

# The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

## Thank you Heritage Trusters!



*Lift-on! Friday, November 17, 1995*

Friday, November 17 was a great day for heritage. It saw the lift-on of the restored dome and cupola of Saint George's Round Church in Halifax.

Many Trust members, including President Joyce McCulloch, Past-President Betty Pacey and Board Member Joan Dawson, joined parishioners as they waited beside the church on Thursay. It was a long wait, while the protective cocoon was removed and technical problems were solved in preparation for the 40-

tonne lift. Finally, on Friday morning the dome and cupola soared above the building and were gently inserted into the upper drum of the church.

The lead-covered roof of the cupola, topped by the 1835 Halley's Comet weathervane was then hoisted into place.

Finally, that beautiful three tier wedding cake, the circular Palladian masterpiece which is Saint George's, was revealed again.

Painters had worked in secret under the cocoon, so that what was revealed was a spotless and sparkling building, its elegant windows and classical architectural details clearly picked out and a red plastic bow, symbolic gift of Project Manager Art Maw of Hanscomb Consultants Inc., adorning the front porch,

Imagine your own church or any other volunteer group suddenly facing a unique \$6 million project. It has been a

terrible ordeal for parishioners, but by the Grace of God, they have risen to the challenge and now rejoice at the completion of phase 1, the exterior of the church.

Let's not forget, however, that the inside is still a sad fire, water and smoke-damaged shadow of its former glorious self. But with the building weathertight, efforts can now concentrate on the true glory of Saint George's, its elegant and inspiring interior.

To date, \$3.4 million of the \$6 million needed to restore the Round Church has been raised. Work to raise the remaining \$2.6 million continues apace and the parish hopes to have the church it holds in trust for all Canadians complete in two years.

Members of Heritage Trust have taken the restoration of Saint George's to their hearts. Almost a quarter of the Trust's 350 members have sent help, with gifts averaging a generous \$170. This heart-warming response has set the standard for all Canadians who care about our built heritage.

We who are lucky enough to be involved in this wonderful project cannot thank enough the generous souls who are making it possible.

*Anne West*



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

to all members of  
HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA  
SCOTIA  
from your President, Executive,  
Board of Trustees and Committee  
Chairs

# President's report on Heritage Canada conference *By Joyce McCulloch*

"Remember the Red River Valley..." So goes the old song and I did remember, and returned after 30 years to Winnipeg for the **Heritage Canada Conference** in October. The subject addressed was "Heritage Building Blocks: The Role of Museums and Heritage Organizations in the Regeneration of Communities". Well Trusters, it looked as though they were playing our tune! Local heritage groups form principally to save an old building, and because the Heritage Trust has been agitating in our communities for 35 years it seemed logical for the Trust to attend. The conference was intensive and well-planned, but the people I met were the best part—one learns so much by networking. Imagine my intense interest to find that Manitoba, which achieved legislation in 1985, five years after Nova Scotia, has protection for **interiors!** I recently received a copy of the legislation from the Chief of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship...now let's work on amending our legislation.

Nearly all the speakers were outstanding and knowledgeable and better yet, made their subject interesting to us. One criticism only, and one which is often made, that there is never enough time—that is, too much is packed in, so that the poor delegate either plays hookey (I ran away to the fascinating Saint Boniface Museum next door), or misses something. I missed the Exchange District tour because Lower Fort Garry was calling!

Early Thursday morning I went to register at Saint Boniface College (c.1878), the perfect place for a conference. Luckily for delegates it offered an excellent cafeteria which on Friday proved a Godsend as the weather, for the only time, was wet and sleeting. Fortunately for me I learned that after the pre-conference workshop on historic artifacts, lunch would be provided at Dalnavert House Museum followed by tours of the house. I was delighted to hear this since I'd already decided this place was a 'must', and there had been no mention of the event on our brochure.

After lunch we toured this elegant building. After a \$560,000 restoration job it had better be as elegant as in the days when Sir Hugh John MacDonald (son of John A.) and Lady MacDonald resided there. The next stop was the former village of Saint James, now suburbia, where the local historical society had restored and moved into, a log farmhouse—quite a contrast to Dalnavert.

In the evening during a reception at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Civilization honouring the Icelandic community, the Heritage Day poster recognizing the Icelander's contribution to Canada was launched; a poster you will see in February 1996.

A highlight of Friday was Tony Hebert from Shrewsbury, England, who was a mine of information on the ways that museums and heritage groups can involve the community. I wish there was room to share my notes, but I must say that Nova Scotia can go to the head of the class because a great many of the innovative ideas he mentioned have been used by the Nova Scotia Museum, the Maritime Museum and Heritage Trust. I was anxious to hear Etienne Gaboury, the architect for the new Basilica of Saint Boniface who allowed the beautiful old facade to remain and the old walls to enclose a garden in front of the new church. One thing he said which I found very interesting, but a bit sad, too, was that overly conservative conservation is counter-productive. This was in reference to the Forks, a huge development using the vast railroad yard with its very old stone and brick buildings to make a 'people place'. His disappointment was that the enormous roundhouse had been turned into a children's museum instead of an effort being made to show posterity how a roundhouse worked.

Susan Turner, a master's grad from TUNS saw my name tag and wanted to tell me how much she loved Halifax. She is an excellent speaker who asked (and answered) the question "Why should buildings be preserved intact?" I particularly wanted to hear her presentation

about the magnificent Bank of Montreal building in the Exchange District, that I knew I would miss on Saturday because my tour was to Lower Fort Garry. She had beautiful slides—what a huge job that building was—hard to believe that it had been threatened with demolition.

Friday's banquet was one of the best meals I've ever had at a conference, with delightful music by a local group in voyageur dress singing wonderful folksongs I had never heard before; all this in the elegantly restored Hotel Fort Garry. My hostess and I only stayed long enough after dinner to attend the Association of Manitoba Museum's Auction, and for her to bid on, and win, Betty Pacey's *Landmarks*, and to get Betty to autograph it.

On Saturday morning, Gary Hilderman, a local architect spoke of his beloved Red River, which in recent years has been cleaned and returned to use as a leisure resource. Lower Fort Garry survived from the early days of the fur trade because it wasn't too close to the growing communities of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface. Today, the Red River Corridor, as it is called, is well organized for tourists, but for conference-goers, time is so limited that one only glimpses some of the fascinating stone houses along the river. An elderly member of our

*Continued on page 5*



## *The Griffin*

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**Deadline for the next issue  
of *The Griffin* is**

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## The Casino

The Casino Theatre is located on the west side of Gottingen between Falkland and Cornwallis streets. The site was purchased in 1914 and the Casino Theatre Company incorporated, and in July of that year Herbert E. Gates designed a theatre. However, work was delayed until 1915 and when construction finally commenced Andrew R. Cobb was the chosen architect. The doors of the theatre opened to the public on December 11, 1916, making the Casino the oldest surviving theatre in Halifax—and, in fact, one of the oldest in the country.

Andrew R. Cobb (1876-1943) designed many public and private buildings in Halifax and throughout the Atlantic provinces. The contractor, Rhodes Curry & Company which headquartered in Amherst, was one of the largest firms in the province.

The theatre, 90 feet by 135 feet, was primarily designed as a cinema, but with stage facilities including a fly tower and a small orchestra pit. 'Front of house' facilities included the downstairs "Walk-Inn" tearoom and an upstairs lunch room in the south shops, and H.F. Ferguson & Company, tobacconists, in the north shop. Above his shop Mr. Ferguson had outfitted a poolroom.

When the theatre opened, the rich exterior facade was decorated with elaborate masonry-work and the main entrance archway was vaulted. The bay window was clad in copper, and under the eaves of the clay-tiled roof hung nineteen copper electric lights, which illuminated the facade in the evening. The overall motif, or style, for the exterior, was modern 'Spanish'.

The interior, or auditorium, was in ocean greens, shot through with light and had a subtle note of blue artistically blended with gold and pearl! There was seating accommodation for 1,160; 560 on the main floor and 600 in the balcony.

Slightly damaged by the Explosion of December 6, 1917, the theatre was used as a temporary shelter for the homeless. It was also



used by the congregations of Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Brunswick Street Methodist Church, until their buildings were repaired.

The theatre was renovated in 1941, 1947 and again in 1963. The 1947 renovations converted the theatre primarily into a motion picture house, with most of the theatre appurtenances cut back or removed. The cinema, then owned by Odeon Theatres of Canada, was their largest in Atlantic Canada. In 1963, the Casino was modernized to a 'state of the art' facility and today looks much the same as it did after the renovation. In 1984, the cinema was purchased by Empire Theatres Limited, a subsidiary Sobeys company who operated it until 1989. Closed by Empire in 1989, it briefly flourished as a community arts centre but has stood idle and deteriorating since 1991.

The Casino Theatre Foundation (formerly the Casino Theatre Society, et al) exists to rehabilitate and restore the movie house. It is their belief that the building is the ideal size to serve the cultural needs of a community such as Metropolitan Halifax. Uses of the main auditorium include drama, ballet and dance, musicals, pantomime, symphony and chamber concerts, jazz and pop concerts, folk festivals, recitals, lectures and

readings, and films.

In the renovation and rehabilitation of the building it is proposed to build a new stage, 52 feet by 25 feet, and a new extended orchestra pit of 460 square feet to provide space for 36 musicians; to re-open the existing fly tower; and to create a new, flexible proscenium. Since the existing theatre has no backstage facilities, it is proposed to add 'backstage' accommodation surrounding the whole of the existing stage and part of the auditorium. This addition should be at least two storeys high increasing the floor area by about 4,800 square feet. This major addition would provide necessary accommodations by creating a link between backstage and front of the house facilities, allowing for all the requirements of a modern theatre.

The author would like to thank Mary Jane Sakarai and architect Anthony D. Barlow for the information they provided to make this article possible. I should also hope that the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and its members will actively support the restoration and rehabilitation of this unique 80-year-old facility, designed and constructed by a pre-eminent Nova Scotian architect and a noted Nova Scotian contracting firm.

