



The Griffin

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A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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DECEMBER, 1988

PROGRAM - WINTER 1988-89

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.

Thursday - December 15 - 8 pm -

IAN HENDERSON will present a slide-illustrated talk on "Mayan and Yucatan Ruins".

Thursday - February 16 - 8 pm -

This being HERITAGE WEEK, our program will be part of the week's events..... details later.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 19, 1989 - 8 pm -

GARY SHUTLAK of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia will give a slide presentation on "The Life and Work of Edward Elliot (1833 - 1901) and Associates".

Thursday - March 8, - 8 pm -

MR. & MRS. ROBERT CREIGHTON will present a slide talk on the Architecture of Houses in Australia and New Zealand.





HERITAGE DAY 1988 - ELIZABETH PACEY HONOURED

...This year, the highlight of federal heritage activities was a ceremony in Saint John, New Brunswick, at which Environment Minister Tom McMillan honoured persons and organizations responsible for outstanding contributions to the preservation of Canada's heritage, and signed a cost-sharing agreement for the restoration of the city's historic market.....

The Minister presented Parks Heritage Awards to eight individuals and organizations who had made exceptional efforts to conserve Canada's natural or cultural heritage. One recipient was the community of Saint John - the first time a Canadian city has been so honoured.

Among the other recipients was Heritage Trust president, Elizabeth Pacey. Also included were Dr. David Baird of Ottawa; Rene Bureau, Quebec City; Steven Offer, M.P.P., Mississauga North; Patricia

Foran, Toronto; the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society; and the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall, Coburg, Ontario.

In presenting the awards, Mr. McMillan said, "WE all have a role to play in preserving those places and those things that give us a sense of ourselves - our history. If you see a part of our past being torn down or paved over, speak up! There are people who will hear. If you don't, there are many parts of our heritage that will not survive into the 21st century."

The growing public support for Heritage Day is reassuring proof that Canadians are, indeed, speaking up for the past and helping to make it a part of our present and our future.

(Abstracted from Environment Canada's publication "Environment Update")

WOLFFVILLE'S CHOICE -

Shirley Elliott forwarded to us an article from the Kentville Advertiser written by Wendy Elliott about the demolition of Wolfville's Cavanagh building to create a parking lot. Wendy has some cogent things to say about decision-making and we extracted some of her remarks from the article:

"Back in May council called on those who wanted to save the building to come up with concrete plans. It turns out another group of citizens had independently been looking for new quarters for the library. The two committees' aims seemed to dovetail...

"As it is now town council has been seen to sacrifice the principle of heritage preservation for a parking lot. That's democracy. Two vocal minorities were involved here and only one could win...

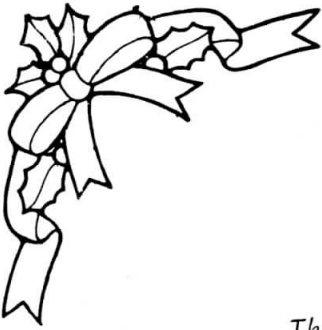
"The Cavanagh building was publicly owned already. In Wolfville ironically, it is only the private developers that demonstrate an appreciation for the town's built heritage...

"Governing takes vision. It's pretty hard to imagine a community's planning, sewage, or water needs into the future and it is also difficult to envision the redevelopment of a tired, old store front. We ask our elected officials to do both, especially when those same officials have mandated a heritage advisory body.

"Perhaps it takes someone with extraordinary insight, like Halifax waterfront developer John Fiske, to make the case for preservation. Today it's hard to conceive of that city without a thriving waterfront based on what were tired, old warehouses. I suppose all we have to look forward to in Wolfville is the loss of the train station.

"Alex Colville's words on June 20 are going to haunt people for a long time. He said that if we were to all look back 20 years from now probably the majority would concede the Cavanagh building should have stayed. Looking back just about 20 years ago to the destruction of the old, stone post office, I know he's right."

(Abstracted from an article by Wendy Elliott in the Kentville Advertiser on July 6, 1988)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This fall members of Heritage Trust participated in a nation-wide heritage victory; at the well-attended September meeting, a petition was signed urging the Senate to pass Bill C-205, an Act to Protect Heritage Railway Stations. The petition was sent, along with my covering letter, to the Nova Scotia senators. Fortunately our efforts, and those of other heritage groups across the country, were successful.

