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The Griffin

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The Forman-Uniacke House: to be or not to be?

Described as one of the few remaining Irish Georgian architectural gems in Canada, the Forman-Uniacke House on Hollis Street, Halifax, is threatened with demolition, but attempts to save it are continuing. The owners first expressed their intention to demolish it late in 1996. However, with their consent, a submission was made to the Heritage Advisory Committee of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) in February to the effect that demolition should not be allowed until the end of 1977. This was accepted by the committee and approved by Council.

With the support of Heritage Trust and the HAC of the Downtown Business Commission, a committee of nine people under the chairmanship of longtime Trust member Alan Parish has been meeting to develop ideas for future use of the property. Unfortunately, it seems that the most economically feasible course of action is to demolish the house and erect an apartment building or some other commercial structure.

The committee met with Candace Stevenson, director of the Nova Scotia Museum, who provided no hope that the Museum would be interested in funding a solution to save the Forman-Uniacke House.

The property has been appraised and a maintenance program

is currently being evaluated. The next step planned by the committee is to meet with officials from the HRM and the Province to see what avenues might be open on those fronts.

Private sector uses for the building, such as a restaurant, gift shop or bed and breakfast, would be welcomed, but in view of the high capital cost of the building, such ventures would be financially risky.

Architectural highlights

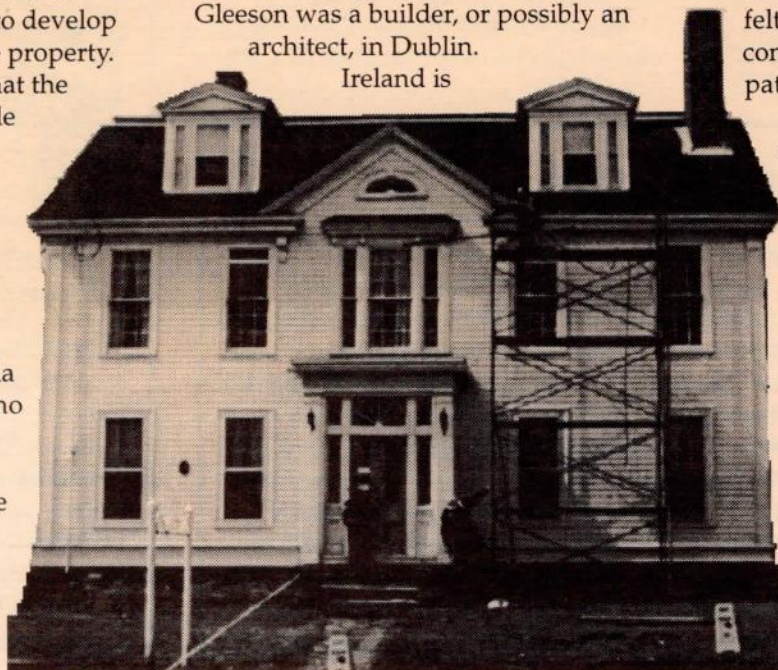
Although James Forman, for whom the Forman-Uniacke house was built, was born into a Scottish family, he chose an Irish immigrant as builder. There is no doubt that the house has its roots in Irish Georgian architecture through its builder James Gleeson. Prior to immigrating to Nova Scotia, Gleeson was a builder, or possibly an architect, in Dublin.

Ireland is

very rich in quite small houses of the highest architectural quality, which compare very favourably with the attractive 'middling' houses of England of the same period. In fact, according to some architectural historians, if you look at houses as classical architecture rather than merely examples of pleasant vernacular building, England's smaller classic houses often betray their designers' imperfect understanding of the classical idiom. In Ireland, this idiom became second nature to the 18th-century builder.

Maurice Craig, in his book *Classic Irish Houses of the Middle Size*, noted that "designers and craftsmen of the period were so deeply imbued with the language of classicism, that they used it unselfconsciously and felt no need to be scurrying off continually to look things up in pattern books."

What were the chief characteristics of Irish Georgian Houses? Most of the late 18th-century Irish houses of the lesser gentry, trades-men and more prosperous farmers were severely simple. They were two-storey houses without wings, with unassuming five bays (windows) of which the central window was the so-called 'Venetian' or 'Palladian'. In fact, this type of window should be called 'Serliana', as it was Sebastiano Serlio (1475-1554), who first introduced



the three-light window, in his seminal book on architecture, *Tutte l'opere d'architettura*, published in Venice in 1537. It is Serlio's version that Gleeson used.

