



# The Griffin

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## PROGRAMME NOTES

Regular monthly meetings of Heritage Trust are held on the **THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH** from September to June, in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, unless otherwise stated, starting at 8 pm.

Thursday, January 17, 1991 - 8 pm -

A slide presentation on the work being done on the SHUBENACADIE CANAL, DARTMOUTH.

February 15-23, 1991 - Celebrate the opening of HERITAGE WEEK at BAYERS ROAD SHOPPING CENTRE on FEBRUARY 15 and 16, with special presentations arranged by the various Nova Scotian Historical Societies including Heritage Trust

Thursday, February 21, 1991 - 8 pm -

Regular meeting of the Trust at NSM - programme still being arranged at Griffin press time - see insert in this issue for details.

Thursday, March 21, 1991 - 8 pm -

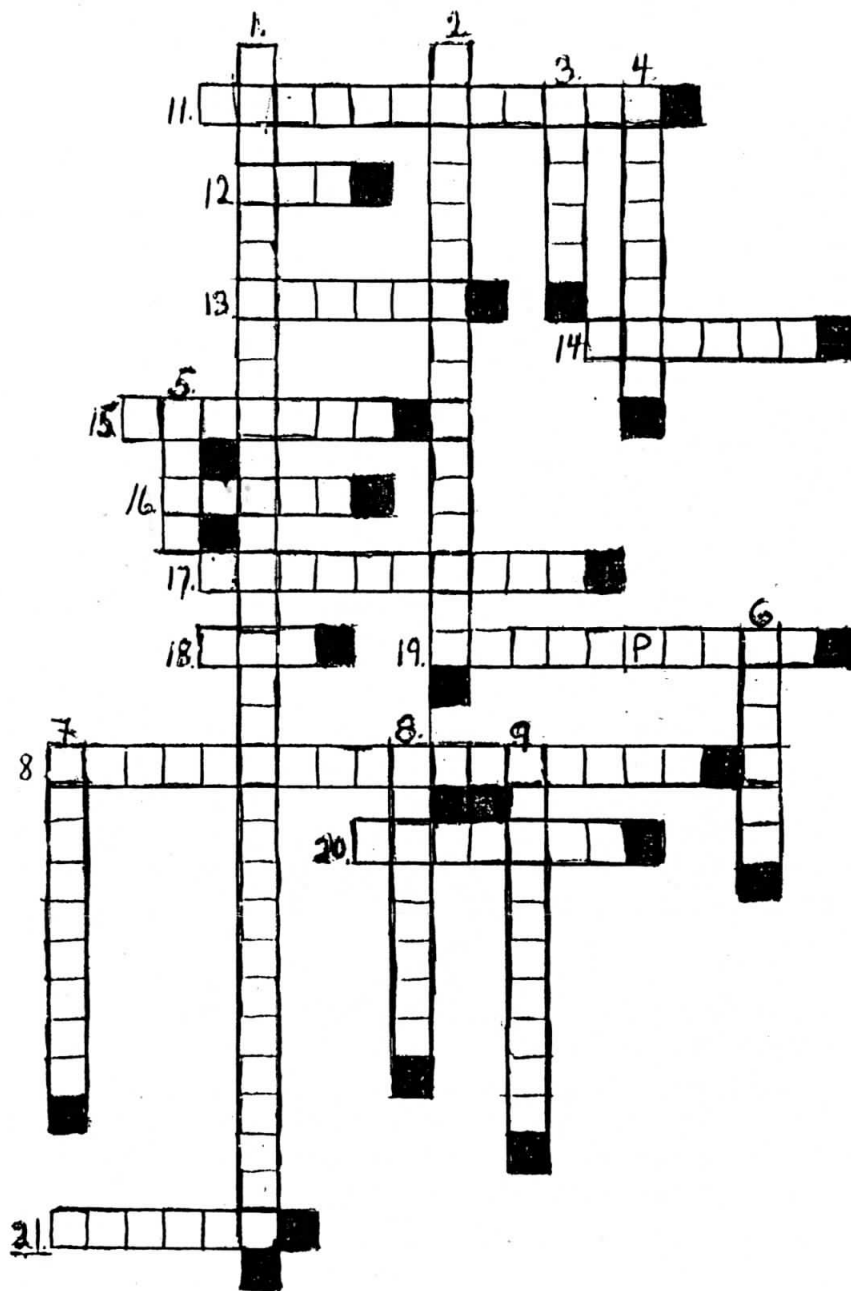
Regular meeting at NSM - see insert for details.

