



# The Griffin

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## PROGRAMME NOTES

The regular monthly meetings of the 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 p.m. **unless otherwise stated.**

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991

MARJORIE WHITELAW  
Writers of Nova Scotia and Their  
Heritage Homes - a talk on writers,  
their writing and the heritage houses  
they lived in.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1991

NOEL KNOCKWOOD  
Micmac Culture, a talk on the European  
culture and continued traditions,  
spirituality and future.

### THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1991

HARRY JOST,  
DR. BARRY MOODY  
A talk on Historic Restoration  
Society. Before and after slides of  
restoration projects.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1991

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD  
EXECUTIVE REPORTS  
SOCIAL HOUR

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## SPECIAL TRIP

Saturday, June 8th, 1991 ----- Shelburne & Area  
See inside page for details.

## HERITAGE DAY ACTIVITY

Prior to Heritage Day Monday, 14 groups arranged displays in Bayers Road Mall Saturday, February 16. Heritage Trust had an excellent location in the centre of the Mall. Aviation Museum, Loyalist Society, Cole Harbour Heritage Farm, Nova Scotia Museum Complex, and Costume Society were among those participating. Cole Harbour Farm attracted much attention with a live rooster and sheep. Other groups wore period costumes.

The Heritage Trust Display consisted of panels on Heritage Starts at Home, The Books of Heritage Trust and a display of the Shadow that will be created by the Brenhold Development at the Public Gardens. Hundreds of people stopped to look and others bought Trust Books, Spoons and Hasty Notes. Many in the Mall were surprised to see so much is involved in Heritage activity in the Metro area.

The display day is an activity that all participating groups plan to take part in again. It was organized by Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage Societies.

Blair S. Beed  
Program Chairman



Projects Chairman, Joyce McCulloch has brought us this timely message from the Newsletter of the Recreation Association of Nova Scotia:

### VOLUNTEER ALERT

What kind of volunteer are you?

Are you an active member  
The kind that will be missed  
Or are you just contented  
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meeting  
And mingle with the flock  
Or do you stay at home  
To criticize and knock?

Do you ever take an active part  
To help your group along  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind that just belong?

Do you ever voluntarily help  
Or do you always kick  
And leave the work to just a few  
Then talk about the clique?

Come to our monthly meeting  
And help with hand and heart  
Don't be a static member,  
But take an active part.

As a member of our group  
You should know right from wrong,  
It is with your activity  
We progress and grow strong.

## STILL HOPE FOR PUBLIC GARDENS

On February 28th, 1991, Halifax City Council made the worst heritage planning decision of its term in office. In a close vote of 6 to 4, Council approved the Brenhold high-rise development which threatens to cast shadows on the Public Gardens, substantially demolish the Garden Crest and completely demolish the Smith, Taylor and Belcher houses. Voting in favour of the development were Aldermen Holland, Pottie, Grant, Hanson, Flynn, and Stone; voting against the development were Aldermen Fitzgerald, Downey, Meagher, and Ducharme.

However, in spite of this shocking anti-heritage decision, Brenhold Limited has not yet won. There is still hope for this important part of our built and natural heritage. Hope for our ultimate victory rests with two recent pro-heritage actions of the provincial government.

- 1) In the fall of 1990, hearings were held on the Act to Protect the Public Gardens which had been introduced the previous spring. If the Act is passed in the next Session of the Legislature, the proposed Brenhold Development could not proceed.
- 2) On October 16th, 1989, the provincial government registered the Garden Crest as a provincial Heritage Property. Under the Heritage Property Act, the Garden Crest cannot be partially or wholly demolished without the consent of the Provincial Cabinet. Without the partial demolition of the Garden Crest, the Brenhold Development, as proposed, could not proceed.

