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The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

President's report:

Heritage Canada conference *by Joyce McCulloch*



To visit Montreal in early October with the Saint Lawrence River sparkling in the sunshine and the fall foliage a blaze of glory was delight enough, but to attend the Heritage Canada Conference in Old Montreal—that was icing on the cake! The conference, hosted by Heritage Montreal, a group similar to the Heritage Trust, was held in a former Art Deco courthouse, now rehabilitated as the elegant *Edifice Cormier*.

The working title: *Heritage in the Age of Sustainable Development: New Challenges for Cities and Towns* seemed rather obscure...just what does it mean? In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development "as that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." So for two days speakers from across Canada shared with us how their cities or organizations tried to work with others in the community to revitalize their downtown core, and to grow without destroying its heritage fabric.

The conference opened with two walking tours of Old Montreal—my favourite district—which, when I last visited in the 80s was throbbing with vitality. Sadly, today the City of Montreal is suffering from the same recession as is Halifax, and every other city in Canada with the possible exception of Vancouver. It became apparent, and was confirmed by our

guide, that Heritage Montreal is experiencing as much difficulty with City Hall as we are, particularly as to where emphasis on development should lie.

Again, just as we are, Old Montreal is suffering from a lack of human presence at night, yet the City has just built—at vast expense—two enormous housing developments on the periphery of the old quarter, with three more still to come! It is ignoring street after street of quaint heritage buildings with floors of vacant space above shops, and spending millions of dollars which

could be put to better use fighting the effects of decay and years of neglect in the downtown core. If there were transportation people would be happy to live in the district. More police protection and better street lighting could help turn the situation around; supermarkets and hardware stores would also help but now so much needs to be done that the situation is truly daunting. Where on earth would one start?

During the afternoon sessions following the tour, one speaker was particularly outstanding and made a lot of sense—Peter Trent, the Mayor of Westmount. He explained the problems facing municipalities with their aging infrastructure—roads, sewage systems, power lines, etc. (who would want to be a politician?). Keynote speaker Marcia Nozick, coordinator of the Healthy Communities Winnipeg Initiative, pointed out that Halifax is not alone—others out there are suffering through the same struggles.

On Saturday my chosen workshop being *Conservation of Neighbourhoods*, our group was taken by bus to the working-class district of Saint Henri and the Lachine Canal, now an area of high unemployment...and we thought Montreal had troubles! There were literally acres and acres of 19th century warehouses of brick and stone, some very handsome with beautiful architectural details, buildings ideal for transforming into apartments, offices, or condos

The splendours of Scotland in spring

How about spending two weeks in May to enjoy a Scottish Spring? Join Hilary Grant on a tour of Loch Lomond, Loch Ness (keep your camera primed!), Glencoe and the countryside around Inverness, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Visit historic castles and beautiful gardens and see the famous Burrell Collection.

After an overnight flight to Glasgow on Tuesday May 8, the tour starts May 9 and ends May 23 with a return flight to Halifax, unless you plan to stay over, or move on to another destination. Space is limited, so call Hilary (835-6644) as soon as you can to make your reservation or get more information.

Stained glass in downtown Halifax

On Saturday, September 24, stained glass specialist Terry Smith-LaMothe led a group of 20-25 people through several downtown churches to learn about their stained glass windows.

The walk started at Halifax's oldest church, Saint Paul's Anglican, the windows of which were blown out during the 1917 Explosion.

Replaced gradually over the years, the windows are representative of different styles from 1918 to the 1950s. During the *art nouveau* phase of the twenties the angels were portrayed with the

'twiggy' look of the 'flappers' of that day; in the forties they appeared far more 'motherly' - almost voluptuous!

The windows of St. Mary's Basilica were completely redone to a theme after the Explosion. During recent restoration work on the spire, a piece of timber fell and shattered one of the windows. However, the German studio which created the original still had the drawings and was able to recreate the panel exactly.

As some of the windows of All

Saints Cathedral survived the Explosion, the replacement work over the years also shows several different styles. The east window was done by an artist with a studio on Prince Edward Island.

Unfortunately, a breakdown in communications meant that two other churches were not open, St. Matthews on Barrington Street and the Church-Built-in-a-Day (Our Lady of Sorrows) on South Park Street. However, Terry's group did manage to peer in at the windows of the



little church in the cemetery to get a glimpse of one particular window. The Bishop of the time was a great collector of stained glass and the glass in this one window is fragmented—some of the pieces dating back to the 1500s. Records show that the volunteers put in the building's foundation one week and the super-structure the following week. Records also show that 2,200 apple pies were cooked by the supporting ladies and consumed!

Heritage Designations

The Hon. Michel Dupuy, federal Minister for Heritage, has declared **Trinity Anglican Church, Digby**, a National Historic Site. Already a provincially registered heritage property, Trinity was designed by Stephen Earle, a noted church architect from Boston. The corner stone was laid in 1878.

The most recent church to be added to the provincial registry of heritage property is **Saint Denis Roman Catholic Church, Minudie**, built in the 1840s. The Parish of St. Denis dates to the 18th century, with a long association with the Acadian community. The plaque unveiling ceremonies were held in conjunction with the annual Blessing of the Crops in August.

Sangster's Inn, in Falmouth, where Joe Howe visited with Mr. Sangster, was earlier last summer also designated a provincial heritage property.



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President's report *continued*

Sad to say, the canal is a stagnant, moribund derelict. Why not utilize it like the Rideau Canal in Ottawa? There is so much potential in this area. Our guide, Professor Jean Belisle, who lives by choice in the District of St. Henri, tried to explain. Because it is a working-class district with a 90 per cent unemployment rate, there is no money—or even the will to attack the situation or fix up houses, and for over 100 years the driving ambition has been to move up and get out of the district. What a struggle it would be to make something here. I certainly do not envy the City of Montreal authorities.

However, on our return to the *Cormier*, for a change we heard a
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success story. Alderman Bryan Stortz from Kitchener, Ontario, had worked for six years to get the members of his downtown-core riding, to work together. First of all, the downtown residents had to feel themselves as part of a neighbourhood, but this fragile bonding was tested when 'crack houses' appeared in their midst. In Kitchener you say! But the people joined together to fight this invasion—and won! What we would give here in Halifax, to have a young alderman with energy directed towards solving our problems in the downtown core. Perhaps we should invite him down here for a visit.

In closing, I must say that after my first doubts as to the relevancy of

our being there, in the long run the conference made a statement about addressing the problems of the downtown core and the threatened heritage buildings found there. People are the answer—grassroots organizations, whether of the neighbourhood community or heritage groups. Councillor Stortz showed us that reasoned policies within their areas were far more relevant to their well being than ad hoc committees in times of crisis. The size of Montreal's problems are intimidating, but at least in smaller cities like Kitchener and Halifax, one feels one might be able to get a handle on the situation.

Pubnico workshop and tour *by Doris Butters*

October 15 was a day of peerless sunshine and a brisk chill wind when 45 Heritage Trusters left Halifax for West Pubnico—via Shelburne, for a 30-minute stopover to give the group a chance to walk along Dock Street, now a movie set. A step back in time to a different world! The restorations are quite convincing: the dark-coloured, small-windowed frame buildings, the rough 'granite' of the stockade gateway wall (fibreglass?), the large square 'brick' chimneys, the small outbuilding concealing the museum loo and the 'fire' of painted wooden 'embers' ringed with stones on the grass behind the market.

Part of the rear of the Old Cox Warehouse has been cut away to form an open-sided street market and a replica of an English Guildhall and wool market has been built on the open ground behind the store (to be left there, I believe). Even the shingled false exteriors of unchanged buildings look genuine, until one peers behind at the chipboard and support struts.

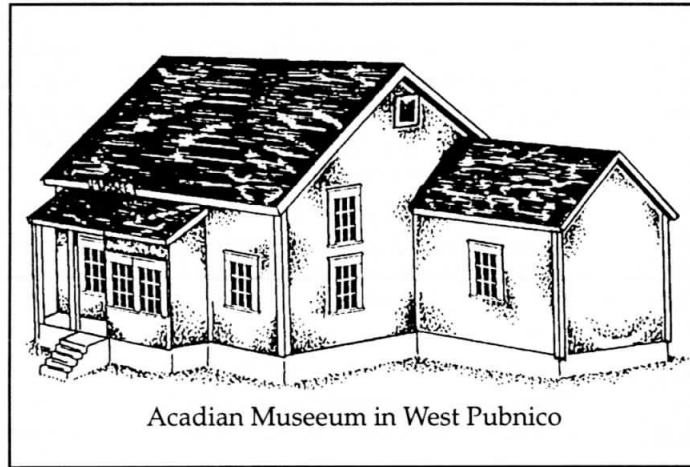
The tarmac had been covered with loads of dirt but I'm told that the 'dirt' turned out to be good topsoil which became thick mud when wet, bogging down the vehicles and beautifully costumed 'townspeople'. I understand that when filming stops at weekends the dirt is now swept into a pile ready to be re-used! The hay wain looks most authentic with its rough iron-clad wheels and hurdled sides of thin woven tree stems, as do the gibbet and stocks in the square next to the 'tavern' with carts and a sort of covered rickshaw standing outside... one is scarcely aware of the three bright blue 'Johnnies-on-the-spot' tucked in behind the buildings.

