal recommendations to the provincial government on these subjects.

All this along with meetings, tours and conferences will make an action-packed autumn season!

Elizabeth Pacey.





### MUSIQUE ROYALE - THIRD SEASON

The series of musical concerts held during the month of August, and known as Musique Royale, was founded two years ago by the Artistic Director John Grew. John is a Nova Scotian who received his early musical training in Halifax. University degrees were granted from Trinity College, London, Mount Allison University, and University of Michigan. He has toured North America and Europe repeatedly in concerts and is presently a Professor in the Faculty of Music at McGill University, where he is also University organist. He has a special interest in 18th century French classical music.

He founded Musique Royale with the aim of bringing Nova Scotians, who have achieved public acclaim, back to their home Province to give recitals in a variety of suitable historic buildings in various towns and cities - from the Chapel at Fortress Louisbourg in Cape Breton, to Halifax, to Lunenburg. These concerts give great pleasure to those fortunate enough to attend, and also an appreciation of some of our historic buildings such as Old Trinity Church, Middleton, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pictou and St. Margaret's of Scotland at River Denys; beautiful music in beautiful settings.

This season was opened in St. George's Round Church, Halifax, by Quebec's Ensemble Claude-Gervaise, a group of eight versatile musicians who play a multitude of Renaissance instruments and sing in the style of the period. They appeared in period costume of richly-coloured materials. Their Director, Gilles Plant, was dressed in royal blue, has a Henry VIII beard, and should he add suitable avoirdupois may come to resemble that monarch. The music from the courts of Henry VIII and Francis I, was selected and presented as a musical "tournament".

Other concerts included harpsichordist Gordon Murray who has had a distinguished career in Europe and played in his native Maritimes for the first time in the third concert. In the final concert David Sandall from Dartmouth and presently in the Department of Early Music at McGill University, returned to the series in which he had previously played.

A total of four concerts was presented, much to the delight of audiences. The series has become more widely known and appreciated each year, and it is the hope that it will continue, and expand to even more historic buildings in more Nova Scotian towns.

Lucille Stewart

## Notes on Musique Royale's 1988 Heritage Settings

### St. George's Round Church, Halifax

One of the unique landmarks of Halifax, St. George's Church was built in 1800 under the direction of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria. As Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces and an amateur architect, the Duke took a personal interest in planning a church for both the garrison and the expanding population of the Little Dutch Church, which had been the parish church since 1756. He and his designers were influenced by the classical revival style of the Georgian period. His taste for the circular form is reflected not only in St. George's but in his designs for the Rotunda of Prince's Lodge and the Old Town Clock on Citadel Hill.

### Old Holy Trinity Church, Middleton

Old Holy Trinity Church's roots date back to 1789 when work began on a new building to replace the log cabin that had served as a chapel. Construction of the new church was complete by 1792. Five years later the steeple was erected and the bell installed. For almost a century Old Holy Trinity has not been used for regular Sunday services but only for special events. It is open to tourists from May to September. In 1950, severely damaged in a storm, its future came under scrutiny. Fortunately, it was restored to preserve the church's historic value and unique beauty.

### St. John's United Church, Middleton

Built in 1877 by John Brown of Lawrencetown, St. John's was originally located in Pine Grove near old Holy Trinity. In 1896, the building was moved to the centre of Middleton using a capstan system powered by a horse and a pair of oxen. Unable to negotiate the steep hills on either side of the brook just east of the church's present location, the congregation quickly decided to purchase the land on which they were stranded, and there the church now stands. The congregation, far older than the church itself, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 1988.

### St. John's Church Hall, Lunenburg

The Anglican Church Hall at Lunenburg dates back to about 1800 or earlier—the date is unknown. It stands opposite St. John's Anglican Church, built by Royal Charter in 1753. A fine old building with a lofty ceiling, it was the Lunenburg Court House for over a century. Surviving from its use as a court house is the large Royal Coat of Arms painted on the wall, with an angry dark-faced lion above the position where the judge's seat formerly stood.

### Zion United Church, Liverpool

Two years after the founding of Liverpool in 1759, the Congregationalist Church of Old Zion was built. In 1793 part of the congregation, led by Simeon Perkins, broke away and built a new Methodist Church on approximately the same site as the present Zion Church. Simeon Perkins' tombstone still stands in the churchyard behind it. A new larger church replaced the first in 1863, only to burn down before it was barely finished. The present church, Gothic Revival in design, was opened in 1866. In 1925 the church was given its present name to honour the union of Methodists and Congregationalists and the memory of its Liverpool pioneers who began it all.

### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pictou

St. Andrew's Kirk was built in 1866 to replace the old wooden building. Twenty-seven years after this brick and stone church was erected it was destroyed in a fire. Another brick structure was built using the walls of the original church. At that time, the old English-style building with gothic windows cost 5,000 pounds to build. Today, the building stands much the same as it did after its last alteration in 1895. The Facade has a thistle embossed in stone as its symbol.

### Chapelle St. Louis of Fortress Louisbourg

Built in the Officers' Quarters in 1720, the chapel served as the parish church of the fortified town of Louisbourg, and, as such, was used by all the townspeople. It is named for Louis IX, patron saint of France before the Revolution. A beautiful, large, wood-panelled room, with vaulted ceilings, it has excellent acoustics. The altar railing, pulpit and confessional are mid-18th century. Model ships hanging from the ceiling are ex-voto boats for those in peril on the sea.

### The Points Church Gallery

Not quite 150 years old, the little church-turned-gallery was built in the mid-1800's by the local inhabitants. It served the people of Marble Mtn., Oban, Roberta, The Points, and St. George's Channel. They came overland and by boat and spent a full day in church, with first a Gaelic service then an English one, and a picnic lunch in between. The building has a high, curved ceiling like an inverted ship's hull, with hand-hewn beams and large windows containing much of the original glass. Dormant for 40-50 years, it was restored and turned into a gallery in 1986.

### St. Margaret of Scotland Church, River Denys Road

The church was built in 1841 on the summit of River Denys Mountain by Scottish settlers from the outer Hebrides. Of simple, modified Gothic design, the building had a small vestry to the rear and tower to the front. By 1889, the church was too small for an expanding congregation, so an addition was made by the novel method of cutting the construction in half, drawing the pieces apart and inserting a section. It is possible to see where this addition was made. Little else has been changed except for a new altar. The original altar stands in the vestry and some of the original seats are in the loft. With a dwindling population, the church is now open for services only twice a year.

(Notes and illus. from 1988 Musique Royale program)



A DAY IN THE VALLEY: BRIDGETOWN AND TUPPERVILLE

Our tour of Bridgetown area on July 30 started off on a low note - heavy mist accompanied us almost to the Valley; however, once over South Mountain the sky was clear and sunny, but the air was hot and humid. We were more than grateful for cider, tea or coffee under a huge chestnut tree in the pretty, old-fashioned garden on the Inglis Fruit Farm at Tupperville.

Despite the fact that preparations for an upcoming wedding were underway, the Inglis family had made time to prepare a plentiful supply of various cakebreads, as well as drinks, for us and afterwards to take us on a tour of the orchards. The trees this year are heavy with a wide variety of apples. One tree is 150 years old. There is also an elderly quince, several cherries, and pear trees.

Just before reaching the Old Post Road we were shown where an Acadian home had once stood, its foundations now covered by a mass of tall plants with pretty mauve flowers. Unfortunately no one could tell us the name of them. On the way back to the farmhouse we were encouraged to gather 'scrumps' - fallings of an early-ripening specie of apple. It made a delicious, thick, tart sauce. How Mrs. Inglis manages with only one man to help her, I do not know; can't get farm hands or pickers today, she told us.

Although full of cake, after a couple of hours we continued on our way to a lunch spot at Bloody Creek - a tiny wayside picnic park with a fast-flowing, clear but red-tinged stream running through. History tells us that a contingent of British soldiers were ambushed there by a group of Acadians and Micmac Indians in 1765. One of the picnic tables had been placed in the creek. Three of us waded through the shallow water and sat on the table, gratefully cooling our feet as we ate.

From there we went to Ernest Buckler's little cottage - homey, snug and pleasant, with its magnificent view of the valley and the mountain. Mrs. Dorothy Bent is doing a terrific job of restoration.

We were told how the eccentric author virtually lived in the kitchen. Warming his feet in a stove in one corner, he would sit writing at the kitchen table near a window from which he could see any one approaching up the path. If he didn't feel like visitors he would refuse to open the door, or shout "I'm too sick to see you!" He even slept in the kitchen on a cot alongside one of the walls.

One guide, harking back to her childhood remembered what fun he was; he always joined in their games and often invented new ones.

We continued to 'eat our way' round the Valley by making a leisurely stop at Tupperville School Museum where an Ice Cream Festival was being held. Three scoops of plain for \$1.00, \$1.25 with fruit or nuts. What a joy! - real cream, eggs, butter, milk, sugar, and no additives; there must have been at least 35 flavours. We watched them replacing stock the hard way - using an old fashioned ice-cream freezer. A group of four local boys entertained by playing some 'old-style' rock dance music - rather nicely I thought. Not ear-splittingly loud or tuneless.