### NOTICE

The Casino Theatre Foundation is scheduled to meet with the City's Committee-of-the-Whole on **Wednesday, 6 December at 4.00 pm in City Hall**. The support of anyone interested in the restoration of this Halifax landmark is earnestly requested. The Foundation plans to revitalize the Casino Theatre as a community arts centre to stage and promote performing, visual and literary artists among the 'visible minorities', seniors and youth. The group is asking the City for \$50,000 to stabilize this building, \$25,000 to fix roof leaks, the rest to remove wet material from inside and to repair the parging which threatens to fall off the exterior. Information: Mary Sakurai 454-9810/477-4466.

# Report from Richmond Hill Farm



The following advertisement, which appeared in *The Christian Messenger*, 21 January 1842, was contributed by the Trust's Windsor representative, Veronica Connolly:

"Valuable Real Estate for sale near Windsor, Richmond Hill Farm. To be sold that valuable farm formerly owned by Francis Singer, Esq. known as Richmond Hill Farm, situate on the Avon River about a mile above the Bridge, consisting of 94 acres of upland, upon which the farm house and buildings stand; 9 acres or thereabouts of prime dyked marsh land, in the King's Meadow, in front and adjoining the upland separated by the Road; 9 acres or thereabouts of prime Dyked Marsh, in the rear of the Upland, just brought into cultivation and about 30 acres of Dyked Marsh on the Butler Marsh so called. Also a wood lot lying on the road to Halifax about 4 miles from Windsor consisting of 300 acres. The farm is now in a high state of cultivation.. There is a good and substantial dwelling upon it, a good barn, 100 ft. in length, with a granary and outhouses with a thorn hedge across the front and extending back on one side. An unexceptionable title will be given, and possession will be had on 1 April. One half the purchase may remain on the security of the premises. Further particulars may be known by applying at the office of the subscribers in Hollis St., Halifax, Jan. 14, 1842

*Windsor, NS) by Rev. T.A. Nelson of Windsor, NS.*

And who was Miss Maxner? Those of you who have visited Richmond Hill Farm (Macdonald House) must surely remember the grim-visaged couple of Victorians whose photographs grace the mantelpiece of the old kitchen. The Maxners. They owned and ran the farm during the latter half of the 19th century and, I understand, were the largest strawberry-growers in the area.

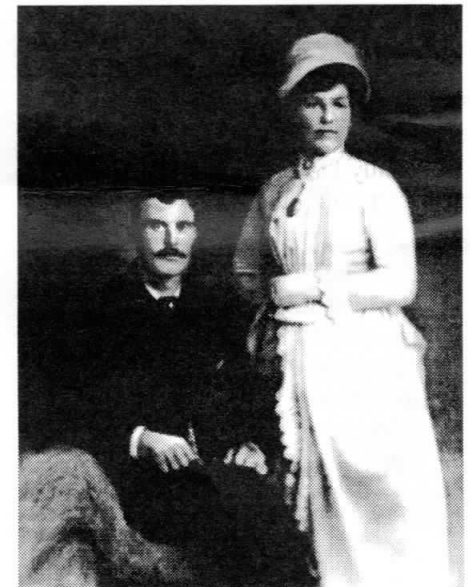
Of German stock, they were big believers in discipline, and their nine children were all expected to work. The story goes that the boys were forbidden to marry, on pain of banishment! The one son who did marry was never forgiven.

**Signed: Johnston & Twining"**  
(Note: Judging by its present condition, it is still "a good and substantial dwelling" Ed.)

## Duncanson-Maxner

For our Richmond Hill Farm file, Veronica also sent us an item she received from a Mr. John V. Duncanson of Duncanson Road, Falmouth, Nova Scotia. It consists of a fine print of his paternal grandparents' wedding photograph, (see right) together with a copy of the announcement in the *Presbyterian Witness*, dated Saturday, 23 January, 1886, Vol. XXXIX, No. 4, p.32, which reads:

*Herbert Owen Duncanson married 12 January (1886) of Falmouth, NS. to Mary Eleanor Maxner, eldest daughter of John W. Maxner (of*



*The Duncanson-Maxner wedding photo*



## HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Membership dues for the period January 1 to December 31, 1996 will be sent out early in the new year. Don't forget to mail your cheque to our new postal address: P.O. Box 36111, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3S9.

Student	\$5	Single	\$15
Family	\$20	Senior Citizen	\$10
Senior Couple	\$15	Group	\$25
Life Membership	\$500		

To enquire about your membership, call (902) 423-4807

# The Little Dutch (Deutsch) Church *By Doris Butters*

Another historically important small church in Nova Scotia is in danger—the Little Dutch Church on Brunswick Street, Halifax. During the G7 Meeting in Halifax in June, Chancellor Helmut Kohl donated on behalf of the German government 10,000 Dm to refurbish the interior of the church, but sadly, it has been found that a great deal of basic restoration work must be done first. Fortunately, the German-Canadian Association of Nova Scotia has undertaken to help Saint George's parish, which owns the church, raise the necessary funds for this important work.

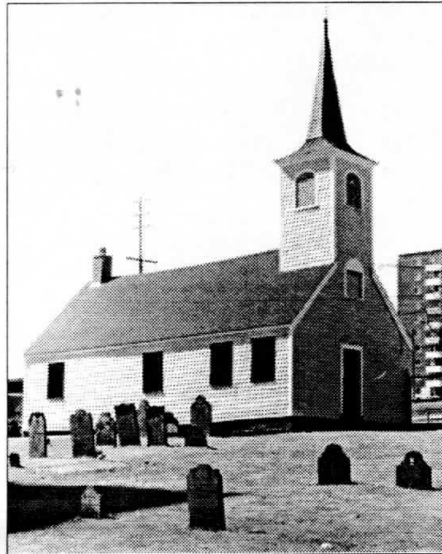
This modest little church dates back to the earliest days of Halifax when about 200 German immigrants were left in town after the majority of about 2,000 moved along the coast to settle in what became Lunenburg. Out of a desire to practise their Lutheran or Calvinist religion in their own language, plus a bit of German determination, the Little Dutch (actually Deutsch) Church was born. Not an imposing, grandiose or architecturally striking structure, it looks more like a small wooden house with a steeple—which is exactly what it is!

During the mid-1750s, the Germans in Halifax gathered lumber with the idea of building a church themselves. However, in 1756, a German named George Nagel, traded the lumber for a small house which was moved to the site where it stands today. Apart from a 3.3 m extension and a steeple added in 1760, the building we see today is the one in which the immigrants shared their faith and culture.

In 1758 the earliest recorded

service was held, conducted by Halifax Army Chaplain, the Rev. Slater; later that year Otho William Schwartz gave an interest-free loan to panel the walls and provide doors and chairs.

At Christmas in 1758, the first offering was taken, proof of a practising German Church in Halifax—the oldest surviving church in Canada in which the German



language was preached and sung. From the dedication on March 23, 1761, there was a schoolmaster who led the singing, read the sermon in case there was no clergyman and prepared the confirmation classes. The first confirmation took place on Trinity Sunday, 4th October 1761, when 17 members made a dedication of faith.

Lacking a constant pastor in their own faith, the German congregation was in part served by Anglican clergy, who learned some German; the German congregation becoming by imperceptible degrees a part of

Saint Paul's parish while remaining culturally different.

Surviving records show that in 1770 a Prussian book of homilies was presented and used for sermons. How important that must have been for this small group of Germans so far from their homeland. Small clues to what the church was doing during those early days show that in 1774 a German schoolmaster received 30 pence for opening the graveyard at adult funerals and two shillings for a child's burial. In 1778 Christian Metzler received 70 shillings 'for playing' though the type of instrument is not recorded.

After the end of the American Revolution, Hessian and other German soldiers settled in and around Halifax, further strengthening the local German population and congregation.

In 1786, the Reverend Bernhard Michael Houseal, formerly a Lutheran pastor in Maryland and New York, became the first resident pastor for the Church. He was a refined and educated religious leader who preached and led the German congregation until his death in 1799. Two years later the new Saint George's Round Church was opened and the Old Dutch Church was reduced to a schoolhouse.

In 1833 and 1834, the adult children of the former congregation renovated the building.

Until the 1890s, Dr. C.E. Cossman, Lutheran pastor from Lunenburg, travelled annually to Halifax to conduct services in German, but never again was the Little Church to house and comfort a congregation as it did for the first 50 years of its existence.

*President: Continued from page 2*  
party heading for the Fort asked if we could stop at the bare outline of the stone and frame house in which her mother grew up in the 1870s. Our leader, Gary Hilderman (one of those who dreamed up the Portage and Main restoration) agreed and assisted her to the doorway of her 'old home of all' as we say in Cape Breton, for a snapshot to be taken. Next, we  
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stopped at Saint Andrew's Church where this charming senior from the Peace River District sat down at the organ which her mother had played as a girl, and brought the church to life with *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Although Lower Fort Garry was closed for the season we toured the main residence and one of the big stone storehouses where piles of furs were, and still are, stored. But

pressure of time proved to be too much and we had to hurry back to the College for the Awards ceremony.

The Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, who is proudly Meti, gave a most articulate address—no padding, no cliches. His Award was won by the Manitoba Historical Society for the translation of 150 gravestones from Cyrillic into English

*Continued on page 8*

## Waverley Anglican churches

The church of Saint John Baptist at Waverley recently designated a heritage building (see report below) has had a lengthy history; summarized here by Annie (Blois) Smith of Waverley:

The Anglican Church in what is now the Waverley-Fall River area had its beginning after the

Parishes of Preston and Christ Church Dartmouth and Saint John's of Sackville were established in the early 1800s. The early missionary ministers came from these parishes, travelling by horse and wagon or sleigh, and sometimes by boat from Dartmouth, to service the outlying areas once a month.