Replies from four senators informed us that Bill C-205 received Royal Assent on September 22, 1988. The senators' comments on the issue were interesting. Senator Henry Hicks noted: "I did contact my colleagues and acquainted them with your representations, for which I thank you." Senator Finlay MacDonald insightfully stated: "While there appeared to be some unnecessary delays, you can be assured that it was supported by both Liberal and Conservative Senators." Senator Allan MacEachen gave a political interpretation of events noting: "Bill C-205 was passed by the Senate on September 21, 1988, only three weeks after having been received. In contrast, the government gave the bill so little priority that it languished in the House of Commons for almost two years after being introduced on October 6, 1986."

With the preservation of Canada's railway stations now assured, we should quickly turn our attention, on the federal level, to post offices, many of which are being closed in towns and villages for new super-boxes. And even dearer to our own architectural character is the precarious fate of lighthouses. With the policy to phase out manned lighthouses in favour of mechanised ones, a number of the structures, so distinctive to the coastal landscape of Nova Scotia, are threatened with extinction.

Other successes this fall included the Water Tour of Halifax Harbour organized by Blair Beed (Program Chairman) and the Historic Buildings Contest organized by Allan Duffus and Joyce McCulloch (Projects Chairman).

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Executive, I would like to wish each and every member of the Trust a festive Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

Elizabeth Pacey.



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

It is nearly time for renewal of memberships; renewal notices will be mailed early in the New Year. Please return these with your cheque, noting any changes of address or errors in your initials, postal code, street number, etc.

Also, please take note of the change of address of Heritage Trust.

Prompt return of your renewals will be very helpful in keeping our membership list current and up to date.

THE BY-LAWS PERTAINING TO MEMBERSHIP ARE HERE QUOTED IN FULL :-

- "4. Membership of the society shall consist of the following categories:
- (a) "life members" shall be those persons who have paid a fee as prescribed for this category (\$500.00) entitling each of them to membership in the society for the terms of their respective lives.
 - (b) "family members" shall be the members of any family, the head of which has paid the annual membership fee as prescribed for this category, which shall entitle the head of the family, spouse and children under the age of nineteen to full membership in the society, except as hereinafter noted in section 5(2).
 - (c) "ordinary members" shall be those members who have paid the annual membership fee as prescribed for this category.
 - (d) "senior citizen" members shall be those members who have attained the age of sixty-five and who have paid the annual membership fee as prescribed for this category.
 - (e) "senior citizen family members" shall be members of a household who live at the same address, providing that all such members have attained the age of sixty-five, and who have paid the annual membership fee as prescribed for this category.
 - (f) "student members" shall be members who are full-time students at an educational institution and who have paid the annual membership fee as prescribed for this category.
 - (g) "honorary members" shall be persons who have rendered distinguished service in promoting the aims and purposes for which the society is established and shall be elected by resolution of the board for a set term on the recommendation in writing of at least five members of the society and shall not be assessed annual fees during such term.
 - (h) "group membership" shall comprise those societies, museums, universities, libraries, corporations, firms, partnerships, foundations and governmental departments which have paid the group membership fee specified for membership provided that each group shall have one vote.
5. (1) Subject to section 5(2) each member shall be entitled to:
- (a) one vote at any general or special meeting of the society;
 - (b) hold office;
 - (c) hold membership on the board;
 - (d) serve on any committee.
- (2) A member who is in default of payment of any account with the society, or a member under the age of nineteen may not vote at any meeting of the society, or be a member of the board.

Contd...

By-laws contd.....

- "6. (1) Membership fees shall be prescribed from time to time at a general meeting of the society and such fees shall be due and payable on the first day of January in each and every year; and in the case of any member whose fees have not been paid on or before the thirtieth day of September in any year, his membership shall automatically terminate, unless otherwise authorized by the board.
- (2) New membership fees paid after the first day of November shall entitle the member to the appropriate privileges of membership as of the date of payment and for the calendar year following."



RESOURCES COMMITTEE REQUEST -

The Resources Committee of the Heritage Trust is seeking assistance from the members of the Trust. A Committee, consisting of Margaret Campbell, Brenton Haliburton, Maud Rosinski, Gary Shutlak, Barbara Watt and Betty Pacey (the President of the Trust as an ex officio member) is looking for archival material relating to Trust activities, "causes" and pictorial memorabilia (including newspaper clippings). We are looking for the material which has not yet gone into our collection at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and we would be interested in any items you think might assist us in amplifying the Trust's archival records.