Back in Bridgetown we stopped off for a quick visit to the Tolmie Gallery, the Calico Catgifte shoppe, and a tour (with tea and cookies!) of the Queen Anne period restoration at the home of Roberta White. Despite the fact that Mrs. White lives in Halifax, she has already accomplished an enormous amount of work in a fairly short time on this charming old house.

Finally - we went looking for a church supper and found just the thing at Morristown Baptist Church. Ham, beans, potato scallop, and home baked breads and pies. The group members were very well organized. One donated whatever sum one wished, was given a number and sat in the pleasant little church until the number was called, and they arranged it so that the 30 or so of us were called close together. Everyone within a radius of five miles must have helped with cooking, serving and cleaning up. Even the



men helped pour tea/coffee and the young ladies who served were charming and totally efficient.

We arrived back in Halifax about 8.15pm after a pleasantly 'laid-back' sort of day. Great 'swan-song' Hilary and Pam.

Doris Butters.

\*..... a touch of trivia... that old-fashioned ice-cream freezer in use at the Tupperville Ice-Cream Festival - according to the Montgomery Ward Catalogue of 1897 the "cedar (not pine) waterproof sided bucket"- 2 quart size would have cost \$1.43. The larger model would have been a little over \$6.00 (I have this on the reliable authority of N.S. Museum)



### HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR - WINDSOR AND AREA

On June 25, a group of Heritage Trust members left the Lord Nelson Hotel by bus for the Historic House Tour of the Windsor area.

After a short stop in Dartmouth, we went on our way with a beautiful drive to our first stop at the Mounce House in Avondale. This Victorian house, now owned by Kenneth and Patricia Mounce, was built in 1910 for Thomas A. Mounce, son of Captain George Mounce of Avondale. The house has many outstanding features, such as beautiful oak panelling and stencilled and freehand wall painting. It has four open fireplaces and a magnificent view of the Avon River. Thomas Mounce had the house built for his bride, and while it was being built he had taken a trip around the world to secure furniture from different countries.

It stands next door to the house of George and Ann Mounce, of which it is almost a twin.

Our second stop was Avondale Cottage, owned now by Kevin Bonang. This cottage (circa 1780) features a central chimney encompassing three fireplaces in a most unique way. It also exhibits some of the widest pine flooring planks that may be

seen today. Some of the planks in the kitchen are close to 20" wide; similarly wide planks are used in the walls of the living room. Two other features are a bake oven in the basement and a split staircase leading to the second floor. This is an excellent example of an early Nova Scotia home in the process of being lovingly restored and preserved.

We proceeded to Waveland Cottage/Hatfield House - owned by Andrew and Johanna Holley, Garlands Crossing. This unique wooden frame home nestles on the crest of what is now called Hatfield Hill. Built in 1857 by the Reverend Frederick Smallwood, the house has become a familiar landmark, known for its protruding ell. Inside the ell is the cottage's outstanding feature, a circular hanging staircase, and over the staircase a cathedral ceiling.

We continued on to the Rufus Curry House, now in the possession of Dennis and Veronica Connolly at Curry's Corner. Built in 1894 for Rufus Curry, this large, graceful Victorian home has 21 rooms and is an excellent example of the fine craftsmanship to be found in the area. In the entrance hall both the frosted glass and hand-painted ceiling show the original owner's initials.

The parquet hall floor and stairways as well as hand-painted bedrooms are some of the special features of this house.

Our next visit was in Windsor, to Thornton on King Street - owned now by Mrs. Jessie Parsons. This Georgian style house built in 1850 by Mr. Timlin was one of the first brick buildings in Windsor. Among its many interesting and gracious features are copper roofing, beautiful oak woodwork and, in the cellar, an original fireplace with beehive oven.

We were treated to tea and coffee at the Windsor Community Centre, so took this opportunity to eat our packed lunch.

After lunch we continued our tour to Richmond Hill Farm - one of the most attractive farmhouses in Windsor. It was built at least 160 years ago. Recent excavations on the property resulted in the unearthing of two silver candle snufflers. It is believed that the property may be on the site of an Acadian farm. In 1976 the estate was willed to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

From there we went to the Cedars, or Churchill House, now in the possession of the Town of Hantsport, and used by the town as its community centre and maritime museum. This beautiful house was built by Ezra Churchill in 1860 for his second son, John Wiley. It is a large Victorian house with balconies, fretwork, and a widow's walk. Some of the wall covering is of hand-tooled leather from Italy and the decorative painting is most unusual - well worth the ten-minute drive to Hantsport. In the entrance room are fairy tale hand paintings, and there is a chapel off the children's room.