Saturday, June 8, 1991 -

A special trip to SHELBURNE to view the inside of historical houses, so mark your calendar; full information and registration form will be included in the March issue of Griffin.

Thursday - June 20 ..... ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Time to start thinking about nominations for Board of Trustees and Executive.

## HERITAGE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



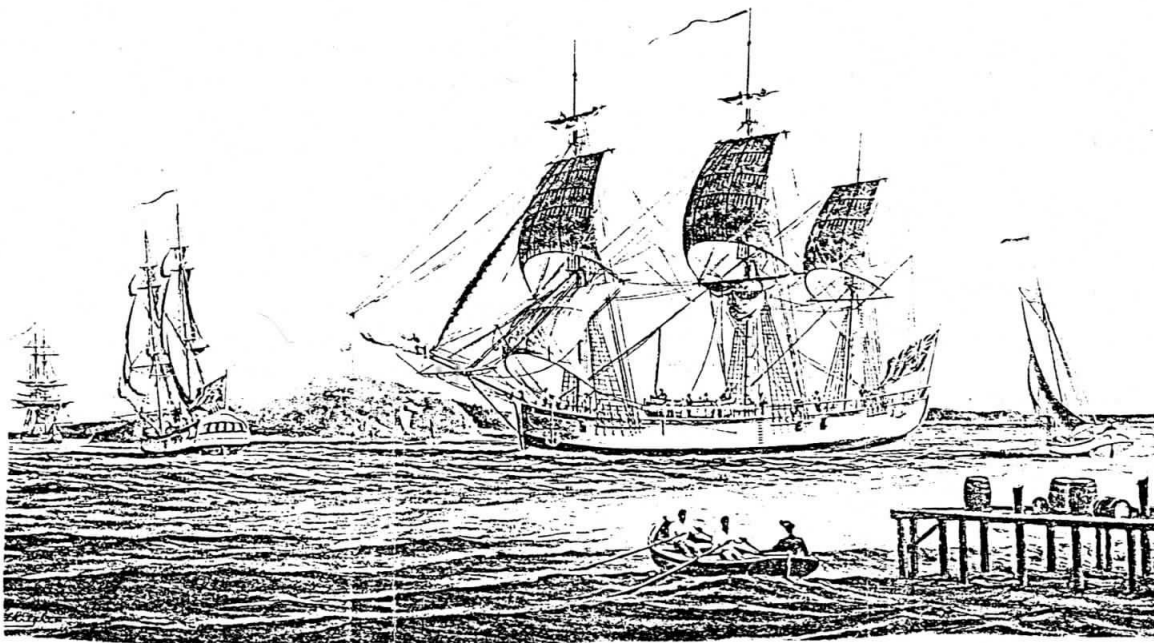
(Answers on page 12 )

DOWN

1. Man city named after (6 wds.)
2. Founder of Halifax (2 wds.)
3. Farmers found this
4. Streets named after them
5. A want if sunk
6. 1st settlers from
7. Halifax rival fort
8. Oldest stone house now hotel
9. They were ships of \_\_\_ (2 wds)

ACROSS

8. 2nd oldest bldg. still here (2 wds)
11. Water named after a duke (2 wds)
12. Navy drink
13. Indians called
14. A third king
15. They were \_\_\_\_\_ subjects
16. Soldiers work
17. Some trouble colonies (2 wds)
18. Soldiers wanted this off duty
19. Oldest bldg. still here (2 wds)
20. Hang for this
21. Cornwallis' ship name famous in Egypt.



THE SETTLING OF FOREIGN PROTESTANTS IN NOVA SCOTIA

by  
Ian McKee.

The settling of the 'Foreign Protestants' in Lunenburg is well documented. As many of you know, they arrived in Halifax in the summer of 1751 and 1752 in a variety of vessels, wintered in quarters between Bedford Basin and the Northwest Arm, proceeding to Lunenburg in 1753.