At least four houses resembling the Forman-Uniacke House can be seen today in Ireland: Bonnetstown Mall, County Kilkenny; Summer Hill, County Mayo; Monart, County Wexford and Dysert, County Westmeath.

Who lived there?

The land on which the Forman-Uniacke house stands was originally purchased for cultivation by retired merchant James Foreman. In 1825, he gave his son James part of it, retaining the rest as a garden lot. Young James, his wife, the former Margaret Richardson, his first cousin, and their three children, Mary, James and Louisa, moved into the new house in 1826. James Forman (he had dropped the e from the family name some time earlier) took over his father's business in 1821, but the life of a merchant was not to his taste. In May 1832, he was appointed cashier (general manager) of the newly established Bank of Nova Scotia. He was to hold the position until July 1870, when it was discovered that he had embezzled a large sum of money from the bank, allegedly \$315,000. Barely 15 months after he took up banking, Forman sold his elegant home to Jonathan Crane Allison.

The new owner was born in Grand Pré, son of Joseph Allison, MLA and Alice Harding. He served his mercantile apprenticeship in the

office of a cousin, Joseph C. Allison, and his partner Enos Collins. When this partnership was dissolved at the end of 1824, Collins admitted Jonathan and William B. Fairbanks as partners in business under the name E. Collins and Co. Like the house's first owner, Jonathan became connected with banking when he was appointed a director of the Bank of British North America, the forerunner of CIBC. The Allisons were of loyalist stock, and very influential among the Halifax gentry. Jonathan married Jane Boggs in 1824. She was the granddaughter of the noted Pennsylvania loyalist Dr. James Boggs, who was surgeon for the Halifax Garrison.

In 1862, Jonathan Crane Allison sold the house to Sophia Uniacke, widow of Norman Fitzgerald Uniacke. After ownership by Scots and English loyalists, this Irish Georgian house finally into the hands of someone with Irish connections. Norman, who died in 1846, was the eldest son of Irish-born Richard John Uniacke, and one of the several Uniacke children who became famous. He studied law in London, becoming the second Nova Scotian to be admitted to the English bar. In 1809, he became attorney general of Lower Canada. He was instrumental in charging the Northwest Company men with the murder of the Selkirk settlers in 1816. Sophia, whose maiden name was Delesdernier, married Norman, her second cousin, in 1829. She was a descendent of Captain Charles Morris, the surveyor who laid out the original street plan of Halifax.

In 1874, Sophia deeded the house to relatives Conrad and Victoria Sawyer, who lived there for 22 years.

In 1897, the Sawyers sold the house to William H. Brookfield, a well-known builder and contractor. It was probably during his residence that the house acquired many of its Victorian accretions, such as the front porch, the tiles in the fireplaces, and mantels with far more elaborate detailing than the classical versions they replaced.

The Brookfields lived in the house until 1911, when they rented it to the newly appointed president of Dalhousie University. Dr. Arthur Stanley MacKenzie was born in New Glasgow. He received his BA from Dalhousie in 1885 and subsequently had a distinguished academic career. At the time of his presidential appointment, he was head of the physics department at the Steven's Institute in New York. He served as president until 1938, when he resigned to devote more time to the recently formed N.S. Economic Council, of which he was president.

Realtor Max Pascal bought the house in 1955, and in the late 1960s, his nephew, Harold Medjuck carried out extensive restoration on it.

Compiled from information supplied by Irene Fennell, Nina Konczacki, Pat Lotz, Betty Pacey and Alan Parish.



The Griffin

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Deadline for the next issue of *The Griffin* is