The wind was biting cold so that not everyone walked back to the far end of Dock Street to peer through the palisade at the teepees of an Indian village, and of course we did not see the oxen drafted in from local farms and retrained to wear a different yoke, and their drivers, who
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had to practice walking alongside, instead of in front of, their huge, docile charges.

Despite the cold wind, several of us would have liked to see more, but at Pubnico Maurice LeBlanc and his sister Roseline were waiting to welcome us with much-appreciated coffee and cookies in the vestry of St. Peter's Church. While we refreshed ourselves, Maurice presented a slide talk on Acadian Religious and Domestic Architecture.

He pointed out Roman, Greek, Byzantine, Gothic and Baroque architectural details (almost "a history of the Western World") up to the modern plain, low, brick Stella Maris Church at Meteghan,



Acadian Museum in West Pubnico

irreverently dubbed 'the Big Gas Station', and, by comparison, the gracefully flowing lines of another modern church, Saint Aloysius at Richibucto, designed to imitate the waves of the sea, and much more pleasing to the eye.

The earliest Acadian homes were small and plain with eaveless pitched roofs. Later came mansard, hipped, gambrel and gabled roofs with eaves; then houses with high French gables over the main entrance, or built to a Victorian 'L' shape, or with rounded Italianate corner turrets. Next to the school Maurice attended as a child was the home of the teaching Sisters—a typical French Second Empire style mansard-roofed house with what appeared to be a 'widows walk'. Now, after several changes, the house serves as the local

funeral parlour.

After the talk Maurice took us into the church itself, which appeared much larger inside than out. It is a beautiful building, light and airy with modern stained glass windows. The builder, Leon Melanson, could neither read nor write. We had learned much about the history of St. Peter's during Maurice's talk when we had been shown slides of the changes made over the years. St. Peters, c.1830, was kept when others were demolished, the community not being large enough to support so many churches. There had been many alterations over the years: the big stove in the middle of the nave was replaced by central heating; a

leak in the tower necessitated the replacement of a small stained glass window by an ornament—which has since disappeared—the tower changed and the spire added. At one time the western wall had two large windows behind the altar—hard on the eyes when the sun shone in—so they were removed and the wall rounded. Today, the lovely old altar built by the people of the area has been replaced by a table facing the congregation, and the altar rails and pulpit taken out.

But the ceiling is still a joy to behold. The slender arching beams are double, with circles of wood connecting the upper and lower spans. The painted ceiling is decorated with fine, elegant, stencilled patterns and was not touched when the church was redecorated in its present pale shades.

Saint Peter's had possessed a beautiful silver chalice hand-made by Peter Norbett of Halifax, but which for some reason had lain in storage and become black with tarnish. In 1960 it was given to a buyer of church ornaments in exchange for a tin chalice and later sold to Henry Birks, a keen collector of church artifacts who eventually donated his collection to the National Gallery in

Continued overleaf

Historic Ketch Harbour house for sale

A charming cottage—1137 Ketch Harbour Road, opposite the Government Wharf—is up for sale, and begging for a historic restoration. It is an attractive house, with dormers, 7ft. ceilings, oozing character and with a wonderful view of Ketch Harbour. Home of the Mackey family for over 100 years, it was built in the vernacular style—the fashion of the day.

Emanuel Mackey was granted the land in 1847. He built a one-room cottage—today the kitchen, the oldest part of the house. Over time as the family grew and need arose, the cottage grew to its present size. Eighteen forty-seven was an important year—an election year, and Joe Howe was campaigning for Responsible Government. One can almost see him at the round oak table explaining the New Democracy and reciting the iniquities of the Family Council.

Mackeys still live in the area, though not in the old house—Mrs. Jim Mackey, her son Peter and his

family, have newer homes on the far side of the harbour.

The best-known Mackey was Francis. He was born in the old house and lived there until he trained as a harbour pilot and moved to Halifax, where he served throughout



the First World War, except for a short period after the Great Explosion of 1917, during which he was discredited. As pilot of the *Mont Blanc* at the time, Francis got the blame. The pilot of the *Imo* had died in the explosion and there had to be a

scapegoat. Some months later, several of the City's leading men, and seamen from Halifax and beyond, demanded an inquiry, which was eventually held. Evidence showed Mackey was not to blame and he was restored to his position as pilot

Over the years many Mackeys moved away, some to the United States. One family member, Mrs. Jim Mackey's brother, who lives in Seattle, recently visited his old home and told the present owner, writer Kay Hill, how, as a boy, following the example of most of the community's adults, he had brought home samples of a wrecked ship's cargo—two bottles of the very best champagne. But, hearing that the police were arresting anyone found in possession of such goodies, he hid his bottles, letting them slide out of sight in a cavity behind the kitchen wall. And the Mackey House is up for sale...Hmmm! One wonders...!

Agent Heather Brown, can be reached at 2651 Dutch Village Road, Halifax, B3L 4G5, 422-8454 /477-4069.

Pubnico continued

Ottawa. Several of the group asked if the chalice could be returned to its proper place—something Fr. Maurice would like to see happen.

After lunch we toured West Pubnico to look at the architectural details pointed out during the lecture. We were able to go into the oldest house, the d'Entremont home built in 1775, a simple, cosy home and still lived in. They showed us a cherished letter from France dated 1775, a very old silver spoon, survivor of a set of six, and a strange walking stick with a retractable spike—a handy protective device for a man on a lonely road. From behind a small cupboard Maurice drew out a portrait of an unknown lady, which appears to be an early photograph, but is actually a beautifully detailed charcoal drawing. Up steep narrow stairs were rooms with wooden-pegged ceiling beams, still showing the Roman numerals used to indicate how the timbers should be put together.

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We were taken to the Fishing Wharf with its gaily coloured boats, and told that despite the sad situation on the Grand Banks, the fishermen of Pubnico are still thriving—they fish George's Bank where stocks are not yet depleted. Our last stop was Le Musée Acadien in an old house opposite to the LeBlanc's family home. Bought in 1977 by the newly formed historical society, the museum donations have already outgrown the house, which is packed with artifacts. Several large pieces are stored in LeBlanc's shed, awaiting the completion of a new addition.

One interesting exhibit is an immaculate old four-poster bed with rope springs and straw mattress, originally set up at Pubnico lighthouse where Austin and Tessie Amiro kept the light from 1916-1946. The bed linen had been beautifully hand-embroidered in open work, by Tessie, who had also made the chair covers which were part of the exhibit. During the years when the bed was

in the lighthouse it was a great attraction for local and out of town visitors, especially to the lighthouse inspector Mr. Morrissey, whose visit was never complete without seeing and touching the old bed. The bed had been made earlier this century by Austin's grandfather, Marc II Amiro.

Before leaving, a presentation was made to Maurice of Betty's *Landmarks*. Several of us sneaked into LeBlanc's large, quite solid, garden shed to peep at the museum pieces, particularly the cumbersome old printing press used for *LeCourier*, the weekly founded in 1937 by Desiree d'Eon. Maurice told us the press was so heavy that it went through the wooden floor which had to be replaced with concrete!

A most satisfying day, thanks to Pam, Hilary, Nina, Maurice, Roseline, the church ladies who welcomed us with coffee and cookies, and the Red Cap Restaurant for coping with the unexpected.

Heritage property owners form association

The "Halifax 1999" Conference generated a proposal for the establishment of an Association of Registered Heritage Property Owners. In November 1993, the City circulated a questionnaire to heritage property owners to determine their interest in forming an association. The City has 347 properties on its Registry of Heritage Property, and about 50 owners returned completed questionnaires.

In April 1994, an informal group of owners met with the City's Heritage Planner to discuss the formation of the Halifax Heritage Property-owners' Association, and has met regularly since then. We decided not to engage in paralysis by analysis, nor fall prey to 'committee-itis'. Neither did we wish to be seen as a committee of the City and an extension of it.