My wife is a Zwicker, whose family arrived in the "GALE" in August of 1752. I set out a couple of years ago to find out as much as I could about this ship. We are very fortunate as the local resources are extensive. Our excellent Archives had much to offer. The library at Dalhousie is another useful source. They have a very complete set of Lloyds Register of Shipping going back to the mid-1700s, for example. My colleague, John Holland, owns 'NAUTICA BOOKSELLERS', one of the largest collections of nautical books in the world. In addition, our family has a number of documents and articles written by and about Lunenburgers.

I was able to put together a reasonable picture of ships of the day, and the "GALE" in particular. Her size and rig can be closely estimated. I did not find a sketch or first hand description to confirm my research. The final asset, is that we have locally, in Port Hawkesbury, Mr. Franklyn Wright, an outstanding marine artist. He contributed, in addition to his talents as an artist, an extensive knowledge of old ships, acquired over a number of years.

The result of this collaboration is a painting of "GALE" passing George's Island, inward bound in 1752, reproduced here. I thought some of you might be interested in the result as many of us can trace roots back to those hardy settlers, who crossed the ocean on similar ships. The vessels in the background are naval frigates of the day.

MUSIC OF THE EYE: ARCHITECTURAL  
DRAWINGS OF CANADA'S FIRST CITY  
from 1822 to 1914.-

This national travelling exhibition from the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John will open at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia on March 1, 1991, and will remain on view until May 1, 1991.

Mr. Gary Hughes, Chief Curator at the New Brunswick Museum will present an illustrated lecture in support of the exhibition's opening at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia on Friday, March 1st at 7.30 pm.

The exhibition is composed of 40 architectural drawings by Saint John architects for projects extending over a span of nearly a century from 1822 to 1914. Arranged in chronological order, they trace the city's building history during its most architecturally creative and productive period of existence.

In broader terms the exhibition addresses the transfer and adaptation of architectural ideas through the medium of the architectural drawing and the degree to which international and national influence affected Saint John's urban landscape. Stylistic inspiration usually resulted through some combination of foreign pattern books, builder's manuals, travel and work experience abroad. The degree of stylistic adaptation in the local environment was determined, more or less, on client taste, expense of building materials, building type and the amount, if any, of external authority. Examples of the last variable included the Anglican Church and the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

The medium of the architectural drawing is crucial in charting the flow of architectural ideas and their acceptance or rejection based on comparisons of the buildings which actually resulted - or didn't result!! This exhibition contends that Saint John architects responded quickly to international stylistic trends and, in some instances, were the first or amongst the first to do so in Canada. It also explores some of the vernacular adaptations of these trends and questions whether such adaptations were only the province of the builder.

Supplementary themes investigated include the professionalization of the architect, his relationship with the engineer and the building trades and the changing style of architectural drawing itself through the course of the exhibition timespan.

Gary Hughes organized and curated the exhibition. He is currently finishing work on his M.A. degree in History at the University of New Brunswick. His Report topic deals with an analysis of a collection of architectural and engineering drawings relating to the European and North American Railway which was built in New Brunswick in the late 1850's. A selection of these drawings appear in the exhibition.

This exhibition is being produced through generous assistance from the Museum's Assistance Program, Department of Communications, Ottawa.



IN MEMORIAM

*Trust members were saddened to learn of the death on Saturday, October 27, of DR. WILLIAM E. POLLETT, a long-time member and participant in Trust activities. Dr. Pollett had a distinguished medical career in Halifax.*



## A BREATH OF CHRISTMAS PAST -

What better place to catch a glimpse of Christmas past than in Windsor with its tranquil air of days gone by and its beautiful old homes? Especially on a brisk sunny afternoon such as it was on the last Sunday in November when Blair took fifteen Trusters to join the West Hants Historical Society's fund-raiser: a holiday-bedecked house tour.