Nineteen-eighty-nine is the Heritage Trust's 30th birthday! During this year, the members of the Resources Committee would like to be in contact with former Executive Board and Committee members who have played an active role in the Trust's development. If you have records or memories of your association with the Heritage Trust and you would like to share them with us, please contact:

Julie Ross
1750 Connaught Avenue
Halifax, N.S., B3H 4C8

Thank you and we'll look forward to hearing from you.

Julie Ross
Chairman



PHYLLIS BLAKELEY MEMORIAL FUND
BOOK PURCHASE -

Mrs. Wendy Duff, Librarian of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, reports that the Phyllis Blakeley Memorial Fund has purchased for the Archives library this year the Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the United States, 2nd edition, Phoenix, Arizona: the Oxyn Press, 1988, 853 pages.

The Directory includes full listing from approximately 2,675 repositories and abbreviated listings for approximately 575 repositories in the U.S. The subject index indexes personal names, subjects and geographical terms.

The book is a valuable addition to the holdings of the Archives as it provides researchers with information on repositories containing archival material in the United States.



HERITAGE TRUST TOUR OF HALIFAX HARBOUR, BEDFORD
BASIN AND THE NORTHWEST ARM

8.30 a.m, on October 22 saw 31 people assembled at the Cable Wharf for the Trust's water tour of the Islands of Halifax Harbour. It was a chilly grey morning, but dry, and the weatherman predicted that the rain would hold off until the evening.

Aboard the ferry boat "Shoreham", the party crossed to the Dartmouth side of the Harbour and sailed under the MacDonald and the Mackay Bridges into the Bedford Basin. Despite grey skies, the colours of the foliage inspired many of us to take photographs as the boat made her way around the shores of the Basin. Blair Beed, the organizer of the tour, and John Jenkins, captain of the "Shoreham", provided commentaries on both historical and contemporary aspects of the Basin. ranging from the amours of Edward, Duke of Kent, commemorated by the music rotunda of Prince's Lodge, through the events of the Halifax Explosion, to th the present-day container traffic in Fairview Cove.

Back through the Narrows and into the Harbour, we saw from a new perspective the Halifax Shipyard with its drydock, and Maritime Command, some of whose buildings date back to the 18th century, with its contemporary equipment including a submarine. Passing along the Halifax waterfront, we glimpsed many historical buildings alongside more recent developments, with the Citadel forming a backdrop.

We were then afforded a rare opportunity to visit George's Island, under the guidance of Dr. Roy MacDonald of Environment Canada (Parks). This island, inaccessible for many years for reasons of military security, is now under the care of Parks. It is of interest both to historians, having been fortified in various ways from the 1750's until the 20th century, and to naturalists, because its isolation has made it

a unique habitat for both flora and fauna; it is particularly noted for its snake population. In addition, it provides some spectacular views of Halifax itself. Parks are hoping to develop policies which will make the island accessible to the public while preserving its unique features.

Our next stop was Lawlor's Island, which lies in Eastern Passage between McNab's and the shore. Once used as a quarantine station, it is now abandoned and overgrown with trees. The deteriorating state of the wharf (bits fell off while we were moored there) made it impossible to land as we had hoped, but we ate our picnic lunch there as Roy told us something of the island's history.

Returning toward the Harbour, we had a glimpse of Devil's Island before we rounded MacNab's Island where we viewed Hangman's Beach. As we crossed back toward York Redoubt we realised that the wind had picked up, and those out on deck enjoyed the waves and the spray, and admired some hardy yachtsmen who were out in considerable numbers. Going up the Northwest Arm we enjoyed a commentary on the various historical and modern properties visible on either side. By the time we reached Point Pleasant Park on our return journey, the spray was flying off the Hen and Chickens Reef, and we turned into the Harbour through a heavy sea. Nevertheless, we were able to view the Halifax Container Terminal from the water, and the Ocean Terminals, including an area not visible from land, which is rich with Russian graffiti. A short run along the familiar Halifax waterfront brought us back to the "Shoreham's" berth.

Our thanks to Blair Beed, Roy MacDonald and the Captain and crew of the "Shoreham"; and to the weatherman, who kept the rain off until we were all safely ashore.

Joan Dawson.



DINNER WITH A DIFFERENCE!

The upper room of the Collins' Building in Historic Properties provides an ideal background for dinner theatre - the timbered ceiling, panelled walls hung with banners, the 'musician's gallery' across one end and the two-riser apron stage along one wall, together with dark, solid oak furniture all help to create an atmosphere of 18th century commercial stability. It certainly provided a wonderful background to this year's Heritage Trust Annual Dinner.