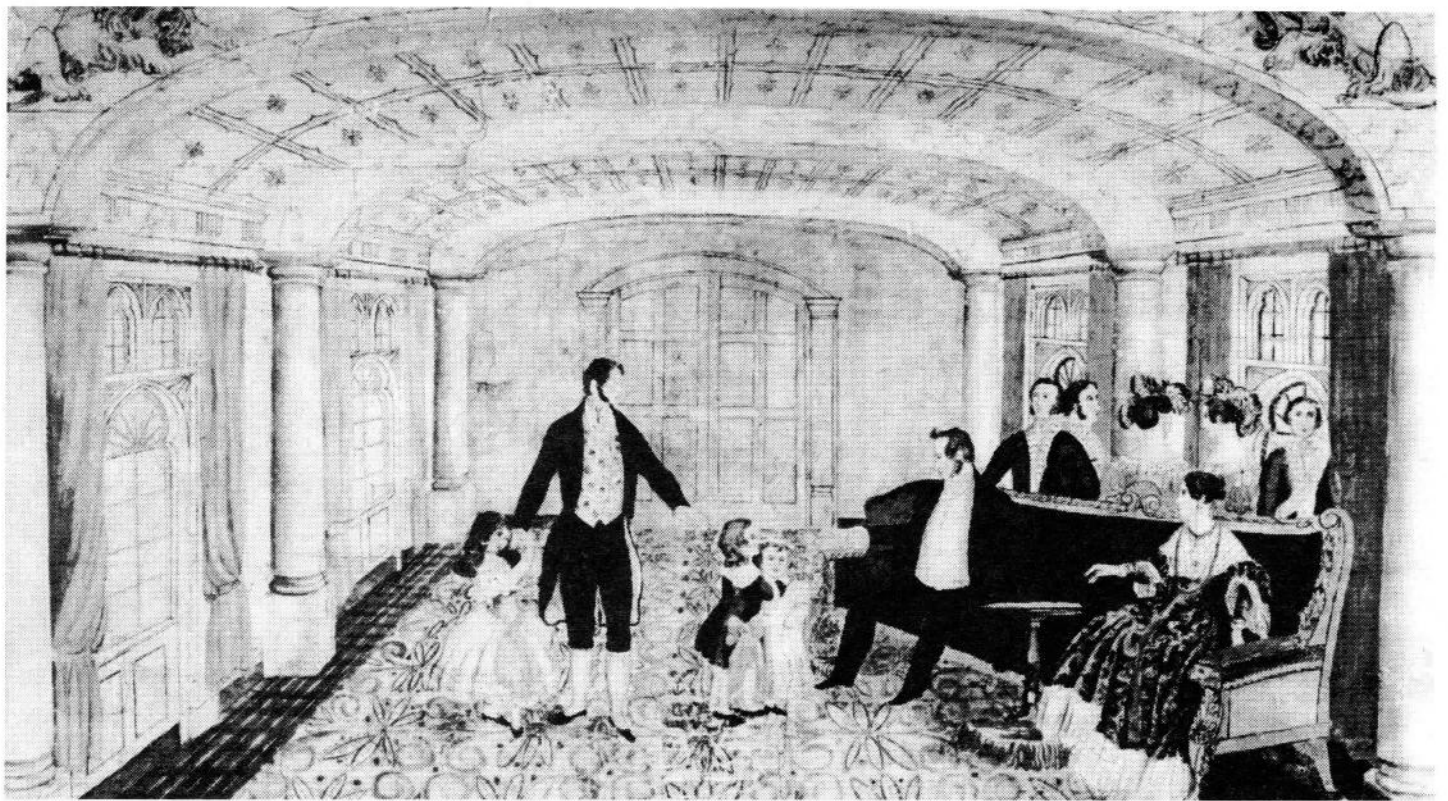
August 1, 199

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



KHYBER KIDS

The Khyber, A Centre for the Arts presents KHYBER KIDS, a summer visual arts program for children five to 13 years old. KHYBER KIDS is a weekly program designed to encourage creativity and experimentation. Each week features a different theme: photography, drawing/cartooning, painting/printmaking, and sculpting. Instruction by practising local artists with experience in art education. Weekly half-day sessions begin July 14 and run through August and are held at the newly renovated Khyber Building, 1588 Barrington Street, Halifax. Morning and afternoon sessions are available each week. Morning classes 9 am to 12-noon and afternoon classes 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The weekly fee, including all materials, is \$50 per child. For more information and registration call Tonia Di Risio at 422-9668.



Conversation piece from the east wall (above the fireplace) of the Croscup Room

Folk art—is it all over? By Joyce McCulloch, President, HTNS

My first introduction to Nova Scotia folk art came with my involvement in the battle to keep the Painted Room of Karsdale, in Nova Scotia. Despite the efforts of the Heritage Trust and the Friends of the Painted Room, one of Nova Scotia's greatest treasures was moved to the National Gallery in Ottawa. Once sparked, my interest in this kind of art endured, so you can be sure I didn't miss attending the symposium on folk art held by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) in March.