Our first stop was at THE CLOCKMAKER INN (1894) where we were greeted by Veronica Connolly in a pretty turn-of-the-century style gown of lace-trimmed dark green chiffon velvet. The house itself is lovely, a gracious place with truly magnificent detailing: the moulded beading edging every door panel; the massive square carved newel post; the parquet risers on each step and marquetry side wall of the stairs and the glorious multi-coloured glass window facing you as you climb the stairs to the landing. (Wonder though, what the small rectangular window at floor level on the right hand side of the landing, is for? Everyone much too busy for me to interrupt with such a question).

Hm-m-m! Christmas decoration was what I started to describe..... The eye-catcher in the main room was the huge, perfectly shaped spruce trimmed with strings of gold beads and red mini-lights, stiffened white lace ornaments and hand-made stuffed felt birds. Beneath the tree an ancient rocking horse, doll and bassinette and an assortment of old books and toys, without fancy wrapping paper, helped create the Victorian tone. More dolls sat on the sofa. The intricately-carved fireplace surround and shelved over-mantel held a cotton-wool choir on the top shelf and a Nativity scene on the mantel. Each little sideshelf had its own period ornament.

Heavy white lace over a red table cloth created a perfect foil for the sage green and gold-trimmed place settings, and of course, here and there were other touches of red and green - a spray of leaves or a piece of coloured glass.

In a corner of the hall white cane book shelving displayed groups of small figures representing the Twelve Days of Christmas - most ingeniously done - and on the side wall a mediaeval hanging illustrated the same theme.

There was even a Children's Room with a tall wall-length case filled with the Connolly's daughter's very extensive Doll Collection, plus some smaller old style toys. A kid-sized flaming red head and a Howdy Doody doll were having tea at a child's table and chair set. Even the radiator was trimmed: a row of pasteboard model houses.

The tree in this room had little red candles (unlit of course), red and white paper chains, and small ornaments including colourful circles cut from greeting cards. There was even a table holding gingerbread figures and a large gingerbread house looking as though made by children's hands.



History note: in one corner of the wall, just beneath the ceiling a space left in the plaster displays a section of an old wall-painted border, still a clear bright blue. Other bedrooms also have borders painted right onto the wall - one a sort of Greek scene in shades of brown, another a charming, raised scalloped 'ribbon' in blue with pink flowers in the loops and bows between loops.

Before leaving we paid our respects to two beaming 'special guests' - Santa and Mrs. Claus who sat by a cheerful fire in the den, she with her old afghan round her knees, he hugging an enormous stuffed dog.

Then, on to THORNTON (1850) to be welcomed most graciously by a hostess wearing a beautiful old, off-the-shoulder pink taffeta gown. At Thornton the accent was mainly on period pieces and family treasures. On the hall chest a collection of gleaming brass candlesticks, and in the dining room magnificent pieces of highly polished silver. Helen Robb drew my attention to five silver tea-sets which I had not noticed - my eye had been drawn to the massive candlesticks on the dining table and the mouth-watering white fruit cake (recipe available in the kitchen) and silver plate of shortbreads!

Scattered around every room were red and green touches - a cushion, a piece of glass, cones in a red basket, a container of holly and pine tied with red ribbon or a dish of shiny glass baubles. Stepping back to locate the source of soft Christmas music in the den, I was caught by a breath of spring, a bowl of jonquils in bloom on the window seat! Also in the den I brushed against a short bronze lamp stand with a pink fluted shade of frosted glass at the end of an arm, looked as though it would throw light onto the page rather than the reader's head.

The tree in the sitting room was trimmed in simple Victorian style - popcorn and cranberry strings, hand made ornaments and small red candles. A large very old-fashioned cardboard cutout of Santa Claus stood in the hearth. Several rooms at Thornton House have black iron wood stoves, but still the stockings (old 'welly' socks mainly) were 'hung by the chimney with care'.

Thornton itself is a maze of unexpected corners and odd crannies. White walls and mouldings provide a clean, cool background for coloured glass and large framed mirrors reflecting light from chandeliers and table lamps with crystal droppers. On the way to the very modern kitchen we passed through the butler's pantry decked out with old-time kitchen ware - apple corers, an old mincing machine, china, crock jars, butter shapers and a huge old copper kettle.

