



# The Griffin

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*A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*

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MARCH, 1990

## PROGRAMME NOTES

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1990 -

TOM HORROCKS, Atlantic Region Director, Heritage Canada, to speak on Heritage Canada Involvement in Atlantic Canada.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1990 - -

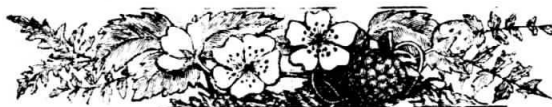
HILARY GRANT will give a slide presentation on group trips to England. A pleasant way to greet Spring.

### THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1990 -

GARY SHUTLAK, Public Archivist, will give a lecture and slides on historic Amherst. A preview of some of the sites we will see in June.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1990 -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .....  
Election of Board and other Appointments; Update of Trust activities and a short social presentation.



NOTICES.

OLD TOWN CLOCK RESTORATION ESSAY CONTEST

To commemorate the Restoration of the Old Town Clock, an essay contest on the theme ..... "The Town Clock: A Symbol - What it Means to You, Your Family, Your Community " was held in March this year.

The contest, open to the 4000 or so Grade 9 students in the Halifax/Dartmouth Metropolitan Area was sponsored by Air Nova and supported by the three area School Boards.

Presentations for the three top entries will be made on May 4, 1990, at a Georgian Tea ceremony to be held at the Old Town Clock.

Selection of the three winning entries was made by a Committee comprised of local communication, educational and heritage groups. Heritage Trust was asked to participate in the final judging. Each of the prizewinners will be awarded an air trip by Air Nova to one of their many locations in Canada.

We hope to receive permission to publish the names of the prizewinners and their essays in future issues of the Griffin.



## West Hants Historical Society

HOUSE TOUR

The West Hants Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of Windsor area homes on SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1990, from 10 am to 4 pm. The cost - \$12.00 per person - includes afternoon tea.

For information contact West Hants Historical Society, P.O.B 2335, Windsor, N.S., BON 2T0, or phone 1-798-5265.

AN EARLY HISTORY OF WINDSOR

by

Dr. Henry Yould Hind.

Originally published in 1889, this book has been reprinted by the West Hants Historical Society. The price is \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling if ordered by mail. Contact: W.H. Historical Society Box 2335, Windsor, BON 2T0, or phone 1-798-5265.

## 1990'S - HERITAGE DECADE

Recently on Heritage Day, the provincial government hosted a one-day conference to preview some of the heritage initiatives for the new decade. The Hon. Roland Thornhill, Minister of Culture gave the keynote address. The following excerpts from his speech outline some of his new proposals.

"The theme for this conference - **The 1990'S: Heritage's Decade** - exemplifies the thrust we wish to take to ensure our policies and legislation can best meet the challenges that will be posed in the next ten years; a period which may well become known as the "Conservation Decade". It will be a period during which society will unquestionably have to grapple with balancing the need for conservation with the continuing demands for economic growth in a period of financial restraint...."

"The Heritage Property Act provided the legal authority for the protection of selected properties. Over its ten year life, it has proved itself in this regard with 110 provincial registrations and over 600 municipal ones. It is clear, however, that we must now move beyond individual registrations to enabling municipalities to establish Heritage Conservation Districts.

For this reason, I shall be tabling such a bill in the forthcoming session of the legislature. It is intended to be flexible in implementation so districts can be readily established in rural as well as urban settings. The bill provides for a municipal by-law that would define the boundaries of such a district, while detailing the type and degree of conservation and new development controls desired.

The process incorporates local initiative and consultation to ensure the greatest public support for the agreed upon by-law. I am pleased that in a number of communities the necessary research, planning and citizen participation is already underway for the creation of Heritage Conservation Districts, once the enabling legislation comes into effect...."

"The next few years will be crucial for the survival of many of our older churches. Already a number have gone and far too many have been disfigured through ill-conceived measures. For those committed to preserving our inheritance in religious edifices, there can be no greater challenge confronting us than finding ways to ensure the proper conservation of the more than 1,000 places of religious worship surviving from before the First World War alone.

