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The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Trust members assure future of Fernbank



Fernbank, 1997. Anne West photo.

Heritage Trust members, heritage fighters and all-round good guys, Elizabeth and Philip Pacey have purchased *Fernbank*, a beautiful Second Empire mansion at 2730 Gottingen Street. The property, which is opposite Admiralty House, was previously owned by the Department of National Defence.

Betty explains that: "The house was built in 1878 for J. Wesley Smith, a lay Methodist missionary and merchant in the city". Smith provided the funds to build the J. Wesley Smith Methodist/United Church on Robie Street.

Betty and Phil have many ideas for *Fernbank*, which needs work both outside and inside. However, in addition to refurbishing and finding new uses for this beautiful building, Betty says, "I am going to sit in the tower and keep watch". As an early member of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, author of many books on built heritage and long time watchdog for threatened historic buildings around Nova Scotia, we know that Betty, who is currently the Nova Scotia member of the Board of Governors of the Heritage Canada Foundation, will certainly keep this promise.

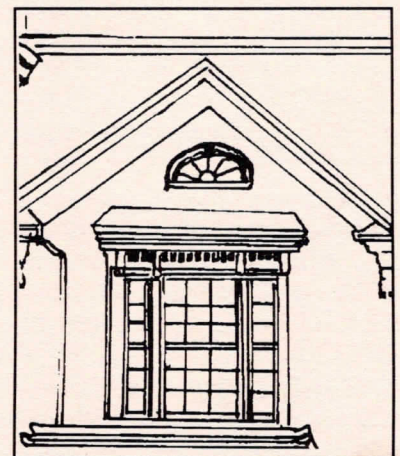
Forman-Uniacke House endangered

Another building that would welcome fairy godparents like the Paceys is the Forman-Uniacke house at 1246 Hollis Street. Described as one of the few remaining Irish-Georgian architectural gems in Canada, its future has been uncertain ever since the owner applied for a permit to demolish it.

It was built in 1826 by James Gleason of Dublin for James Forman, who became cashier (i.e. general manager) of the Bank of Nova Scotia on its founding in 1832.

Other owners of the house have included Jonathan Crane Allison, president of the Halifax Fire Insurance Company, who bought it from Forman in 1833; Sophie, widow of Judge Norman FitzGerald Uniacke, a former

Continued on page 2



*Detail: Forman-Uniacke House.
Mary Pacey*

City Rambles: Winnie's Lodge

By Garry D. Shutlak

One of the streets I so enjoy perambulating is Inglis Street where, starting at Barrington Street and walking west to Beaufort Avenue, one finds buildings from the reign of George IV to those built in modern times. The building I am writing about on this occasion, 5492 Inglis Street (formerly 50), dates from 1892 and is located at the corner of South Bland Street. It was built by and for Samuel M. Brookfield on a parcel of land sold by Joseph Seeton from the grounds of Dorset Cottage (now the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 5500 Inglis Street). It was *probably* designed by architect Edward Elliot of Dartmouth.

This two-and-one-half storey modified-mansard-roofed wooden dwelling was a large and elegant structure in the Queen Anne Revival style. It contained a drawing room, parlour, dining room, kitchen, laundry, china closet and conservatory on the first floor; eight bedrooms, billiard room, bathroom, water closets and linen room on the two floors above.

Built as an investment property, its first tenant in 1893 was Alexander Stephen, proprietor of the Nova Scotia Furnishing Company, later Mayor of Halifax. Subsequent tenants were Captain John Winn, RE; Mrs. Maurice Goddard, widow; and M.T. Foster, mining and insurance.

In 1902, Colonel Andrew King, a commission merchant, and his wife, Wilhemina (Zwicker) King, became the owners of the property. They had three children: William Martin, Mary and Geraldine Primrose, who grew up there. Colonel King died in 1927,

Forman-Uniacke: *From page 1* attorney-general of the province; William Brookfield, a well-known builder, who lived there until 1922, when he rented it to Dr. Arthur Stanley MacKenzie, the first secular president of Dalhousie University.

As Hollis Street gradually lost its social status, the lovely old house echoed no longer to the sound of chamber music and conversation but

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The house on the extreme left is Winnie's Lodge, (Twin Elms), next house is Dorset Cottage, today Unitarian Universalist Church. 'Halifax in Pictures' by Carre.

and Mrs King and her daughter Mary continued to live there until 1942, when they moved to Wolfville.

The house then became the property of the Navy League of Canada, which ran a Merchant Officer's Club from the premises. In July 1943, a permit was granted to add a two-storey frame addition, 28 ft by 45 ft, costing about \$9,000. The builder was H. G. Ivany; no architect was mentioned. It may also have been at this time that alterations were made to the bay windows of the house. There appears to have been no newspaper coverage of the opening of the Merchant Officers' Club.

The building became a tourist home in 1949. Called Winnie's Lodge, it was run by proprietors Vernon and Helen Murphy until 1963. Up until 1979, when A. S. Forsythe became the owner, the lodge had a number of proprietors and/or managers. Forsythe changed the name to The Twin Elms Hotel in 1993. It has accommodation for 40 people.

to typewriters and cash registers. Soon the only sound may be the crash of falling walls.

Alan Parish, longtime Trust member, has formed a committee to work for the preservation of the house. If you would like to know more or help this group in its task, contact Alan at (902) 422-3100. The next issue of *The Griffin* will contain more information about this house.



Note: bay windows have been removed



The Griffin

A quarterly magazine published by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

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

May 1, 1997

Submissions to:
Doris Butters, Editor
Apartment 2211,
1333 South Park Street, Halifax,
Nova Scotia, B3J 2K9.
or Phone/Fax: 422-6286

The Griffin—Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Diary of a President By Joyce McCulloch

I was saddened to receive news of the death of Bill Percy, one of the warmest and most gifted personalities it has been my luck to know. In Granville, where Bill and his wife, Vina, ran "The Moorings," their famous bed and breakfast, they formed an extremely supportive base for the founding members of the Friends of the Painted Room in their unsuccessful struggle to keep the Painted Room in Nova Scotia. I'll always remember Bill driving all the way down to Halifax to come with me to see the Minister of Tourism and Culture. I was very grateful for Bill's support and common sense. He was also active in the campaign to block the proposed highway through the Valley. Not only has he been acclaimed for his many novels and witty essays, but also for his activity in the community, and for always being there for his friends and causes.

By the middle of January I knew why I missed snowy B.C. so much: no telephones!

Jan. 15: At the invitation of Dan Norris, attended a meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, (see page 6 for a brief report).

Jan 17: A night out at the Museum for a very interesting talk by Royce Wilkes, president of the Friends of McNabs Island Society.

Jan. 22: Kate Carmichael, executive director of the Business Improvement District Commission (BIDC), invited the Trust to sit in on its Heritage Committee meeting. One agenda item is 1272 Barrington, formerly occupied by the NFB. The BIDC, which wants a heritage district on Barrington Street, is alarmed that the owner of the NFB building has no plans to restore the facade. They feel it would be disastrous to lose one of the components of a very handsome streetscape.

Jan. 25: HTNS board meeting. It was decided that a committee, chaired by Nina Konczacki, will review all the by-laws concerning the formation and job descriptions of the Trust committees. Alan Parish, longtime Trust member, was invited to address the board, and explained that he planned to form an *ad hoc* committee

to respond to the proposed demolition of the Forman-Uniacke House by its present owner.

Jan 30: Attended the Nova Scotia Home Awards lunch, where an old friend of the Trust, Bob Parker, won first prize in the Heritage Restoration category (see article on page 6). David Garrett, chair of the Projects Committee, won honourable mention for converting a former office space above a store on Barrington Street into an apartment. Three awards went to Terry Watters of S.H.E.

Consultants for his use of energy efficient plans and alternate energy. I asked him if this modern use of energy could be used in heritage buildings. He told me that in March he planned to research this and could possibly collaborate with an interested heritage home owner.

Another winner was Cynthia Street, a young architect who had designed *Pete's Place* in Bridgewater for people with head injuries; six compact flats all on one level. I thought of those empty, one-storey stores on Gottingen, or the six heritage buildings by the La Have river that have been zoned commercial, as possible sites for similar treatment.

Jan. 31: Trust members at Alan Parish's committee meeting decided that the most important thing was to find out if the owner was serious about demolition.

Feb. 5: A public meeting to discuss new approaches to the Macdonald Bridge, some of which entail demolition of old houses on Brunswick and North streets. There is no indication that input from the public at this meeting will have any effect on the decision of the Halifax Regional Municipality, which appears to have already accepted the suggested concept for the bridge approaches.

Feb.6: The Forman-Uniacke House committee met Mr. Meretsky at his office in the house. The building is very elegant. Interior details such as wood panelling, mantels, stairs and bannisters are in excellent condition. Meretsky would not like to see the house demolished, and a possible alternative is to sell. The ball is in the committee's court.

MAUD LEWIS



The Illuminated Life of Maud Lewis (1903-1970)

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's exhibition honouring the province's most loved and unsung folk artist runs to April 13, before starting a three-year tour of 10 major galleries. It features approximately 200 paintings gathered from private collectors in Canada and the United States. Along with rural scenes, flowers, images of oxen, deer, cats and birds, are painted artifacts of shutters, stairs, the door from the Painted House, and documentary photographs.

The project includes the cross-country tour, publication of a book on Maud Lewis' life, and the restoration and permanent installation of the Painted House. The house and gallery will be housed in AGNS' new extension when its phase II Expansion into Province House opens this fall.

Following the Halifax showing, the exhibition will travel to the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, and museums in Toronto, Winnipeg, Victoria, Fredericton, Charlottetown, Moncton and St. John's.

Working with the Gallery, Scotiabank and The Craig Foundation made it possible to mount this unique tribute to Maud Lewis and take it to galleries across Canada.

Background information and Art Gallery notes on the artist's work are stored in the Trust office's book rack.

Fall tour: an account by Doris Butters

Our Fall Tour on October 5 proved to be one of Pam's 'specials'. A grand day! The sky was clear but the air nippy as our baker's dozen set off. Mist rose from the lakes and frost whitened roadside hollows still untouched by the sun. Fall colour increased as we moved inland but had not yet peaked.