Just off the kitchen we were shown the cupboard where ice was delivered direct - outside Pat Cunningham took me round to the back of the house to look

at the tin-lined hatch with huge black hinges and hasp through which the block of ice was pushed and which kept the whole cupboard cool. And out back there, even the driveway had its touch of Victoriana - frosted, fluted glass shades housing the electric light bulbs!



Our final visit was to the MEANDER INN. The present house was built in 1897 on the foundation of an older one burned down during the big fire of 1896 which destroyed a great deal of that area of Windsor.

The Meander Inn Christmas tree stood in the hall, crowned with a glowing angel, lit candles with an electric 'wick' at the branch ends and decorations of little knitted toys and stuffed cotton-covered novelties. Every stair held a stuffed Teddy bear - each one different. The bears led my eye up to the third floor skylight through the unusual 'squared' spiral stairwell, each overhang edged with dark stained wood.

Here, the red, white and green Christmas colour scheme was carried out by brilliant, fresh-looking poinsettias, the largest, a lovely red and white one sat on the sitting room table, which also held a scattering of old story books, a feathered fan and a beaded evening purse. Windows and mantels were green with pine branches trimmed with cones, coloured wax fruits or Santa candles.

In the dining room the red and white table cloth set out with pale biscuit-coloured table ware, complemented very nicely the flower patterned forest green wallpaper. In the corner a white painted door hides a large steel 'secret' wall safe - now a linen cupboard. Many visitors were attracted to the collection of silver souvenir spoons in racks along one wall of the dining room annexe.



Some of the Meander Inn rooms are quite oddly shaped, seven-sided, like a lozenge with one right angled corner. Fireplaces are on an angle in the corner of each room; in one burned a cheery little fire, another held a large Nativity scene. Out on the front porch we changed from our house slippers to street shoes and headed to our last stop of the afternoon - tea in the IOOF Hall, now headquarters for the West Hants Historical Society.

On our way to tea - a fitting end to our tour - we passed Edgehill School now turned into apartments. Pauline Hildesheim pointed out the window of her bedroom in the old wooden building when she was teaching at Edgehill before taking her librarian training.

A very pleasant afternoon indeed, thanks to Blair who arranged the very comfortable mini-bus for us - a great prelude to the coming festive season.

Doris Butters.

#### RESOURCES COMMITTEE -

Gilbert Hutton, a past President of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and a founding member of the organization, has very generously given the Trust his large collection of papers and reports dealing with his long and very important association with us. Although Mr. Hutton now lives in Burlington, Ontario, he travelled here in July to begin taping his very important recollections of the Heritage Trust's first successful Heritage fight - the saving of the waterfront buildings now known as Historic Properties.

We are very fortunate that Mr. Hutton is returning to Halifax this month to work on the organizing of his papers, the taping of his recollections with Brenton Haliburton and he has agreed to speak to us at our Annual Dinner on November 24th.

Julie M. Ross  
Resources Chairman



#### HERITAGE TRUST'S ANNUAL DINNER -

Trust members who attended the Annual Dinner - this year in Brightwood Golf Course clubhouse on November 24, enjoyed a splendid Buffet, topped by a succulent Roast Hip of Beef, and a table of such sinful desserts that many of us sinned twice.

A detailed account of the dinner and on the guest speaker, Gilbert Hutton who was President of the Trust from 1966 to 1969, has been promised by Julie Ross for our March issue of the Griffin.

Editor.

HERITAGE TRUST TOUR OF BRUNSWICK STREET  
AND AREA: JUNE 23rd 1990

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia held an inside view of historic homes in the old North End on Saturday, June 23. It was a very cold damp afternoon so the turnout was not as large as expected, but those who did attend were delighted with the buildings on the tour. Indeed, some visitors spent so much time with the hosts that not all buildings were seen.

The Little Dutch Church on Brunswick was built by German settlers, and opened for service in 1756. Both the church and the graveyard were available, courtesy of St. George's Anglican Church. Karen Wheeler of St. George's did duty at the door until Heritage Trust members arrived. I stood at the door part of the afternoon and can attest to how cold the day was.

Akins Cottage, 2151 Brunswick, was built in 1792 by Winckworth Norwood, master carpenter at the Dockyard, and occupied from 1834 until his death in 1891 by Thomas Beamish Akins, the first Provincial Archivist. The cottage was fast falling into ruin when the Mettam Group Architects bought the building, restored the exterior and main levels and renovated the top floor.