The government has in the past year taken the initiative by providing special grants to municipally registered churches. These grants have as their primary purpose the encouragement of proper, well planned and regular repair and maintenance. It is in support of this policy I look forward to cooperation with the Church Conservancy Society as it grows and extends its activities. Although government can provide funding and technical advice, the survival of our church buildings will ultimately depend on their congregations, and such as you who are prepared to devote the time and effort to church conservancy...."

"Another area of increasing concern is the redundancy of buildings owned by all levels of government. The Via Rail

PENINSULA NORTH PLAN

cutbacks have only highlighted the issue. For constitutional reasons the province cannot give protection to federal property. In the matter of railway stations, we have just completed an inventory of stations still standing in the province, with each given a comparative heritage rating. This has been sent to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, which is the federal agency for selecting those stations to receive protection under the recently passed statute for the protection of railway stations. Nova Scotia is the first province to have taken this action so far.

Moreover, the head of Heritage, Brian Cuthbertson, is chairing the interprovincial committee dealing with the whole issue of redundancy of federal property, including lighthouses which are, of course, of special interest to Nova Scotians. I should add that the province has also done a similar inventory of lighthouses as for railways, and recently registered a privately owned former lighthouse near Wallace...."

"Perhaps no aspect of community revitalization concerns me more than the challenge of finding suitable new uses and the necessary private, corporate and government funding for the renovation of former public buildings. In this context I cite, for illustration, the old post offices at Amherst, Parrsboro and Canso, and Grosvenor Hall at Baddeck. Other examples are well known to all of us. No one who has seen the conversion of the old Sydney Mines post office into a splendid new town office for this community can doubt what can be achieved...."

"There is no inventory as comprehensive as Nova Scotia's underway in the nation, and it has become a model of its kind. It treats our large stock of older buildings as a resource, worthy of careful management and preservation on economic arguments alone, aside from the social values attendant to Heritage Conservation."

The following brief was submitted by Heritage Trust President, Elizabeth Pacey, to the Halifax Planning Advisory Committee in December 1989. The Committee is currently working on changes to the Plan.

Heritage Trust has had an ongoing interest in the Peninsula North Plan, which includes historic Brunswick Street and the Citadel North Area. As you may recall, Heritage Trust recognized the potential of the Brunswick Streetscape in the early 1970's, and published a book on the subject. We also have recognized the great charm of the urban area of historic cottages and townhouses just north of the Citadel. We are concerned about the following changes to the current version of the Peninsula North Plan.

1. Policies 1.4.4 and 1.6.4 in previous versions of the Plan, allowed for contract development but did have a clause which ensured "no demolition of existing sound structures". In this version of the Plan, the "no demolition" clause has been dropped, thus fundamentally changing the purpose of the policies and putting the low-scale historic houses at risk. Any incentive for demolition in the Citadel North Area (Policy 1.4.4) and in the so-named "Brunswick Street Heritage Conservation Area" (Policy 1.6.4) is totally inappropriate. We recommend that Policies 1.4.4 and 1.6.4 be deleted in order to remove the contract development references which place the heritage buildings at serious risk.
2. Policy 1.4.5 allows rezoning for low-rise apartments and stacked attached housing units between Cunard and North Streets.

We recommend that this should only be allowed after a number of historically and architecturally significant structures have been pinpointed and registered.

3. In their letter to the city, the Province noted that Sections 92 and 93 of the proposed bylaw amendments for the Peninsula North Plan referred to Section 25 of the City's main Zoning Bylaw, i.e. the provisions for protection of the view from Citadel Hill. The Province indicated that a governing policy for the protection of the view from Citadel Hill should be included in the Peninsula North Plan.

Even though we note that there is a governing policy in the city-wide Municipal Development Plan, we recommend that such a policy be inserted in the Peninsula North Plan.