Ross Farm Museum is set in time at 1870, but at the entrance a chalkboard carrying an entry from Edward Ross's diary for Oct. 5, 1839, gives us a glimpse into the early years of the pioneer settlement: *"...Raw and cold, wind N.E. James, George and Francis were digging potatoes, I was writing. Mr. Moore from Beech Hill came down and stayed all night. The pensioners' bills came in today with Reuben Russell. They had gone all the way to Sherbrooke Saint Mary's through some mistake. A man by the name of Mahany—or as he is called, 'Nosy Mahany'—asked for a night's lodging and stayed here all night. Severe white frost at night."*

Twenty-three years earlier, 172 disbanded soldiers had arrived in the area with their families, their land grants, tools, seeds and victualling for a year, and started clearing land for a settlement that would become New Ross. Lord Dalhousie had asked Captain William Ross to lead them. While clearing the land, they made do with rough log shelters. But in 1817, Captain Ross moved into the first house in the community—Rose Bank Cottage. Its recessed brick fireplace and central chimney were built first, then the house put up round it. Walls of four inch planks were placed one on top of another and fitted into slots in the corner posts; the inside walls, plastered over split hemlock laths, were fastened with hand-made nails.

The farmhouse was warm but recent torrential rains had prevented firewood from drying properly. There was no heat for the bake oven—so, no promised hot biscuits. In the corner of the comfortable parlour was an elegant old piano with inlay on its long slender legs. Shipped to Chester over a century ago it had been carried on the backs

of four soldiers along the 20 miles of rough woodland trail to Captain William's farm. During our tour of Rose Bank, Michelle Veinot demonstrated the braiding of winter rye straw into long braids ready for stitching into wide-brimmed hats for the men or attractive bonnets for the women farmworkers.

At the Schoolhouse, we were met by Mrs. Shelley Kaye, schoolmarmish in a severe black suit and lace-trimmed white blouse. The 1850s desks, made for use with slates, have no inkwell holes or grooves for pens. The rather rough little desk in the corner was the original teacher's desk. A cast iron stove warmed the room for us as it had done for generations of schoolchildren.

After visiting a fine collection of farm machinery, including early ploughs, we went down the hill to watch cooper Scott Reeves demonstrate barrel-making. In the old days an expert workman could make a barrel in two minutes, producing up to 50 in a working day. We followed the crowing of a rooster, past the cooperage to the poultry house, to admire the different breeds, including Silver Gray Dorkings with their characteristic five toes, a breed dating back to AD 47. One of the farm's wild turkeys spread his tail for us.

The porkers were a bit of a shock. Both the white Yorkshire and black Berkshire are enormous—and good breeders we were told. In one field Cotswold sheep were feeding, black noses busy in a bale of prickly-looking fodder, while half-grown lambs edged each other aside to get their share. On the hillside we could

see one of the cows, but the goats had all been taken in for the winter.

After a picnic lunch, joined by a mewling little farm cat, we took a 50¢ ride around the farm lands in a wagon drawn by two small, dark-mahogany coloured horses.

While the rest of the group went down to the Larder Barn (c.1893) to look at the collection of early vehicles, including a fully-equipped pedlar's wagon, I strolled back up the hill where I met the ox-cart drawn by Lion and Bright (or "Bright" and "Not-so-Bright" quipped the driver) on their way to the sawmill to haul a load of staves for the cooper. Other than a yoke, oxen need no harness or bit, being easily controlled by voice or the touch of a whip.

As the Morley Blacksmith Shop (c.1910) was closed, we went on to the Farm Workshop, where the farm woodenware is made: carts, wagon parts, wheels, sleds, snowshoes, tools, handles, butter churns, spoons, ladles, and even small toys. On the upper floor Gerald Davies was making sauerkraut. He shaved the firm-headed cabbage in a narrow wooden trough with a knife blade made from an old sawblade, embedded across it. A few leaves in the bottom of a small barrel buffer the thin layers of cabbage slivers, pounded until the juice runs and sprinkled with salt and a pinch of sugar. Layers are worked until the barrel is two-thirds full and left to stand for two weeks until the brine rises. The waxing moon, preferably the Harvest Moon, draws the salt upwards, in the same way as the

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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

**Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Weekend Tour
Historic House Tour and Tea**

**Annapolis Royal, Granville Ferry and Caledonia
Saturday June 21 and Sunday June 22, 1997**

We return to Annapolis Royal and Granville Ferry for an historic house tour of five confirmed (two pending) homes, not viewed before, with afternoon tea at North Hills Museum. The homes date from 1840 to 1930. Two are recent successful restoration/renovations, complete with period gardens. This tour is co-sponsored by The Annapolis District Board of Trade and The Annapolis Region Community Arts Council.

A catered Supper will be held at the Garrison House followed by a production at the King's Theatre: *A Class Act*; a witty evening of music and nostalgia.

Sunday morning we will travel to Caledonia for a Chowder Lunch and tour of buildings in the area. More details in next newsletter

The bus will leave the Lord Nelson Hotel at 7.30 am on Saturday, June 21. **Bring a picnic lunch** to eat in Historic Gardens, or in the Annapolis Region Art Gallery. if the weather is uncertain.

Book your own overnight accommodation through Check Inns 1-800-565-0000, from the Bed and Breakfast list overleaf.

Registration Form:

Weekend Tour to Annapolis Royal and Caledonia

Deadline for applications: June 12, 1997

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Number attending by bus _____

By car: number in party _____

Registration Fee, per person: Heritage Trust member \$5.00
Non-member/guest \$7.00. Bus, per person: \$90.00.

House Tour Ticket, per person \$13.00. Garrison House
Dinner: \$27.00 (includes all taxes, gratuities)

Soup ___ or Salad ___, Maindish ___ Chicken or ___ Fish with
rice or vegetables, Dessert, Tea ___ or Coffee ___

Historic Gardens entrance fee, per person \$3.00.

Sunday Chowder Lunch, per person \$7.00.

Amount enclosed: _____

Make cheque payable to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and
mail to:

Program Chair Pamela B. Collins,
6446 Liverpool Street, Halifax, N.S. B3L 1Y4.
Tel. 455-6093

Please book for Saturday, June 21/97 through Check Inns
1-800-565-0000 or directly to your choice from the list
overleaf: See map for location.

Bus will check in to B/B's at 1.00 p.m.

March 1997

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

**Buffet Supper, Annual General Meeting
and Guest Speaker**

THURSDAY, June 19, 1997

Saraguay Club, 360 Purcell's Cove Road, Halifax
5.45 to 10.00 p.m.

Note change of meeting space. Come and enjoy the view of the North West Arm, conversation with friends, a pleasant Buffet, the Annual General meeting and guest speaker architect and writer Bill Plaskett and his views on old Lunenburg. The Annual General meeting is free to members.

The evening will be as follows:

- 5.45 Reception and Cash Bar, Terrace Room, Saraguay Club
- 6.15 Buffet Supper at \$25.00 per person
- 7.30 Annual General Meeting-free
- 8.15 Guest Speaker Bill Plaskett: *The architecture of Old Lunenburg*

Registration Form:

Buffet, Saraguay Club, Thursday, June 19, 1997

Deadline for application June 12, 1997

Price \$25.00 per person

Menu

Juice

Lemon Chicken Almandine served with Rice Pilaff
with Pasta Primavera, Medley of Vegetables
Tossed Green Salad, Marinated Mushroom Salad, Greek
Salad, Potato Salad and Cole Slaw
Relish Tray, and Tomato and Cucumber Slices
Homemade Tea Biscuits and Rolls
Freshly brewed Coffee and Tea
Dessert table will include the following: Traditional
English Trifle, Fresh Fruit and a Selection of Pies

Number attending Buffet, Thursday, June 19, 1997 at
\$25.00 _____

Make cheque payable to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and
mail to:

Program Chair: Pamela B. Collins,
6446 Liverpool Street,
Halifax, N.S., B3L 1Y4
Tel. 455-6093

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

In memoriam

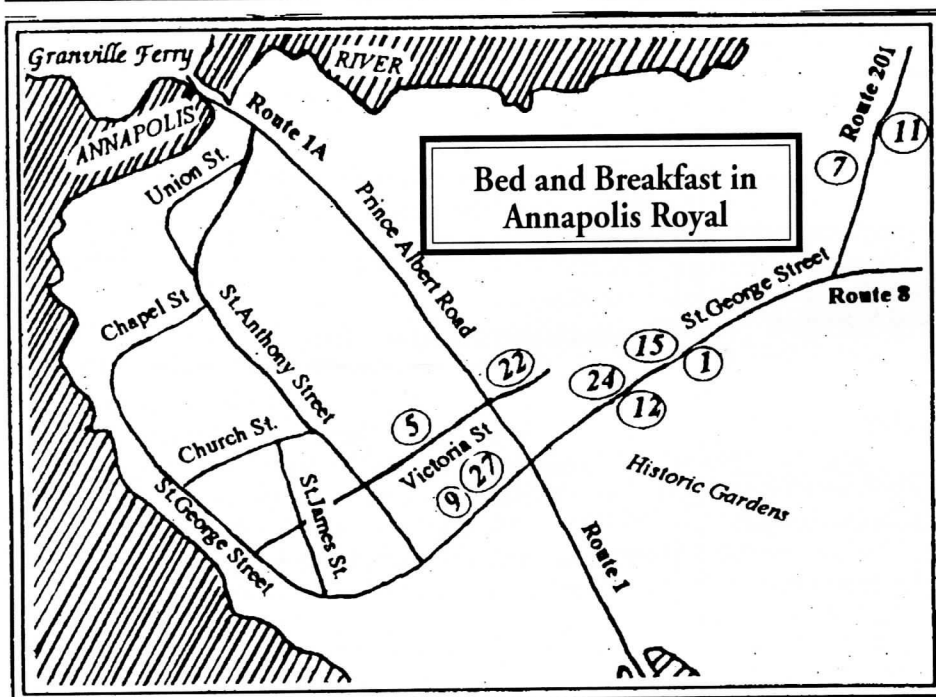
With the death of Bill Percy on December 17, 1996, Heritage Trust lost a good friend and supporter. Jim Lotz offers the following tribute to a fellow writer.

Bill Percy represented a rare kind of individual, more common in the past in Britain than in the present in Canada. Somewhere, somehow, he became hooked on books and the urge to write. Born in Kent, England, he entered the navy as a boy, became a marine engineer, and retired as a lieutenant-commander. He chose a quiet corner of Canada, Granville Ferry, to realize his dream

of becoming a full-time writer. With his wife, Vina, he ran "The Moorings", built around 1867, as a guest house. Rich in experience in many parts of the world, Bill turned his dream into a reality, producing nine books of fiction and non-fiction and scores of short stories. He had a generosity of spirit, a fierce way of focusing on what needed to be done, and a restless energy that required outlets.

In Granville Ferry he rose at 5 a.m. and worked until one, then started practical tasks — looking after his woodlot, tending the garden, fixing the house. He also served as founding president of the Writers'

Federation of Canada, ever ready with advice and direction to anyone who shared his enthusiasm for language. Bill has left a great legacy in our libraries. His *credo* is one that every writer can and should follow: "I cling to the unfashionable belief that art should aspire to beauty, and that the prime attributes of a writer are imagination and an obsessive love of language." As I thought of using the word *credo*, I began to wonder about it. So I went to the dictionary. Bill would have approved. He loved life and he loved words, and we are all poorer without his engaging presence.