Reverend Archibald Gray ministered to the Parish of Sackville, for 19 years from 1833-1852, during which time a great deal of church progress was made. He was responsible for having several churches erected, which extended the Parish of Sackville. Waverley and Fall River were the benefactors of his zealous ministry—Saint Thomas Chapel being one of these churches, when Philip and Lucy Miller, in December 1843, deeded property for the new church and grave yard at Fletchers Bridge. On Sunday, August 30, 1846, Saint Thomas Chapel was consecrated by Bishop John Inglis to flourish until 1912 as a Missionary Chapel serviced by the Parish of Sackville. A report published in March 1853 by Reverend Thomas Maynard's Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, is of interest.

In 1861, when gold was discovered in Waverley on the estate of Charles P. Allen, the chair manufacturer, mining companies soon moved in, causing a great increase in the village's population. It was during this gold rush that the Reverend Edward Gilpin, who was ministering at Saint Thomas, realized that another chapel should be erected near the mine diggings, as he felt the distance from Waverley to Fletchers Bridge at Fall River was too far for

the miners to walk on Sunday after a week of hard work in the mines. The new chapel became a reality in 1862 and on December 31st, 1865, Saint John Baptist Anglican Church at Waverley Gold District was consecrated by Bishop Hibbert Binney. An account of that special

event was written in subsequent reports.

Reverend E. Gilpin officiated at Saint John

Baptist from 1862-1866. An illustrious man from a long line of illustrious ancestors, his biography is also certainly worth reading. In 1848 he married Amelia, daughter of Mr. Justice Thomas Chandler Haliburton, creator of Sam Slick.

In 1873 the Reverend John Edgecombe worked faithfully among his people—a lay reader who was truly a servant of God. Missionary reports tell us what a wonderful man he was, being received with open

## Word from Waverley

### Waverley Heritage Museum designated

At a special ceremony on September 25, the former Saint John Baptist Anglican Church in Waverley was designated a municipal heritage property. It was a sunny, satisfying, wonderful day for Annie (Blois) Smith who received the illuminated scroll and unveiled the bronze plaque on the wall by the church door. The old church is now the home of the Waverley Historical Museum, development of which has been for many years a labour of love for Annie.

The Waverley Heritage Society began in 1979 as "The Heritage Society of District 14/17", when a number of concerned residents began compiling scrap-books and albums of the history of Waverley, and set up a small museum of records, artifacts and items of cultural and historical significance of the area. Many of the items were displayed in the home of Wallace and Annie Smith until 1991 when their house was demolished to make way for a new highway. That same year Saint John's was replaced by

arms in all parts of his mission. He was ordained in 1874. In 1893, Saint John Baptist Anglican Church was moved to its present site, a more central location—on property given to the church by Mr. B.C. Wilson. Then, in October, 1912, the Sackville Parish was divided, with Bedford, Waverley and Windsor Junction becoming a separate parish with Reverend G. Ambrose as Rector. Much research has been done on these three churches and their progress and growth is recorded in separate papers, now displayed in the museum for visitors to read.

Effective January 1st, 1967, the congregations of Saint John Waverley, Saint Stephen's Windsor Junction and Saint Margaret's Oakfield, were constituted a separate parish under the title Parish of Saint John's Waverley. In 1968 a rectory was built on Waverley Portobello Road.

By 1990 again the need arose for a new church—Waverley and Windsor Junction churches had

the new Saint Thomas Anglican Church in Fall River, and the Waverley Commission bought the old church to accommodate the Waverley Heritage Museum and the Village office. Choked with pride and emotion, Annie stammered her thanks and could only refer her audience to the refreshment table for punch, sandwiches and sweets.

The event was opened by the Waverley town crier, and guests included the Reverend Arthur Nash, the last minister to serve at Saint John Baptist, Francene Cosman, MLA for Dartmouth, representatives of heritage groups from Rockingham, Sackville, Bedford and Mainland South, the principal and vice-principal of Waverley L.C. Skerry School, and the local Girl Guide leader. Heritage Trust was represented by Joyce and Paul McCulloch and Allan Duffus and family. Waverley Village Commissioner Bill Lockhart described how the village acquired the building for the purpose of a museum and Village office.

# Trust tour of Parrsboro and area *By Mr. and Mrs. Quenet*

The direct route from Truro to Parrsboro was fortunately not taken by our competent tour director, Greg Munn, who had chosen the wonderful scenic road of Route 2, the Glooscap Trail, and the fall colourings were breathtakingly beautiful, to us outlanders at least. Driving through the small towns and

of business, Time Frame Photo, which was a Pandora's Box of unbelievable things relating to past times. Mr. Byers accompanied us aboard our small 'home on wheels' which took us to Ottawa House, home of former Prime Minister Sir Charles Tupper. Here we were treated to an outstanding seafood chowder lunch

for our visit and gave us a wonderful welcome.

From here we drove to Port Greville and were given a tour of the architect Keith Graham's home, a truly beautiful modern house. Here we were welcomed by Mr. Graham, and sister, Mrs. Bishop, regaled with a scrumptious tea. A very short drive took us to see their ancestral home, which is over 200 years old. It is still used by the extended Graham family during the summer months. We said good-bye to this kindly family, who genuinely invited us to visit them again.

From here we drove to the Age of Sail Heritage Centre, designed by Robert Parker Associates. In 1995 it received the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Built Heritage Award. This was a very interesting place with artifacts and work practices very skillfully exhibited. Here we thanked and said our farewells to Mr. Byers, who is also the curator of the museum.

We embarked on our bus and set out for Springhill to visit All Saint's Anglican church and hall, both designed by William Harris in the early 1890s, who was an expert in acoustics. The vicar and Greg Munn gave us a most interesting tour. The Ladies' Guild had prepared a delicious sandwich supper in the hall.

We rejoined our trusty bus for the journey home and arrived back after a memorable days outing. Congratulations Greg Munn on a finely organized tour which you ran in a constantly relaxed manner.

*Greg Munn thanks the Quenet's for writing this report, and also all those who attended and made the tour so enjoyable.*



*The tour group on the steps of Ottawa House*

villages was a treat, many of them surprisingly large and well kept, as were their lawns and gardens. The 'en route' juice and muffins served were a welcomed interlude.

On arrival at Parrsboro we were met by Conrad Byers, a local historian, who took us for a walk down Main Street and individualized the many ancient houses and other buildings. He took us into his place

which had been specially prepared for us. It really was delicious and it was followed by an Apple Crumb; very nice too.

Ottawa House, hopefully to be designated a National Historic Site, is spectacularly situated overlooking the Bay of Fundy and has furnishings of considerable interest. The people who looked after us at the house, led by Susan Nuttle, had specially opened it

ended their years of usefulness, due to their structure and larger congregations, and Reverend Arthur Nash, at that time minister of the Parish of Waverley, supported the idea of a new church. Like the Reverend Archibald Gray, the first minister of the first Saint Thomas, he worked with great zeal until the new church was a reality. His leadership

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and exertions to fulfil God's need will always be remembered. The sod turning took place on October 14, 1990. The new church was named Saint Thomas, the Parish of Fall River, and now includes Saint Margaret's of Oakfield.

Today Saint John Baptist Anglican is still making history. The Waverley Commission bought the building for a

village office and the church proper is now the Waverley Heritage Museum, with a church display commemorating the 130 years since its consecration in 1865.

## **Our new postal address:**

P.O. Box 36111,  
Halifax, N.S., B3J 3S9.

# Glug...er.....Glug!

by Doris Butters

Apart from being an inspired teacher, a distinguished author and a fine cook, Dr. Janina Konczacki is brimful of ideas for promoting the interests of Heritage Trust among its members and in the general community. She has organized information tables during Heritage Week in February, a raffle of beautiful flower water colours in the fall and is currently working on at least two future projects. Her most recent was a highly successful wine tasting party held on October 26, at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Lucjan Modzynski, a fellow Pole, sparked a thoroughly interesting evening with a light hearted approach to the subject of wine-tasting. Mr. Modzynski who was born and educated in Poland, spent a number of years in Italy acquainting himself with the wine-making industry, then, following a few years sojourn in England he came to Canada in 1979, to join the Peter Mielzynski Agencies Limited, importers of fine wines and spirits. In 1992 he was transferred to Halifax as the Appleton Jamaican Rum Brand Manager for the Atlantic Provinces, and is now an established and successful businessman...Mr.

Modzynski knows whereof he speaks!

The 68 participants took their four (plastic) wine glasses, found seats facing either the table of Nina's Polish poppyseed cakes and Polish charlotka or the one with the tantalizingly-concealed bottles of wine, and prepared for action by studying the 'tasting sheet' placed on their chairs.

Mr. Modzynski told us a little about the history of some of the different wines: the 'still' red or white table wines, the ports and sherries, the sparkling wines and champagnes; of how to read labels and the meaning of 'ageing'. While some reds benefit from storing, many of the white table wines need only be a year or two old to be at their best. He personally has put down for several years a bottle of a particular favourite red wine with which to celebrate his son's wedding. The lad is at present 15 years old! Fall and winter 'ice' wines were also mentioned.

After a little instruction on how to judge colour, aroma, body, taste and after-taste by taking a small amount of wine into the mouth and drawing it through the teeth while inhaling slowly, we got down to the business of the evening—sampling the four different wines on the table, two red and two white, and filling in the questionnaire, giving our opinion of each wine on a scale of 1-5. (Note: the recommended technique doesn't work with dentures, I nearly choked



trying to be professional) A few of the more wine-knowledgeable participants actually recognised one of the reds as Italian.

The bottles were then unveiled revealing one each of Italian and South African whites and reds. Not being a lover of red wine, I found the samples a bit too astringent leaving a sort of metallic after-taste. Of the white wines I found No 3, the Italian, more suited to my taste, it was light and crisp with a clean after-taste.... but then, I'm a non-expert.

Question-time followed, during which we learned that Beaujolais, a 'fall' wine will keep for a year or two, but is at its best during the first winter months after bottling. On the question of chilling: white wine requires an hour or so, while red only about 15 minutes before uncorking to allow the wine to 'breathe'.