After visiting this beautiful old home and surrounding grounds, we enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea in Kings-Edgehill Dining Room. While there we took the opportunity to visit the Hensley Memorial Chapel at the School. This chapel was completed in the year 1877.

After a brief stop at a fruit stand to purchase strawberries and bedding plants we returned to Halifax. We had a beautiful day and a lovely, enjoyable trip. Thanks to Pamela for a job well done.

Marjorie Austin

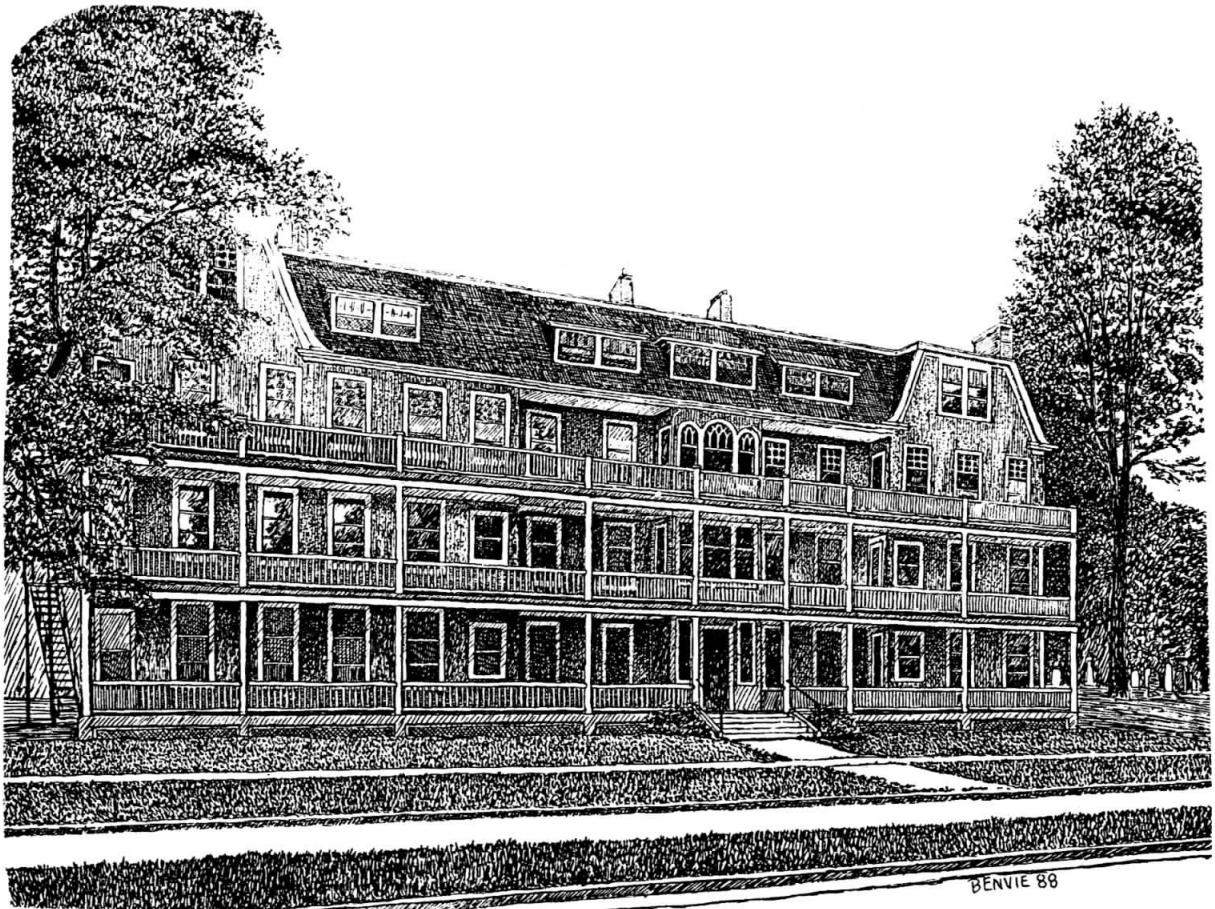


GARDEN CREST IN JEOPARDY

Opened in January 1914, the Garden Crest has the distinction of being the City's first luxury apartment house. Its architect, George Henry Jost, was one of the earliest teachers of architecture in the community. He collaborated with the Montreal architectural firm of J.J. LaFerme who had "much experience in this line of work".