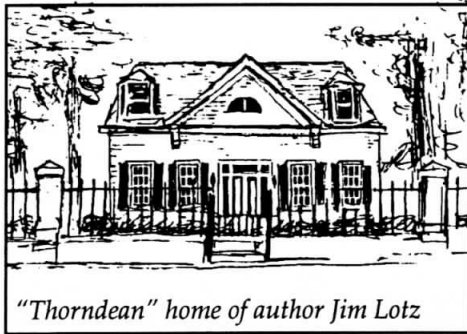
The City's Heritage Planner has been most helpful in the initial stages of the formation of the association and the owners and the City recognize that it must operate at arm's length from the political and bureaucratic processes. We hope to be an enabling, encouraging, motivating and mediating force in the heritage field, undertaking ventures that will benefit owners, the City, and everyone concerned with heritage. We recently co-opted Professor Frank Eppell of TUNS, and Gregg Nunn, an architectural student writing his thesis on heritage. We look forward to mutually beneficial relationships with them and with others involved in the heritage field.

For our first year, however, we have focussed on a number of concerns related to the interests of owners and others concerned with heritage in Halifax. We have undertaken, or are planning, the following:

- Publication of a newsletter. The first issue will be mailed out in

October. We have contacted cities across Canada to determine how they encourage heritage conservation, and how this material will be consolidated and disseminated.

- We have explored the ways in which the City could recognize citizens who have made significant contributions to heritage. Former Mayor Moira Ducharme has nominated Lou Collins for the Order of Canada.
- A handbook on heritage covering such things as tendering conservation work, repair, restoration, etc. Also included in the



"Thorndean" home of author Jim Lotz

handbook would be stories from owners who have undertaken successful restoration/renovation projects.

- A Heritage Day Expo in February at the Brewery, which has agreed to host it. We hope to help them to tell their stories and describe their activities.
- Exploring ways of marketing heritage in Halifax. How can this best be done to ensure that the integrity of our City and of our buildings can be maintained and enhanced?
- The creation of a map of heritage properties in Halifax showing some of the buildings and telling their stories.

During this first year, the core group of the Heritage Property Owners' Association will operate as a task force. If we determine a need for a more formal structure, then we will explore how best to set this up. Structure should follow process, so we are exploring ways and means of working with heritage groups in pursuits that are mutually beneficial. Don't hesitate to contact us with ideas, suggestions, and experiences related to heritage. Call Jim Lotz, Secretary, Box 3393 (South), Halifax, N.S., B3J 3J1. Tel: 423-3263.



Saint George's: our heritage needs you

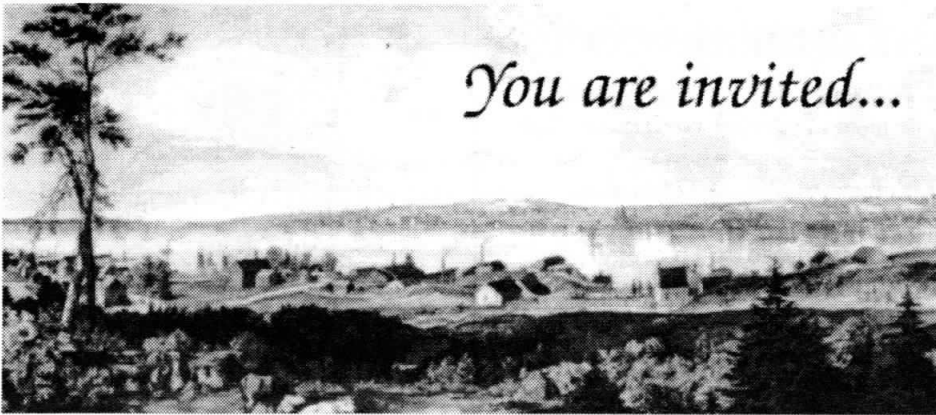
The campaign to restore one of the most important National Historic Sites in Nova Scotia needs your help. Raising \$3 million from the private sector is a major task that requires everyone who cares about our heritage to do their very best.

The federal, provincial and city governments are preparing to give generously of both money and advice. Half of the \$6 million required to restore the church will come from insurance and the three levels of government. Heritage organizations and private individuals are coming forward to help in this major heritage crisis. Donations have come from children, the Prince of Wales, Anglicans in California, churches of other faiths and many others. Musicians, artists, designers and architects are giving their time and talents to help. In the words of Saint George's Junior Warden Anne West, "The campaign is gathering size and momentum like a snowball—it is clear that Canadians want to see Saint George's restored."

How can HTNS members help?

Members of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia will soon receive a letter from Saint George's asking them to pledge generously to the project. You will be asked to set an example for the heritage community across Canada. This will be accompanied by a letter from our President, Joyce McCulloch, commending this crisis appeal to your generosity.

When you receive the appeal letter, please give it your most generous consideration. With your help, Saint George's will rise again!



You are invited...

Dartmouth Museum fundraiser

As part of a fund-raising project for the Dartmouth Heritage Museum a limited edition of 100 prints of the lithograph *Halifax-Dartmouth Harbour from the Dartmouth Side, c.1857*, were unveiled on November 7, and are now on sale.

The image is from an original lithograph after a painting by J.W. Hill, and has been reproduced by Dartmouth artist Susan Paterson. The image has been reduced to 80% of its original size and hand-drawn, etched and hand-coloured by Ms. Paterson. The result is a luminous reproduction of the Harbour. Each print will be inspected, numbered and signed by Susan Paterson. Upon

completion of the prints, a cancellation proof will be made and the plate will be available for inspection in the archives of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum. Acid free, 100 per cent rag paper has been used to ensure the utmost quality.

Purchase a print before December 31, 1994, for the pre-publication price of \$850.00, payable in three installments if required. From January 1, 1995, the price will be \$1,000.00.

For full information call the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, 100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, NS. B3A 1M1, Tel: 464-2300.

Notice

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage Awards Program Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Built Heritage Award

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/or exterior restoration.

Nominees must submit a written or 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.

Winning submissions with photography, plans and drawings become the property of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and form part of the Trust's archival records for present and future study. Any one of the above may be nominated by any member group of the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage or a member of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. A recipient of the *Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Built Heritage Award* may not be nominated subsequently in less than five years. The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Awards Committee may withhold the Award if no suitable nomination is presented.

Nomination forms (available from the FNSH office) and all supplementary material must be returned by **March 15, 1995**, and mailed to:-
Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Awards Committee,
c/o Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage
Ste.901-1809 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS., B3J 3K8



church
conservancy
OF NOVA SCOTIA

Recognising the need to preserve the province's religious buildings and create a greater public awareness of their heritage value, in 1989 Daniel Norris and a group of interested citizens founded the Church Conservancy of Nova Scotia.

Lectures, workshops, conferences and tours regarding issues in church conservancy are being organised. The first Workshop was held on October 22 in Antigonish. Chairperson Elizabeth Ross says that more members are needed—involved members—working “to ensure the continued preservation of our historic churches”, because Nova Scotia “...has one of the finest collections of historic religious buildings in the country, representing many denominations and dating back to the mid-18th century.”

The Conservancy is compiling an inventory of historic churches and would welcome anyone interested in helping with the project; for details call the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, 423-4677.

The CCNS newsletter, containing several very interesting items, is on the Heritage Trust office bookshelf, 1588 Barrington Street.

Exhibition of photographs of old schools

During Heritage Week 20 February 1995 and through March, the Mainland South Heritage Society will mount an exhibition of **photographs of old schools** in the William Spry Community Centre Library, Sussex Street, Spryfield.

City Rambles by Garry D. Shutlak
The Merkel House

Walking north on Brunswick Street beyond the intersection of Uniacke Street, we find 2445 Brunswick Street, the *Merkel House*.

This fine example of Italianate design was built in 1868 for James William Merkel, auctioneer, commission merchant and banker. The builder was Henry Peters. The original house had basement kitchen, pantry, dining room, hot air furnace, etc.; large central hall and four principal rooms on the ground floor, and four chambers, bathroom, etc. on the sleeping floor. This was the perfect house for the president of the Merchant's Bank of Halifax. The bank was founded in 1864 as a private bank, with Merkel as its first president, and federally incorporated in 1869 (today known as the Royal Bank of Canada). Unfortunately, just after the completion of the house, Mr. Merkel suffered the first of a number of strokes which finally proved fatal. Subsequently, his son-in-law Joseph Starr lived in the house until 1879, when it was offered for sale. Appraised at \$12,000, the house was taken off the market when the bidding reached only \$5,000.