The company of well-costumed young players remained firmly in character throughout the entire evening, whether coatchecking, serving table or on stage. The theatrical sequences, linked together by a Victorian tale-teller, is a simple love story of a Boy, a Girl, a French Rival, a Managing Mama and the Boy's plump and hoydenish Young Sister (who asked me if I'd "... troid the salad dressin' - made it with me own 'hands, Oi did.").

They sang, danced and capered with unflagging energy as they acted out their story between very competently serving the dinner courses, and frequently 'drawing-in' the customers.

The Guest of Honour - Alderman Walter FitzGerald - wearing a cocked hat - was led to the Captain's Table by Mama, simpering and fluttering her fan, giggling girlishly at her guest's every remark. Like a good sport the alderman joined in the fun (though I was told afterwards he was not feeling up to par, and felt as though he was coming down with 'flu or something).

This year's President, Betty Pacey, gave a short introductory address and thanked the various Trust committee members for their efforts over the past year.

Then the dinner itself. A triumph! Each table was set with a huge wooden bowl of green salad and two loaves of fresh home-baked bread and a slab of butter. The chicken broth was tasty and hot, as was the main course; in my case the fish platter, which was excellent - even the veggies were lightly cooked to perfection. Then the trifle arrived (and it was none of your tablesponful of dessert in a little glass cup - this was in a punchbowl-sized dish, more than ample for the seven or eight persons at each table). By this time I was thoroughly immersed in the action and can't recall if my end of the table remembered their manners and passed the magnificent confection down to those at the other end of the table. There was something going on the whole of the time; if not actual performance then a young fellow vigorously pounding out appropriate folk music on an old piano with what appeared to be a fretted front panel. After dinner some of us mingled for a few minutes to greet friends and then it was time to leave.

I'm sure the other 149 Trusters who attended will agree with me that Blair's 'baptism of fire' - his first Annual Dinner organized as the Trust's new program chairman - was an unqualified success. Thank you Blair.

Doris Butters.





DOING URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY



A Conference of considerable interest to all heritage and historical groups is scheduled for April 22, 1989. You will all remember the fascinating archaeological finds which were turned up during the excavation of the Central Trust site at the Waterfront in 1984. These finds, consisting of 18th century tavern debris, brought home to Haligonians the importance of doing controlled and organized investigation at construction sites when such material is present. Lou Collins was in the forefront of the interest attending the discovery of these artifacts. Attempts are now being made to set up an inventory of site locations of importance so that 'unexpected' discoveries are avoided, and plans can be made in advance for proper supervision of the artifacts as they come into view.

Professor Paul Erikson, St. Mary's University, was very active at the time of these finds. He has spoken to Trust members about Digging in the North End, at a site very close to the Aikens' cottage. He has published interesting and popular books such as Halifax's North End, and Halifax's Other Hill, in addition to scholarly papers. Now, in conjunction with other professionals he has made plans for a conference on Doing Urban Archaeology, which is to be held at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Highland suites, on April 22, 1989. The conference is being funded in large part by the Social Services and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The goal of this conference is to consider the problems and opportunities of urban archaeology in order to develop an urban archaeology policy for Canada. Consideration will be given to methodologies required to locate and excavate urban sites, and to undertake research projects which can replace the "Chance and Rescue" operations which we have relied on in the past.

During the morning (9 am - 2.30 pm) four experts from various parts of North America will speak on urban archaeology

projects they have undertaken. They will include not only the results of their work, but also information on sources of funding and any problems they may have encountered during the project. The speakers are Pamela Cressey of Alexandria Archaeology in Virginia, Sheerene Bougher of the New York City Landmark Preservation Commission, Richard Stromberg of the Toronto Historical Board and William Moss of Ville de Quebec.

Alexandria, Virginia, is a seacoast city the size of Halifax, which may have similar problems and produce similar rewards to those of Halifax. Dr. Cressey has published papers on preservation planning, and the relations between the community and research.

Work in New York city parallels research in the larger Canadian centres. Dr. Bougher has done research in ceramics as an indicator of class and status in the 18th century, the interweaving of history and urban archaeology, and the archaeology of grave-stones.

Richard Stromberg from the University of Toronto will discuss how urban archaeology has been done there, especially under the auspices of the Ontario Historical Board. His research interests include Thule Eskimo ceramics, chipped stone-work of the Mackenzie Inuit, and the place of archaeology in city planning.

William Moss, city archaeologist, will describe how urban archaeology has been done in Quebec City, especially old Quebec, which employs him as the only municipal archaeologist in Canada. His research papers include work at Tadoussac, and Quebec North Shore.