25. Auberge-Wandlyn Motel

Rob Ferguson, Box 551, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0. Tel. 532-2323, 532-7563. 30 units, private bath, 1 wheelchair access. 9 non-smoking. Cable TV, radio, phone, 2 whirlpools and sauna. Restaurant. Comp. coffee. Pets welcome. Open year round. Rates: \$65-95, extra person \$8.

5. Bread & Roses Country Inn

Monica & Richard Cobb, 82 Victoria Street, Box 177, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0 Tel. 532-5727. Victorian Mansion with antique furnishings. 9 bedrooms-3 twin, 2 double beds, 6 with 1 double bed, private baths. Home baked breakfast. Evening tea, coffee. Rates-\$60-85. T-\$80.

9. Carrison House

Patrick Redgrave, 350 St. George St. Box 108, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0. Tel. 532-5750. Inn and restaurant. 7 rooms, 5/private bath, 2 share bath. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Open May-Nov. Rates: S\$45, D or T \$48-68.

12. Hillsdale House Inn

Leslie Langille, 519 Upper St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0. Tel. 532-2345. Victorian Country Inn, c.1849, antique, 15 acres reclaimed marshland, bird sanctuary. 10 bedrooms: 3 twin, 6 double, 1 queen, lounge with cable TV, and patio, full breakfast. No smoking. Open May-October. Rates \$65-90.

15. King George Inn

Michael & Donna Susnick, 548 St. George Street, Box 43, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0. Tel. 532-5286 or 425-5656. 5 bedrooms, shared bath, 1 family suite. Fireplace/cable TV in parlour. Victorian home, c.1868, antiques. Cont. breakfast, evening coffee. Pets-Yes. No smoking. Open June-Sept. Rates S\$44, D\$49, T \$56.

22. The Poplars B&B

Iris & Syd Williams, 124 Victoria Street, Route 1, Box 277, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0. Tel. 532-7936. 9 bedrooms, 6 in carriage house, full bath; three in house, 2 half baths, 1 shared. Wheelchair access. Cont. breakfast, evening coffee/tea. No pets /smoking. Year round. Rates S-\$33-40, D-\$35-42, S-\$53, D-55 Extra person \$8.

24. Queen Anne Inn

Leslie Langille, 494 Upper St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0 Tel: 532-7850. Grand Victorian Country Inn c.1865, antiques. 10 bedrooms: 5/1 double bed, 2/2 double beds, 2 twin beds, 2 queen bed, all private baths. Cooked breakfast. No smoking/pets. Year round. Rates \$50-95

27. The Turret B&B

George & Barbara Dunlop, 372 St. George Street, Box 497, Annapolis Royal, N.S. BOS 1A0. Tel. 532-5770. Historic building. 3 bedrooms, one and a half shared baths, full breakfast, lounge with TV. Pets and smoking-Yes. Open year round. Rates S-\$35, D or T \$45

Fall Tour: *continued from page 4*
moon affects the tides, until the barrel overflows, and the sauerkraut pronounced 'ripe'.

Tucked in beside the workshop is the Edward Ross Store, appearing much as it would have done in 1835. In the late 1980s, the store was reconstructed on its original foundation and the contents well-researched from Edward's daily journals to ensure accuracy on goods and packaging. English bone china and stoneware came in casks and crates; wines in corked bottles; rum in kegs and molasses in puncheons from Demerara. Scythe blades and tool steel came in wooden boxes from Germany through English ports, and kegs of fig tobacco and cut nails were imported from New England. Most goods were purchased from Halifax merchants, shipped by coastal shallops to Chester and carted to New Ross by oxen.

Before leaving through the Pedlar's Shop, I picked up a few leaflets on the Museum's Rare Breed Program, which tries to maintain a stock of heritage animals and plants appropriate for the farm c.1870. Among the pamphlets was *From Flax to Linen*. Since ancient times, flax has been used to make cloth, thread, fishnets, rope and string. Its seeds are crushed to extract linseed oil, or used in baking. Linen cloth fragments dating back to 8000 BC have been discovered in Turkey, and fine, soft linen, translucent as silk with up to 200 threads per inch has been found in the tombs of Egyptian royalty: the earliest garment from 3100 BC

Boarding the bus for Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum, we watched a bald eagle riding thermals in effortless gliding circles.

The Parkdale-Maplewood collection was started by a local man who settled in Massachusetts but returned to his old home every summer, his car loaded with "finds". Among the things that caught Mr. Spidell's fancy were tools, toys, kitchenware, the contents of DeLong's general store; Indian relics and artifacts, photographs and family histories, even letters from local lads who served in the First World War. Among the quilts on the rear wall is a

much-prized one with the signatures of every family in the community. Beside the building, a heritage garden is being developed with traditional herbs, roses and other plants.

Then on to Mahone Bay, where we were joined by Greg Munn at the beautiful little High-Victorian-Gothic Anglican Church of Saint James's, built in 1886 by William C. Harris. Greg pointed out distinctive Harris features, such as the bell tower at the east end of the building; the heritage shingling of the two-colour banded spire and non-traditional yellow and rust-red paintwork of the exterior. Harris, said Greg, considered white to be 'the colour of indecision'.

The Anglicans were ministered to by rectors of Lunenburg until 1858. It was during the tenure of Reverend W.H. Snyder (1858-1889), the first Rector of Mahone Bay, that Saint James was built, due largely to the efforts of the curate, Rev. Edward (Ned) Harris, younger brother of the architect. "Saint James's", Harris promised his brother, "would be the finest church in Nova Scotia." Parishioner and master builder, John E. Inglis, built the church for the sum of \$8,000, of which \$7,000 was raised by completion of the work.

Inside, we were struck by the brilliance of the wide, stained glass windows, installed during the 1960s and '70s as memorials to notable parishioners. The two long windows at the west end and the three rosettes above the altar are all that remain of the Harris windows. The original east window was so large and let in so much sunshine, that while illuminating the priest, it completely dazzled the congregation. Part of the space was filled in and the window replaced by the beautiful "Last Supper", a memorial to the Quinlan family, whose own faces are depicted in the stained glass.

The architect's love of colour is shown in the muted shades of blue-green, rust and cream, especially of the triumphal arch spanning the chancel, offsetting the rich, dark gleam of the ribbed-vault ceiling, its hammerbeam supports and the panelling of the Sanctuary. The decorative effect of the surprisingly large pulpit was created by the use of

mahogany, maple, walnut and cherry woods.

In 1900, the spire was hit by lightning, flipped over the roof and landed in the garden on the other side. In 1994, work was done on the steeple and tower to replace shingles in heritage style and restore the paintwork. Also in 1994, Saint James' was designated a heritage property.

We thanked Greg, who was house-moving that day, and had to leave us. After a short stop at Suttles and Seawinds, we visited Spruce Top Rug-Hooking Studio, run by six 'hookers', who offer courses in hooking and braiding, provide supplies and equipment and maintain a retail gallery of magnificent work by Maritime Fibre Artists. Styles displayed feature primitive, Lunenburg, modern and those from other areas, hooked with either fabric or wool. The fine wool-work was exquisite.

Our last stop was the Settlers Museum in the Benjamin Begin home (c.1850), with its full, two-storey Lunenburg County Bump front entrance. Painted ceiling and faux-marble fireplaces are preserved in the two rooms furnished from the Quinlan Collection. Other displays include early local architecture and the settling of Mahone Bay by Foreign Protestants in 1754-5. A 'special interest' cabinet exhibits a wide variety of Alice Hagen's colourful work, and a nearby stand holds a binder containing the story of the beautiful dinner service painted by Canadian women artists, including Alice Hagen, and presented to Lord Aberdeen when he served as Governor-General. The service is now in Lord Aberdeen's home in Scotland. (see *The Griffin* Vol.20 #3) Marie Elwood, retired Curator of History at N.S. Museum, has tried to persuade the Aberdeens to allow at least part of this wonderful collection to come to Canada on tour. The upper rooms are dedicated to Mahone Bay's wooden boat industry from 1840-1961. At its peak, 11 shipyards were producing craft of all sizes, and it would have been hard to find a family that did not build, equip or sail one of these vessels.

Fall Tour, *continued on page 8*

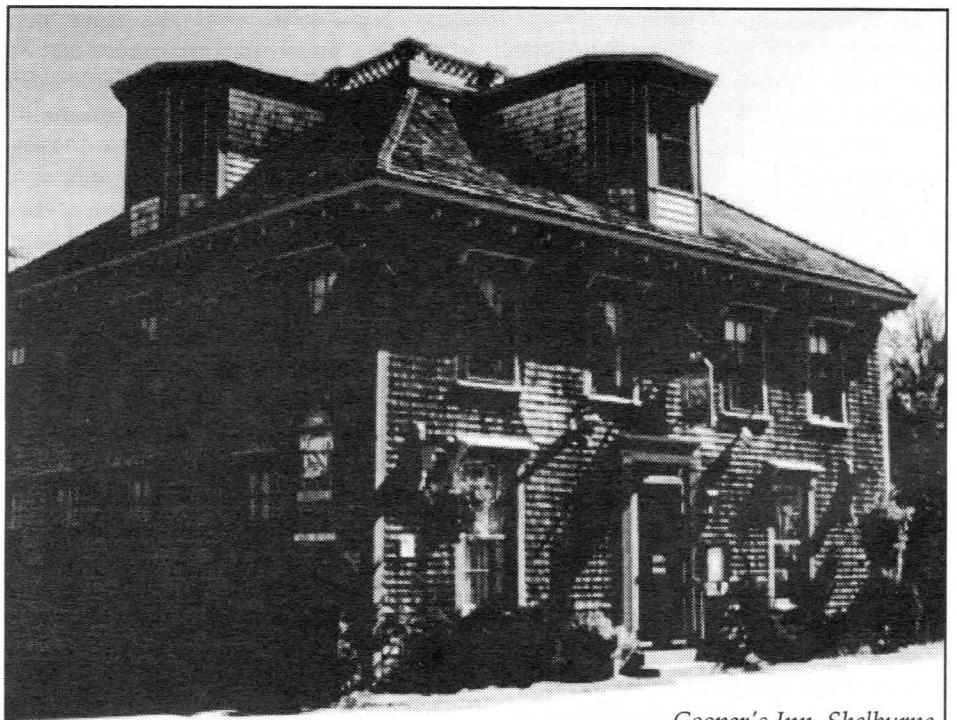
Trust invited to HAC meeting

Joyce McCulloch, president of Heritage Trust, Nina Konczacki, vice-president heritage, and Betty Pacey, Heritage Canada governor, were invited to attend a meeting of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Heritage Advisory Committee on Jan. 15, 1997. The meeting was convened to discuss two applications for demolition and one for expansion of heritage properties.