The house was rented out until sold by the Merkel estate to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation in 1882 for \$7,500. After renovations, mainly changing one of the rooms on the ground floor into a chapel, adding bathrooms and WCs in basement and attic, as well as attic dormitories for both sexes. Saint Joseph's Orphanage opened in September 1883, housing 70 inmates.

A Demolition Order has been issued for this house

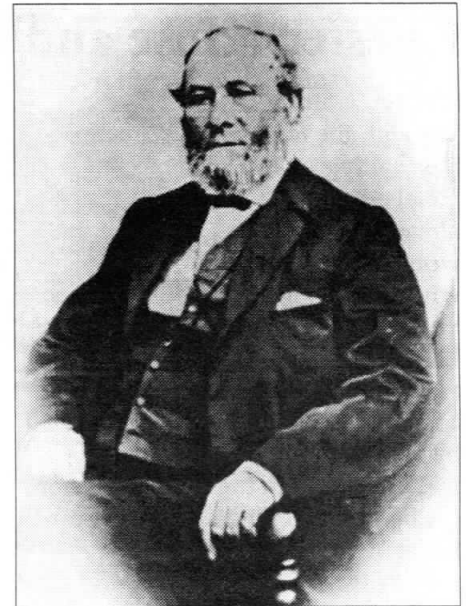
For 10 years the Sisters of Charity ran the orphanage from this location, until 1894 when they moved into a new building on Quinpool Road.

The house at 395 Brunswick Street was again renovated and became the Home of the Guardian Angels (a home for unwed mothers and their babies). In 1912 the home was enlarged with an addition on the south side of the building (28ft by 72ft) which joined it to 2435, known today as *Hope Cottage*. The original house was also renovated, with alterations and additions carried out by architect G.H. Jost.

The Explosion of 1917 caused \$6,000 worth of damage and the death of an infant. Just taken out of its bath, it was instantly killed by a large tank falling from the ceiling



Miss Mary Merkel and friend

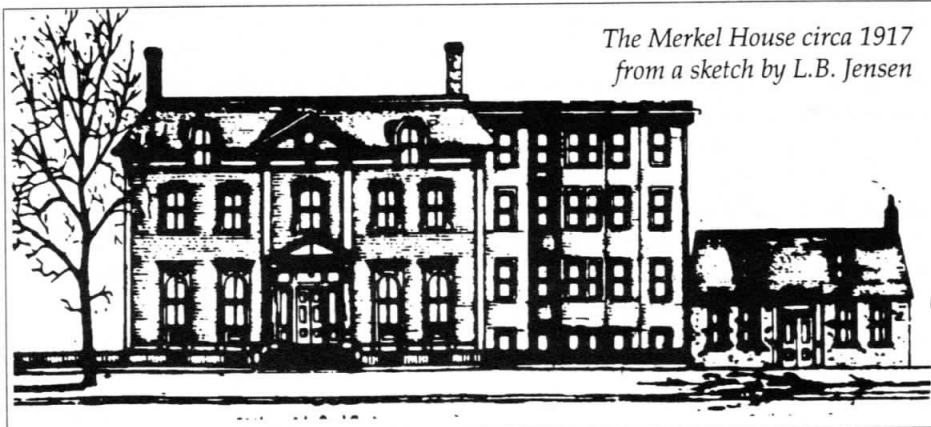


James William Merkel (1801-1871)

which also nearly killed the sister-in-charge and a nurse caring for the child. Repairs were undertaken by the Rambusch Decorating Company of New York, which was so busy in Halifax in 1918 that they opened offices here.

After nearly 60 years, the Home of the Guardian Angels moved to Quinpool and the house became a home for men run by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. After serving the needs of the Roman Catholic community for over 80 years, the building was leased to the New Options School in 1970 and in 1981 became a year-round hostel, run by the Nova Scotia Hostelling Association. A few years ago the Hostelling Association sold the property, which now sits vacant and in imminent risk of demolition.

But the next time you go by, do not think of orphanages, schools or hostels, but of the days when it was the home of James W. Merkel. When the drawing room was filled with furniture in crimson and gold brocatille, furniture of polished black walnut and floors covered with Brussels and Scotch carpets and rugs. A house where Mrs. Eliza (Brown) Merkel, Andrew DeBlois Merkel, Alice Eliza (Mrs Joseph Starr) and Mary Almon (Mrs. Rev. James B. Uniacke), their servants, family and friends, enjoyed the good life in mid-Victorian Halifax.



*The Merkel House circa 1917
from a sketch by L.B. Jensen*

Chester house and harbour tour *by Margaret Martin*

8.29 am, Saturday, August 27.

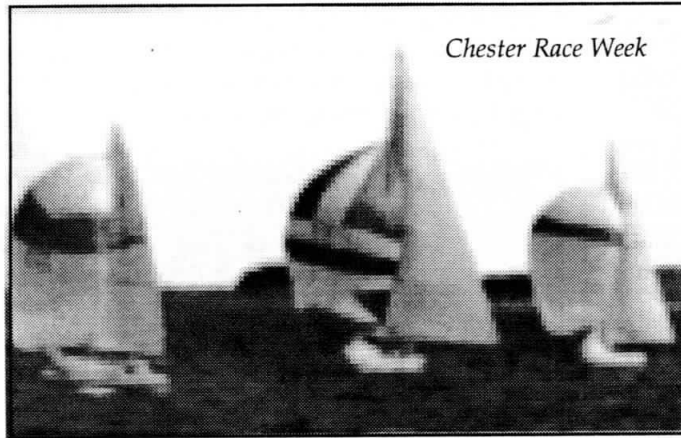
Through the fog I could see a small bus waiting by the Lord Nelson Hotel—so it wasn't late this time—and already nearly full of familiar faces. I wondered if the bus had square wheels as we hit Bedford Highway, but had forgotten one of the Facts of Life: "Never sit over the rear wheels" especially when reconstruction is in progress. At Bedford we were joined by Hilary, Philip and three new members (and in the mild confusion, I slipped into a wheelless seat—much better!)

We were soon rolling up the short slope to the one-time Halifax and Southwestern Railway Station—in my day the Canadian National Railway Station until the line was closed. The station was given a future when the Chester Municipal Heritage Society obtained ownership in 1981 and rehabilitated it. Waiting rooms are now a summer arts and crafts gallery and the old baggage room has been turned into a well-stocked Tourist Bureau. While waiting for Hilary to get our tickets I wondered how the trains had managed the grade over the highway, until I remembered the old stone bridge which had carried the track, and which has recently been removed, making for a safer roadway, albeit a much less picturesque one.

At the wharf beside the *Rope Loft* we crowded into one of the small Cape Islanders which spent the day running the sightseeing shuttle service around the Harbour. A couple from the State of Washington had joined us, their host's running commentary easier to hear than that of the crew who informally but quietly commented on the passing scene. There was plenty to say about Meisner's Island now owned and lived in by Christopher Ondaatje, Toronto financier and sometime poet and autobiographer, whose financial help had saved the Chester Summer Theatre.

Turning away from the distant island, we rounded Freda's Point at

the end of the Chester peninsula—not so long ago heavily treed, but now corsetted with retaining walls and dominated by a monster house graced with classical details, the home of a Toronto developer. We were now running along a shore unseen from the road, broken by private wharves and a variety of summer houses and cottages, until we caught sight of the Lido and Causeway, and were back in familiar territory (or should that be waters?). Other houses owned by Mr. Ondaatje were pointed out, quite modest ones these as we entered Mill Cove, or the Back Harbour. We had a water level



view of the old stone bridge that carried the highway and what remained of the boatyards where once wooden yachts were built now supplanted by fibreglass craft which need little maintenance. Only a small marina remains. As we headed out into Mahone Bay we were lucky enough to see one of the beautiful Chester Class racing yachts designed by Reuben Heisler and built in the old boatyard, riding at her mooring.

We sailed close to what the map designates as Big Gooseberry Island, but remembered by the crew as Campbell Island for the Mr. Campbell whose tomato soup is a household name. Near the shore was a white shingled cottage, the guest house of the island, the main house, larger and inshore, screened by trees. The owner of the Campbell Soup Company is remembered affectionately as being someone who shopped in the village for supplies

and chatted easily with the villagers—unlike the present somewhat mysterious owners of the island whose yacht was at the wharf. Then on to Little Gooseberry and back to Front Harbour with its Roue 20s and Bluenose day-sailers bobbing cheerfully under a misty sun.