In the afternoon (1.30 - 4.30 pm) there will be three concurrent sessions. Urban Archaeology on Display is organized by Brenda Boutilier, Curator of Education for the Nova Scotia Museum Complex. This will feature visual material and artifacts, and is free. Local archaeologists will be there to answer questions and give brief demonstrations and talks.

The second session, Urban Archaeology Policy, will be a forum which will air the concerns special interest groups may have about policies which



The second session, Urban Archaeology Policy, will be a forum which will air the concerns special interest groups may have about policies which may be developed governing excavation. It is hoped that development companies, historical groups, academics and contract archaeologists, government and amateur collectors will all be represented. Other groups included would be some or all of native and minority groups, museums, tourism agencies, and teachers. This is also a free session.

The third session is a workshop, Urban Archaeology Methods, for students and professional archaeologists. There will be a registration fee for this session.

Research interests of the speakers at this session include monitoring of emergency operations, archaeological research on French Toronto, Fort Frontenac, Fort Rouille, and 19th century Kingston.

This conference is open to the general public, and free to members of the Archaeology Society. Anyone who wishes to attend all the sessions will pay a registration fee.

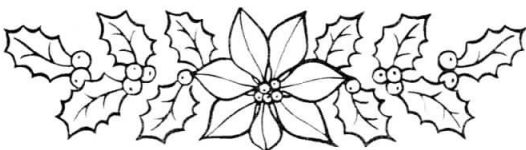
It is hoped that this conference will provide the opportunity to discuss and share knowledge of the tools and procedures used in urban archaeology, and that an outline for planned research projects can be determined.

A very important aspect of the conference is to establish mutual awareness and tolerance of the problems of the various special interest groups so that a smoothly working collaboration may be established.

It is hoped that an increased public awareness and interest will be fostered, and opportunities for community involvement recognised.

Considerable detail has been included in this report in the hope that some at least of the topics to be considered will be of interest to members of the Trust, and that some of us will be able to attend.

Lucille Stewart.



HERITAGE BUILDINGS CONTEST -

Some of you may have noticed the Mail-Star picture of our Vice-President, Donald Patton, presenting the first prize in the Historic Buildings Contest, to Brian Major and Vaughn Hamm, on Friday, November 18. This contest was an effort by the Trust to raise the consciousness of the public to an awareness of the handsome building stock to be found in Halifax - some of it threatened.

The publisher of the Mail-Star, Mr. Graham Dennis was persuaded by Trust member Alan Duffus, to help us run the contest and provide the first prize. The Herald generously contributed a \$500.00 Canada Savings Bond. When Alan was president eighteen years ago we ran a similar contest and he was responsible for the same friendly persuasion.

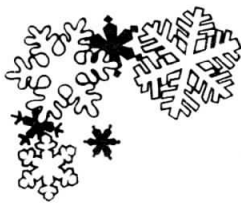
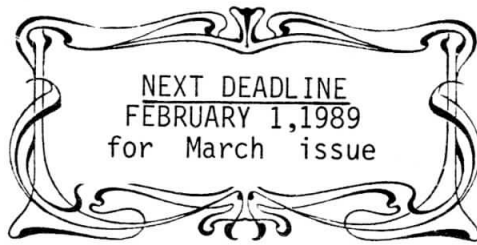
The second prize, given by the Heritage Trust, was a complete set of our publications - Brian Gallant was the lucky winner. We also awarded six Trust memberships. Besides the first and second prizewinners, these were won by Mary MacDonald, Carol Webb and Wayde Brown.

Six architectural clues were run at once on Friday October 28; then two weeks later, the answers were published, with a history and full size picture of the building. The buildings chosen, with the authors of their histories, were:

2031 Creighton Avenue
by Blair Beede
Keith Building (Green Lantern)
by Blair Beede
Foreman-Uniacke House, 1246 Hollis Street
by Karen Smith
Garden Crest Apts., 1544 Summer Street
by Betty Pacey
St. Georges (Round) Church, Brunswick St.
by Margaret Bonner
McCully House, 507 Brunswick Street
by Joyce McCulloch

Each of the contestants mentioned how much fun they had searching for the clues and hoped we would run another contest next year. Maybe we can, at least we won't wait eighteen years.