Sampled were Donini Merlot Del

Piave Italian Red, Two Oceans Cabernet/Merlot South African Red, Donini Trebbiano Di Romagna Italian White and Two Oceans Sauvignon Blanc South African White. The rum was Appleton Estate VX 5-year old Jamaican.

Finally the 'serried ranks' of listeners, invited to partake of more wine and accompanying cake, broke up into animated groups, circulating to chat among themselves or ask more questions of Mr. Modzynski. To add the final touch he 'popped' bottles of champagne and his colleague, Mr. Thomas Gray offered us samples of two wonderful liqueurs. An Evening of Delight!

Our special thanks to Mr. Modzynski and Mr. Gray; Mount Saint Vincent students Shawn Miner, Ms. Webber and her husband Misha, who helped serve the wines, Bonita Price, who worked the Trust membership table, and of course to Nina herself and her faithful one-person committee, Joan Dawson. Whatever their future enterprises might be, Nina and Joan would certainly welcome some volunteer help.

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*President: continued from page 5* for the records of Polish and Ukrainian pioneers. The translating still goes on. The Gabrielle Leger Award went to John Woodworth of British Columbia for the proclamation of the 8.600 km Alexander MacKenzie Voyageur route. He had laboured for 20 years for the recognition of this vast route from Quebec City to British Columbia. He was a very modest man thanking everyone who had ever helped him. I spoke to him at the reception afterward. An extremely fit man of 80-odd, it was plain to all where the drive and inspiration come from.

A jam-packed but most rewarding visit. Looking back it seems the sun shone all the time, the Red and Assiniboine rivers sparkled and the friendly, energetic Manitobans were smiling. Thanks Trusters, it was a pleasure to represent you at this year's conference.

*The Griffin—Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*



# New light on African exploration

**Victorian Explorer: the African diaries of Captain William G. Stairs 1887-1892.**  
Nimbus Publishing, \$30.00.

Professor Janina M. Konczacki, recently retired from the Department of History at Mount Saint Vincent University, has for many years been fascinated with the career of a young Halifax-born soldier and Victorian explorer, Captain William G. Stairs (1863-1892), a scion of the well known Stairs family.

Stairs joined the British Army and served as a Lieutenant with the

volumes designed to add stature to his explorations in Africa. Fate denied Captain William Stairs a similar formal opportunity to claim his place in the history of African exploration.

Stairs, however, kept diaries; honest, straight forward accounts of his expeditions. These are extraordinary and enlightening records of his activities in Africa in



*Lieutenant Stairs wounded with an arrow. A contemporary illustration from Penny Illustrated Paper which is included in the book.*

Royal Engineers. Destiny was to lead him to Africa where he participated in two lengthy expeditions. In the first, he served as second-in-command to the legendary African explorer Henry M. Stanley in what was known as the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition (1887-89).

Less than two years later, after a visit to Halifax and a hero's welcome, Captain Stairs commanded an expedition known as the Katanga Expedition on behalf of a Belgian company into what is now the Congo State during 1891-92. Stairs secured the requested territory from the native leader but died shortly after of malaria at the tragically early age of 28. Henry Stanley lived to record his African experiences in two stout

the last decade of the 19th century when Victorian colonial enterprise was raising the curtain, for good or ill, on that dark continent.

Professor Konczacki spent 20 years in Africa and was thus able to bring to her investigation of Captain Stairs a relevant background of information and experience.

Yet, it is her painstaking assessment of the diaries themselves that is most remarkable. The notebooks in which Stairs recorded his observations of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition survived incredible adventures, water, lack of proper inks, and are now, in part, almost illegible. Dr. Konczacki has analysed and prepared a typed copy of these valuable documents. The original of

the Katanga diary has disappeared but Dr. Konczacki discovered a version in a rare magazine and added it to her records.

Meticulously researched and carefully annotated, Stairs' diaries probably bring their author as fully to life as now may be achieved. For this notable achievement we must be grateful to the patient and persistent scholar who made it possible. Nimbus Publishing of Halifax has provided an additional bonus by printing and presenting this product of Dr. Konczacki's scholarship in a well-illustrated, attractive format.

At this time in our history, when each new day brings some new, shrill dehumanizing tale to flesh out the hungry tabloids, our strength is renewed and our stature restored by those who patiently and skilfully recapture for us our roots and the lives and personalities of our forefathers as they made their pilgrimage, whether in Hammonds Plains or the distant Congo.

*Louis Collins*

## Competition Announcement

### Slides Wanted

The HTNS Projects Committee hopes to put together a collection of slides of heritage buildings of Nova Scotia. Please spend some time this winter sorting through your slides to see if you have any which you would allow us to copy, and perhaps sell as a fundraiser. A selection will be made from the slides submitted and prizes offered in various categories, including domestic, public and church architecture (interiors as well as exteriors), streetscapes and groups of buildings, or a selection of your own on a particular theme.

We would like to cover a wide geographical range. Your slides should be identified and as much background information as possible provided: date of construction, builder if known, ownership, etc. The competition is open to non-members. Please tell your photographer friends about it. Watch for more details in the next *Griffin*. The deadline will be some time in early spring.

# Heritage Trust 1995-96 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.

Thursday December 21, 1995

Speaker: Architect **Greg Munn**,  
Topic: William Harris and His Cape Breton City.  
Special Festive Refreshments!  
*Christmas Greetings ...and a Happy New Year!*

Thursday January 18, 1996

Speaker: **Jim Lotz**, author, and activist.  
Topic: Heritage and Local Development in Chemainus, British Columbia. The innovative plans to revitalize this area and the contribution of three Nova Scotia artists.

Thursday, February 15, 1996

Speaker: **Alan Ruffman**, President Geomarine Associates Ltd., Halifax.

Topic: The 1929 Earthquake and Tidal Wave: the South Coast Disaster (Newfoundland). The Grand Banks earthquake on Nov. 18, 1929, spawned a tsunami which registered as far afield as Charleston, South Carolina, the Azores and Portugal. Through Alan Ruffman's research we will learn more of this disaster.

Monday, February 19

*Heritage Day*

Thursday, March 21

Speaker: **Pamela Ritchie**, Associate Professor, Jewellery Department, NSCAD, has studied in Canada and Norway and done creative research in Norway, Japan and Thailand.  
Topic: Old and New Japan: a contrast in styles.

Thursday, April 18

Speaker: **Alex Wilson**, Curator of Botany, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.  
Topic: Heritage Gardens at Home and Abroad. Remarkable historic gardens and the plants which grow in them.

Thursday, May 16

Speaker: **Harold Pearce**, Associate Dean, Academic, NSCAD, co-author with Donald Souci, of the official history of the college: *The First 100 Years: A History of the N.S. College of Art and Design*.

Thursday, June 20

**Annual General Meeting**

## Events sponsored by other societies

*Costume Society of Nova Scotia*

Meets 7.30 pm **THIRD MONDAY** of the month, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675, Lower Water Street, Halifax, unless otherwise stated. Visitors welcome.

Monday, January 22, Note date change

Speaker: **Sheila Yeoman**, The history of women's riding habits.

Monday, February 19

Research papers from students in Dalhousie University's Costume Studies Program - **Marilyn McLaren**: Lace: Machine or Hand made?  
**Louise Harrington**: A 19th century Mantle from the Costume Museum's Collection.

Monday, March 18

Speaker: **Robert Doyle**, Director Costume Studies Program, Dalhousie University. Topic: Chinese Odyssey: Pursuing the Arts in China.

Saturday, April 27

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 11

Workshop.

*Maritime Museum of the Atlantic*

Saturday, December 2, 10.00 am

Making a Fisherman's Whisk. An ideal handcrafted Christmas gift. Museum volunteer Tracy Clarke teaches participants to make a splice and Turk's head. Details 424-7490.

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 pm

The Halifax Explosion. Join author **Janet Kitz** on the eve of the 78th anniversary of the explosion for an illustrated talk describing the events surrounding this tragedy.

Sunday, December 10, 2.30pm

**Celebrate Christmas at Sea** as Captain of a Nova Scotian square-rigged ship and his family might have done. Join staff and visitors for a festive afternoon making Victorian decorations, singing carols and sea shanties, trimming the sailors' Christmas tree and enjoying hot cider and cookies.

*Art Gallery of Nova Scotia*

Sunday, January 14, 1996

Closing date of Exhibit "Gothic

**Dreams: the Architecture of William Critchlow Harris 1854-1913"**, curated by Robert Tuck

*Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society*

Tuesday, December 12, 7.30 pm

Public Archives of Nova Scotia  
Speaker: **Barry Cahill**. Topic: "A Forerunner of J.B. McLachlan? "Sedition, Libel and Manipulating the Myth of Howe." For the society's January and February programs, please contact Peter Latta, 422-6286.

*Nova Scotia Poetry Society*

Meets the Third Saturday each month, 2 pm, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Contact: 423-5330.

*Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage*

The Federation's Training Sessions for Museum Personnel, continues in the new year -  
Friday and Saturday, February 23/24  
Theme: Care off Works of Art on Paper. Place: Acadian University Art

Gallery, Wolfville. For information or reservations, call Cathy Arseneau at 423-4677, or 1-800-355-6873.

### ***Dartmouth Historical Association***

**Thursday, December 7, 6:30 pm**

Dartmouth Senior Citizens Service Centre, Dartmouth. **Turkey Dinner** followed by a musical program "Prelude to Christmas".

Reservations: 463-6616.

**Thursday, February 8, 7.30 pm**

Dartmouth Museum. Speaker: **Dr. Richard Field**. Topic: "The New History Under Amalgamation".

### ***Kings Historical Society, Kentville***

**Sunday, December 3**

#### **Fifth Annual Homes Tour and**

**Yuletide Tea** - "The Twelve Days of

Christmas". Seven homes will be open from 2-6pm; Refreshments served from 3-6pm at the Old Kings Courthouse Museum, Kentville.

Adults: \$12.00; Children: \$6.00.

Reservations and further information: 902-678-6237 (slippers please).