The house tour began at Mrs. Lynn Rafuse's house up the hill from the road servicing the Peninsula. It looks old and familiar, but was built in 1990, inspired by an earlier house standing elsewhere in Chester. Fascinating to me was the woodwork—which the original door and which the copy? Mrs. Rafuse

knew, but it was difficult for someone who hadn't worked with the carpenter to tell. Before continuing the tour we had a lunch stop. The 'brown-baggers' descended at the War Memorial to find a spot in which to eat their lunch, while we lazier ones headed for *The Captain's House* in anticipation of a gourmet meal. Our hopes were dashed as another bus tour was expected, so our driver took us to *The Fish Bone*, whose sign was a fish

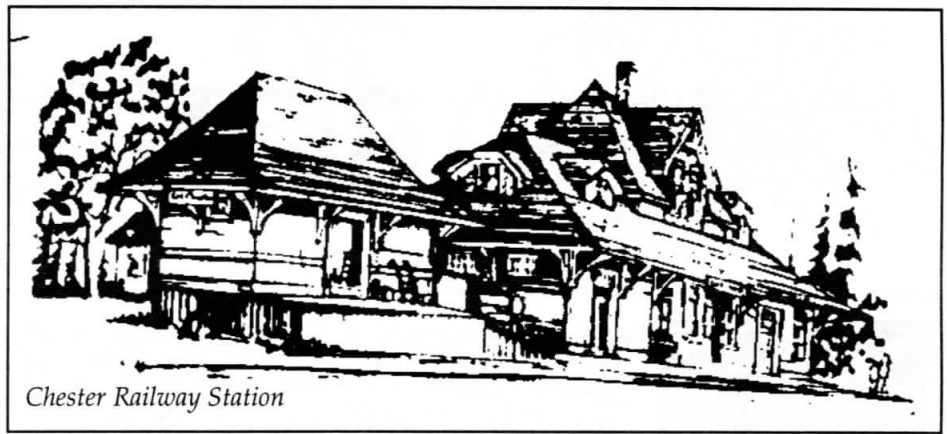
skeleton.

Lunch over, we took off for Middle River and Chester Basin to visit the Calvin Eisner house (built 1881) and farm. Calvin was a coastal schooner captain whose only access to the property was by sea. Our route followed a narrow road until it became too narrow and steep. A delightful spot, with black-faced sheep in the field, and a sturdy red barn older than the present house, now housing a happily wallowing pig whose stall door bore the sign "Corker of a Porcker." From the nearby hill there is a magnificent view over Chester Basin and out into Mahone Bay. The house, with its narrow, steeply pitched Gothic gable, nestled into the hillside looks down to a wharf. The present owner, Mr. Edsel Eisner, affably showed us through the 100-year-old house including the kitchen, now equipped with a computer.

The Griffin—Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Our next stop was at *The Retreat*, an aptly named house approached by an even more winding and narrow road through the woods. How did anyone find it in the days before paved highways? The answer lay in its location—right on the shore. The house was built in 1908 for three Roman Catholic priests from the U.S.A., as a retreat from the summers of New York, Brooklyn and Washington. The main room has handsome exposed and well-finished wooden beams, a good-sized fireplace and a wall of small-paned windows overlooking the dock and Mahone Bay at Middle River. Parallel to the shore is an addition of small bedrooms and a chapel joined to the house by a covered veranda, giving a strangely cloister-like effect. Behind the main house and handy to the kitchen door is the old icehouse. Now what had the shore to do with getting to the house?...Chester Station and Captain Eisner's house provided the clues. The priests must surely have taken the ferry from Boston to Yarmouth, the train to Chester, and finally a local boat to deposit them and their luggage right on their own wharf. Conjecture?...but I bet I'm right. Until the Second World War, water and rail were the best means of communication in this area.

After some careful manoeuvring, our capable driver got the bus headed back to Chester and to the very top of Haddon Hill (the first time in my life I had been right to the top). Haddon Hall was built in 1905 as the summer estate for Vernon Woolrich. A handsome house, with a great pillared veranda across the front, looking out over the islands of the bay. Inside, the eye is greeted by a huge two-storied hall with an imposing staircase and a generous mezzanine from which two large bed-cum-sitting rooms lead, each with a sweeping view of Mahone Bay... So this was where the legendary Peter Jack had lived in my childhood. In 1958 it had been bought by David McKeen of Ottawa, a son and brother of lieutenant-governors of the province. Recently the house and grounds have been wonderfully restored by Dr. Hallman, and is now being operated as a B and



Chester Railway Station

B, at which one can stay for \$125 per night!. As we left, the mist was rolling gently round the islands, the effect that of a Chinese nature painting—serene and noble.

Our next stop was the white frame house beside the Station. Built in 1861, it was the earliest house on the tour. It was moved in 1903 to make way for the then new railway. The railway provided a new cut granite foundation (similar stone to that of the railway bridge). The house was cut in two and moved by ox teams to the present site. The original owner, Robert Smith, operated a forge nearby, and to this day items are still forged and manufactured in the area.

The United Baptist Church was well worth a visit if only for its handsome auditorium. The church has the largest baptistry east of Montreal, but something unpleasant had happened to the plumbing so that day it was not open to view. The church was erected in 1914 although the congregation itself was organized in 1761, reminding me that Chester was founded by New England Planters in 1759. The Rev. M. Allan Gibson who is also a journalist, was the minister there for many years.

Officially that was the end of the tour. Some of the group did a little shopping while others went to the 1854 Cole's Drug Store on Duke Street, only to find it had closed half an hour earlier. Happily, however, someone had read the 'points of interest' section on our admittance ticket so it was decided to make a trip to the Lightfoot Tower in the grounds of the Zoe Valle Library, which was open for the day. We shot by a mass of Black-eyed Susans in the garden of

Mary Saunders on Union Street, then up the hill to Regent Street and the Tower. We climbed the stairs which spiral round the exterior, to stand on a prettily-roofed platform and look down through the trees to the Harbour. Then down again after posing for a group picture. Who took it, I wonder? And did it turn out? And there was just time for this retired librarian to check out the town library housed in a delightful Cape Cod cottage built about 1830. Then it was on to the bus and back to the Old Railway Station for tea and a sandwich before heading home. The tour organizers gave us an interesting picture of the Chester of summer visitors dating from the latter part of the 19th century, as well as the Chester of those who live and work there all year round.....and I, for one enjoyed it thoroughly.



The Griffin

Next deadline:

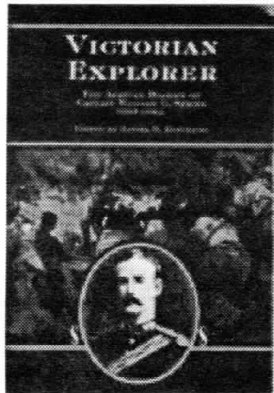
February 1, 1995

Doris Butters will be away, so for the March-May issue only, submissions (500 words maximum) should be sent to:

Anne West
1161 South Park Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 2W9.
Tel: 422-9446
Fax: 425-1453



Books for



Victorian Explorer: The African Diaries of Captain William G. Stairs, 1887-1892

Editor: Dr. Janina Konczacki

Nimbus Publishing, \$19.95

These diaries of a young Haligonian chronicle two expeditions into the interior of Africa at a time when the African continent was being carved up by European interests. During the first, Stairs was second in command to the famous explorer Henry M. Stanley. The second he commanded himself. The diaries and a supporting profile of Captain Stairs form a rare portrait of Africa in the late

Victorian era. Dr. Konczacki, who is the Projects Chair of HTNS, was a professor of history at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Acadian Lost Heritage

Roseline LeBlanc

Contact author, 762-2613

Trust member Roseline LeBlanc launched her second book on Acadian heritage at the August 6 Acadian Festival celebrations. Her first book 'Les Oublies de Notre Patrimoine' ('Our Lost Heritage') was published in 1989—a run of only 250 copies which she was 'sure would never sell'. But they did—all of them—and requests for copies are still coming in.

That first book dealt primarily with the fishing shanties, what they were and what they have become, the church, and West Pubnico's important fishing industry. 'D'Autres Oublies de Notre Patrimoine' Vol. II' (*More Forgotten Heritage' Vol. II'*) goes a little deeper. Old wharves which have disappeared, the schools of 1887, the post offices from 1883, banks, fire stations, the co-operative movement, fairs and celebrations, local lighthouses, weirs, saw mills, and the small stone bridges in Yarmouth County—the 'Stuff of Life' of those living in a small tight-knit community.

Most of those who express interest in the books are from Pubnico, or have lived there at one point, but collectors of Acadian literature are also interested in her work. Not all are local people; her recent interview on CBC Radio Moncton drew immediate response from one man from outside the area, who wanted copies of both books.