#### DONALD HIGGINS

Dr. Donald Higgins was a professor at Saint Mary's University from 1973 until his death early in 1989 and was an internationally recognized specialist in the area of Canadian local and urban politics. An accomplished musician and supporter of the arts, he was described by a colleague as, "a true Renaissance man."

Dr. Higgins expended a great deal of energy fighting to retain the quality of life in his adopted city of Halifax by ensuring that good planning took place. He was for many years an active member of the Community Planning Association of Canada, working on a number of projects, including the development of the Halifax waterfront.

The Saint Mary's University Faculty Union has set up a fund in honour of Donald Higgins. The committee includes a number of his friends and colleagues from urban reform politics and the arts. The Donald Higgins Memorial Fund will be used to establish a scholarship for a student of Atlantic Canada Studies at the University and a lecture series.

Donations should be sent to:  
Donald Higgins Memorial Fund  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3C3

#### DR. HELEN CREIGHTON

Heritage Trust joins all of Nova Scotia in remembering with pride and gratitude the splendid contribution made to our province's heritage by Dr. Helen Creighton who was a long-time and very supportive member of the Trust.

Dr. Creighton passed away on December 12, 1989.



### HERITAGE IN THE ORIENT

On a trip to the Far East in October, my husband showed me this photo in the Hong Kong morning paper. "Someone's copied the Trusts' contest!" I exclaimed. How insular can one get! Actually a good idea is bound to surface anywhere. What intrigued me was that a pre second world war building was considered heritage. Perhaps it had some historical link to the Japanese capture of Hong Kong. We'll never know as we were on the way home. In fact there wasn't time for any kind of research into the state of heritage preservation in any of the places we flashed through. Sometimes our guide knew government policy or a community's efforts to preserve something.

I don't hold out much hope for significant preservation in Hong Kong with land so very expensive. The day before we had crossed from Kowloon on the mainland to Hong Kong Island to visit Stonley market. We passed the Repulse Bay Hotel where Paul had stayed as a young naval lieutenant on leave. "It looks the same", he remarked. Imagine everyone's surprise to be told that it was an exact replica. The old 19th century building had been bought after the Korean War by a developer who tore it down to build a monster luxury hotel. Cries of rage and fury broke out all over the island and New Territories, so much so that a philanthropic millionaire bought the land back and rebuilt the Repulse Bay Hotel exactly! From Victoria Peak, one could see among the trees climbing the mountain, old mansions tucked away. To my surprise many looked shabby and some even derelict. Perhaps the former residents are living in Vancouver already.

Heritage conservation and restoration are generously funded in Japan for ancient monuments which includes temples, castles, bridges and shrines. In Kyoto, the Golden Temple is once again on view dazzlingly re-gilded from top to bottom. It took over four years because the gold leaf is put on in layers, each layer then lacquered. Yet, old quaint domestic

architecture, if it does not belong to a noble or religious sect, seems to be engulfed and is vanishing in the large growing cities. Only in isolated villages can one see the tiny original houses and community buildings that are uniquely Japanese.

In Bangkok, Thailand, the Royal Family maintains some of the 17th and 18th century Palace buildings - again acres of gold leaf to be maintained. While there we watched a number of artists on scaffolds restoring the wall paintings in the enclosure of the Reclining Buddha. Air pollution and the damp climate are equally to blame for some of the decay. In some districts of the city we noticed the conservation of the colonial architecture maintained for government use. Some blocks of domestic architecture dating from colonial times were also set aside, whether by government or private developers we could not find out. We stayed in an elegant small hotel restored by the owner in a neighbourhood definitely seedy. But there was evidence that because of this effort some of the surrounding neighbourhood was either sprucing up or being eyed by developers.

The famous Raffles Hotel in Singapore, the home of the original Singapore Sling, is closed for the next three years while restoration work proceeds. This, after a considerable battle by preservationists. Here also whole blocks have been designated heritage, just in time before the original city is totally gone and high rises reign supreme. Singapore's ambition is to lure the money and business from Hong Kong before 1997. In one of the designated blocks we were taken to an interesting shop lodged in the old Chinese infirmary. Built by the Chinese merchants for their own people when Singapore was a British colony, it had wonderful airy spaces - rooms led one into the other, perfect to display exotic Chinese wares: jade, brass, porcelain, silk, etc., lit naturally from louvered windows high above.