Nick Spiropoulos, owner of 1272 Barrington Street, has applied to demolish the building because it would cost at least \$200,000 to stabilize the remaining side wall and facade, and because the building's condition makes it difficult to get insurance. Regarding the possibility of expansion at the back of the building, which is registered as **St. Mary's Young Men's Building**, access would have to be through Barrington Street, as the site is now boxed in by the Neptune Theatre. When questioned, he stated that the facade had deteriorated too far to be incorporated into a new building. Council asked the city architect to examine the facade and report on its condition, and also called for suggestions for alternatives to demolition. Betty Pacey recommended the decision on the facade's future be deferred for a year.

Pascal Real Estate Company has applied to demolish 1246 Hollis Street (**Forman-Uniacke House**) and replace it with a parking lot. Because company property manager Harvey Meretsky was unable to attend the meeting, his request for postponement of the hearing was granted, date for the future hearing to be announced later. In response to a request by the Advisory Committee chair for comments, Ms. Konczacki strongly urged the council to deny the demolition request, pointing out that the building is one of the few remaining Irish-Georgian architectural gems in Halifax, if not in Canada.

Architect Chris Purcell, assisted by George Moffat, presented plans for a two-story extension to the back



Cooper's Inn, Shelburne

Historical Restoration: 1996 Nova Scotia Home Awards

For the seventh year, an Historical Restoration category has been included in the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs' Nova Scotia Home Awards program. This category recognizes excellence in the restoration of older houses, emphasizing historical authenticity, compatibility with existing detail and surroundings, and economic viability.

At the Annual Awards Ceremony held on January 30 at the World Trade and Convention Centre, the winning project for 1996 was the "Cooper's Inn Restoration",

Dock Street, Shelburne. Also known as the George Gracie House and owned by Joan and Allan Redmond, this building is a provincially registered heritage building. Research by Robert Parker of Robert Parker and Associates, architect for the project, revealed that originally there had been three dormer windows, which have now been restored.

A letter of Merit was awarded to Silver Donald Cameron for the "Morrison House", D'Escousse, Richmond County.

of **Hope Cottage** that will have no visual impact on Brunswick Street. There have been no changes for 25 years, and the kitchen needs enlarging and modernizing. The dining room, which meets only a third of the present need, should be expanded. Washrooms must be provided, as well as a rest area for the staff. External renovations such as siding replacement and repainting have to be carried out. During work on the much-needed renovations, the house will remain open, and it is hoped that work can start in the summer and be completed before the onset of winter 1997.

Fall Tour: *continued from page 7*
Before heading home we enjoyed afternoon tea at Tingle Bridge Tearoom, a handsome old house in a magnificent garden, overlooking the Bay. The fine china place settings were of different patterns, we had individual china teapots and tiny glass dishes of butter, jam and cream. The freshly-baked scones with homemade strawberry jam and whipped cream were served by gracious young ladies in pretty cotton gowns, who offered us every imaginable make or type of tea. An intoxicating and fitting end to a delightful day. Thank you, Pam.

Halifax: home of printers and publishers By Joan Dawson

In Halifax, in the basement of Dalhousie's Killam Library, there is a collection of traditional printing presses that is considered one of the best of its kind in North America. Its location is no accident, and reflects the city's long printing history.

Halifax was the site of the first printing press established in what is now Canada. In August 1751, barely two years after the founding of the city, Bartholomew Green arrived from Boston, bringing with him a press and some type. Unfortunately, Green died only six weeks later, but his place was taken immediately by his former partner in Boston, John Bushnell. His printing office was located on Grafton Street, just north of Duke, and was chiefly supported by work for the government, together with the publication of a newspaper for the citizens of the new settlement.

After Bushnell's death in 1761, the business was taken over by Anthony Henry, who continued to print until his death in 1800. By this time, other printers had come to Halifax, chiefly employed in putting out newspapers and working for the government.

The 19th century saw a rapid growth in printing, bookbinding and publishing in Halifax. Local writers and organizations were producing books and periodicals, and the public was buying them. The rate of productivity seems to have peaked at about the time of Confederation, and began to fall towards the end of the century. Firms in Montreal and Toronto began to take much of the book trade away from the Maritimes as authors sought distribution to a wider audience. It is estimated that in 1868-69, there were 19 printing and publishing offices, 12 booksellers and stationers, seven bookbinders, two engravers and one lithographer in downtown Halifax.

Most of the activity was taking place between the Grand Parade and the harbour, along Barrington, Granville and Hollis streets, and on Sackville, George and Prince. Lower Prince Street was, of course, the site of Joseph Howe's printing office,

where the *Novascotian* was produced. By the end of the century, some 60 downtown sites had been occupied at one time or another by businesses related to the printed word.

These 19th-century printers used equipment and methods that had changed relatively little since the days of Gutenberg, except for some developments in press design. Type was set by hand, one letter at a time, and transferred to presses into which paper was fed one sheet at a time and imprinted. Technological changes



gradually came about towards the end of the century, with the invention of rotary presses and mechanical typesetting. These were chiefly used for newspaper production, but most Halifax printers continued to set type by hand and print on traditional presses until well into the second half of the 20th-century.

It was at this time that new developments such as photolithography and later computerized printing became widespread in the industry. Printers gradually replaced their old equipment in the interest of efficiency, but were often reluctant to

scrap it. This is how a number of traditional presses and many cases of type from Halifax printers ended up in the collection now known as the Dawson Printshop. Bob Dawson and Fred Matthews, both members of the Heritage Trust, rounded off the collection by constructing a replica of a 17th-century wooden press.

The equipment in the Dawson Printshop has been used by many students from the Library School, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and elsewhere to study traditional typesetting and printing. A bookbinding area was also established and is currently in use for teaching and fine binding.

The collection is now looking for a new home and a new function. Because of ill-health, Bob Dawson is no longer able to run classes or presses, and the University is looking to expand its computer facilities into the area where the equipment is currently housed. It would be fitting if a location could be found somewhere in downtown Halifax, the home of so many printshops in the past. Ideally it would be a teaching facility as well as a centre for practical and artistic printing, and open to public view. A group of interested people is working on the problem. Lack of funds to rent commercial property is of course a factor; we hope that a solution can be found, so that the history of printing in Canada can be perpetuated in the place where it started.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call Joan Dawson at 429-5312.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 19
Saraguay Club, North West Arm
The AGM follows a reception and buffet supper, details on page 7. Be there if you can. The Nominating Committee is always grateful for suggestions for people to fill positions on the Executive and Board.
Contact: Dr. Donald Patton at 420-0076 (h), 494-1804 (w)

Alexander Keith a criminal? Exploding the myth

Writers who accused the Hon. Alexander Keith of illegal activities during the American Civil war were unaware of the fact that there were two Alexander Keiths in Halifax at the same time. In a talk to Heritage Trust on December 19, Pat Lotz introduced her audience to the other, and hitherto ignored, Alexander Keith. This is her synopsis of the talk.

The dishonourable Alexander Keith was the eldest of the seven children of John and Christiana Keith, and the nephew of the Hon. Alexander Keith. In the few official documents in which his name appears, he identified himself as junior, or the younger. A brother, George, worked with his father, who was a brewer, while another brother, Donald, a cabinetmaker, later went into partnership with James Gordon as Gordon & Keith, furniture manufacturers.

Alexander Keith Jr. worked for his uncle and boarded at his house. But soon after the outbreak of the Civil War he left his uncle's employ and moved into the Halifax Hotel. There he set himself up as a commission merchant and began supplying the Confederates.

Unlike the other Southern sympathizers in Halifax, such as merchant Benjamin Wier, unofficial Confederate consul, and Dr. William J. Almon, a great admirer of the Southern way of life, Keith had no particular sympathy for Southerners. They just happened to be the ones arriving in Halifax, pockets stuffed with money.

John Wilkinson of the Confederate States Navy, captain of the champion blockade runner the *Robert E. Lee*, had this to say about Keith: *"By dint of a brazen assurance, a most obliging manner, and the lavish expenditure of money, he ingratiated himself with nearly every Southerner who visited Halifax, although he was a coarse, ill-bred vulgarian of no social standing in the community. It is true that a worthy member of the same family had risen from obscurity to high honours, but Sandy was the black sheep of the flock."*

Keith acquired his own blockade runner, the *Caledonia*. Mortimer Jackson, the U.S. consul in Halifax, who supplied his boss in Washington with details of Confederate agent activity in Halifax, noted that "the

Caledonia is 317 tons, has 27 men, was built and registered at Quebec in 1863." In April 1864, the ship was wrecked off La Have and the owner collected \$32,000 in insurance.

For a brief time Keith forwarded letters from Confederate agents working in the North to Richmond, the seat of Confederate government. He was not a good choice for a mail drop, since his name was becoming well known. On December 21, 1863, a letter in code, addressed to Alexander Keith Jr. in Halifax was intercepted



The Hon. Alexander Keith

by the postmaster of New York City and forwarded to the Secretary of War for deciphering, as was a second letter intercepted a few days later. The letters Keith was to have passed on were written by agent J. H. Crammock, the first to Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, regarding a shipment of 1,000 muskets on their way to Halifax, and the second to B. J. Hill, another member of President Davis's cabinet, supplying information about a counterfeiting venture.

Alexander Keith also played a role in the *Chesapeake* Affair. Briefly, this nautical melodrama involved the arrival in Halifax of the *Chesapeake*, a coastal steamer plying between New

York and Portland. It had been taken over Dec. 7, 1863, in the name of the Confederacy by a group of young men who had boarded as passengers. By the time two U.S. Navy ships caught up with them off Sambro on Dec. 15, all but one of the group had fled ashore taking some of the cargo with them. The remaining conspirator, George Wade, was removed from the coal boat that was fuelling the *Chesapeake*. Since the Northern captain had boarded the Halifax boat illegally, Charles Tupper, then provincial secretary, ordered him to bring Wade to Halifax and turn him over to the local police.

Wade was brought to Queen's Wharf, where his American captor took off his chains preparatory to handing him over to the authorities. However, before the policeman could step forward to arrest him, Dr. Almon, Alexander Keith Jr. and a Dr. Smith intervened. Almon drew Wade's attention to a boat drawn up by the side of the quay, rowed by two champion Nova Scotia oarsmen. Wade jumped in and was rowed to safety. The policeman drew his revolver but Keith knocked his hand aside.