A third reason for hope rests with the provincial Municipal Board. Heritage Trust and other groups may appeal Council's anti-heritage decision on the grounds that it contravenes the policies of the Municipal Development Plan. The strength of the policies was outlined by Heritage Trust lawyer, Valerie MacKenzie, at the public hearing. She stated that:

- 1) Policy 6.8(i) requires that the Garden Crest not be altered in any way to diminish its heritage value. This policy is mandatory.
- 2) Policy 6.8(ii) requires that the integrity (which means wholeness or completeness) of the Garden Crest be maintained.
- 3) Policies 8.1.1, ensuring a minimum of shadow casting, and 8.1.2, prohibiting a significant amount of shadow on the Public Gardens, should be read together. They are not "site specific", but cover territory all the way to Robie Street. They require that no building be permitted to exceed 45 ft. in height unless it would not cast more shadow than a 45-ft-high building.
- 4) Heritage Policy 6.4 requires that any building on the site be complementary to the Garden Crest.

From an architectural point of view, Harry Jost, our consulting restoration architect, confirmed that:

- 1) The proposal to restore only the facade would diminish the

heritage value of the Garden Crest and would contravene Policy 6.8.

- 2) The Garden Crest could be restored to provide 19 units for a lower total cost than the developer's proposal to demolish and rebuild the facade on a new structure providing only 12 units.

At the February 7th, 1990 public hearing, Trust President, Elizabeth Pacey, stated that the proposed towers would cast 21,000 sq. ft. (or five house lots) of shadow on the Gardens, including most of the children's playground, at 4:00 p.m. on October 21st; this would contravene Policy 8.1.2.

Mrs. Pacey also took issue with the developer's contention that only the facade of the Garden Crest was original. She showed that the present configuration of the Garden Crest is exactly the same as that shown on the 1914 Insurance Map at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. The building opened on January 1st, 1914. Policy 6.8 deals with the whole registered building and thus would be contravened if the Garden Crest were partially demolished.



#### CITIZENS FORUM ON CANADA'S FUTURE (Spicer Commission)

Members interested in participating in a Heritage Trust Study Group are invited to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17 in the Red Room at the Dalhousie University Club.

Telephone the Heritage Trust Office, 423-4807, for materials. **ALL WELCOME!**

#### CONGRATULATIONS

to  
Pam and Lou Collins

on the award given to their new home in the housing-unit design section of the Nova Scotia Home Awards Program.

The program is sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Housing and the Department of Tourism and Culture.

Pam and Lou (Halifax's distinguished civic historian) worked very closely with their architect, David Rickard, to achieve all the beauty, comfort and convenience of their dream home. Windows and skylights give a wonderful sense of light throughout both the main floor living areas and the second floor studios.

We wish Pam and Lou many happy years in this award winning house built on Liverpool Street in the garden lot of the house in which Lou was born.



church  
conservancy  
OF NOVA SCOTIA

Several members of Heritage Trust's executive, including President Betty Pacey and Program Chair Blair Beed, attended the all-day conference of the Church Conservancy of Nova Scotia held in St. George's Church, Halifax on Monday, February 18th. Among the several very interesting and helpful papers was one by Dr. Brian Cuthbertson detailing the kinds of information essential to a useful church history. Cora Greenaway, well known to Trust members for her outstanding research work in Heritage fields, presented one of the other papers and has kindly allowed us to include it in this issue of the Griffin. The conference concluded with an evening program at TUNS School of Architecture. Those attending enjoyed music by Musique Royale while viewing a display of Historic Churches of Halifax. The Reverend Canon Tuck presented an illustrated lecture on the churches of William Critchlow Harris.

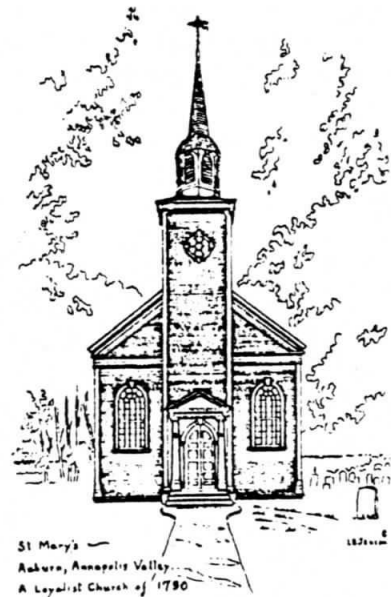
The Church Conservancy of Nova Scotia is a recently established non-governmental organization for the conservation of religious buildings and sites across the Province. Over 1,000 places of worship are in existence, many of which are over a century old. They are an important part of our Province's cultural and architectural heritage and in many communities they stand as the major landmark which helps to provide identity for that community.