But in Bali, the village of Kuta Beach has all but disappeared under a pseudo village of tourist hotels fronting the glorious white beach, designed to approximate Balinese domestic architecture. It reminded me of what happened to Spanish fishing villages on the Mediterranean in the 70's, all developed into concrete jungles catering to tourists. It's happening in the tranquility of Bali - it's called "Progress"!

Joyce McCulloch



**THE HONGKONG STANDARD - TVB PEARL**  
**Eye on Old Hong Kong Contest**

Reach for a New Standard and join the Eye on Old Hong Kong Contest. Each day, a photograph will appear in The Hongkong Standard and be shown on air during Ebel Hottalk(Monday to Friday); Primetime This Week(Saturday at 7.45 pm) and Citybeat(Sunday at 7.15 pm). This is today's scene of old Hong Kong. Do you recognise it?

Send in your guess of the location using the entry form below.

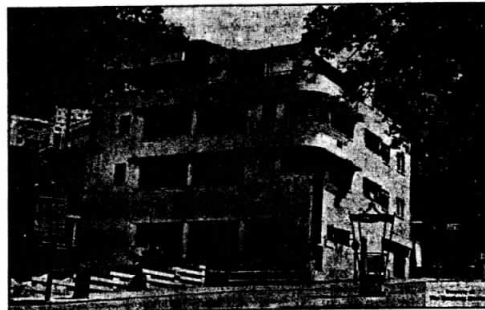
The contest will run until Wednesday, November 8.

Correct entries will accumulate in a pool from which a daily winner is drawn.

The name of a winner will be published everyday in The Hongkong Standard and announced during Ebel Hottalk on weekdays.

All correct entries will be pooled for the final grand lucky draw.

The correct answers will be published in the Hongkong Standard and the Eye on Old Hong Kong programme on Pearl on November 16. Each picture of Old Hong Kong will be shown in contrast to the present look of the same location.



Entry forms are also available free at TVB, 77 Broadcast Drive, where the picture will be on display. All entries should be sent to the Public Relations Department, TVB, TV City, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon.

**PRIZES: GRAND PRIZE** - two British Airways round-trip tickets(Hong Kong - London - New York - Hong Kong) plus six nights accommodation in United Nations Plaza Hotel in New York and six nights accommodation in Hyatt Carlton Tower in London worth a total of HK\$77,969.

**21 DAILY PRIZES** - TVB gift set plus six month's subscription to The Hongkong Standard.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Name: Mr/Ms \_\_\_\_\_  
 ID. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 I think the picture is of (tick correct answer):  
 Garden Road     The Peak  
 \* Contest Rules and Regulations are published in Public Notices section of today's Hongkong Standard.  
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**BRITISH AIRWAYS**



**HYATT CARLTON TOWER**  
A PARK HYATT HOTEL



**HYATT**  
United Nations Plaza Hotel

**The Hongkong Standard**

Notes from 1959 - the year the Trust was founded.

Researched at newspaper files, Public Archives by Blair Beed  
Read at November 1989 Annual Dinner by Deborah Allen

**1959 Traffic Concerns Editorial**

The Police have started an experiment to help relieve traffic in the downtown. There will be no stopping between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Barrington Street. The Halifax Herald felt:

"Admittedly, the imposition of a regulation as stiff as this might be too drastic an approach to the Halifax traffic problem." The experiment will be from Duke Street to Saint Paul's Hill on the west and Duke Street to George Street on the east side of Barrington Street.

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1959 City Staff feel an overpass to the Bay Road and an Arm Bridge are the only ways to solve the traffic problem at the Rotary.