### ***West Hants Historical Society***

**Windsor, NS.**

**Sunday, December 3. 1-4 pm**

#### **Christmas Home Tour and Tea.**

3-5pm - Tea at the Society's Museum, 281 King Street, Windsor. Tickets:

Adults: \$10.00; Children: \$6.00.

Reservations and Information 902-798-3241 (Slippers please)

### ***Yarmouth County Historical Society***

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, N.S.

Monthly meetings, first Fridays at 7.30 pm

**Saturday, December 9. 1-4 pm**

#### **Second Annual Christmas House**

**Tour and Yuletide Tea.** Tea served 2-5pm. Reservations : Advance: \$10.00; After December 8: \$12.00.

Reservations and information: Eric Ruff: 902-742-5539.

### ***Scott Manor House Bedford and***

**Bedford Heritage -80**

**February 18-24, 1996 - Heritage Week**

The two Bedford societies are planning a Joint program for Heritage Week 1996. Details available early in the new year from Nelson Kennedy: 835-3632. Bedford Heritage 80 regular monthly programs resume on March 23, 1996.

# Heritage news from around Nova Scotia

## **Milton Heritage Society**

Since early in May this year, Milton Heritage Society has had a new President, **Murray Kirkpatrick**, a man who loves history, is steeped in it and plans to bring history to life through the Milton society. For the last two years, under President Reverend Fred Gordon the group has conducted house tours of the local area, fairs, and fund-raising yard sales. Now Mr.Kirkpatrick hopes to move even farther ahead in developing the community of Milton to create an interesting place for people to visit.

Since its inception in 1987, the 104-strong heritage society has carried out several projects including turning the Blacksmith Shop into the village's first museum, and currently is in the process of preparing the Leslie House Museum.

Mr. Kirkpatrick—as an 'Army brat'—saw much of the United States while his father was in the service. He graduated a history major from university and later served in several administrative history-related positions in America. Since returning to Nova Scotia, he has lived in a home in Milton built by his great-great-grandfather in 1848. At one point he served as Vice-President of the Queens County Historical Society and was on the building committee which established the Queens County Museum. Now, as president of the Milton Heritage Society, he would like to solidify the financial foundation of the two museums—perhaps by some sort of endowment fund to secure long-term guaranteed funding for the museums. (well— 'if you don't have a dream you'll never have a dream come true' as the song says).

On Heritage Trust's next tour of the Liverpool area we should certainly include these two museums and perhaps see some of the old homes in the region

## **Friends of McNabs Island Society**

The Friends of McNabs are still involved with the status of McNabs

and Lawlor islands. As Heritage Trusters, do we have any convictions on such matters as to what kind of park we want on these two rather precious islands.....who will manage it.?.....how much and what kind of development is desirable?.....to what extent should the island environment be allowed to remain in its natural state?..what should be done to preserve the fortifications etc? And what role should government, private enterprise and volunteer groups, play?

What are **your** feelings about this historically-important treasure, within easy reach of the City, but periodically in danger of destruction? Look for the green-and-white pamphlet *McNabs Island: Park-in-the-Making* which details the historical as well as natural importance of the harbour islands.

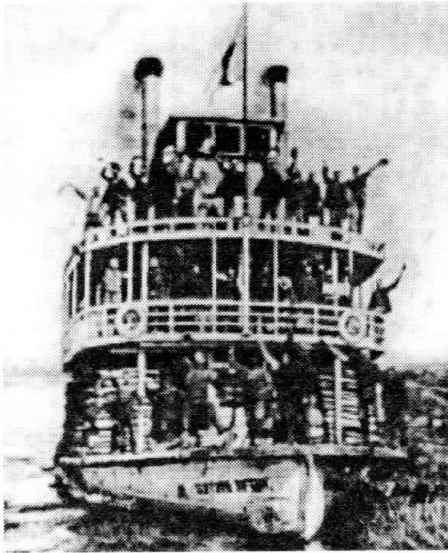
## **Mainland South Heritage Society calendar**

The 1996 Mainland South Heritage Society calendar is now on sale. Pictured are 12 historic photographs of the area from the Armdale Rotary to Sambro. The price is \$5.50 and it is available by calling 477-2234 or 477-7896. (Another idea for a Christmas gift?). Some calendars for previous years are still available for anyone interested in the pictorial content for their memorabilia file.

## **Acadian museum annex opened**

On August 10, squinting in the bright sunshine, over 160 people attended the official opening of the Acadian Museum's new annex in West Pubnico. Although the annex has been in use since the fall of 1994, the official opening celebration was saved for the week of Pubnico's Annual Acadian Festival. The museum, established in a house built over 130 years ago, is set up like a traditional Acadian home of the 19th century. The new addition enables West Pubnico Historical Society to exhibit many more artifacts, including the extensive collection of

*Continued on page 16*



The river steamer Clifford Sifton after running the White Horse Rapids en route from Alaska to the Yukon Territory in 1899. See comment on Yarmouth County Museum publications.

## The bookrack

The magazine and newsletters coming in from various sources are — as usual — available to anyone who cares to come into the Heritage Trust office on Barrington Street and browse.

One particularly interesting magazine is that of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC); its September issue contains among other interesting articles a review of a book by Carolyn A. Young on *The Glory of Ottawa: Canada's First Parliament Buildings*. There is also a 4-page insert of a new publication, *Bulletin*, put out by the Canada-UK Architecture Group British Association for Canadian Studies. A mouthful, that; but the newsletter does contain some very interesting items on the close association developing between the two countries, which includes lecture tours, exhibitions and festivals.

Yarmouth County Historical Society's September *Historigram* details their past season's activities and special events which included a two hour visit by Lieut-Governor James and Mrs. Kinley.

The Society's fall travelogue series which started in November with 'a trip to Greece', continues in December with 'a visit to the Holy Land' presented by Marilyn Burns.

## Mail Box

Dear Editor

May I have a few lines in *The Griffin* to thank Heritage Trust members for their kindness during my recent illness. Their beautiful aster plant, their visits, notes and calls, helped make up for missing so much of the summer.

Congratulations on the wonderfully interesting and attractive September *Griffin*.

Sincerely,

**Maud Godfrey**

Halifax.

Dear Editor

I was much interested in the account by Daphne Tucker Faulkner, of a visit to Haddo House. I was disappointed, though, that there was no reference to the National Council of Women which Lady Aberdeen founded and of which she was first Vice-President. It was due to her efforts that Local Councils of Women were established across Canada. This she was able to do as she accompanied her husband on his vice-regal tours.

When the Local Council of Women, Halifax, was instituted in Government House on August 30, 1894, Lady Aberdeen was present.

For those interested in Lady

Aberdeen, I would recommend a biography, *'Ishbel and the Empire'* by Doris French. Lady Aberdeen was a fascinating and remarkable woman who worked determinedly for political and social reform.

**Marjorie MacLeod**

Halifax.

*A further comment on the Haddo House item in the Fall Griffin, from Scott Robson, Curator of History Collection, Nova Scotia Museum Services Division, Halifax*

Dear Editor,

...Daphne Tucker Faulkner tells about the Haddo House china. Marie Elwood (while Chief Curator at the NSM) wrote an article about the state dinner service, so we have been familiar with it for many years. In fact, we have a piece intended for the service, but slightly flawed, which we got from Mrs. Hagen herself. Egan looks like a typo, but she was born Alice Mary Egan (daughter of Thomas J. and Margaret Egan, Halifax), and only became Mrs. Hagen, when she married in 1901, after the service was painted.

**Scott Robson**

Halifax.,

The sale of raffle tickets for Margaret Chipman's painting "Flowers" is going well (I have a book of tickets if anyone is interested before the December 9th draw).

Currently the museum is working on the records of Yarmouth area cemeteries and the cataloguing of headstones. A reprint of an article from *Antiques* offering advice on the use of archives is illustrated by a wonderful picture of a three-decker river steamer, the *Clifford Sifton*, overloaded with stacks of lumber and wildly waving passengers.

**Deadline for the next issue of Griffin is**

**February 1, 1996**

## Congratulations

Betty Pacey's wonderful book *Landmarks* has been named winner of the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Award.

Betty is the author of eight books on architecture and the landmarks of Nova Scotia and this latest one—to quote from the Chronicle-Herald of September 22—"breathes life into the old buildings by writing about the personalities of the people involved."

However, we should not forget the fine work of photographer Alvin Comiter and the layout design by Trust member Arthur Carter. Congratulations to all three.

*Landmarks* would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

# The Acadian Dykelands *by Doris Butters*

Trust members were treated to a rather unusual presentation at the regular monthly meeting on October 19, when Roseline LeBlanc from West Pubnico spoke to us on "a small section of our culture" — the dykelands of Acadia. The talk was illustrated by slides prepared by her brother, Maurice.

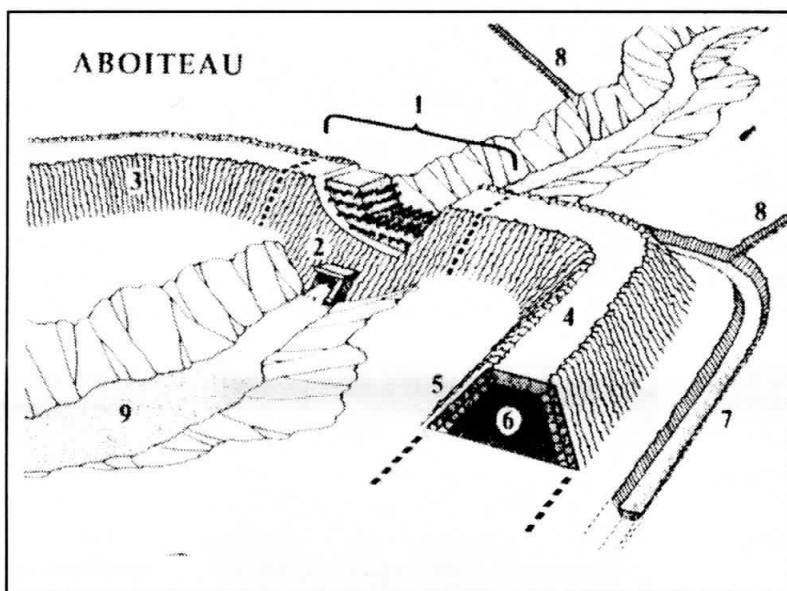
Dyking was developed towards the middle of the 17th century, by workers on the 'salterns' of Saintonge, in southwest France. The family-name 'Saulnier' originates from the saltern workers who were known as 'sauniers'. In 1636, French settlers dyked and drained a few acres of saltmarsh along Baie Française (today the Bay of Fundy), to discover that the marsh produced crops without fertilizer.