The Cottage had to be gutted completely, leaving only the original frame, fireplaces and mouldings. It had to be jacked up over a foot in the back and a new foundation wall constructed to bring it level again.

The six Georgian fireplaces and all the original wood trim and doors were restored. The architects wanted to show that well-planned and appropriate renovation need not cost more than new construction. The result is a unique office for Mettam Group Inc., in an historic setting at less than the cost of new construction.

Gary Hankey of the Mettam Group, gave a wonderful commentary on the restoration work. Weeks later I was still receiving calls about the extensive tour Mr. Hankey gave to those visiting his offices.

We were welcomed at the Victorian-Gothic Saint Patrick's Church by Sister Jean Cormier, S.C., and one of our own members,

Bill Kelly, the parish historian. The cloudy day provided wonderful lighting for the beautiful stained glass windows of St. Patrick's.

We were disappointed at not being able to go inside the McCully House, built in 1859 and home of a Father of Confederation. It is being restored for use as offices for Salter Street Films, but a cement floor had been poured inside and due to drying difficulties the doors remained closed. Lack of front steps and the presence of only a large wooden plank kept us away from the front door.

We had better luck at the Merkel-Starr House now used as the Halifax International Youth Hostel, built in 1864 for a wealthy merchant family, at present inexpensive accommodation for individuals and groups. The Manager opened the front door for us and we were allowed to wander around at leisure, noting the marble fireplaces and original stair rails and window shutters.

At the Cornwallis Street United Baptist Church, the Rev. Mack had arranged for members of the congregation, including Buddy Daye - Sergeant-at-Arms at Province House - to greet those entering the church, which was built at the turn of the century for a Congregation established in 1834. We were given fliers showing future expansion of the building on a site currently occupied by structures that had had Scottish dormer windows until the 1960's

Admiralty House, opened in 1814-15, as home of British Admirals, and now the Maritime Command Museum, provided an interesting stop on the tour.

Directly across from Admiralty House Museum is "Fresh Start" Bed and Breakfast, run by Sheila and Innis MacDonald, and which provides a very fashionable, well-furnished stop for visitors.

The house was built approximately 1880 for a Mr. Silver, merchant and later President of the Board of Trade. The next long-time owner was a Mr. Montague, and then the house became the Home for Aged Men, until the late 1960's, when it was



sold to a Mr. Wifey who converted it into four apartments.

The MacDonald sisters, who bought the house in 1987, opened up the rooms for us, to show the lovely Victorian detail. They hope to have the house registered as a municipal heritage building.

Their use of the old men's-home wheelchair as a plant stand, and the huge weighing machine in the washroom reminded visitors that heritage can be fun!

The Forbes Hunter House, 2031 Creighton Street, was built in the 1850's by a local tea merchant, Charles Hunter.

Hal Forbes, present owner, and Anne McCurdy, member, welcomed us to all four levels of this beautifully restored house with its added modern conveniences in the basement kitchen. The last major work carried out by Mr. Forbes was roofing with wooden shingles.

During our tour of the house, style details were pointed out to us and a little of the history of its surroundings. The immediate area, known as Maynard's Fields, was owned by the Rev. Thomas Maynard, who sold to Mr. Hunter at a time when Gottingen Street and its environs was a fashionable residential district. The house has also been home to carriage and cabinet makers, bakers and stone masons as well as a music teacher, a bookkeeper and a stevedore.

The house itself is a highly decorated example of the unsymmetrical cottage style, its side hall plan a very familiar one in Halifax. There are four Scottish dormers adding to the space and light within the upper floor. The pitched roof is truncated or flattened across the top. The six-over-six windows are accented by bracketted, moulded heads with moulded panels under each one on the inside. The doorway is embellished with a transom and side-lights surrounded by pilasters supporting a moulded entablature .

Mr. Forbes expects a municipal heritage plaque as soon as he has registered his house with the city. He had a letter published in the Mail-Star in November in which he noted Thanksgiving weekend in his heritage home was ruined by the Racing Car Roadway set up on the corner of his street.