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**November Sales - 1959**

- Bryant Electric, Gottingen St. - offers a 9 cu. ft. refrigerator for \$199.00.
  - New York Dress, Gottingen St. - is celebrating the installation of a modern storefront and offers:
 

Ladies Winter Coats	\$ 25.00	Car Coats	\$10.00
Skirts and Slacks Special at \$3.99 each			
  - Arcade Ladies Shop, Bayers Rd. Mall - has China Mink-trimmed Suits - \$34.98.
  - Clayton's Wear, Poplar Grove - offers Men's Tweed Sports Jackets - \$19.95 Reg.; now Sale priced - \$14.97.
  - Simpson's has a living room chair sale including French Provincial styles for \$49.95;
    - Ladies Wool Cuddle Caps - for 79 cents; Metal Dump Trucks in Toyland - \$2.99 ea;
    - Snow tires - \$10.99 each.
  - Mills Brothers, Spring Garden Road - has nightgowns, various colours - \$4.99.
- 

More local activities taking place this November weekend:

- The first social event of the Halifax Ski Club is a Snow Flake Frolic at the Flamingo Restaurant;

- Dance this Saturday night to the music of Don Messer and His Islanders featuring Marg Osbourne, Charlie Chamberlain, Ray Simmons at the Olympic Gardens. Admission: \$1.00.

- Capital Theatre is showing "It Started With a Kiss" starring Glenn Ford, Debbie Reynolds - shows at 1:00, 3:03, 5:06, 7:00 and 9:15 p.m. Rated: Adult Entertainment.

- The Halifax Choral Society with Halifax Symphony Orchestra presents Handel's MESSIAH, Queen Elizabeth Auditorium, Saturday. All seats: \$2.20.

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**"In Development" News 1959**

- Final clearing underway on site of College Street School where 8 members of the Halifax Theatre Arts Guild escaped the fire that gutted the 100-yr. old building.

- New 11-storey wing of the Nova Scotian Hotel will cost \$4,430,000.



**"In Development" News 1959 (cont'd.)**

- Sir James Dunn Science Building will cost \$1,942,950.
- Lord Nelson addition cost \$1,722,500.
- Construction was beginning on 350 units to be called Mulgrave Park. \$500,000 was realized from the sale of wartime prefabricated homes.
- Work has commenced on the foundation of the new men's residence at Dalhousie.
- Work is continuing at Mount St. Vincent Complex.
- The Advisory Board of Grace Maternity Hospital announced a new 5-storey wing to give 110 beds.
- The Board of Works is to seek a private meeting with two property owners interested in private redevelopment of Lr. George Street. One party wants a service station; the other wants combined office and convention hall. (Guess that didn't happen!)
- January 1959: Restoration work at Citadel Hill: "Originally \$100,000 was set aside for this may be much more extensive than planned. It was hinted this week that monies approaching one million dollars might be poured into the Citadel Hill project to get the job completed once and for all. There have been complaints that the practice of doing the job by easy stages is proving more extensive than desirable."
- January 23, 1959: In January, the President of St. Mary's University announced the building may soon fall to demolition hammers, there are no immediate plans for the removal, but it is destined to go in the near future--Gorsebrook, once the magnificent estate of Enos Collins, who was one of the wealthiest of early Haligonians and in later years, home to the Gorsebrook Golf Club, is now part of the Tower Road property belonging to St. Mary's.

**The year's big story: April 17, 1959.** And finally, the first official meeting of the Provincial Trust was held Thursday, April 10, 1959 in the Board of Trade Rooms. Victor deB. Oland was elected President; K.A. Ross, Secretary. In the Committee of Incorporation are C.A. Fowler, Chairman; Brigadier Victor Oland, Mrs. Cora Greenaway, Lt. Cdr. R.R. Buchanan, legal advisor is Roland Ritchie, Q.C. Named to the architects planning committee are Charles A. Fowler, J. Philip Dumaresq, James S. MacDonald and Allan F. Duffus.

The Trust has stated that Nova Scotia has lagged behind in preservation of its heritage, naming the loss of the Bluenose, the Royal Coach in which Edward VII rode and the old ordinance clock tower and gateway.