The complete system of dykes and the sluice should properly be called 'aboiteau', though today we use the word only for the sluice. The word aboiteau is not in any French dictionary, but does have a place in Pascal Poirer's "*Le Glossaire Acadien*", which deals with Acadian expressions and their definitions. In 1634, Randle Cotgrove, a contemporary of De Monts (a native of Saintonge, and the founder of Port Royal) states in his dictionary: "Abbée: a hold or overture for the passage of part of a stream that's held in by a dam or sluice." The residents of Saintonge area, noted for its saltmarshes, also used the expression 'Abbat-eau' — to suppress water. The word 'dyke' itself comes from the Dutch 'Dijc' - in French: 'digue'.

The technique used for constructing the aboiteau we owe to a man called Diereville who spent a year in Acadie from October 13, 1699 to October 6, 1700. Little is known about him other than that he was a native of Pont-l'Évêque in

Normandie, probably born in the mid-1600s, and although we don't even know his first name we know from his diary "*Voyage a l'Acadie 1699-1700*" that one of his missions was to select rare plants for the royal garden.

In Acadie, Diereville became very interested in how the Acadians worked to prevent seawater from flooding the marshes... "Five or six rows of large logs are driven whole into the ground at the points where the tide enters the marsh and between each row other logs are laid, one on top of the other, and all spaces



between them are carefully filled with well-pounded clay so that the water can no longer get through. In the centre of this construction, a sluice is contrived in such a manner that the water on the marshes flows out of its own accord, while that of the sea is prevented from coming in." At low tide a clapper valve (wooden gate) opens seaward to let out fresh water from the streams and drains behind the dyke and is forced closed by the incoming tide, to keep out the salt water. According to Diereville it takes two or three years to wash out the marsh (on a dyke hike I was told seven years, - Ed.) The sluice, a tunnel crossing the dyke, was built from a hollowed log until sawmills appeared, when squared timbers were used. Set 18 to 24 inches apart they were joined by boards at top

and bottom, and attached to the plank with wooden pegs which had a longer life than metal nails. When sawn timber came into use the aboiteau was made of soft wood, usually pine or larch, and the clapper door of maple or cherry. Two rounded-off horns resting in grooves on the top of the trough, acted as hinges. Shoulder-like grooves on the inside of each plank, cut on a 45° angle facing the sea, kept the clapper door closed while the tide came in, and opened to empty the marsh of fresh water when the tide receded. An important tool was a dyke spade;

long and narrow, it was used to cut ditches around the dyke and also the brick-sized sods used to cover the dyke.

The original Acadian aboiteaux were located around Minas Basin, at Port Royal, Grand Pre, Pisiquid (Windsor) and other villages, and on the border of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the Tantramar marsh. In the early days of the colony, Acadians were farmers - the aboiteaux a significant part of their culture, but during the 19th and 20th centuries they gradually

switched to the sea for their livelihood. Prior to 1948 the dykelands faced crisis after crisis, until the Maritime Marshlands Act was passed in 1948, and with federal and provincial help 327 aboiteaux were built or reconstructed by 1955.

## West Pubnico's Aboiteau

Roseline told us also of West Pubnico's own find. In the summer of 1990, while taking a walk on the marsh behind their home, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert d'Entremont of West Pubnico noticed the tips of two beams or planks made visible by erosion. The particular spot is known locally as "Les Isles de Grave", or Gravel Islands—two islands separated by a long stretch of marsh, and easily reached on foot at low

*Continued on page 14*

# The Windsor 'Greenway' and HTNS

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has a real interest in the new "Greenway" proposed for Windsor. The Town of Windsor has already started work on this planned nine kilometre hiking and heritage trail.

The trail will begin at Fort Edward, take in the Haliburton and Shand Houses, a riverside walk along the Avon, then pass close to the senior citizens development. It will terminate with a loop at the edge of the Trust's property, Richmond Hill Farm.

A wonderful idea! But...there are some "what ifs..."

A walk alongside the Avon for hikers, photographers, ramblers,

skiers etc. is fine, but what if skidoers decide to use the trail...what if ATV's tear along it...what if they decide to short cut back to College Road by running through the Seniors' grounds or across the Richmond Hill Farm property when our tenants are not there... and who keeps the riverside section clear of garbage?

At this point, for Heritage Trust a major concern is, just how much of our Richmond Hill property will be taken up by the loop at the end of the trail. The Trust is of course keeping in touch with the Town of Windsor with a view to settling these rather worrisome points amicably.

## In Memoriam

We regret to hear of the passing of two of Heritage Trust's long-time members, and extend our sympathy and condolences to their families and friends.

**Danella MacKay** who had been in poor health for some time, died on the 20th October.

**Elsie Fiske**, wife of Mr. Ray Fiske, passed away very suddenly on November 13.

Both of these ladies were well-known for their activities in the community, and will be sadly missed.

*Dykelands: Continued from page 13*  
tide. Four years later a group of interested people decided to uncover the whole thing. They found two 2"x 4" beams about 12 feet long lying about one foot apart, and covered under and over with boards. It looked like a drain as water from the marsh was flowing eastward through it continuously. Could it be an aboiteau? According to its position, the marsh did not seem an appropriate place for an aboiteau, there being no visible dykes. However, a little careful exploratory digging showed posts emerging from the ground, lined upon each side of the drain opening, which could have been reinforcement for a dyke or as a protector at the opening of the sluice.

Dr. Yves Cormier of the Université Sainte Anne, who had published his master's thesis, (*"Les Aboiteaux en Acadie"*) on the dykelands of Acadie, was invited to visit the site, and in January of this year examined the find and concluded that it was indeed an aboiteau and could be very old. It is built of wood, the boards fastened with wooden pegs, but with traces of metal nails as well, so cannot be as old as the original aboiteaux made from hollowed logs. It does appear to pre-date the Expulsion and if this is so, it could throw a little light on the way of life of the early settlers of

Pubnico. There is neither oral tradition nor documentation of the existence of aboiteaux in this area. A couple of significant details certainly point to its authenticity—the depressions on both planks near the opening, where the clapper door would have been, and the shoulders which served as stoppers to the clapper door.

Roselyne said that they are very anxious to remove their find from the site before it disintegrates further, but to preserve it, treatment must be started immediately on exposure to the air. The reason for its preservation up to now is that over the centuries the covering of wet soil excluded all oxygen. For the time being it is covered with plastic, gravel and stones to prevent it from disappearing should there be a severe storm accompanied by high tides.

Earlier this year Gabrielle Veri of Heritage Canada was contacted and brought in Larry Brown from Parks Canada. Both suggested getting in touch with archaeologist Brian Preston of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, since the aboiteau must first be seen by the province of Nova Scotia. The next step was to contact Bob Barclay of the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) in Ottawa, who showed great interest in the find and planned to include Pubnico during a prospective visit to

Nova Scotia in April. But—you know how it is—G7 got in the way and the trip was postponed until September.

The file has been handed to Judy Logan, Conservator of CCI, who has been advising Roseline's brother Maurice, and Teddy d'Eon, concerning the treatment of their find once it is removed from the site. Early in October Judy Logan and Nova Scotia Museum archaeologist Steve Powell saw the aboiteau to discuss the necessary procedure: a qualified archaeologist must supervise the removal, and a container, the size of the sluice, has to be built to hold the preservative solution in which the artifact must remain for one or two years. After that—with luck—their precious discovery will be put in Pubnico's local museum.

When Roseline mentioned that a few days after the presentation, a conservator and an archaeologist were expected in Pubnico to supervise the removal of the aboiteau for preservation, someone in the audience voiced a plea not to allow Ottawa to take away the artifact to work on it... "Remember the painted room". Roseline reassured us that the aboiteau would stay in Pubnico - a tank of sufficient size had already been constructed in a neighbour's garage, and was ready for use.

# Pitmedden Gardens, Scotland By Daphne Tucker Faulkner

According to the the carved lintel 'Fundat 2 May 1675' and the initials above the doorway, Pitmedden Gardens, 14 miles north of Aberdeen, began with Sir Alexander Seton and wife Dame Margaret Lauder.

The art of gardening was slow to establish itself in Scotland as compared to England and Europe, but by the late 17th century and the Restoration of Charles II, new ideas came from France. The first real Scottish gardening book, described as 'the best gardening practises for the Scottish climate' was *The Scots Gardener*, 1863, by John Reid. Seton may have been influenced by the elaborate walled and well laid out gardens of his childhood in East Lothian and by the architect Sir William Bruce, a leader in revolutionary garden designs.