Almon, Keith and Smith were arrested. All they could be charged with was obstructing a policeman in the performance of his duty, rather than aiding a prisoner to escape; Wade had been freed by the American captain and was not yet in the custody of the police. Eventually the charges were dropped.

The loss of the *Caledonia* cut short Keith's active participation in blockade-running, but he still shipped merchandise on other such boats. In Sept. 1864, he petitioned the Executive Council to intervene on his behalf with U.S. authorities to return the 500 barrels of pork he was importing into Nova Scotia that officials had impounded, stating that he was "unaware of any circumstances which could justify

The Griffin—Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

these proceedings." No one can say Keith lacked *chutzpah*.

Around this time, at the request of Mortimer Jackson, an agent was sent to Halifax to investigate Keith's activities. Years later the agent, Charles Tinker, told a friend that he "believed Keith to be capable of any crime in the book."

Time was running out for Keith. He was too well known to Northern officials to carry on his Confederate activities. Worse, it wouldn't be long before those he was supposedly working for discovered that he had forged invoices, sold worthless bills of exchange and profited from a number of other opportunities for swindling them — and others — to the tune of \$200,000.

Early in January 1865, Keith left his hometown with his ill-gotten gains and a chambermaid from the Halifax Hotel.

It was not long before he deserted his companion, who returned to Halifax. She was there when a Col. Luther Smoot, one of Keith's victims, turned up in Halifax looking for him. The young woman told Smoot that Keith was living in New York under the name of Alexander King Thompson.

By now Keith, warned by a friend that he was no longer safe in New York, had moved to Highland, a small town in Illinois near the Missouri border. Here, still under the name of Alexander K. Thompson, he posed as a rich man living on his investments. The dogged Col. Smoot finally caught up with Keith, had him arrested and taken in custody to St. Louis. Some kind of settlement was reached, but because Smoot would not promise to keep Keith's whereabouts a secret from his acquaintances in Halifax, he decided it was time to move again. A few months later, with Cecily, the wife he had recently married, and a slight change of name William K. Thompson sailed to Europe.

The next news of Alexander Keith came under the most horrifying circumstances.

On December 11, 1875, in the German port of Bremerhaven, the quay was crowded with friends and families who had come to see

travellers off on the transatlantic liner *Mosel*. It was soon to set sail for New York, *via* Southampton. Most passengers were on board and the last of the baggage was being loaded. A horse and cart piled high with trunks and boxes drew up and as the driver alighted, he accidentally dislodged a wooden chest sending it crashing to the ground...It exploded!

Horse, driver, porter and cart were literally blown into atoms without a trace left. Bodies were carried up into the air, torn to pieces and scattered considerable distances. A *Times* correspondent described the scene as "more terrible than the bloodiest battlefield." It was 10 days

he confessed to being the owner of the chest that had exploded, and of shooting himself in a suicide attempt. Hovering between life and death over the next few days, he revealed that he was travelling only as far as Southampton in the *Mosel*, on which he was shipping heavily over-insured cargo. The dynamite was set to explode when the *Mosel* was in mid-Atlantic, and he later intended to collect the insurance for vanished merchandise. The mechanism for setting off the dynamite had been constructed for him by a watchmaker called Fuchs, who believed the clock to be destined for a silk manufactory in America; the hammer was to be

KEITH REALLY THE DYNAMITE FIEND.

SECOND OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BREMER-HAVEN EXPLOSION—COMPLETE HISTORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS—HIS CAREER IN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE.

LONDON. March 30.—The second official report is published at Bremen to-day of the results of the investigation into the dynamite explosion at Bremerhaven some months ago. The synopsis telegraphed here fully confirms in outline the name, antecedents and connec-

From the Halifax Citizen, April 3, 1876

before an accurate count of the casualties could be given: 128 people killed and 56 injured, 20 of these appallingly maimed.

On the afternoon of the explosion, two passengers on the *Mosel* passing a first-class cabin heard groaning. They broke down the door and found a passenger, his face covered in blood, stretched out on the sofa. Assuming him to be a victim of the blast they carried him to an improvised hospital where about 30 other victims were being treated. However, the ship's captain recognized him as William K. Thomas of New York, a passenger who had come on to the quay from the ship *after* the blast.

When Thomas was able to speak

powerful enough to tear off 1,000 silk threads at a stroke.

Many of his revelations seemed to contradict each other, and he used the names Thomas, Thompson and Thomassen. He died on December 16, 1875, but it took the authorities until the following March to unravel the twisted threads that led them back to Alexander Keith. The *Halifax Citizen* was the only Nova Scotia newspaper to reveal that the dynamite fiend was a native of Halifax, but that fact has never appeared in local histories.

Did the news cause *anyone* in Halifax to wonder about the explosion of the City Powder Magazine on August 15, 1857? A committee of enquiry comprising

Continued on page 15

A closer look at historic Brunswick Street

By Irene Fennell and Elizabeth Pacey
(Heritage Trust Research Committee).

Brunswick Street, Halifax, is one of the most valuable historic neighbourhoods in the province. Brunswick Street has a remarkable concentration of municipally and nationally designated heritage buildings. In the 1970s, Halifax City Council declared Brunswick Street to be a Conservation Area, and in more recent years, the importance of Brunswick Street was highlighted in the Peninsula North Plan, which describes the Brunswick Street Heritage Area. Now, however, it is essential that the Halifax Regional Municipality take action to officially register Brunswick Street as a Heritage Conservation District under the Heritage Property Act.

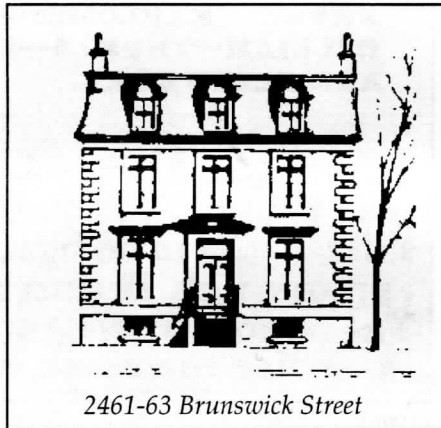
The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Research Committee has conducted in-depth research on a number of houses on Brunswick Street at the request of the City. During the course of research, many inaccuracies have been cleared up and many new truths have come to light. Our tour in this issue of *The Griffin* begins with the David Henry Starr House and the John Starr House.

The David Henry Starr House, at 2415 Brunswick Street, was mistakenly thought to have been built in 1859 for a well-known mason named Thomas Saunders. However, our research has confirmed that this wooden Scottish Georgian house was



2415 Brunswick Street

built in 1864 for David Henry Starr. David Starr co-founded Starr Manufacturing Ltd. which was known for the revolutionary patented skate which attached to your boot. Gold medals for the skate were won



2461-63 Brunswick Street

at exhibitions like the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. The Forbes Acme Skate which the Starr firm produced was crucial to the development of hockey in Canada. In the 1890s, David Starr left for the Canadian West during the rush for gold; he sold picks, shovels, and hardware to the miners. He died at Starr's Point near Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

The John Starr House, at 2461-63 Brunswick Street, was mistakenly thought to have been built for James T. West. However, research has confirmed that this brick and stone house was built for John Starr in 1859 by mason Thomas Saunders. After co-founding Starr Manufacturing Ltd. with his brother David, John Starr soon developed his own firm, John Starr and Son Electrical Engineers. John Starr was one of the first men in the Maritimes to seize the opportunity of developing and selling electrical appliances. In 1873, the house was sold to James T. West, who unfortunately died three years later on April 25, 1876 at this address. At the time of his death, his considerable financial worth was estimated to be \$250,000.

We hope you will continue strolling along Brunswick Street with us in future issues of *The Griffin*.

The Bookshelf

Due to space constriction in the Trust's temporary quarters on Argyle Street, most of our books are packed away, but current copies of incoming newsletters and magazines can still be found on the book shelf.

Yarmouth County Historical Society's *Historigram* contains reports from their January 30 Annual General Meeting. Winter exhibits in the museum include a skating scene with adults and children's clothing from the Museum collection, and skates donated by Mr. Nate Bain. The Armchair Travel Series resumed in February, with a timely slide talk by Paxton Wellington on his sojourn on

the South Seas island of Vanuatu. The Museum's current travelling exhibit, "John and Charlotte Geddie Mission in the South Seas" deals with missionaries to Vanuatu in the 1800s, and includes souvenirs that the Geddies brought home with them.

The Rucksack, by the Friends of McNabs Island Society (FOMIS) features a lengthy article by Dusan Soudek on McNabs and Lawlor Islands. It has been a year since the federal-provincial hearings on the future of the islands and FOMIS is still awaiting the release of governmental strategy proposals. On the McNabs Island Fall cleanup day, 160 volunteers collected 300 bags of trash and 20 bags of recyclables!

WANTED

Do you have a copy of *Samuel Cunard: Pioneer of the Atlantic Steamship* by Kay Grant? This excellent high school textbook published in 1967 by Aberlard-Schuman, is now out of print.

Samuel Cunard was a parishioner at Saint George's Round Church. The book is needed for fundraising purposes.

If you would like to sell your copy, please call Anne West at 422-9446.

Macdonald homestead saved

When Kentville's Old Train Station was demolished, local resident Martha Crosby was outraged—so when another landmark went up for sale last summer, Mrs. Crosby determined to do something about it. A new group, The Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society, was formed to try and save the old Macdonald homestead and its art collection. The group feared that the property would fall into unappreciative hands. "...one offer", said Mrs. Crosby, "was contingent on having the statues removed." By late fall the hardworking group's fundraising campaign paid off and it was able to purchase the house. The society's aim is to preserve and study the life, works and times of Charles Macdonald, a native of Steam Mill.

The Charles Macdonald House, built in the early 1900s, is known not only for the life-sized statues in the grounds, but also for the cement-made fairytale cottages at Huntington Point. The house, built entirely of cement, was initially a factory where Macdonald manufactured concrete bricks for his company, Kentville Concrete. Later it became a home for him and his wife, Mabel, who, for 40 years lived there surrounded by his paintings and fanciful cement sculptures. He was a highly respected employer, whose workers were not only treated kindly but also shared in company profits. A world traveller, nature lover and community activist, he was also a practical and artistic person "...a real Renaissance man." said Mrs. Crosby. "His works are so beautiful—like marble—and he did it all with Portland cement."

Macdonald died in 1967, leaving the house, its contents and forest acreage, to the community of Centreville. Investments from the sale of the house in 1979 help maintain the community centre and the development of the baseball and soccer fields at Centreville Park.