Some places of worship are in an excellent state of repair with active congregations while others are in an abandoned situation or have experienced a dwindling congregation who often lack the resources to maintain their property.

The Conservancy has taken several first steps toward the recognition of this heritage. It has adopted a mission statement which outlines its purpose and objectives.

A second step is the preparation of an inventory of the Province's churches and places of worship together with their sites, cemeteries, manses, and parish halls. This will be the first time that an inventory of this scope has been undertaken. It will become a valuable asset for congregations and the Province and has been developed so that it can relate over inventory work undertaken by the Heritage Section of the Department of Tourism and Culture.

There is a growing awareness of the need to conserve our religious structures and to provide assistance in the form of technical advice for maintenance and restoration efforts.



## CHURCH INTERIORS AND FURNISHINGS

by Cora Greenaway

In 1980, Marie Elwood organized an exhibition at the Nova Scotia Museum, called CHASUBLES AND CHALICES. It was a rare chance to see the splendours that are stored in the vaults of churches all over the Province. The exhibits ranged from sumptuous embroidered vestments to a set of worn pewter communion plates which had belonged to the Rev. Jonathan Scott, a Congregationalist minister from New England who had come to Chebogue in the 1760's. This enlightening exhibition made me aware of the need for church conservation in all its aspects. This had to include the buildings, furnishings and surrounding graveyards, as they are the visual expression of the spiritual life in Nova Scotia.

A new settlement always had space allotted in a prominent position for the church. Places of worship were a reflection of the community's faith and reverence and thus built with the finest materials and workmanship.

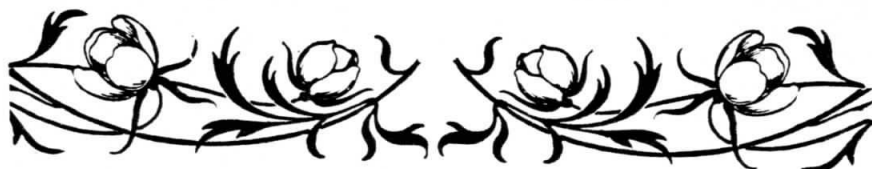
This spiritual heritage poses a conservation challenge because it is disaster prone, not only from vandals, fire or lightning, but equally from well-meaning persons. I remember one instance resulting from the concepts advocated by Vatican II. Simplicity was the word and thus an apparently ornate altar was removed from a country church. This altar had three carved panels, fashioned in the 1870's by Robert Henry. Descendants of Robert Henry heard of this and salvaged the panels. The altar was burned.

Another instance was not so dramatic, but points out the need for careful consideration before contemplating changes in church decoration. The Meeting House in North West Range, Lunenburg County, was originally lit by candles and oil lamps. In 1941, electricity reached the Meeting House and the old-fashioned light fixtures were removed, luckily stored, not disposed of. Lately the Meeting House has reverted to using the old wooden candelabra and brass aladdin lamps.

Architectural painting is always threatened. When a church needs redecorating, it is easier to cover the entire surface than worry about the decorative painting. Circa 1905, the church in Pinkney's Point, Yarmouth County, was decorated probably by James Murphy, a talented painter-decorator from Yarmouth. Alas, it has been overpainted.

Churches tell the story of a parish, a community. Meticulously kept church registers tell us much about the history of the church and its parishioners. Carved headstones often give information about the departed, in coastal village churches memorial tablets remember fishermen and sailors drowned at sea.

The ethnic influence can be noted all over the Province but seems to have its most colourful expression in the Sydney area, most exotic in the Ukrainian church of The Holy Ghost. Its architecture and onion domes belong to Eastern Europe.





In 1978, Theodore Baran, a religious painter from Saskatoon, was commissioned to decorate the church in the traditional manner. Solemn faced 6-ft. saints gaze down on us from the walls. The sanctuary is deeply impressive, but most moving is the plywood panel in front of the altar. On it, Baran painted The Last Supper. Jesus, the central figure, is flanked on either side by six Apostles, wearing dark dress, each face is different. All are nimbused in glorious gold, except one - Judas.

Churches represent people's hopes, dreams and faith. These are difficult times to embark on a new project, but if Faith can move mountains, I feel, this group should not have any problems.