Roseline says there are many other interesting aspects of West Pubnico's history still to investigate, and she is already exploring the possibility of a third volume of 'forgotten heritage'.

Heritage Trust publications

The Trust has several publications for sale—obtainable from the Trust office 1588 Barrington Street, or from bookstores around town:

<i>An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings in N.S.</i>	\$14.95
<i>Lakes, Salt Marshes and the Narrow Green Strip</i>	\$8.95
<i>A Sense of Place (Granville Street)</i>	\$4.95
<i>West House, Brunswick Street</i>	\$7.95
<i>Rogers' Photographic Advertising Album: Hfx. 1871</i>	\$5.00
<i>Nova Scotia Heritage Colouring Book</i>	\$2.95
<i>Researching a Heritage Building</i>	\$4.95
<i>Prince and Hollis Buildings</i>	\$4.95

Architects of Nova Scotia

Maud Rosinski

N.S. Government Bookstore \$21.95

Maud Rosinski's long-awaited biographical dictionary of architects who practised in Nova Scotia from 1605 to 1950 provides a much-needed reference source. It is the culmination of many years of research and writing by a well-known conservationist.

The Canadian Home from Cave to Electronic Cocoon

Marc Denhez

Dundurn Press, \$39.99

The Trust's old friend Marc Denhez explains, with wit and wisdom, how our housing evolved over the last several thousand years. It is about fashion, politics, social mores, innovation, imagination and technology. A unique social history that delights as it informs.

Heritage Calendar

Mainland South Historical Society has produced an attractive Heritage Calendar. Each month has a different photograph, and good-sized day blocks for appointments. \$5.00 per copy incl. tax, from Heritage Trust office or Heather Watts, 477-9804 or Marjorie Swingle 477-9655.

THE LIVES OF DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY,

Vol. 1; 1818-1925, Lord Dalhousie's College

Dr. Peter B. Waite

Queen's University, \$39.95

The first half of a two-volume history by one of Dalhousie's distinguished historians. Dal. Bookstore 494-2460.

Christmas



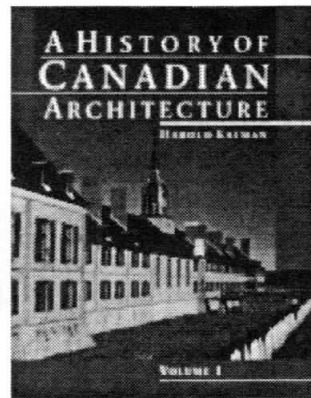
Out of the Past and into the Future

Arthur R. Ffrench and Henry V. Bishop
Pride Communications, \$12.95

This book for elementary school children about the history of black Nova Scotians is now available at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, and at other book outlets. It was reviewed in the September issue of *The Griffin*.

Stocking Stuffers!

What about a silver-plated Heritage Trust spoon at \$5.50, or a Griffin lapel pin at \$3.50. Also in the office are copies of a very attractive poster, *Faces in Architecture*, on Halifax buildings, with an explanatory note on the back. \$14.95 plus tax. And don't forget a year's membership in Heritage Trust might not come amiss.



A HISTORY OF CANADIAN ARCHITECTURE

Harold D. Kalman

Oxford University Press, \$95.00

"Harold Kalman's long-awaited history of Canadian Architecture is some kind of achievement. Of formidable breadth and scope, it is as attentive to the longhouse as the Bauhaus...I give it five stars and three cheers."

Harold Kalman is the heritage consultant guiding the restoration of Saint George's Church. These books are a must for serious students of Canada's architectural heritage.

Atlantic Hearth: Early Families and Homes in Nova Scotia

Mary Byers and Margaret McBurney
University of Toronto, \$24.95

This excellent book detailing the human history of 100 historic homes in Nova Scotia was reviewed in the September *Griffin*.

LANDMARKS

Elizabeth Pacey's ninth book about Nova Scotia's architectural heritage received a good review by writer Tony Edwards of Bedford in the September issue of *Southender*.

He pointed out how Elizabeth "brings to life the...colourful figures of Nova Scotia's history"; that technicalities such as building design and materials, dentils and pediments etc., are explained in an interesting way as being a product of those involved. For example: *Acacia Grove*, Charles Prescott's Georgian mansion at Starr's point, was built of brick—instead of the more usual wood—"because his brother was one of the first commercial brickmakers in Halifax."

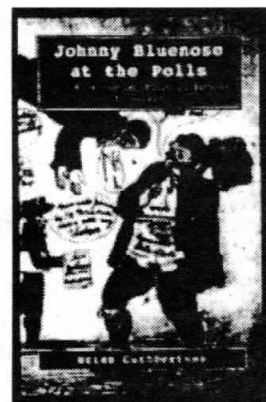
Then there's the McCully House built in 1859 for Edward Billings Junior—auctioned off to

Elizabeth Pacey

Nimbus Publishing \$35.00

pay his creditors—and purchased by Jonathan McCully, who eventually became one of the Fathers of Confederation. McCully was, among other things, a writer whose subjects ranged "from politics to weather predictions for Belcher's Almanac (correctly predicting a blizzard for July 16, 1837)." Tony tells us that when McCully was made a Railway Commissioner, "he liked to ride outside the railway cars, all the while beating out the sparks from the engine."

Also commended were Alvin Comiter's wonderful photography and Arthur Carter's design for *Landmarks*, which Tony describes as "elegant and appropriately sophisticated" with the four parts of the book defined by a title page comprising a motif and a fitting quotation.



Johnny Bluenose at the Polls

Brian Cuthbertson

\$29.95 (board) \$19.95 (paper)

Sub-titled *Epic Nova Scotian Election Battles 1758-1848*, this book describes democracy as it started in Canada—a rough and tumble affair.

In a masterful piece of historical research, Brian Cuthbertson has reconstructed the issues and the dynamics of 90 years of colourful provincial politics in Nova Scotia. The result is a profile of democracy, not in the ideal form, but as it really is.

Brian Cuthbertson is a leading Nova Scotian historian. He is the author of several books, including a biography of Governor John Wentworth.

Heritage Trust 1994/1995 Program

Regular monthly meetings of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia are held on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month—September to June—at 8.00 PM in the auditorium, N.S. Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax.

Thurs. Dec. 15 - 8pm

Speaker: **Dr. Janina Konczacki**
Topic: A Visit to the Castles and Stately Homes of Scotland in May, 1955.

Topic: Folk Architecture in Louisiana—Acadian Influence, 1700-1812.

Heritage Week - Feb. 19-25, 1995
Special Program in planning stage. Watch the media nearer the time, or call Projects Chair Dr. N. Konczacki 443-2631.

Thurs. Jan. 19, 1995 - 8pm

Speaker: **Terry Smith-Lamothe**

Thurs. Feb. 16 - 8pm

Speaker: **Graeme Duffus**
Topic: Carleton House and the Hon. Richard Bulkeley

Events sponsored by other societies

N.S. Association of Architects

Thurs. Feb. 23 - March 18, 1995

Exhibition on the Restoration of St. George's Round Church, in the Mary E. Black Gallery, N.S. Craft Centre, Barrington Street, Halifax.

Kings Historical Society, Kentville

Sun. Dec. 4, 1995 - 2-6pm

Christmas Memories - 4th Annual Christmas House Tour and Yuletide Tea - 6 local homes and the Baptist Church will be open for viewing from 2-6pm and tea served from 3-6pm in the Old Kings Courthouse Museum, 37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville.

Each building beautifully decorated to the theme of Christmas Memories - Tickets: \$12 adults; \$6 for 6-12 year olds; under 6 free of charge.

Reservations or details 678-6237

Federation of Nova Scotian

Heritage Training Sessions

Sat. Jan. 21, 1995

Deaccessioning. Hector National Exhibition Centre, Pictou
Speakers: Mary Ledwell, Council of N.S. Archives, and Debra McNabb, N.S. Museum of Industry, Stellarton, N.S.

February 1995

Two Training Sessions in planning stage: *Exhibition Techniques Using Photographs* and *Computers in Museums II*. Call Catherine Arseneau, FNSH 423-4677 for details.

Friends of the Public Gardens

Sat. Dec. 17

Christmas Bulb Sale in Park Lane Mall; scented paperwhite narcissus planted in October—in time for gift-giving.

Nova Scotia Poetry Society

Meets 2.00 pm, 3rd Saturday of the month at NSM Natural History.

Costume Society of N.S.

Meets at 7.30pm, third Monday - Sept. to April - Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lwr. Water St., Hfx.