To generate income to help pay the mortgage, the home will be

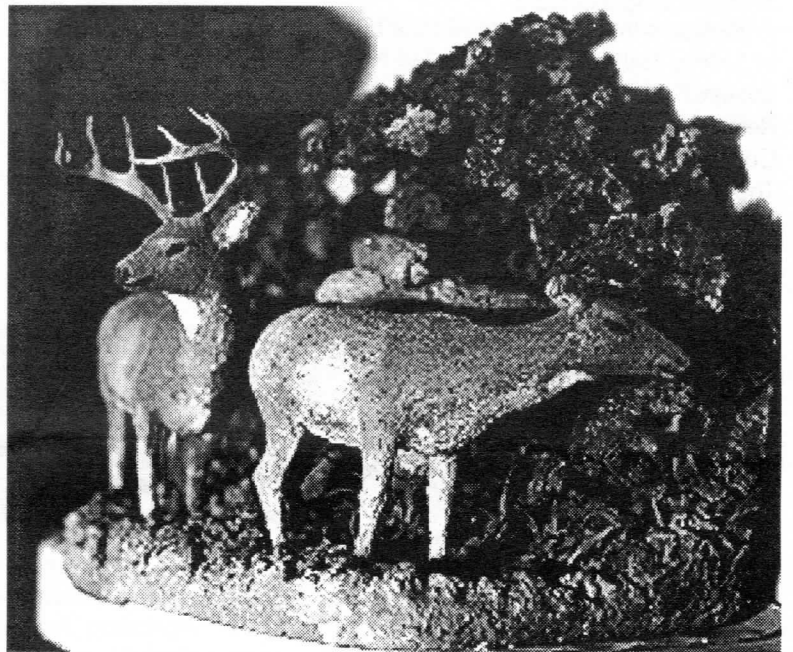
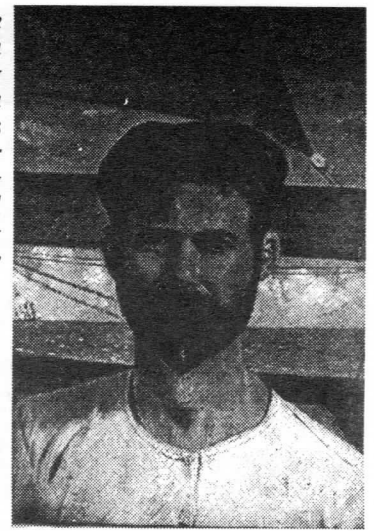
March 1997

converted into a community resource centre and museum of Macdonald's work, with a public art gallery and tearoom, and hopefully a place for wedding receptions and special cultural events. The society has come this far without government money, relying instead on donations from supporters of every description. Bernard Riordan curator of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, "...found the property enchanting and worthy of preservation."

(Condensed from an article by Patty Mintz in *The Advertiser* Kentville N.S., November 26, 1996, and submitted by Shirley Elliott)

SEE IT!
An Open House is planned for the Macdonald House as part of the 1997 Apple Blossom Festival; it will also be included in a tour organized by AGNS as part of its "Folk Art..." Symposium in March.

Charlie as a young artist: a ship's carpenter travelling and sketching the world.



Above: A cement sculpture of deer on the mantle in the house
Below: The exterior of the house



Heritage Trust Program—Spring 1997

Meetings of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia are held on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month from September to June, at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax.

Thursday, March 20/97

Speaker: Mr. David Walker, Researcher, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Topic: The History and Development of the Nova Scotian Cape Island Boats. Based on his years of research David has traced and recorded these hearty work boats of our province.

Thursday, April 17/97

A glimpse into military and civilian life in historic Halifax.

Speaker: Dr. Ron McDonald, Cultural Resources Manager, Halifax Defense Complex

Topic: Halifax Defense Complex: The smooth bore era 1812-1838

Speaker: Dr. David Sutherland, History Dept., Dalhousie University.

Topic: Halifax enters the Victorian Era. 1838: People and events in Halifax

Thursday, May 15/97

Speaker: Dr. Ruth Goldbloom C.M.

Topic: History of Pier 21

Film *A Rough Crossing*, the story of British evacuee children arriving in Halifax during World War 11 and follows them into adulthood.

Thursday, June 19/97

The Saraguay Club, North West Arm

5.45 p.m. Reception and Cash Bar

6.15 p.m. Buffet Supper, Terrace

Room, \$25.00 per person, cash bar

7.30 p.m. AGM: Free

8.00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Free

Architect Bill Plaskett will discuss the

architecture of Old Lunenburg

Historic House Tour to Annapolis Royal and Caledonia by Bus/Car Saturday, Sunday, June 21, 22/97- House Tour

A new group of houses open to view in Annapolis Royal, afternoon tea, theatre, delightful Bed/Breakfast accommodations. Sunday we visit the Caledonia Area for the first time and enjoy the buildings in this area.

Possible upcoming events:

Historic house tour Mahone Bay in August 1997.

Historic house tour of Lunenburg on September 13, 1997.

History of Garden Design

Events sponsored by other societies

Poetry Society of Nova Scotia

Meets the Third Saturday of each month at 2 pm, auditorium, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax

Costume Society of Nova Scotia

Monday, March 17 - 7.30 pm.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax.

Speaker: Pauline Hingston

Topic: Traditional Irish dress with emphasis on dance costume.

Saturday, April 26

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Ross Farm Museum. Topics: 1) Early 19th century Costumes at Ross Farm Museum; 2) Selection from the collection of Virginia Bell of Vintage Vogue, Mahone Bay. Special lunch: hearty soup and biscuits cooked over the open hearth. Registration by April 18, to Costume Society of Nova Scotia, 1809 Barrington Street, Suite 901, Halifax, NS, B3J 3K8

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Sunday April 13

Rene Marcil - A Life Apart. Closing

of exhibition on Marcil's abstract pastels and drawings of the early '70s.

Thurs. March 6/Sun. March 9

Symposium on Folk Art: Is it all over? Presentations and discussions with guests from across Canada and the United States. Highlights: March 6 keynote speaker **Bruce W. Ferguson**, President of the New York Academy of Art, on the main topic of the Symposium; March 7 **Gerard Wertkin**, Director of the American Museum of Folk Art in New York on his interest in folk art—reception to follow with a special-collection unveiling; March 8 a Celebration Dinner at the Halifax Citadel—entertainment by folklorist Clary Croft; March 9 the Gallery will host family workshops and a folk art tour (including Charles Macdonald House, Centreville)

Registration fee: \$125 for three days of events including the Dinner, or one can register for single events. For information or details on options, ph: 424-7542, fax: 424-7359.

Parks and Grounds, Halifax Regional Municipality

Friday, May 30 - 2.00pm

At 3rd Canadian Urban Forests Conference, World Trade and Convention Centre

Speaker: Dr. Erik Nielsen

Topic: Tree Rings: An unread library of urban environmental history

The Royal N.S. Historical Society

Thursday, March 13 - 6.30 for 7pm

Annual Dinner Meeting - Saint George's Anglican Church Parish Hall, Brunswick Street. Reservations required, call 424-6060

Speaker: Allen Penny

Topic: Vernacular Architecture in Nova Scotia

Thursday, April 24 - 7.30 pm

Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax.

Speaker: Dan Conlin

Topic: A Private War in the Caribbean: Nova Scotian Privateering, 1793-1805.

Thursday, May 22 - 7.30 pm. -
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Legislative Council Chamber,
Province House
Speakers: Janet and Jock Murray
Topic: The Medical Career of Sir
Charles Tupper

Dartmouth Historical Association
Thursday, April 10 - 7.30pm
Dartmouth Museum, 100 Wyse Road,
Dartmouth.
Topic: Heritage from Former
Municipalities. Dr. Richard Field and
Members of Heritage Inventory
Project Team who have conducted an
inventory of artifacts from Bedford,
Dartmouth, Halifax and Halifax
County will report on their efforts.
Public is invited to participate in a
discussion on their findings and how
the items will be preserved and
displayed in the Halifax Regional
Municipality.

Thursday, May 29 - 6.00 for 6.30pm.
Dartmouth Senior Citizens Service
Centre, 45 Ochterloney Street,
Dartmouth.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
Dinner and Special Program. Ph:
465-5578.

Shubenacadie Canal Commission
Friday, May 23 - Saturday May 31
Art Exhibition for Students - The
Shubenacadie Canal: Part of our
heritage and our community. In
conjunction with art Month in Nova
Scotia. Reception follows opening at
Fairbanks Centre, Locks Road,
Dartmouth. Details: 462-1826 .

Saturday, May 24
Fairbanks Centre, Dartmouth, official
opening for season

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

Poplar Street, Dartmouth.

Thursday, May 15
Heritage Farm and Rose and Kettle
Tearoom open for season. Enquiries:
Farm hours Ph: 434-0222; Tearoom
and Special Events: 462-0154.

Kings Historical Society and Old Kings Courthouse Heritage Museum

Cornwallis Street, Kentville
From February 17
Exhibit: The Women's Institute in

Canada - 100 Years Strong. For times,
ph: 902-678-6237.

Monday, April 14 - 7.30 pm
Saint Joseph's Hall, Kentville.
Eighth Annual Spring Heritage Show.
Clothes from the late 1800s to the
1960s: day and evening dresses,
lingerie, bathing suits, uniforms and
wedding dresses. Commentary on
the history of the garment, and if
possible, a brief genealogical
background of the original owner.
Models circulate among the tables
offering a close-up view and an
opportunity to ask questions. Lunch
and door prizes included. Details:
902-678-6237

A Note from the Editor:

I hope that this is not going to
develop into a habit, but once
again I need to thank all my
wonderful friends for the good
wishes, flowers, and visits
during my recent stay in hospital
recovering from a No. 2 'heart
incident'. I also much appreciate
that two already overworked
ladies, Anne West and Pat Lotz,
are taking on some of the
responsibility for the Griffin.
Thank you all. Doris Butters.

Keith *continued from page 11*
three aldermen and two lawyers
heard about suspicious items found
among the debris by the police, about
a boat leaving a nearby dock just
before the explosion, and about the
keeper of the building housing the
powder who was ill for the week
preceding the explosion, and lent his
keys to merchants who needed to
collect their powder.

The enquiry concluded that the
explosion had been deliberately set,
but although both the City and the
Province each offered a reward of
£500 for information, the mystery has
never been solved.

One of the main witnesses was
the last gentleman to have borrowed
the key. He was able to give the
committee helpful information about
the condition of the magazine, and
they thanked him warmly for his
evidence.

The name of the witness?
Alexander Keith Jr.

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

*Items from the Federation's winter
newsletter: Vol.9#2.*

Current and future services offered
by the Canadian Conservation
Institute will be on a user-pay basis.
Workshops will cost from \$500 to
\$1000. For Advice on Collection
Care: membership fees permit access
to the service. CCI Notes must now
be purchased, and fees will be
charged by the Institute for artifact
treatment.