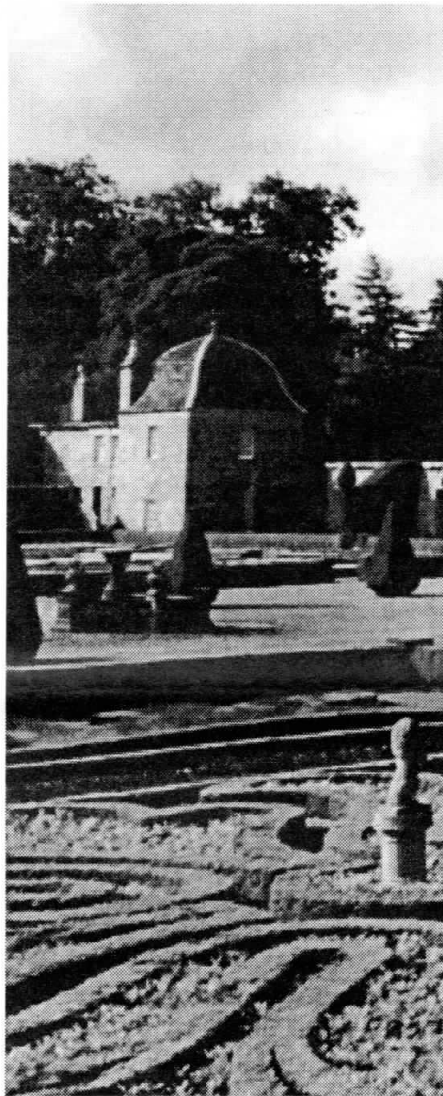
A fire in 1818 destroyed the Seton family home and probably any plans there may have been of the original garden but evidence remained to show that it had a terraced upper and lower section, with a high retaining wall surmounted on two sides by a waist-high parapet for viewing the lower section, and a garden pavilion at either end of the wall.

During the early half of the 20th century, Alexander and James Keith developed a garden within the older lower section and when the National Trust for Scotland took over the property from Major James Keith in 1952, there was a great working market garden. When the Trust decided to restore this lower garden to what it may have been in the late 17th century they used as a model, on the suggestion of Dr. James Richardson, Inspector of Ancient Monuments in the Ministry of Works, plans from the 1647 drawings of the City of Edinburgh by James Gordon, as if viewed from above. They chose three gardens from the Palace of Holyroodhouse, but the planners, mindful of the viewing public, incorporated 19th century features such as densely planted annuals within the main parterre and herbaceous perennials along one of the borders to add all-season interest.

The high stone walls support the

espalier on which to train the fruit trees and the blooms on these fan-trained trees were lovely in the May sunshine and presented well for beautiful pictures.

The Trust built a new fountain in



Looking across the lion parterre

the upper garden from which the water feeds into the font in the Great Garden at the base of the steps between. Another fountain was built as a focal point in the Great Garden. Incorporated in its construction are large sculptured stones which at one time formed part of the fountain by Robert Mylne at Linlithgow built to commemorate the Restoration of Charles II, which we saw on a previous trip. Around the fountain there is 'split pebble pavement', long out of use but the skill remains. Pebbles from the Dee were used by

the estate mason to a design which would have been used in the Setons' time.

The garden is marked out in four large rectangular parterres, each outlined by boxwood hedges with turf paths between. Of the three taken from the 1647 designs from Holyroodhouse, one depicts the legend 'Tempus fugit' in the centre of which is a sundial believed to be of the same vintage as the original garden. The fourth parterre designed as a tribute to Alexander Seton, depicts his coat of arms with Scottish emblems, the thistle and the saltire as in St. Andrew's Cross in opposite corners.

In 1993, a five-year plan was begun to build two new parterre gardens in the upper terrace between the house and the Great Garden. The plans have been taken from the 1647 drawings of the garden in front of the George Heriot's School behind Edinburgh Castle, and are consistent with those of the Great Garden. The southern parterre has already been marked out with pegs and string, the turf removed, the soil prepared and several thousand boxwood hedge plants outline herbs such as lavender, rosemary and thyme, along with gooseberry bushes, plants known to have been grown in the 1600s, and coloured stones. The second parterre of identical design will be filled with coloured stones without foliage plants, to illustrate an even earlier type of parterre or knot garden—thus one will be able to trace the evolution of the parterre from the use of coloured stones through the 17th century use of foliage plants, to the Great Garden.

Forty thousand annual plants, grown in their glasshouses and frames, and four miles of boxwood hedges are used, but the plan is to gradually replace annuals with perennials to provide more season-long colour, especially in the spring.

The gardens are not only beautiful but are spectacular in their symmetry and colour, viewed from any angle.

The history of farming, going back many generation on this farm, augmented by a lifetime collection of

*Continued on page 17*

### **Other Societies: from page 11**

cameras donated by the late Bernard d'Entremont; part of historian Father Clarence d'Entremont's library, and the first printing press of Pubnico's French weekly *Le Courier de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*. (Aside...the press, a massive affair, had been stored for several years in Maurice LeBlanc's shed, and when first carried in had gone through the wooden floor, so that a new concrete floor had to be laid to hold the press until a home could be found for it. DEB).

The first floor of the annex has been named 'La Salle de Blanche d'Entremont', in recognition of her generous contribution of \$32,000 towards the museum. The old lady herself left her nursing home in West Pubnico to attend the opening, and sat in a car in the shade, touched and tearful as the dedication was made.

### **Bridgewater Heritage and Historical Society**

Because many of Bridgewater's historic sites have already been lost, and much of the riverfront spoilt by commercialism, Bridgewater Heritage and Historical Society (BH&HS) is trying to secure the preservation of a small area of historical significance along the LaHave River between Aberdeen Road and LaHave Street. An application before Council to rezone from Residential to Commercial is being vigorously challenged by the Society, which would like to see the row of old buildings restored, and to landscape the riverfront into a park, extending the existing riverfront walkway behind the Toronto Dominion Bank to the south, and tied to the proposed 'Rails to Trails' initiative to the north. And if possible to relocate the bandstand from Riverfront Park to this area.

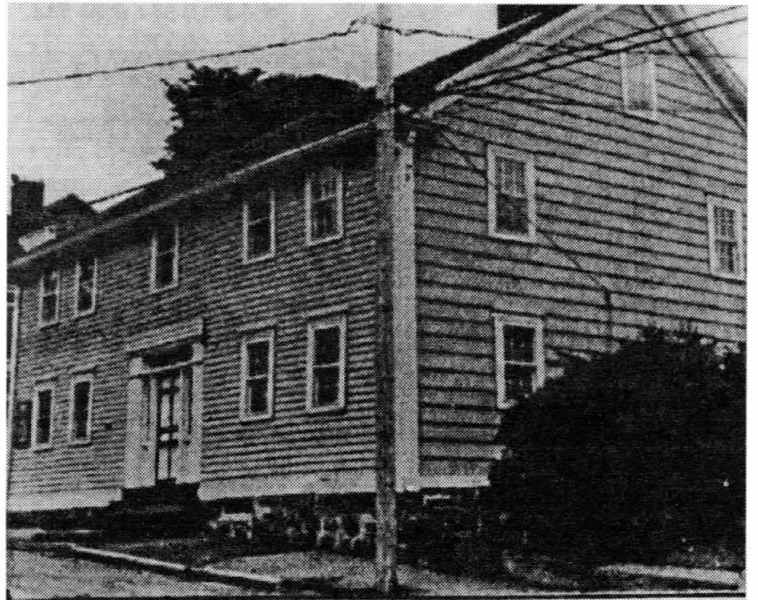
The buildings the Society would like to see restored and preserved are: No. 525, b.1899, once the home of the second Mayor of Bridgewater, E.D. Davison, who was also head of the largest lumber business in the province; No. 529, b.1852, the home of Jacob Wentzell, a wheelwright who ran a carriage factory; and No. 553, built in the late 1700s for John Bolman the surgeon, later the home

### **The Solomon House**

Lunenburg's 231-year-old Solomon House, 69 Townsend Street, has been bought and will stay on site as the home of Basil and Mary Brownless.

In July, Leslie

Langille, who owned and loved the old place was planning to move it to the Annapolis Valley. Because it had been on the market for four years without a buyer, Mr. Langille felt that rather than see it turned into a block of flats he would move the house to a place where it could be cherished. Lunenburg Heritage Society would have liked to purchase this municipally designated heritage property as a home for the society and a museum, but felt they could not commit themselves to purchasing the house at even the reduced price of \$125,000. But, in the nick of time came 'the cavalry' in the form of the Brownlesses, a retired couple who earlier fought to have the house saved for a museum; but who, after



*The Solomon House, Lunenburg*

15 moves in 41 years of marriage, had "no intention of buying another house."

The house, built in 1764 and named for former owner, Judge George T. Solomon, is a fine example of the late Georgian period of architecture. It is in good condition though needing some work on the roof and chimneys. In fact a main obstacle to moving the house had been its eight fireplaces and the old-fashioned bake oven, which from the photograph all appear to converge in one large chimney. One condition of the sale is that Mrs. Brownless, a well-known watercolour artist, paint a small watercolour of the house for Mr. Langille. (culled from *Lunenburg's Progress-Enterprise* dated July 26 and August 30, 1995.)

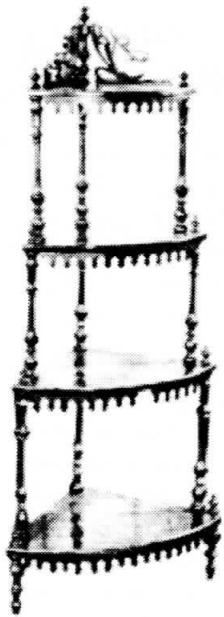
of the Ramey family, and the oldest still-inhabited home in the area.

In a submission to Council in January 1995, on the future use of land along the LaHave River, the BH&HS detailed the history of the area, its aims and recommendations and asked that discussion with the public should take place before Council commits itself to rezoning and the destruction of the buildings.

In May this year, following a Heritage Trust Board meeting held in Bridgewater, Joyce McCulloch and several Board members were taken by Mr. Douglas Burgess of BH&HS

on a 'walkabout' of the area. They visited King Street Court Park where a bandstand was erected five years ago, but is seldom used for concerts, the Post Office site, the park-like strip behind the Toronto Dominion Bank and the old houses themselves. They heartily endorsed the Bridgewater group's efforts to restore as much as possible of this historically significant area and the land along the LaHave River; in particular No. 553 should be saved for posterity and developed as a cultural centre and tourist attraction. And now, of course, the long wait for Council's decision.





## From the whatnot shelf

### The Fort Anne heritage tapestry

Have you yet seen the four-panel heritage tapestry in Fort Anne? It is beautiful!