Mon. Jan. 16, 1995, -

Book Sale Fundraiser for the C.S.N.S.. - Please come and donate any type of book and stay to buy! Buy! BUY!
Refreshments served.

Mon. Feb. 20,

Speaker: Barbara Hinds
Topic: *Flax to Linen*

Mon. Mar. 20

CSNS member Mary Martha Creighton will speak on the *Study of Similarities of Siberian, Alaskan and N.W. Territories Costumes*.

Royal N.S. Historical Society

Meets monthly at PANS unless otherwise stated. Winter schedule TBA. Details from Peter Latta, Ph: 462-1826

Dartmouth Historical Association

Thurs. Dec. 1

6.30pm Dartmouth Senior Citizens Service Centre - Turkey Dinner, followed by Musical Program

Thurs. Feb. 9, 1995

7.30pm Dartmouth Museum - Imperial Oil Refinery at Dartmouth
Speaker: Mr. George Fullerton.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm

Tues. Dec. 13

7-10.00 pm in the Giles House - At Home - drop in and chat at a pre-Christmas get-together - open to the public. Small useful gifts for the Giles House (paper towels, soap, pens, typing paper etc.) would be very welcome.

Mainland South Heritage Society

Meets at 7.30pm, fourth Thursday of the month, Captain William Spry Community Centre, Sussex Street, Spryfield. Tel: 479-3505 or 475-1449
Jan. 26, 1995

Speaker TBA

Feb. 23

Speaker TBA

Mar. 23

Allan Ruffman WWII Submarine Nets of Halifax Harbour: sea-floor signatures that speak to us every day.

West Hants Historical Society

Sun. Dec. 11, 2-6 pm, Windsor

Christmas House Tour, tea and bake sale. Adults \$10, children \$6. Reservation: 798-2516.

Yarmouth County Historical Soc.

Sat. Dec. 10.

Christmas House Tour and Tea.
Details: 742-5539.

What other groups are doing

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Brad Armstrong

The past summer has been a profitable one for the Society. A number of fund-raising events proved very successful and we have finally, after several years of effort, been able to purchase Lordly Park.

Fund-raisers included a Heritage Auction, a House and Boat Tour, and an Art Show Season. To cap the year the Annual Craft Show and Sale was held on November 26/27.

The Society is very pleased with local support and the response received for these events.

Bedford: its rich history (Part I)

Even before John Cabot explored the Maritimes in 1497, Basque and Portugese fishermen used the shores of Bedford Basin to clean and dry their catch and celebrate their successes. Their favourite fishing grounds they kept secret, but Cabot's stories of waters so teeming with fish that lowered baskets quickly brought in hundreds of pounds of cod with little effort, soon spread, bringing thousands of Europeans to the rich fishing grounds of Atlantic Canada.

Before 1604, Champlain reported on French settlements and farms, evidence of which remained on the DND Bedford Magazine property into the early 20th century. British settlement in Bedford began in 1749, when Sir Edward Cornwallis, recognising the need for peripheral defence posts, ordered Captain John Gorham and his Rangers to build a post at the head of Bedford Basin (then Torrington Bay). Gorham built a palisade at the head of the river, naming it Fort Sackville; a blockhouse and barracks was added later.

In 1771, Colonel Joseph Scott built Fort Sackville House (the Manor House) outside the palisade. Registered as a Municipal Heritage Property in 1987, Fort Sackville House is the oldest standing building in Bedford, resembling other manor houses of its era found in New

England. The Officers' Quarters at Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal is the only other example of similar construction in Nova Scotia. The widest of the remaining floorboards in Fort Sackville House are 18" wide and all are 1" thick. In the 18th century, boards used in non-military construction were restricted to 23", those wider than that being reserved for the King's use; trees which could provide such boards were marked with a broad arrow. When the Fort burned in 1912 and there seemed no reason to rebuild, the military left the area, retaining only the Rifle Range, and the property became privately owned.

Col. Scott also built Ten Mile House, standing—as its name implies—ten miles out of Halifax. Constructed between 1771 and 1800, during the 19th century Ten Mile House operated as an inn, serving travellers, workers in Bedford's shipyards and stagecoach passengers. The building has since served many other purposes: law offices, a magic shop, artists' studios and an art gallery, to name a few. Today it houses Musicstop, a local company selling musical instruments and equipment. The original site of Ten Mile House was where MacLeod's Esso Station is located. It was later moved next to the Chickenburger where today there is a Shell Service Station, and finally to the back of the lot where it stands today.

Bedford's third oldest building 'Honeycote', at the corner of Meadowbrook Drive and Bedford Highway, is noted on an area map made by Ambrose F. Church in 1864. Church, who lived in Ten Mile House from 1865-1887, was one Canada's first map-makers.

Shipbuilding thrived in Bedford during the 19th century. One shipyard was located below Shore Drive at the end of Shipyard Road on the site of Hart's Lumber Mill, today the Bedford Lions' Playground. Bedford had many other mills clinging to the edges of local streams for water power. In the last quarter of the 18th century Col. Scott

operated one or more lumber mills, a spinning and carding mill, and mills where paper was made from rags. In 1884 Charles Fenerty became the first person in British North America to discover the process of making paper from spruce pulp.

For about 85 years from the mid-1870s, Moirs operated mills of varying kinds in Millview (Hammonds Plains Road at Bedford Highway). They first bought existing mills but by 1910, having suffered several fires, their mills had been rebuilt and were 'modern'. Moirs made wooden boxes in a shook mill, and processed cocoa beans into slabs of chocolate for their candy factory in Halifax.

Around 1854, the railway came from Halifax to the western side of the Sackville River, and with it came the name 'Bedford'; before this the area was known as Sackville but as the railway station was named Bedford, soon the whole community came to be known by that name. (Abstracted from an article by Tony Edwards in the *Bedford-Sackville Weekly News*. The second and third parts of Tony Edwards' *History of Bedford* will be included in the next two issues of *The Griffin*)

Parrsboro Shore Historical Society

Daphne (Tucker) Faulkner

Nineteen ninety-four was a busy and fruitful year for the volunteers of the Society who have undertaken the formidable task of restoring the Ottawa House, so beautifully situated overlooking the Minas Basin at Partridge Island, 5 km from Parrsboro. Built around 1775, it was, for a time, the summer residence of Sir Charles Tupper, one of the Fathers of Confederation, and Canada's sixth Prime Minister.

The season began on June 18 with a well-attended flea market. To open Canada Day Celebrations on July 1, there was a flag-raising ceremony in which the Parrsboro Citizens Band took part. Decorated cakes were judged and auctioned off.

On July 13, a strawberry-shortcake tea was held in conjunction with a quilt show featuring 74 locally-made quilts. Also in July, about 400 alumni attended this year's Parrsboro School Reunion and the Society catered a successful afternoon tea on July 22 for those attending.

The Annual Lady Tupper Dessert Tea was held on August 16, at which period costumes were worn by those serving the tea. In one room a quilt is set up on which a local group works during the season. Tickets are sold throughout the summer and a draw held at the end of August. This year's project was most successful.

Starting in the spring, a dedicated

Sherman and Andrea's beautiful 200 year old stone house, the 1894 church transported to the property from a nearby site and the buildings which house the Hines' remarkable collection of artifacts, pictures and trophy animals shot by Mr. Hines during the years when guns were preferred to cameras. Following the tour and a 'walkabout' the grounds in the pleasant sunshine, the group enjoyed a tasty meal which included goose, wild pheasant and a huge ham. The event raised \$1,000 for the Society's Museum.

Another fund-raiser—the 3rd Annual Dinner Concert held on July 28—again this year brought in

The next Heritage Banquet will be held on February 11, 1995, in the Community Centre; the theme this year being The Loyalists. (Enquiries to Veronica Connolly 1-902-798-5265).