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Call: 423-4807

The Trust office is now staffed by volunteers-- on MONDAY mornings, and TUESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY afternoons. So do phone or drop by, to buy a book, a Trust pin or Silver Spoon, or just for a chat.

JUNE 16, 1990  
SEMINAR ON HOME RESTORATION.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Projects Chairperson, Joyce McCulloch, announces a Spring seminar... "HERITAGE RESTORATION BEGINS AT HOME - A Viable and Economic Approach"... to be held on Saturday, June 16 1990, from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm in the Akins Room of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax. Registration fee is \$10.00 per person.

Special guest panelists will include Mr. Martin Weaver, Conservation Consultant, Ottawa; Mr. Bill Hockey, Head, Architectural Analysis and Planning, Atlantic Region, Environment Canada; and Local Owners who have undertaken restoration of local buildings.

The Seminar will conclude with a Tour of the restored Bollard House on Dresden Row, Halifax.

9.00 Registration and View of Displays.

9.30 Welcome and Introduction of Panelists.

9.45 Session I - Mr. Martin Weaver - "Overview and Case Studies of Restored Buildings".

- Question Period.

10.45 Coffee Break

11.00 Session II - a) Mr. Bill Hockey - "'Restoration is Expensive' is a Myth".

- b) Local Panelists - "Practical Approach to Restoring Buildings".

- Question Period

12.00 Lunch (**Own expense**)

1.30 Session III - "Before You Begin...".

2.30 Coffee Break

3.00 Tour of Bollard House.

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Registration Form

HERITAGE RESTORATION SEMINAR -- JUNE 16, 1990

Registration Fee is \$10.00 per person. Please make cheque payable to: Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and mail to Ste 522, 1657 Barrington St., Halifax, B3J 2A1.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ registration.

Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(o) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTOR COACH TOUR TO AMHERST

SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1990  
+++++

Motor Coach Departs: Lord Nelson Hotel at 8:30 a.m.  
Dartmouth Holiday Inn at 8:45 a.m.

AMHERST, named after Jeffery Amherst, 1st Baron Amherst, grew as an industrial centre in the 19th century. Many fine Victorian buildings were built to reflect local achievement. The Town of Amherst has just celebrated its 100 years as a town. We will visit public buildings and private homes that reflect the heritage of the area. (A talk by Mr. Gary Shutlak, Public Archives of Nova Scotia at the regular meeting at the Nova Scotia Musuem, May 17, 1990, will be an excellent introduction to Amherst's built heritage.)

Cost per person by motor coach will be \$35.00. This includes registration and travel treats. Bring your own picnic lunch, camera, etc. Registration for those travelling by private motor car will be \$10.00

For more information, telephone Blair S. Beed, Programme Chair at 429-6415.

Cheques to: HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA  
Mail to: Suite 522, Roy Building  
1657 Barrington Street  
Halifax, N.S.  
B3J 2A1

Registration deadline is **April 25th, 1990.**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

BY MOTOR COACH # of persons x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

RECOLLECTIONS OF OUR 1989 HISTORY TOUR OF  
EAST ANGLIA AND THE PEAK DISTRICT.

On the first day our drive to Norwich took us through many picturesque Suffolk villages where our attention was drawn to the "Suffolk Pink" exteriors painted with the ancient pig's-blood-and-urine-based preservative.

Our first stop was for lunch in Lavenham, a remarkably preserved village now declared 'historic'. It was made wealthy and famous by its weavers and the wool trade. King Henry VII having a doubtful claim to the throne of England could not depend on the nobility for support and so turned to the merchant class. He decided that, instead of sending the raw wool to Holland and the Continent to be woven into cloth, it should be done in England. Weavers from these countries came to England to teach the art of weaving to the local people - he even ordered that corpses be wrapped in woollen shrouds, thus advancing its sale.

Suffolk became the centre for the expansion of socio-economic growth which brought great wealth to the region. It can be said that Henry VII put England on the map. There are many examples of shepherds and sheep-owners who became wealthy merchants and land-owners, climbing the social ladder to become Baronets, Earls and Dukes.