Conceived as a Centennial Project for Parks in 1985, it became a reality in 1988. More than 100 volunteers—men, women and children—learned how to do the basic diagonal tent, or basket weave, stitch, with over 35 other decorative stitches added as the work progressed. A variety of threads were used and to enhance the figures were added minute scraps of fabric including organdy, ultra suede, leather, pearls, handmade bobbin lace, gold braid and ribbon, gold kid leather, beads, tassels, metallic

threads, pewter buttons, tufts of wool, even small porcupine quills. A local weaver wove in the fabric of her ancestor who appears in one of the scenes; tiny linen shirts were cut out and quilted; and together with bobbin lace made in the community, were applied to the appropriate figures. Local Mi'qmacs stitched the native scenes incorporating birch bark and the porcupine quills.

Four centuries of history were researched and photos, maps, drawings and descriptions collected. After the historical accuracy of the images was verified, artist Kiyoko Grenier-Sago of Shelburne County, winner of the competition held through Visual Arts Nova Scotia, was commissioned to paint the design, square by square, upon the canvas. Even H.M. Queen Elizabeth, during her recent visit, was persuaded to put a few gold stitches into Queen Anne's collar.

On your next visit to Annapolis Royal, do go and see this amazing work of art—no words of mine can accurately describe it. -Ed

### Great Village church designated

Saint James United Church in Great Village has been designated a provincial heritage property. Built in 1883, the church was recognized for its association with Presbyterian history in Old Londonderry Township and for its architectural significance as a Gothic Revival building designed by Nova Scotia

architect James Dumaresq. Great Village was once a thriving shipbuilding centre, and the timber roof provides a living example of this heritage. (From *Heritage Canada's 'Press Clippings'*)

### Blueberry flan recipe

A report on the Parrsboro tour appears on page X. President Joyce McCulloch so enjoyed the blueberry flan at Keith Graham's home, she felt wanted to share it. So here it is.

Crust:

1-1/2 cups flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup butter;  
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 egg  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract.

Berry Filling:

5 cups blueberries  
2 teasp. Grand Marnier (or Amaretto)  
4 teasp. tapioca (more or less, depending on the freshness of the berries)  
1 teaspoon grated lemon or orange rind.

Topping:

2 cups sour cream (can use 'light')  
2 egg yolks  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract.

Method: Put mixture in a 10-11" spring-form pan. **Bake** at 350 F. for 50 minutes at mid-level in oven (too high and topping will burn).



## Gift-giving time again



Someone you forgot? Need a last-minute Gift? A stocking-stuffer? What about a year's membership in the Trust? Or one of our neat little lapel pins at \$5.00 each? We still have a stock of Heritage Trust publications for sale at very reasonable prices at 1588 Barrington Street.

*An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings in Nova Scotia* \$14.95  
*Lakes, Salt Marshes and the Narrow Green Strip* \$8.95  
*A Sense of Place (Granville Street)* \$4.95  
*West House, Brunswick Street* \$7.95  
*Rogers' Photographic Advertising*

*Album, Halifax, 1871* \$5.00  
*Researching a Heritage Building* \$4.95  
*Prince and Hollis Buildings* \$4.95  
For the children, with perhaps the addition of a paint or crayon set:  
*Nova Scotia Heritage Colouring Book* \$2.95

(AND... if our Publications Chair—Arthur Carter—could get a little assistance in researching old buildings in Cumberland County, he would be well on the way to adding to the list, Volume 3 of *Seasoned Timbers*.

Elizabeth Pacey's "Landmarks" - at \$30.00 plus tax - is available at

most book outlets in the area. ...as in Janina Konczacki's "Victorian Explorer: The African Diaries of Captain William G. Stairs, 1887-1892", \$19.95 plus tax. This book is reviewed on page nine by Civic Historian, Dr. Louis Collins.

**HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**Note our new postal address:**

P.O. Box 36111  
Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
B3J 3S9.



# Books for Christmas



## Quilts

*Old Nova Scotian Quilts* by Scott Robson and Sharon MacDonald is now available at the Nova Scotia Museum and should be in local bookstores before Christmas. Of 112 pages, with over 75 colour plates, many black-and-white photos and diagrams, an index, and extensive bibliography, this softcover book retails at \$24.95.

Board members Arthur Carter designed the layout and the Nova Scotia Museum and Nimbus Publishing co-published it. This is the first time anyone has done documentary research on quilting in Nova Scotia... as Scott says: "We searched newspapers, diaries, inventories, etc; the earliest reference dated from the mid-1700s. The oldest quilts in Nova Scotia Museum date to about 1810.

Included are wonderful examples of the major types made here—pieced, log cabin, silk and crazy, wholecloth, applique quilts..." Of further interest, the book refers to aspects of women's history, community history, the Red Cross, Women's Institute, etc.

## McNab's Island

*Discover McNab's Island*, the long-awaited guide to McNab's was launched at a brief ceremony during the Atlantic Earth Festival on August 20, at the Garrison Grounds. Self-published by the Friends of McNab's Island Society, this neat, pocket-sized book deals with the flora and fauna of McNab's and Lawlors islands, military and literary history, and suggestions for historical as well as

nature outings. It includes a removable folding map. Price \$9.95 through The Bookroom and other local bookstores.

## Rural development

*New Life for Rural Regions* published by Heritage Canada tackles rural development issues. Rural Canada is facing growing uncertainties in natural resource industries, changing market demands and global competition, increasing urbanization, rural depopulation and city sprawl into the countryside, Using heritage as a catalyst for rural regeneration, this publication shows how rural communities are achieving solutions. The book is available at \$25.00 copy including shipping, handling and taxes, from Heritage Canada, P.O. Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5R4

## Archaeology for the young

*Discovering Archaeology - An Activity Book for Young Nova Scotians*. Published by the Nova Scotia Archaeological Society, this book is designed to entertain and instruct. A hands-on look at archaeology, it includes 18 illustrated activities, artifact match-ups, quizzes, a word search, a crossword puzzle and a maze. Children learn about permits, and are even asked to fill in a site report and record artifacts as they are found layer-by-layer in a flip-up paper grid. Archaeological terms are explained in the simple text which joins the related activities. Eight Nova Scotian archaeological sites are featured in small locator maps. Not only for children, but for educators

and anyone interested in Nova Scotia's rich archaeological heritage. Price \$6.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling, from the N.S. Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 36090, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S9

## Hammonds Plains

*Hammonds Plains: the First 100 Years.* - This is a carefully researched labour of love about her home community by retired primary teacher Dorothy Bezanson Evans. A well-crafted historical and sociological documentation of the founders and founding years of a small community. That story might well have disappeared as plans for amalgamation and the winds of change begin to excite our elected representatives. To purchase, call Mrs. Evans herself at 455-5327.



**Christmas Cards**  
 Packet of 10 cards for \$8  
 Contact the Restoration Office  
 425-3658  
 If nobody is available, leave your name, telephone number and order on the answering machine.

## Pitmedden

*continued from page 15*  
 agricultural as well as domestic artefacts of Mr. William Cook of Little Meldrum, given in 1977, and items donated from all over Scotland make for interesting viewing in the Museum of Farming Life at Pitmedden, and is a story in itself.

## TRUST OFFICE HOURS:

Monday	2:00 to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	1.00 to 3.00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 12-noon
Thursday	2.00 to 4.00 pm

**Answering Machine—Anytime—423-4807**

### Heritage Calendar

December 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 pm Yarmouth CHS Xmas Party	2 10 am Maritime Museum "...Knots"
3 pm KHS Kentville Xmas tour and tea 1-4: WHNSD Windsor/Fal. house tour/tea	4	5 7:30 pm Maritime Mus. Halifax Explosion	6	7 6:30 pm D'mouth Sen. Cit.CSC Dinner	8 Exhibition opens. Dartmouth HM, Sue Patterson	9 1-4 pm, Ymouth CHS Xmas house tour/ tea
10 2:30 pm Maritime Mus. Xmas at Sea	11	12 12:45 pm, AGNS Lou Collins "W.C. Harris" 7:30 pm, PANS RNSHS "Sedition"	13	14	15	16 2 pm NSM NS Poetry Soc.
17	18	19	20	21 8 pm HTNS Wm. Harris Cape Breton, Greg Munn	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

31

### Heritage Calendar

January 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Exhibition closing. AGNS Gothic Dreams	15	16	17	18 8 pm, HTNS Jim Lotz	19	20 2 pm N.S. Poetry Society NSM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

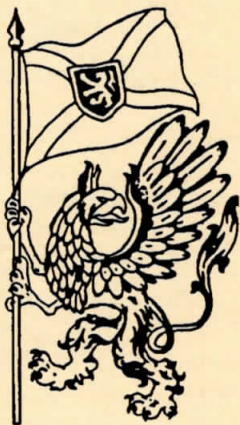
# Heritage Calendar

February 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 7:30 pm Dmth Museum DHA, R. Field	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 8 pm HTNS Alan Ruffman	16	17 2 pm NSM N.S. Poetry Society
18	HERITAGE 19 DAY Bedford and Heritage 80 Scott MHF	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Abbreviations used in this calendar

AGNS	Art Gallery of Nova Scotia	MMA	Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
CHHF	Cole Harbour Heritage Farm	MSSH	Maintland South heritage society
CSNS	Costume Society of Nova Scotia	NSMNH	Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History
DHM	Dartmouth Heritage Museum	NSPS	Nova Scotia Poetry Society
DHA	Dartmouth Heritage Association	PANS	Public Archives of Nova Scotia
FSF	First Sackville Foundation	RNSHS	Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
FMcNIS	Friends of McNab's Island Society	RHS	Rockingham Heritage Society
KHS/OKCHM	Kings Historical Society/Old Kings Courthouse Heritage Museum	SCC	Shubenacadie Canal Commission
MBFS&SM	Mahone Bay Founders' Soc. and Settlers' Mus.	YCHS	Yarmouth County Historical Society



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