Joyce McCulloch



WELSH CHOIR IN CHURCH POINT -

On Sunday, October 2, the Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point opened its cultural season with a choral concert presented by two choirs: the PORT TALBOT CYMRIC MALE CHOIR, conducted by Roger Chilcott, and the Acadian choir, LA CHORALE DE LA BAIE SAINTE-MARIE, conducted by Father Maurice LeBlanc. The concert was held in Saint Mary's Church at Church Point, next to the university. St. Mary's is the largest wooden structure in North America.

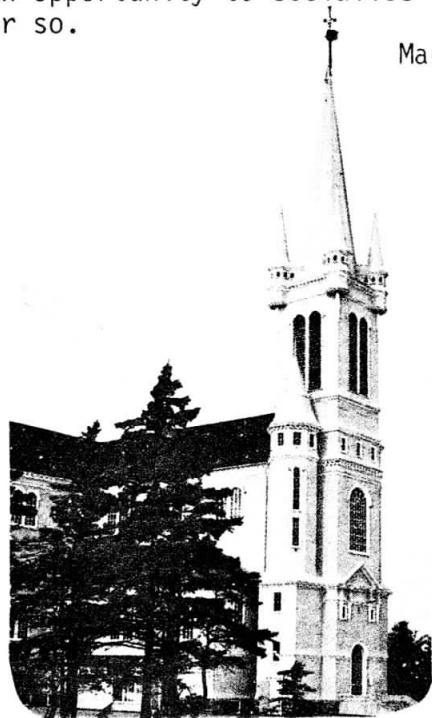
The Welsh choir opened the concert, their rich voices making a great impression on the audience that filled the church. The two soloists, Angela Morris, soprano, and Ian Caddy, baritone, who accompanied the choir were much applauded for their rendition.

The Chorale de la Baie Sainte-Marie performed five numbers chosen from its repertoire. This being the beginning of the choir's season, new faces showed up - a promising start for the upcoming activities.

The concert concluded with both choirs performing together - first a Welsh hymn tune, "Llanfair", directed by Father LeBlanc, then "Farewell to Nova Scotia", conducted by Mr. Chilcott. This really was the climax of the concert, and received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Needless to say, it was quite an exciting event with such a large crowd attending. After the concert a lunch was served in the church hall, giving members of both choirs, the Heritage Trust visitors and members of the Welsh Society an opportunity to socialise for an hour or so.

Maurice LeBlanc



A TOUR OF THE U.S.S.R. - MY IMPRESSIONS

by
Stella McGuigan

A recent tour of the USSR included several members of Heritage Trust, although the tour was not organized by the Trust - and I was asked to give a brief outline of what I had seen and felt.

Excited and expectant, about 50 of us set out on October 14, 1988, for Moscow or Leningrad depending on the section of the tour to which we had been assigned. The whole group travelled by way of Dorval, Mirabel, to Helsinki, Finland, where it divided. My group went on to Moscow, to be met by a charming Russian Intourist guide fluent in English and Japanese as well as her native Russian and some Georgian. She was fortyish, married to an interior designer and they had one 15 year old daughter, whose grandmother also lived with them.

At one time Moscow and Leningrad had consisted mainly of small individual homes, but gradually these have been replaced by high rise buildings of small apartments, rented by the square metre! Utility charges are based on the number of persons sharing the apartment. Our guide's three-room apartment - exclusive of bath and kitchen - was considered adequate for the number of people living there.

To reach the old, historically interesting parts of Moscow or Leningrad, one has to go through the suburban and residential areas - one could be in any large Canadian city, with rows of high rises set on green boulevards.

Moscow has a population of approximately 9 million, but during our visit the city was crammed with tourists, a great many of them attending the Millenium of the Conversion of Russia to Christianity. This was sponsored by the Russian Orthodox Church which, in a sense, is state run. In Moscow there are 50 active churches - two Baptist, one mosque, one synagogue, one Catholic, and the rest Russian Orthodox. The remainder of the church buildings are now museums.

Each day we were taken to see the most important heritage sights. One of the first - and certainly one which left a lasting impression - was the very beautiful St. Basil's Cathedral with its magnificent onion domes of various colours and covered with gold leaf. It is situated outside Red Square where we watched the changing of the guard in front of Lenin's Tomb. Across from the square is the famous GUM department store after which Eaton's Centre in Toronto is modelled. Mostly Russians shop there, paying with rubles; tourists with hard currency or foreign exchange are taken to Berioska shops. The merchandise is of superior quality and in some cases quite pricy. Featured are jewelry, watches, enamelled boxes, fur hats, wooden toys and ornaments, books, scarves, liquor, chocolate, and postcards.