The symposium was entitled *Folk Art: Is It All Over?* Virginia Stephen, AGNS deputy director, was asked this question recently by a visitor to the gallery. "Oh yes," she told him, "it is all over Nova Scotia."

At the conference, there were answers to this and many other questions about folk art. Can there still be folk art in this age of mass communication? Can the *naïveté* of folk artists be sustained now that people are no longer isolated in rural communities, cut off from formal art training and the news media? Will new artists' work be copies of work in the past? What is folk art?

Here are some of the most

interesting remarks I heard about folk art during the panels, forums and talks:

Harold Pierce, academic dean at NSCAD, pointed out that folk art is full of paradoxes, yet is valued for its simplicity. Folk art is artless, the artist perceived to be eccentric and untrained, but the work can maintain a combination of humour and respect for the subject.

Robin Wyllie, writer and founder of the Nova Scotia Art Festival, said that folk art is without pretensions; by the people for the people. He quoted a well-known folk artist, Eddie Mandaggio: "Do it for yourself, do it to be seen, do it for sale." Folk art is affordable and fun, but not cute, a word that Wyllie deplora.

Woodward Bousquest, a professor of environmental studies at the University of Shenandoah in Virginia, reminded us that folk art was a way of making a living. He feels that folk art has evolved, but "is not all over."

Pascale Galipeau, an ethnologist who specializes in contemporary folk art, pointed out that this kind of art is found today in the city! This theme was carried on by Janice Rahn from

Concordia University. She has been studying graffiti, and I was fascinated to hear about her work. She defines it as 'outsider art', and claims it as the New Age art, with a definite technique. Her slide collection demonstrated how the walls of buildings in the wasteland acres of the industrial district of Montreal show a vivid flowering of graffiti art.

At a forum on collecting folk art, one of the speakers was Chris Huntingdon from Mahone Bay. He told of his early days of collecting and the fun of meeting well-known folk artists. Ken Martin, a writer and collector from Maine, told listeners to react to folk art viscerally. "Don't buy a piece because you think it might go up in value. You have to love it."

Laurie Hamilton, conservator at the AGNS, described how folk art at the gallery is preserved, and also gave details of the restoration of Maude Lewis's little house.

As I waited outside the AGNS auditorium for the conference to start, the first person I spoke to was the great-great granddaughter of the Croscups, who built the house in Karsdale. The wheel had come full circle.

City Rambles Inglis Lodge

By Garry D. Shutlak

Some houses grow old gracefully; others suffer from renovation, which has been the fate of 5538 Inglis Street.

Not much is known about the first owner, John G. Trider Jr., except that he was the son of John G. Trider, a local builder, and quarry owner. John Jr. bought the lot on Inglis Street in 1835, at which time his occupation was listed as Yeoman. (In the 1871 census he is listed as Gentleman.) Sometime after 1835, Trider had a house built on the lot by a Mr. Pentz. On James Irons' 1851 map, *A Plan of the City of Halifax*, a house is indicated, but not identified, between Dorset Cottage and Thorndean.

This neo-classical structure contained 12 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 pantries, and coal, root and wine cellars. There was also a coach house and a stable.

Among subsequent residents were Robert Morrow, of William Stairs, Son and Morrow; Berkely B. Bond, a hardware merchant; Donald Keith, a partner in the furniture manufacturing firm of Gordon and Keith (see photos), Captain William G. Evans of the Royal Canadian Artillery; Fred M. Jones, a general manager of Eastern Trust Company, and Clarence N. Bisset, also an Eastern Trust general manager.

In 1953, the house became a convalescent hospital or nursing home. First called Haddon Hall, it changed its name to Lynwood Nursing Home in 1955. In 1962, it became the Willow Nursing Home. In or about 1973, it changed its name and function. As Inglis Lodge, it provided accommodation for transient and permanent guests. It continues today in that capacity.

The house was first renovated between 1895 and 1914, during the residence of Donald Keith, when a one-storey addition facing Brussels Street was removed. It had probably been a second kitchen. The verandah, which extended along the entire east side and a third of the south side of the house, was reduced in size, losing half its length.

In 1959, a fireproof wing was



added to the west side of the building. This architecturally inappropriate, unattractive but functional addition increased patient accommodation to 35 in three-bed, two-bed and private rooms. It also provided a patients' lounge, complete with radio and television.