To complete the afternoon, tea was provided at the Casino Theatre Cafe des Artists, courtesy of the Gottingen Main Street Program, and the MicMac Friendship Centre opened their craft store specially for us.

So despite the weather it proved to be a very pleasant afternoon.

Blair Beed



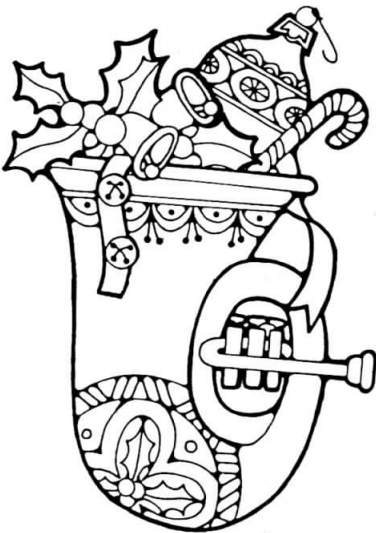
HERITAGE CANADA NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED -

Heritage Canada has ceased publication of their prestigious journal "Canadian Heritage", replacing it with a smaller newsletter to be published six times per year..."In addition to offering you the news from these four programmes (Main Street, Heritage Regions, the Canadian Heritage Network and the Canadian Centre for Livable Places) each issue of the newsletter will also feature the executive director's report, a heritage news round-up and a cover story."

Title of the newsletter is Heritage Canada Today.

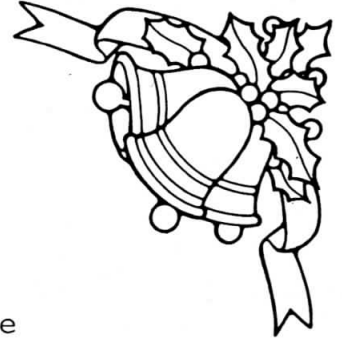


NEXT DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 1, 1991 for  
MARCH issue



An amusing note from IAN McKEE further  
to the AMHERST TOUR LAST SUMMER -

"A recent copy of the GRIFFIN had a number of interesting articles after the tour to Amherst. I was reminded that 1989 had been the 100th year of incorporation of that town. The Lieutenant Governor had been invited to a ball to celebrate this event. I was passing the Archives a few days before this was to take place and thought I might slip in and get something from the newspaper of the day, that the Lieutenant Governor could use in his remarks. The Archives, sad to say, did not have an Amherst newspaper covering the proceedings in 1889. The Halifax paper ignored the event. That probably won't surprise the burgesses of Amherst! My time was not wasted for there were two headlines on the front page of the Halifax paper that caught my eye. The first was -- 'PROMINENT COUNTY MAN JOINS THE MAJORITY'. The article beneath was in fact, his obituary! The second headline was 'HALIFAX LIAR ABROAD'. That might be of some use to a politician... especially if he was NOT from Halifax."



TOUR OF STATELY HOMES AND GARDENS  
OF ENGLAND: 1991.

arranged by -  
Heritage Tours of Nova Scotia.

This tour will be led by two Heritage Trust Board members, Dr. Janina Konczacki and Hilary Grant.

The group will visit several castles, homes and gardens and cathedrals in the Midlands and part of Wales, from 8-27 May 1991, inclusive.

As numbers are limited, anyone interested in joining this tour should contact Hilary Grant Ph.No: 835-6644, as soon as possible.

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In connection with the above DR.KONCZACKI a Professor of History at Mount St. Vincent, will present a slide talk on the areas to be visited, at 3pm on SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 1990, in the Auditorium, Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Members of the public will be welcome.



Answers to Crossword on page 2.

- DOWN: 1. George Montague Dunk, Earl of Halifax. 2. Edward Cornwallis. 3. stone. 4. noblemen. 5. raft. 6. London. 7. Louisburg. 8. Carleton. 9. His Majesty. 10. rum. 11 Bedford Basin. 12. rum. 13. Micmac. 14. George. 15. British. 16. fight. 17. New England. 18. fun. 19. Saint Paul's. 20. treason. 21. sphinx.
- ACROSS: 8. Little Dutch Church.



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