Our itinerary included the inside of the Kremlin with its three beautiful churches (one of which had been the private church of the czars), the offices of Government and the immense museum where we saw artifacts and treasures, and icons dating back to Peter the Great. The Fabergé Collection was beautiful.

Another day we were taken to palaces in the suburbs and the New Maiden Convent. One palace was 'sheremetev' - built entirely of wood and with beautiful parquet floors. To preserve these floors tourists have to put slippers over their shoes; this made for dangerous walking but helped polish the floors. Originally a summer palace without heat (owing to its all-wood construction) it had taken six years to build but was only used five or six times in all.

One of the most hazardous trips was on the Moscow subway - the speed of the 'down' escalators is unreal! However, the interiors of the four subway stations we saw were quite astonishing; the walls and ceilings were decorated with murals by well-known artists, and lit by interesting crystal chandeliers!

These places were so clean compared to North American subway stations. Elderly women are hired to sweep not only there but out in the streets and parks. Every day we saw them hard at work with their birch brooms and wheelbarrows.

In general, the expression on the faces in the crowded streets was rather forbidding and withdrawn, especially that of older people; the younger ones - like young people everywhere - walk in chattering groups. A great many were wearing jeans and jean jackets and sneakers, the young men with modern western-style haircuts. Near tourists' sites some were engaged in black market activities, but soon dispersed with the appearance of a policeman.

We were treated to several cultural events - a Siberian folk dance and song act with the performers wearing native dress; a ballet, "Snow Girl"; the opera "Faust"; a Ukrainian festival of song and dance, and the incredible Moscow Circus.

There is a magnificent university in park lands on the outskirts of Moscow, and many language and trade schools. Medical services and education are either free or at minimal cost, and are available to all. Apparently a great amount of available government money is spent on the military, on education, on cultural buildings and apartment housing. The space program also absorbs a great deal of money. Hotels, however, are generally not updated. My impression of Moscow was of a busy, crowded place with a large military presence and few smiling faces.



Our five days soon came to an end and we went on to Thilisi, the capital of the old republic of Georgia, which dates back to 300 A.D. Flying Aeroflot was an experience some of us will long remember. Suffice to say, there was no security check whatsoever, and on the tarmac the crew sold

non-existent seats to four young men - two of whom sat in the washrooms with their luggage beside them. I think the other two sat in the galley!

On arrival in Thilisi we were met by friendlier, smiling people and a much warmer climate. Thilisi is south of Moscow and part of Transcaucasia - Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia - located on the Black Sea and surrounded by the Caucasian Mountains. The climate is very hot in summer and temperate in winter; the people themselves of a different makeup, their attitude similar to that of any people who live near the tropics. There is usually a warm wind blowing and the farmland is very fertile. Women may not be totally liberated there, but men are reported to respect them very much - we experienced a couple of examples of this while trying to hail a cab.

During our three days in Thilisi we enjoyed a tour of the city with its mixture of very old and quite new architecture for example old houses with balconies overhanging the streets, alongside new high-rises. All in a valley surrounded by the Caucasian Mountains. We took a cable car ride 500 metres above the city and the view was breathtaking. On another occasion we were taken to the original capital of Georgia some distance away, where the ruins of a church on top of a hill are still standing after 1300 years. It was built for a woman from Jerusalem - Saint Nino, who had had a vision. The church, which took nearly 24 years to complete, was built to mark the conversion of the people to Christianity.

We also visited the Museum of Fine Arts where we viewed exquisitely embroidered vestments, silver and gold jewellery and a few rare pieces dating from 2000 BC to 400 AD. The highlight of our last day was a visit to an ethnic village out in the countryside to see examples of eastern and western Georgian houses, where furniture and artifacts were still preserved - including a baby's pottery urinal! The architecture was quite unusual - Eastern Georgian of wood - Western of stone - both having a high cupola in the centre for ventilation.



Then it was on to Leningrad, "the Venice of the North", for our final five days. The atmosphere there is different again. One senses culture all around - magnificent palaces, cathedrals and museums; Catherine's palace and the Hermitage would take months to explore properly, but we covered as much as we could in the number of days at our disposal. It was too much to absorb thoroughly in such a short time, but we did get a general overall view. A city tour gave us a glimpse of the many canals, beautiful bridges and magnificent palaces and churches - the multi-coloured and gilded onion domes adding brightness and enchantment to the landscape.

Our hotel was superb with lovely furniture and even TV with four or five channels. Several children's cultural programmes were shown, but during the news - in Russian of course - I caught the odd name I knew in the world news portion.