Architecturally, the Garden Crest perfectly complements the Public Gardens in design and scale; the Edwardian resort style with tiered verandahs enhances the views from within the Gardens, and the low-scale of the building does not cast a shadow past the fence of the Gardens on a sunny summer's day.

The Garden Crest is a registered heritage property under the Heritage Property Act which allows a one-year delay period for negotiations to save a registered building. At present Brenhold Ltd. has forced the clock to start ticking on the future of the Garden Crest.

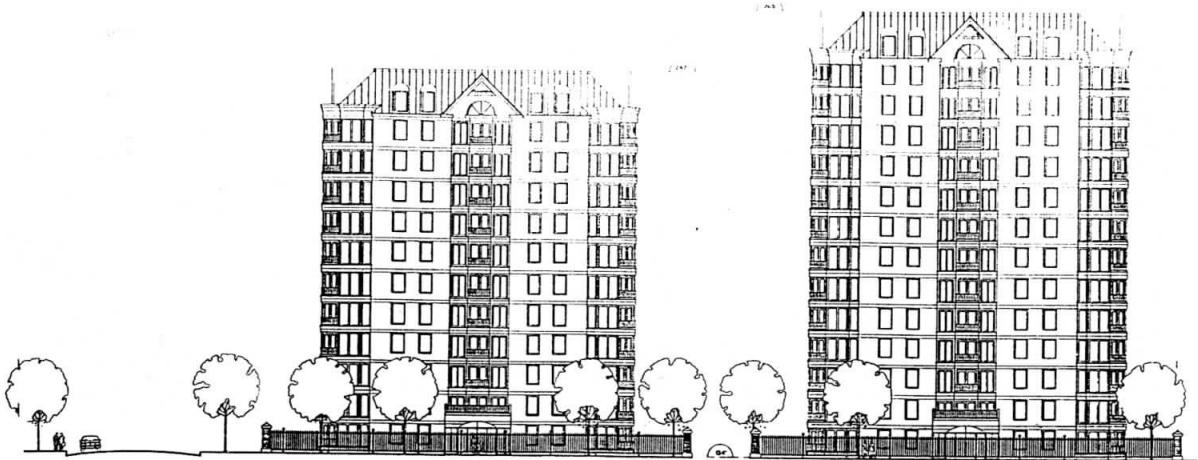


BRENHOLD TOWERS THREATEN GARDENS AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

At an estimated cost of \$33 million, Brenhold Ltd. has proposed to build two high-rise condominium towers opposite the Public Gardens on Summer Street. From a heritage point of view, the consequences of such a development would be devastating.

The site currently contains five historic buildings - the grey Smith and Taylor houses at the corner of Spring Garden and Summer, the white Belcher house, the Aberdeen terrace and the Garden Crest apartment building. The Brenhold scheme would wipe out this entire group of historic buildings.

The two towers would substantially exceed the present 45-foot height limit on the site. The proximity of such towers to the Public Gardens, a National Historic Site, would be extremely damaging; the views from within the Gardens would be dominated by the high-rises, and shadows would fall as far as the Gazebo in the centre of the park.



TYPICAL ELEVATION BLDG NO. 1

TYPICAL ELEVATION BLDG NO. 2

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA.

WATER TOUR OF ISLANDS OF HALIFAX HARBOUR,-  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1988.

Depart: aboard the ferry boat "Shoreham", from Cable Wharf, at the foot of George Street, Halifax..... at 8:30am

View the water side of Navy Island, Spruce Island, the Bedford shore line, Prince's Lodge Rotunda, Fairview Container Pier and Seaview Park.

Walking Tour of George's Island Fort.

Walking Tour of Lawlor's Island, the Quarantine Station, and grave site.

View the shoreline of McNabs Island, the Autoport, Devils Island, Thrum Cap, Purcell's Cove, Northwest Arm, Melville Island, luxury homes, old estates, Point Pleasant Commercial Docks, and

Return to Cable Wharf at approximately 5PM.

Bring a picnic lunch - and your sealegs.

Seating and washroom facilities are provided on board.

Commentary will be given on special points of interest.

Cost: \$25.00 per Trust member; \$30.00 per non-Trust member

Registration deadline: OCTOBER 10, 1988.

BOOK EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED!!!!  
Detach and return below with cheque.

.....

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Phone: ..... Code: .....  
No. of Persons ..... Amount: \$ .....

Cheques to: Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia  
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Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A1  
Information: Blair S. Beed, Program Chairman  
Phone: 429-6415



HERITAGE TRUST OF N.S.  
1657 Barrington Street  
Suite 522,  
Halifax, N.S., B3J 2A1