St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.  
The largest wooden building in Canada.  
Church Point, Digby County

## IN MEMORIAM

Margaret A. Ross

Trust members learned, with sorrow, of the death on February 25, 1991, of Margaret Ross, a Board member and faithful worker for the Trust.

Margaret Ross was born in Halifax, taught in several Halifax schools, and completed a very productive career as Supervisor of Library Services for the Halifax City District School Board. She retired in 1987 and was very active in several volunteer services in the community.

## VALLEY NEWS

Our Valley correspondent, Shirley Elliott, sends us two items:

The welcome news that the Grand Pre Heritage Society has succeeded in persuading the provincial Environment Department to protect the 200 year old elm tree near the Planters' Monument at Horton Landing from the erosion that was threatening its life.

An interesting article by Shirley's niece, Wendy Elliott, in The Acadian of January 22nd describes some innovative activities of the Wolfville Heritage Committee. The Committee is undertaking an educational program to acquaint Wolfville homeowners of the advantages and privileges of heritage designation. The Committee is sponsoring an exhibition by local artist, Jean Edmonds Hancock, featuring the homes of Wolfville. They are also collecting Wolfville heritage materials, photographs, and video tapes of older residents as well as other information about the past of the community. They are taking a variety of approaches, including visits to schools, to reach Wolfville residents with the message that the Committee is interested in anything that reflects the community heritage.

**HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA  
BUILT HERITAGE AWARDS**

June 3, 1989 marked the first presentation of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Built Heritage Award. The winners were: Elizabeth Hyde, for the Stephen Shakespeare House, Shelburne, and Cynthia and Gary Hynes for the Cooper's Inn, Shelburne. Both winners were nominated by the Shelburne Historical Society.

This award is designed to recognize and honour an outstanding individual, group, company or department of government that has preserved a part of Nova Scotian heritage in the form of a built structure. Special emphasis has been placed on the type of materials and building techniques used for the interior and exterior restoration.

Nominees must submit a written and pictorial record consisting of photographs or 35mm slides representing the restoration project before, during and after restoration and a plan or drawing of the building where applicable.

In the 384 years of settlement since the founding of Port Royal, Nova Scotia has lost many early buildings to fire, storm, neglect and old age. It requires great vision, knowledge, study, research, as well as financial means to undertake the restoration of a heritage building. In the struggle to save historic properties in Halifax in the 1960's, the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia was greatly assisted by the enthusiasm, energy and drive of "come from aways" who joined Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to work with Haligonians and Nova Scotians in the fight to save these 19th century commercial waterfront buildings.

The Built Heritage Awards Committee was impressed by the modesty and understatement that characterized the detailed records provided by this year's candidates.

This gift of understatement appears to be a current reflection of the attitude of Loyalist, Benjamin Marston, who wrote in his Diary in 1783 regarding the construction of log houses in Shelburne, "...the rest (816) what are called log houses, built of pieces of timber framed together at the ends - and these are sometimes clapboarded over; they may be made permanent buildings to endure for many years."

While the sturdy efforts of early Shelburne residents guaranteed a sound beginning, it will take the most sympathetic and skillful efforts and vision of today's citizens in Nova Scotia to preserve our built heritage.

Following a visit to view restored buildings in Shelburne, the Built Heritage Award Committee consisting of Ida Zifkin, Joyce McCulloch, Betty Pacey, Desmond Piers and Pamela Collins, decided to present two awards for 1989, one to an individual and one to a group, who met all the requirements for the award.

The first winner, Elizabeth Hyde, was born in New York and first came to Nova Scotia as a summer visitor in 1955. In 1960 she acquired the McNutt Island homestead and spent the next fifteen summers restoring this building. In 1972 she settled here permanently. In January, 1978, with her son and daughter she became a Canadian landed immigrant. In 1987, Elizabeth Hyde bought the house built in 1783 by Stephen Shakespeare. It had been vacant and sadly neglected for many years.



During its 204 years the house, a Cape Cod salt box with vertical pole construction, had undergone many changes and additions. The sympathetic restoration was carried out by daughter, Joanna, and son-in-law, Peter Haeghaert, artists and furniture restorers.