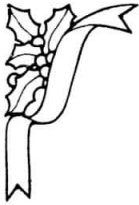
Then it was back to Helsinki, a prosperous looking city with much stone architecture and great displays of merchandise in the stores, though everything was rather pricy. An overnight stay in Helsinki was followed by a day tour of the city. We visited a museum of art works done by special people, and a cathedral quarried directly into the bedrock in the middle of the city - only its copper dome showing above ground. The acoustics are exceptional from any spot in the church. A choir from Sweden was performing during our visit. We also saw the largest Lutheran cathedral ever built; it has 52 steps leading up to the main door.

Finally, on to the airport and our flight to Mirabel. After several hours delay in Finland and a missed connection in Dorval we made it to Halifax nearly 24 hours after our wakeup call in Helsinki.

The whole tour left me with the feeling that I had - at least in some respects - seen three quite different cultures. The most memorable trip of my lifetime..... but Canada still looks the best of all places to me. There's no place like home after all is said and done.



OUR 'PAST' PRESIDENT, FRED MATTHEWS - A MAN OF MANY TALENTS !



CARLOS PHOTO

MAJESTIC MACE: Senator Henry Hicks and retired professor Fred Matthews are busy restoring Dalhousie's ceremonial mace. The mace's design called for four small fish to represent the fishing industry, but one is missing. The Dentistry Department helped out by designing a replica, which the two men are fixing in place. Once completely restored, the mace will sit on an ornate mahogany table located in Dalhousie's senate chambers. The pair also has restored the table to its original condition.



STATELY HOMES TOUR 1989 -

A fourth historical tour is being arranged by Professor J. Konczacki and Hilary Grant to be conducted from May 10 - 30, 1989. The tour will include Castles, Manor-houses and Palaces of Eastern and Central England For full details, the proposed itinerary or application forms please contact Hilary's office: 1579 Dresden Row, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K4, or phone 420-9187.



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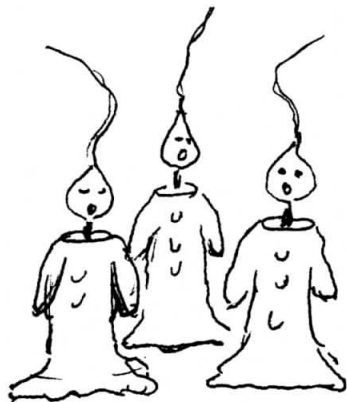
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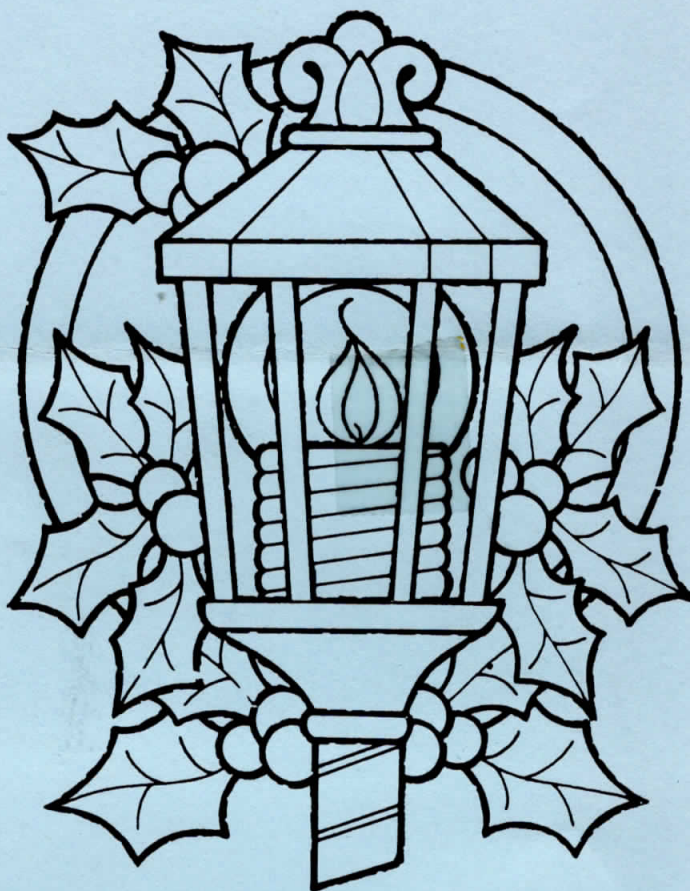
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