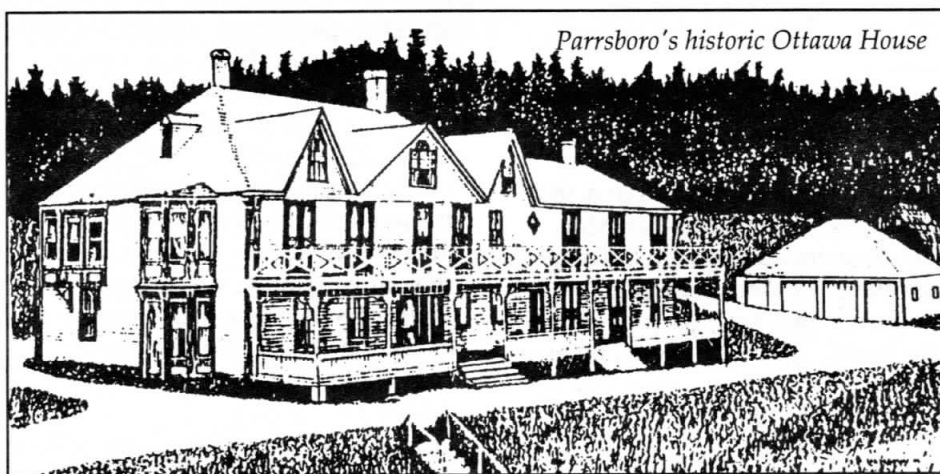
Yarmouth County Historical Society

The Society's busy fall season included the September launching of Elizabeth Churchill Snell's book *The Churchills: Pioneers and Politicians; England-America-Canada*. Mrs. Snell's research uncovered facts relating to the background of Winston Churchill's family. She traced the story of the Canadian Churchills....of Ezra Churchill who built up the fifth largest shipping fleet in the world, and became a politician and Senatorand of Capt. George Washington Churchill ("Rudder") who lived in Yarmouth, and skippered the vessel *Research*. (Details: 742-5539).

A Folk Art Event in October featured an exhibit and sale of the works of Nova Scotian artists, the NFB movie "Folk Art Found Me", and the film "Maud Lewis: A World Without Shadows" accompanied by an exhibition of her paintings. Also in October, Mary Byers and Margaret McBurney visited the Museum to sign copies of their book *Atlantic Hearth*.

In November the Society hosted the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage regional meeting, but a highlight of the season will surely be the Christmas House Tour and Tea on December 10, when five homes, St. Ambrose Cathedral where seasonal music will be played on the organ, and the Museum will be decorated for visitors. Advance tickets \$10, on the day \$12 (Details: 742-5539).

The *Historigram* on the Trust's bookshelf is available to anyone who might like to find out more about this very active society, or to check their library list of books on Yarmouth and the fascinating lives of people who lived there. And the delightful extract from the *Yarmouth Times* of January 18, 1898, about the daughter of the Marquis of Allesbury, a skilled navigator who was refused a Master's Certificate—and how she got her way!



group of volunteers spend hours—sometimes whole days—on painting, carpentry, etc. at Ottawa House. For the past few years one volunteer has provided beautiful fresh flowers for the rooms, and during the quilt show, in each room the colours in the arrangements reflect those of the quilts.

On August 31 the Society held its Annual Closing Pot-luck Supper—always a very popular event. This very busy year the weather, too, co-operated with the many volunteers who give so much of their time to this historic building and the enjoyment of its many visitors.

Windsor's Summer

Veronica Connolly

On June 4, 60 members of West Hants Historical Society and Heritage Trust attended a gala affair at the heritage home of Canadian photographer Sherman Hines. The group spent a pleasant afternoon touring through

another \$1,000 for the Museum. Grace was said by the Rev. Margaret Collins, and the performance by pianist Joyce Whittier Chaplin of Maine and vocalist Yvonne White of Bedford was a great success. The theme was World War II and already Joyce and Yvonne are planning next July's Concert. Joyce has generously donated a large work of folk art by Sydney Howard of Cape Breton to be sold to raise funds.

The Society held its Annual BBQ at the home of folk artist Jackie Loomer Kruger, on September 1.

This year's tour of Christmas-decorated houses and bake and craft sale will be held on Sunday, December 11, from 2-6pm., with tea from 3-6pm. One of the houses—the Sangster's Inn at Falmouth—is a newly designated Provincial Heritage Property. The inn is where Joseph Howe would talk politics with Mr. Sangster until the wee small hours of the morning.

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

Focus Groups

Focus groups are being set up by the Federation for the evaluation and reorganization of the museum granting system.

On the 31st October Stephanie Smith took up her position as Project Development Officer, pilot-testing, revising and developing a basic-level museum study for the first course in Museum Studies to be given in the province.

Heritage information swap meet

Dr. Paul Erickson

On August 26, 1994, Vice-President Paul Erickson represented the Trust at the 2nd annual Heritage information Swap Meet. The Meet, sponsored by the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, provided an opportunity for Provincial organizations to exchange information about education and training programs in heritage. This year, ten organizations made verbal presentations of potential interest to Trust members,

During the 1994-95 school year, St. Mary's University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design will be offering courses in heritage topics, including folklore, stained glass and the preventive maintenance of artifacts. The Nova Scotia Museum is nearly ready to launch a new training program for interpreters, a program that is expected to be used at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia is promoting the 'Superhost' program for improved customer service. The Halifax Heritage Advisory Committee has produced a brochure describing a walking tour of Halifax focusing on sites pertaining to the Duke of Kent. The Church Conservancy of Nova Scotia continues to sponsor tours, talks and research about Provincial places of worship.

The FNSH now employs a full-time training coordinator, Catherine Arsenault, who is interested in collaborating with other heritage organizations. Anyone interested can contact Catherine by phoning 423-4677.

Congratulations

Cora Greenaway!

The Royal Society of Art in London, England, has recognized Cora's work by awarding her the Society's Silver Medal and a Fellowship in the Society. Dr. Brian Newbold of Sackville N.B., president of the Atlantic Chapter of the Royal Society of Arts, recently presented the medal during an evening meeting in New Brunswick, when Cora gave a slide-lecture on examples of historic interior decorative painting in Nova Scotia—a subject on which she is recognized as the foremost authority.

Research initiated by Cora Greenaway in 1960 on the Croscup Room in Karsdale, Annapolis County, led to the acquisition of the room by the National Gallery in Ottawa, where it is currently on display.

She was also instrumental in having the late Maud Lewis recognized as the province's foremost and best-known folk artist. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia has now acquired the Lewis home in Marshalltown, Digby County, the front door of which is on exhibit in the AGNS Folk Art Gallery. (*Abstracted from the Mail-Star, Saturday, October 1, 1994*)

Birthday party a success *by Doris Butters*

University of Kings College caterers certainly know how to provide an excellent Buffet Dinner; the roast beef was so tender it almost melted in the mouth. We even had an iced Birthday Cake in honour of the Trust's 35th anniversary. Judging by the laughter and chatter I think the 65 Trusters who attended the Dinner enjoyed the warm, convivial atmosphere, and the program which followed.

President Joyce McCulloch spoke on the early days of the Trust, of her predecessors who had guided the strategies of the group, and who had fought so hard to save something of Halifax's heritage.

Guest speaker of the evening was Betty Pacey—a past President and the dynamo who battles City Hall, developers and would-be town

planners who seek to tear the City to shreds. Betty always knows who to contact, the best way to deal with officialdom, how to submit a brief—and—how to rally support. But this time she dwelt on a gentler theme—the production of her book, *Landmarks*, and why the particular buildings were chosen. Using Alvin Comiter's beautifully incisive black-and-white photographs Betty traced the history and development of architectural characteristics and styles from Europe to North America. Not only houses, but commercial premises were included.

One high spot of the evening was, of course, the tense moment when Joyce rolled up her sleeves and delved into the big box of folded raffle tickets to pick the winner of the four beautiful floral watercolours we

all wanted so desperately to own. The winner: Hilary Grant's daughter Fiona! Hilary is a very 'positive thinker'. Thanks to the prodigious efforts of Nina Konczacki and her committee, the Trust will benefit by \$1,938.03 after all expenses are paid!

The evening closed with a humorous performance by DeWolfe and LaRocque, two school teachers with a genius for parodying well-known songs by rewriting the lyrics to reflect on topical incongruities—usually political, but on this occasion all pertinent to the Trust and the history of heritage struggles in Halifax. Unfortunately King's imposing dining hall is not conducive to good listening, and words can be missed. But thanks to Pam Collins and all who helped, it was a wonderful evening.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 Dartmouth Heritage Society: Turkey dinner and music, 6:30 pm	2	3
4 King County HS: Kentville Christmas House Tour	5	6	7	8	9	10 Yarmouth County HS: Christmas house tour and tea
11 West Hants HS: Windsor Christmas House Tour, tea and bake sale.	12	13 Cole Harbour HF <i>At Home:</i> Christmas get- together at the Giles House, Cole Harbour, 7 pm.	14	15 Heritage Trust NS lecture Janina Konczacki 8 pm PANS. A visit to Scotland	16	17 Frineds Public Gardens:Christmas Bulb Sale, Park Lane Mall <hr/> NS Poetry Society at Nova Scotia Museum, 7:30 pm
18	19 Costume Society NS: Maritime Museum, 7:30 pm	20	21	22 Mainland South HS, no meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

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