With this addition, the rest of the verandah disappeared. However, it was not until 1985, when the original windows were replaced, all the detail removed and siding installed, that almost all the neo-classical features of the house were obliterated. Today, all that remains is the ornate entrance, the Palladian window on the second floor and the fanlight on the third. Looking at the building as it is now, it is hard to believe that it was once one of the most classically styled houses on Inglis Street.

Above: House with 1959 addition.

*Right: Donald Keith
Below: Wilfred (l) and William, two of his seven children*



HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Membership dues notices for the period January 1 to December 31, 1997 were sent out in the new year. Have you mailed 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

Bridge ramp versus historic houses *By Philip Pacey*

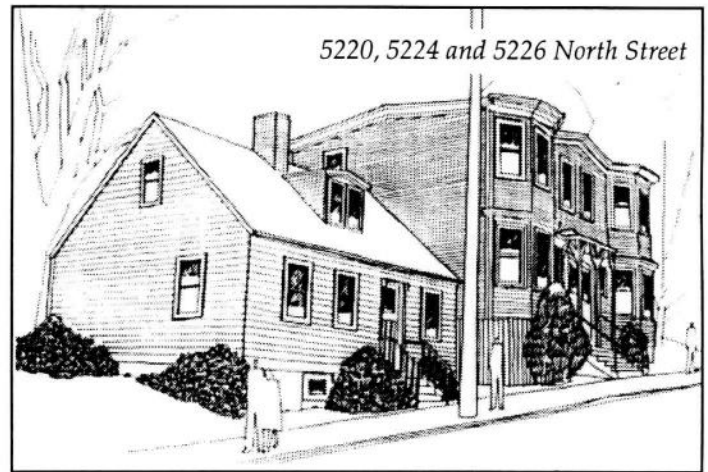
The Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission proposes to widen the Macdonald Bridge to allow for an increase of traffic across the bridge of up to 40 per cent. In order to cope with this increase, the traffic staff of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) propose to construct a concrete overhead ramp from Barrington Street, through the Brunswick Street Heritage Area, to the south of the bridge. An alternative, at-grade approach to the north of the bridge would not pass through the Heritage Area.

The Brunswick Street Heritage Area was established under the Municipal Development Plan about two years ago to protect the character of the area, including existing buildings which are not registered heritage properties, and to ensure that any new structures are similar to residential buildings in the area. Council has also asked heritage staff to register the area as a heritage conservation district under the Heritage Property Act for added protection.

Conflicts with heritage

The proposed south ramp conflicts with heritage preservation in several ways: i) The concrete ramp would not enhance the Heritage Area. It is the antithesis of heritage. ii) The ramp would require the demolition of at least four buildings, two of them in the Heritage Area. Fifteen housing units would be lost, diminishing the demand for local schools, churches and shops. (The homes of 900 people have been destroyed in the name of traffic in adjacent blocks in the past few decades.) No homes would be lost for the north ramp. iii) One of the buildings is the rare, three-quarter cottage at 5220 North Street. This was built about 1826 by John Blackadar, a shipwright. The building has been occupied by a long line of working families. Many of these families, including the Embrett family who owned and lived in the cottage for much of this century, have been connected with HM Dockyard, down the hill.

The cottage provides a counterpoint to the more luxurious dwellings on Brunswick Street and is similar in style to the Little Dutch Church and Akins Cottage.



Next door is the Queen Anne double house with bay windows at 5224/5226 North Street. This house was converted about 1914 from the carriage store, which was associated with the Adams House hotel just up the hill.

The bridge widening and ramp would be bad public policy even if there were no Heritage Area. It wastes \$30 million on a project that would save commuters on average only 17 seconds. Increased bridge revenues would not pay for the increased maintenance costs, nor the increased interest costs, let alone both. It would shift 600 vehicles per hour from the controlled access MacKay Bridge into the vulnerable neighbourhoods at either end of the Macdonald Bridge. The cheaper, at-grade roadway to the north of the bridge would cost less than half as much as the concrete, overhead, south ramp proposed by staff.

Contrary to the impression given in the press, at the time of writing in early May, the proposal has not been approved by the provincial cabinet. The HRM has agreed to accept money from the Bridge Commission, but has not placed the ramp project in the capital budget. Members of the Peninsula Community Council prefer the north ramp and are working to have it replace the south ramp in municipal planning.