The heritage aspects of the house have been highlighted. One section in the kitchen allows the original round logs felled in 1783 to be seen. The massive granite fireplace has been exposed from hearth to kitchen rafters. The andirons and swinging crane were unearthed during reconstruction. The public were invited to view the progress of the work of restoration. To environmental and historic preservationist, Elizabeth Hyde, we say "Well done." The house has been restored to its original Loyalist beauty.

The group category winners, Cynthia and Gary Hynes, were a young couple born in Quebec, growing up in Montreal and Halifax and trained in the hospitality business. Their interest in the preservation of our built heritage came through tourism as it was realized that one of our main attractions and resources is our history. Their goals were the restoration of a heritage building through a policy of adaptive reuse as a 3-bedroom Bed and Breakfast with a 25-seat licensed restaurant.

They bought the historic George Gracie house in November 1987. After four months of planning they both tackled the job of restoration, taking out walls, stripping wallpaper and paint. Neighbours helped by providing early photographs of the building.

The George Gracie house was built in 1785 and had many changes and additions over the years. After research the young couple had to reconcile authentic restoration and preservation with present day government regulations and modern business requirements. Each guest room is named after a former owner and the building is renamed The Cooper's Inn after the longest resident. We congratulate Cynthia and Gary Hynes on the successful restoration of this Georgian Loyalist building of vertical pole construction which was featured in the February/ March 1991 issue of Canadian House and Home magazine.

Each of the winners received a hand-inscribed certificate:

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA  
BUILT HERITAGE AWARD

presented to

ELIZABETH HYDE

for the restoration of the  
Stephen Shakespeare House  
Built in 1783, Shelburne, Nova Scotia

Betty Pacey  
President

June 3, 1989

With the Certificate, the winners received the leather-bound coffee table edition of Album of Drawings of Buildings in Nova Scotia by Arthur W. Wallace, Architect, published jointly by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Museum in 1976, a copy of Seasoned Timbers Vol. I and II published by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Pamela B. Collins  
Chairperson  
Built Heritage Award Committee  
June 3, 1989



# Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

1657 BARRINGTON ST., # 522, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 2A1 (902) 423-4807

January 21, 1991

Desire to protect Heritage in the City's north end prompted this letter. Though not successful yet, the Trust will persevere.

Mayor and Council  
City of Halifax  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
1841 Argyle St.  
Halifax, N.S.

Your Worship and Members of Council:

**RE: GRAND PRIX ROAD RACE**

At the last Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, a motion was unanimously passed to ask the City of Halifax to consider other locations for future Grand Prix Road Races. In particular, it was felt that one of the Industrial Parks or the Exhibition Park would be a more appropriate location for such races, away from residential neighbourhoods. Development of race capabilities within these facilities might also benefit use by other events.

The Trust has a great interest in the historic North End and looks forward to continued revitalization and restoration in the area. While a downtown neighbourhood will have more noise than other areas, the noise level of the races is far greater than normal traffic. The Trust believes that such an event will detract from the desire of people to continue to work for the restoration of this historic area. We ask Council to support the residents who contribute to the economic stability and upgrading of the tax base through restoration and renovation of homes and businesses.

We thank Council for this opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Pacey*  
Elizabeth Pacey  
President

EP/mb

**MOTOR COACH TOUR TO SHELBURNE**

Saturday, June 8th, 1991

Motor Coach Departs: Lord Nelson Hotel at 8:00 a.m.

Arrive Shelburne: 11:00 a.m.

Tour Historic Complex including Cox Warehouse, courtesy Shelburne County Museum Board

Lunch served: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

After lunch, Shelburne Volunteers will take small groups on house tour organized by Shelburne County Genealogy Society.

By Bus: \$40.00 price includes:  
Tour of Historic Complex and area houses  
Light lunch  
Bus Fare to and from Shelburne  
Treats

By Car: \$17.00 price includes:  
Tour of Historic Complex at 11:00 a.m.  
Light lunch  
Ticket to houses.

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Registration deadline so Motor Coach can be booked May 6, 1991:

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Persons by bus x \$40.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Persons by car x \$17.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to: **HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA**  
Mail to: Suite 522, Roy Building  
1657 Barrington Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2A1



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