The Federation is now considering
how "New Directions" for the CCI
will affect operations and collections
in Nova Scotia....to afford, or afford
not to be active.

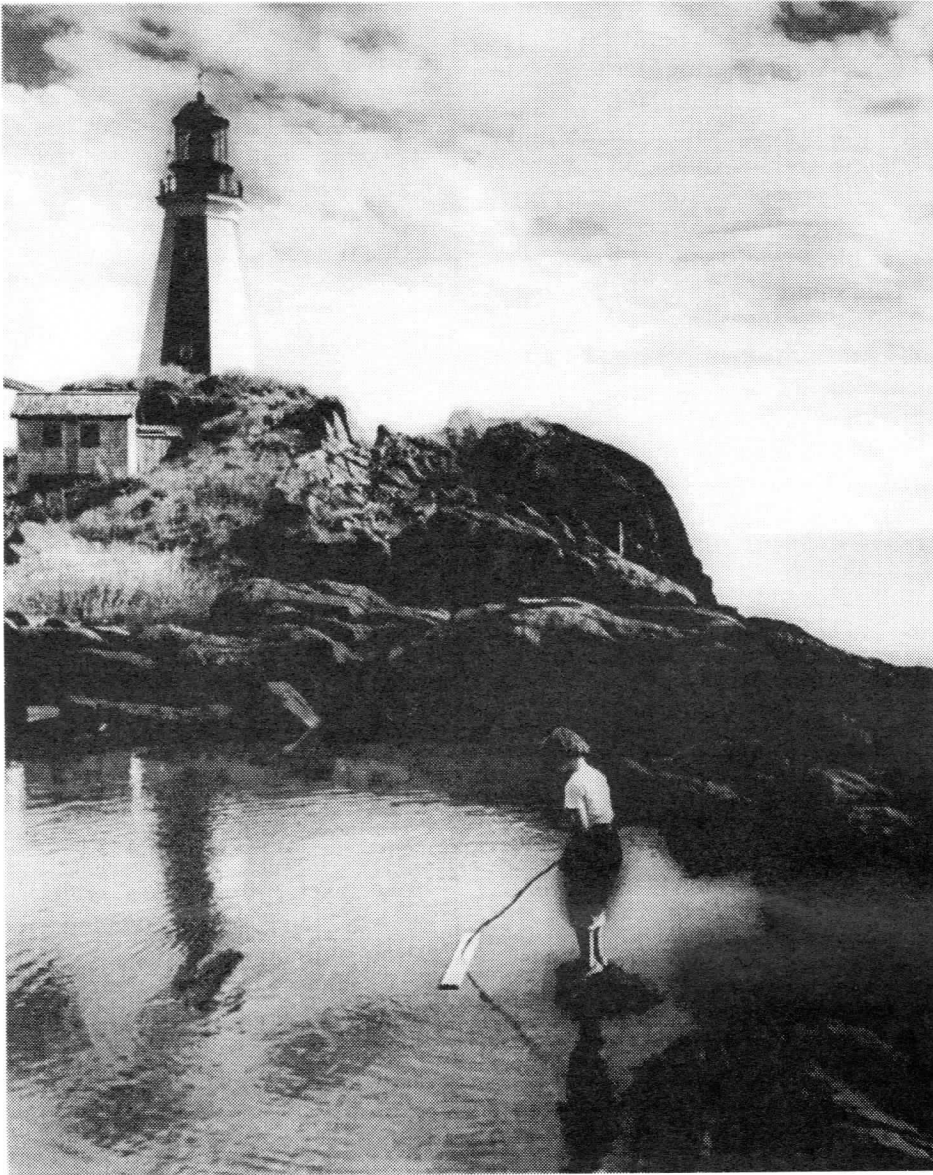
Susan Charles reports on last
June's Advisory Council on Heritage
Property Tour of Antigonish,
Inverness, Victoria and Richmond.
The object of the tour was to get
acquainted with Nova Scotia's built
heritage, now standing at 215
provincially registered properties.

David Schneider of Edmonton
comments on French museums. Large
ones are lavish, "like visiting
expensive furniture stores" with
state-of-the-art accommodation and
layout, but few visitor facilities such
as readable signs, brochures, water
fountains etc. - not even a baby
buggy. When asked why no outside
signage, Mr. Schneider was told, with
a shrug, "...signs outside are not
considered as important as
collections inside." Entrance fees are
as high at \$18 Cdn.! Mr. Schneider
felt that in these large museums
collection management and display
were out of sync. with the interests of
the ordinary museum visitor. He
found small museums, although
operating on a lower budget, much
more visitor oriented.

In its Training and Education
Program towards the Museum
Studies Certificate, the Federation
plans to develop and offer a unit on
Built Heritage, and to add an
Archives Unit in the near future.
Also to be offered is a Certification
Course and Training for Trainers,
Level 2.

For information on Federation
courses, call 423-4677.

News from Heritage Groups around the province



Forchu Light

Cape Forchu and lighthouse preservation

By Dan Conlin, Curatorial Assistant, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

"This cape forms a remarkable object in these parts being so rocky, high and barren." Blunt's Pilot, 1847, a navigational guidebook.

Cape Forchu has long attracted attention thanks to its striking raw landscape, its picturesque lighthouse and most recently, a spirited community response to lighthouse preservation. The cape, 6 km southwest of Yarmouth, was named by Champlain for its fork shape. A light from the cape first swept the waters of the Gulf of Maine on

January 15, 1840. At the turn of the century, the 64-ft cone-shaped wooden lighthouse was much loved and photographed as it greeted the steamships that made Yarmouth an important tourist call.

In 1961, when the Coast Guard, citing rotten timbers, decided to demolish the tower, the local MP promised that the exterior of the new light would be a replica of the old. Many were shocked when a new 75-ft thin concrete tower emerged, flaring at the top in a shape quickly dubbed "the apple core". Although hated by many, the modernistic new light was undoubtedly striking and has since become a landmark in its own right.

The beautiful second order dioptric lens from the first tower is preserved in the nearby Yarmouth County Museum.

Forchu was one of the last of the manned provincial light stations as it became the monitoring station for automated lighthouses all over southern Nova Scotia. However, in 1993 automation moved still further and the station was 'destaffed' to be monitored from New Brunswick.

Community reaction which drew several groups together, was sparked by fears that following automation the remaining structures would be demolished. In 1994, seeing the potential of a location that attracts 20,000 to 30,000 visitors a year with its magnificent view over the Gulf of Maine, crashing waves and waters busy with wildlife and fishing boats, the Yarmouth County Tourist Authority negotiated a five-year lease with the Coast Guard. A canteen, gift store, parking and picnic tables have since been maintained at the site. Last year, the 'Friends of the Yarmouth Light' was founded, a group now 350 strong. During last summer, the Friends worked with the Tourist Authority to man a small visitors' centre in the old keeper's dwelling, with a display on the history of the light and of famous nearby shipwrecks. Co-chair of the Friends of the Yarmouth Light, Craig Harding, says 7,000 people visited during the two and a half months of its first season.

In addition to the light tower, the Forchu site includes an old double keeper's dwelling, a modern coast guard bungalow and a fog-horn building. The duplex dates at least to the 1890s, and Harding's group is conducting research that suggests it is older. Although its characteristic double chimney pots have disappeared, it has retained most of its original roof-line and window placement.

The Friends of the Yarmouth Light have been recruiting members and raising funds to reshingle the roof. They hope to have three summer students working there by

The Griffin—Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

the time the season opens on May 24. Development plans are modest and revenue generation may be a challenge. "We pretty much want to keep the grounds the way they are," says Harding. This is partially due to water and sewage limitations (the rocky location depends on rainwater in cisterns) but also reflect desires to keep the area unspoiled. Visitors frequently praise the non-commercialized qualities of Cape Forchu. It has attracted weddings and one woman even arranged for her ashes to be spread there.

Recent developments at the Canadian Coast Guard makes the Yarmouth initiative even more significant. New navigational equipment, such as Global Positioning Systems, may spell the complete elimination of a large number of the 125 lighthouses in Nova Scotia. The Coast Guard has set up an "Alternative Uses Program" in the Maritime provinces to seek municipalities and non-profit groups which can demonstrate an ability to take over old lighthouses. There are several heritage issues to consider in this process. Isolated historic lights, such as those on islands, will face serious threats if there is no community to look after them, and pressure from commercial development may threaten the heritage value of others.

However, the Yarmouth initiative is a promising start, and several other working lights, such as Cape D'Or in Cumberland County and the Queensport Light in Guysborough, have been developed by local communities in ways that attract tourists and safeguard heritage. An umbrella organization, The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, was also founded to help promote and co-ordinate these efforts.

Thank you!

To the Telephone Committee which works so hard to keep members reminded of our regular lecture series. Dedication like this is what makes the Trust so successful.

Kings Historical Society and Old Kings Courthouse Heritage Museum

Christmas Homes Tour and Yuletide Tea,

Despite heavy rain and wind, the 1996 Christmas Homes Tour on December 8 was a resounding success. Organized by the Special Events Committee of the Society, seven homes were open for the tour, including the gracious Willowbank Farm home in Starr's Point, two in Port Williams, and four in Kentville. A record number of tickets were sold, the \$5,000 net profit from which will be used for maintenance of the Museum.

The Society is more than grateful to the home owners who spent hours decorating their homes to their own style. Neither visitors nor home owners complained about the disappointing weather conditions—at least it wasn't snow!

The Courtroom of the Old Kings Courthouse Museum, where Yuletide Tea was served, was decorated under this year's theme of 'Festival of Trees'. Twelve businesses and organizations decorated a tree, and visitors walked through a forest pathway of gaily decorated trees, each quite different.

During the following week, the Courtroom stayed open from 10 am to 4 pm daily, to provide an opportunity for those not able to go on the Tour to be part of the excitement.

At least 150 volunteers were involved for a total of between 400 and 500 hours. Without such assistance this type of event could never succeed.

The date for the 1997 Christmas Home Tour has already been set: Sunday, December 7. So mark your calendar!

Heritage Show.

On Monday, April 14, 1997, at 7.30 pm. in Saint Joseph's Hall, Kentville, the Society will hold its Eighth Annual Spring Heritage Show featuring clothing from the late 1800s to the 1960s. Included will be daytime and evening dresses, lingerie, bathing suits and uniforms, with wedding dresses forming the finale of the show.

The commentary during the show will highlight the history of the garment, and if possible, a brief genealogical background of the original owner. Models circulate among the tables so that everyone has a close-up view and an opportunity to ask questions.

Lunch and a variety of door prizes will be included in the evening's entertainment.