Lavenham was in the centre of this booming industry, and the Weavers' Guildhall, on Market Street, is an early 16th century timber-framed building, originally the hall of the Guild of Corpus Christi. Here is displayed local history and artifacts of the mediaeval woollen trade, even pieces of ancient woollen cloth.

The building was saved from destruction in 1952, and has one room dedicated to the American airmen who flew from the many air bases in the area during WWII.

Many of Lavenham's timber-framed buildings are quaint and date back to mediaeval times when the wool trade flourished. Telephone wires are underground and on Lower Walker Street the sidewalks are so narrow one must walk single file. The Priory, once the home of Benedictine monks, became, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 during the reign of Henry VIII, the home of a wealthy wool merchant. The Lavenham woolmark remains in the pargetting on the outside wall. Restoration work has uncovered the entire timber frame and a number of Elizabethan wall paintings.

This is just one example of the many historic, interesting and educational stops we made on our tour, with Dr. Nina Konczacki bringing history alive. A hearty thank you also to Hilary Grant our congenial leader, who planned the Tour.



Lower Church Street, Lavenham.

A particularly interesting highlight of our 1989 historical tour of East Anglia and the Peak District, was a morning stop at Ashford-in-the-Water to see the decorated wells - an ancient Derbyshire custom "The Dressing of the Wells". It is believed that it's beginnings were probably religious and ceremonial rituals introduced by the Romans during their occupation of England. It is thought that the priests accompanying the armies of Rome brought with them their festivals, one of which honoured the water nymphs with their power over water and it's cleansing, refreshing and healing properties. Flowers were scattered over rivers and streams. Water worship became so fixed in the minds of the pagans, that early Christian missionaries treated these pagan customs with sensitivity, absorbing, rather than repressing them, so rededicated the wells to the saints of the early Church.

Following the departure of the Romans, the Church - as did Kings Edward and Canute - forbade any 'worship of trees, fountains and stones', so the custom went underground until the beginning of the 17th century. At this time a drought parched the land and a great plague killed many people. In Tissington the springs never failed and as a gesture of thanks and gratitude an old lady of the village - a Mary Twigg - hung garlands at the village well. Thus began a yearly custom on Ascension Day of hanging garlands, which gradually led to the present day "Dressing of the Wells". In 1951, during the Festival of Britain, many other communities revived the custom.

In the village of Ashford-in-the-Water we admired and photographed the beautifully decorated wells. They were truly works of art. Wooden frames are made and filled with clay one-half to one inch thick. This is then soaked with water and salt added to prevent the clay from cracking and drying out. Hundreds of tiny nails hold the clay in place. Days are spent weaving petal after petal into the intricate design. One we saw

depicted a beautiful owl - a sign for the wise use of the environment. People for miles around gather the petals, separating them according to colour and most people of the village play some part in the finished works of art.

We also visited the small Parish Church, which was also decorated. Their floral displays were in celebration of the Creative Power of God.

It was a beautiful day as we drove on to the little town of Bakewell famous for its Bakewell Tarts..... another story!.

Daphne Faulkner.



**PIERRE BERTON:  
WINNER OF CANADA'S HIGHEST HERITAGE  
CONSERVATION AWARD**

Pierre Berton was named the 1989 recipient of Canada's highest heritage conservation award.

The Gabrielle Léger Award, presented by Heritage Canada, honours outstanding contributions to the preservation of our national heritage.

Mr. Berton was nominated for his intimate involvement in the preservation of key heritage sites across Canada, for creating the concept of Heritage Day and for attracting unprecedented attention to the heritage movement, both in conjunction with Heritage Canada and independently as a distinguished writer, broadcaster and historian.

Mr. Berton has made a significant impact on the way Canadians see themselves and understand their roots.



NEXT DEADLINE will be APRIL 15, in time  
for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING issue of  
Griffin, June 1990. '

Committee Chairmen please note that Annual  
Reports are due ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15.



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