Obituary

J. Elizabeth Rand. 1912-1997

Family, friends, Kings County and the province lost a good friend and historical resource in the death of Elizabeth Rand on January 19, 1997. She had always lived in the family home now known as the Rand House, which she and her husband purchased on their marriage. On several occasions this delightful house in Lower Canard has been included in historic homes tours.

A charter member of the Kings Historical Society, Elizabeth was active to the end. Deeply involved in the publication of several local community histories, she was the originator of Kings County *Vignettes*, booklets of local history.

Her influence was wide, as a longtime teacher, an active member of the Women's Institute, and her involvement with the Associated Country Women of the World. At a Special Planter's Convocation in 1960 at Acadia University, she received the honorary degree of MA in recognition of her work with rural women. In 1994, she received the Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to Nova Scotia heritage.

With her gentle ways, concern for others, and infinite knowledge, Elizabeth will be sorely missed. Donations in her memory to the Fox Hill Cemetery and Kings Historical Society.

Scott Manor House

Halifax Regional Municipality and Environmental Design Management Ltd., are conducting research to help with a baseline study and topical maps for Scott Manor House. Plans for the grounds call for a Period Garden and a Herb Garden.

This winter three projects are in hand at the Manor House: the development of a new reading room in a second-floor bedroom; replacement of the ceilings on the third floor, and signage to help visitors find their way to the Manor. The present Reading Room contains interesting research materials presented by local historians, Marion Christie, Alan Duffus and Elsie Tolson.

External work includes the reshingling of the main roof and an assessment made of the condition of the wishbone chimneys

To commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Fort Sackville and the Halifax Citadel in 1999, combined celebrations are already in the planning stage—watch for details.

The George Wright House story: a postscript

Regarding the story on the George Wright House in *The Griffin* (Vol.21 #2), Alan Ruffman has sent in an update on the commemorative plaque to George Wright installed in the YMCA on South Street. The \$20,000 left for a recreation centre for young men and women by George Wright (lost when the *Titanic* sank on April 15, 1912) had grown to \$80,000, by the time the new building was started in 1951. A bright bronze plaque dedicated to their benefactor reading:

George Wright Auditorium

Mr. George Wright, a prominent Halifax citizen, was tragically lost in the sinking of the S.S. Titanic May [sic] 1912. His bequest was to bring the people together to uplift and train them to higher ideals. This auditorium is named in memory of him.

was installed in the second floor auditorium overlooking the Public Gardens, where ...“many of our membership will remember teen

A record rainfall

N0, this headline does not refer to Halifax 1996. Nothing experienced during the last several months compared with the storm that hit Nova Scotia on October 21, 1942. During a period of 24 hours, 900 million gallons of water poured into the Halifax area, a record-breaking 9.4 inches.

Surprisingly, in the province only three lives were lost, but everywhere there was extensive damage to railways, roads, and properties; phone lines were down, mail was delayed and supplies cut off. But.....there was a war on and censorship regulations prohibited the publishing of details concerning the storm. In the interests of security, no information appeared in the local papers until October 28.

In Halifax, the Fairview underpass was blocked for 12 hours. Canadian National Railways reported washouts between Halifax and Bedford with no through trains on that section of the track for 48 hours, while in some areas of the province service was not fully restored for a week. The tie-up was reported to be worse than at the time of the 1917 Explosion, with “...damage spread out over every line for miles from the city.” The *Halifax Mail* reported “... railway tracks from the Bayers Road bridge to the underpass were invisible beneath the heavy swirling torrents ...” On the south side of the bridge a 40 foot waterfall cascaded over the embankment spilling tons of water into the railway cut, which flowed up to the ‘bottleneck’ and tumbled down to mingle with the angry waters that milled in from Kempt Road and Dutch Village Road” blocking the entrance to the emergency underpass. The force of water flowing beneath the tracks “washed out the supports beneath the main line...so that tracks and ties sagged and swayed in the rushing waters.” Water level backed up almost to Fairview Station on the Rockingham side, reaching 12 feet at its highest point.

Storm damage caused milk shortages and contaminated the water supply, but brought one blessing—the lakes were at their lowest since 1906 and there remained only three days gravity flow of water.

On the lighter side, children played on makeshift rafts in the swollen streams and puddles along Dutch Village Road, and swam in the road at the Fairview underpass...Barefooted people waded through floods while those with rubber boots ‘piggybacked’ the less fortunate. As water poured down Quinpool Road, Allan Doyle, former Deputy Mayor, became the first man to row a boat down Quinpool Road.

(Abstracted from an article in the Rockingham Heritage Society winter newsletter.)

dances in the late 1950s and early 60s... but times change... in recent years, if one asked for the location of the George Wright Plaque, you were met with a blank stare.”

A few years ago Alan and a YMCA employee went looking for the plaque and found it on the...“west wall above the TV in a room full of lockers and the smell of sweat...!” Last September, after the visit of the Titanic Historical Society, Alan and Garry Shutlak wrote to the YMCA asking if it was possible “...to move the plaque to a more public and prominent spot in the building? The present location is not a distinguished one and its relocation is certainly in order, to honour such a generous benefactor of the YMCA.” In

October, George E. Rodger, President and CEO, replied that the plaque has been moved to the front lobby; he thanks Alan and Garry for bringing the matter to his attention and extends an invitation to those interested to stop by to see the ‘Wright Plaque’ in its new location. Alan offers a word of pleasure and approval to the YMCA, but hopes they will correct the error in the date.

The Griffin: Deadlines

Your hardworking volunteer editorial and production staff would appreciate getting all material on time in future.

Deadline for the next issue: May 1
Material to Editor, Doris Butters



December 1996 photo by Don Robinson, who generously donated time and materials

Progress at Saint George's

Saint George's Restoration bustles ahead on all fronts, thanks to the generous friends who make it happen.

Work rose to a crescendo in December, and many parishioners were involved in clean-up and painting to prepare the building for use at Christmas. At this point, the restoration was more than halfway to completion, on time and on budget.

The midnight service on Christmas Eve was the first to be held in the church since the fire; an emotional moment for parishioners and many visitors, including MP and friend Mary Clancy. Services continued in the church for January, but are now back in the church hall while the next phase of restoration takes place.

Scaffolding is back and carpenters and plasterers are working in the main gallery. Missing sections of the floor have been restored and the beautiful arches that join the pillars above the gallery are being restored. The ceiling and walls will

March 1997

also be finished. The gallery pews are still in sad shape, but will be tackled later this year.

Fundraising

Funds come in steadily from generous private donors and a campaign to the corporate sector is underway. The Christmas appeal to existing donors brought in an amazing \$30,000-plus, proving once again that the people who have joined the team are determined to finish the job. Of the \$6 million needed, \$3.8 has now been raised.

Open house

January 25 and 26, parishioners welcomed the world to see what generosity has accomplished at Saint George's. Despite teeming rain on Saturday, a remarkable number of people came, and Sunday was like Old Home Week. In all, over 400 people came to inspect progress including many families bringing the kids to see a piece of living history.



4th Annual Giant Yard Sale

and garden extravaganza

Saturday, June 7
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This year's sale will be bigger and better and include many new features. We are receiving goods already. Spring clean now—call 425-3658.

Books
Household Goods
Electrical Equipment
Clothing
Plants/Garden Equipment
Small Furniture
Absolute Junk
Toys

Collectibles

There will be a special focus on our very successful collectibles department. Consider donating china, jewellery, antiques, paintings, drawings, etc. Collectible items will be carefully valued by experts before the sale and sold at the best possible prices.

History from tree rings

Anyone who would like to learn about age-dating by tree rings, may be interested in the Third Canadian Urban Forests Conference to be held from May 28-31 in the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax.

On Friday, May 30, at 2pm, in a talk titled *Tree-Rings: An Unread Library of Urban Environmental History* special guest Erik Nielsen will speak about the **Nova Scotia Tree-Ring Project**, and slices of old beams obtained from under Saint George's Church during the restoration. In one beam slices showed up to 331 tree-rings. If that beam was cut from an original tree in 1799 as Saint George's construction began, its rings show that it started growing in 1468, 24 years before Columbus!

Conference details from the Trust office or Alan Ruffman, 422-6482. Alan says members of the public can volunteer to assist at the conference and in return may attend talks. Contact: Maureen Cullen, Parks and Grounds, HRM, 869-4333. Others can probably slip in for the single talk without incurring the wrath of the organisers or the day-rate fee.

Apologies for the absence of the Heritage Calendar in this issue. Lack of time and space led to its exclusion. It will be back in the next issue.

Spring cleaning: sulphur and molasses

Remember when Spring heralded not only a complete clean-up of every dusty nook and cranny of the house, but an internal clean-up of every member of the household as well? Sulphur (brimstone and treacle if you hailed from Great Britain), mixed by mother with all the dedication of the sorcerer's apprentice into a sticky, gritty goo, was administered each morning before breakfast for one interminable week.

Leonie Cumming of Annapolis Valley Historical Society remembers the morning line-up.

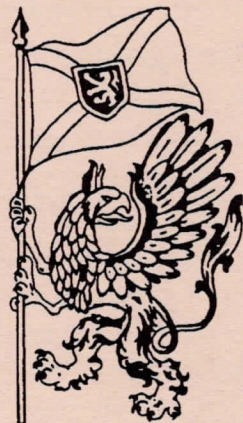
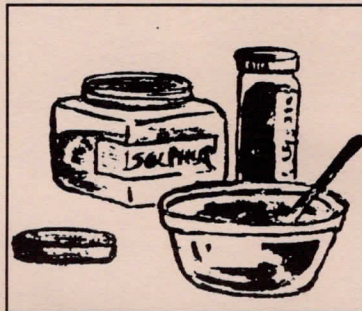
When her turn came, she would hold her breath, give a quick gulp and not breathe again until the stuff was safely on its way down. Then she spent the next few minutes wiping the vestiges of grit from her teeth! However, she notes that there seemed to be no apparent damage to the reluctant recipients and Mother Nature disposed of much of the offending substance by the shortest route, the pores of the skin. During their

week of 'purgatory' the children would undress in the kitchen watching the blue sulphur sparks as they shook their undershirts over the top of the old Star stove. It was generally believed that sulphur opened the pores of the skin, leaving people subject to catching cold. The hapless victims were carefully watched throughout the period of medication.

But spring tonic was not the only home treatment by any means. Simple ailments such as constipation were treated with magnesia in its basic form; a small lump

of magnesia chalk on which to nibble. This was not as odiferous as sulphur but just as gritty. And if that didn't work, there was always nauseating senna tea. Leonie still remembers with loathing the little package with its picture of senna leaves. The only positive thing about senna was its never-failing potency.

(Abstracted from *The Sands of Time* by the Annapolis Valley Historical Society)



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