How we got our griffin

On March 10, 1959, people from 19 groups in the Halifax area met and founded a provincial trust to try and save *Gorsebrook*, the home of the Honourable Enos Collins, banker and member of the legislature in the 19th century. The house, on Tower Road, near Inglis Street, was to be demolished to make space for an ice rink for Saint Mary's University.

On April 16, 1959, the name Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia was adopted. The Trust's logo was designed by founding member Dr. Donald Cameron Mackay, principal of the Nova Scotia College of Art and

Design. The griffin (gryphon) was the guardian of ancient treasure. It was believed by the ancient Greeks to inhabit Scythia and to guard its gold. In the HTNS logo, the griffin is shown carrying the flag of Nova Scotia: advancing to the future, but looking over his shoulder to the past. The griffin has the ears and powerful hindquarters of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle.

In the coloured version of the logo, the griffin is golden yellow with blue beak and claws. The flag of Nova Scotia is white with a blue

Continued on page 7

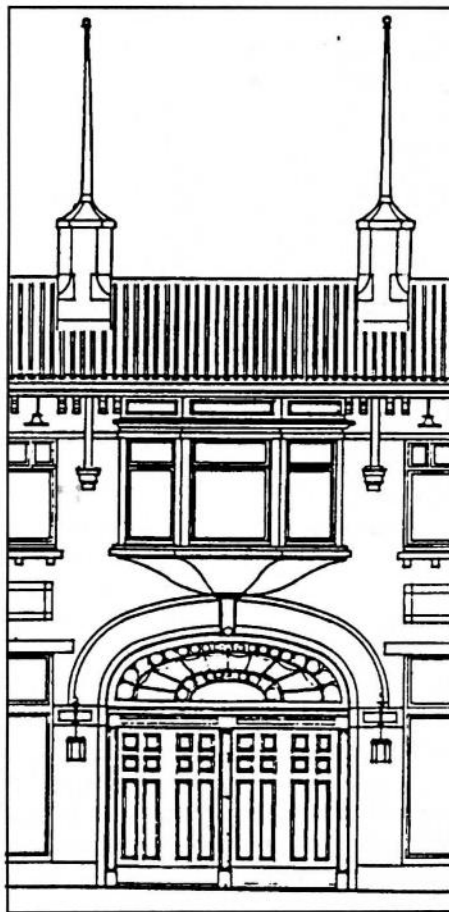


Requiem for a picture palace *By Jim Lotz*

In April, the Casino Theatre on Gottingen Street became part of Halifax's past rather than of its future. With little notice, the wreckers moved in and demolished the 80-year-old building.

Designed by Andrew Randall Cobb (1876-1943), the building was used primarily as a cinema, but had stage facilities, including a fly tower and a small orchestra pit. The front of the house contained an extensive foyer, a tea room and shops. In its early glory days, the Casino had a rich facade, with elaborate masonry work and a brick-vaulted main entrance archway. The bay window was clad in copper, and under the eaves of a Spanish-style clay tiled roof hung 19 copper electric lights which illuminated the facade in the evenings. The interior decor was one of "ocean greens shot through with light" according to the *Evening Mail* of December 9, 1916. The innovative 'Thermo' system of ventilation ensured that the audience kept warm in winter and cool in summer.

The theatre, owned by Empire Theatres (part of Sobeys), closed in 1987. It opened again in 1990-91 as a community arts facility, and the city commissioned a feasibility study of the building to determine its best use for the area. Out of this came the



Casino Theatre Foundation, spearheaded by Mary Jane Sakurai. It developed detailed plans for the renovation of the theatre, which would have cost \$5 million. A business plan outlined how the

Casino could come alive again as a community centre: a place where local people could strut their stuff and visiting artists and groups open windows on the world for residents. The foundation received a great deal of moral support from local groups and the cultural community, and many professional people devoted sweat equity to turn its vision into reality.

Meanwhile, the theatre deteriorated, with water pouring through the damaged roof. City council and staff were very supportive of the idea of a revitalized Casino Theatre that could provide an anchor, public place and centre of creative energy for Gottingen Street and the North End. But the foundation found it hard to raise money for a theatre owned by Sobeys, and the building became dangerous. Sobeys offered the theatre to the City for a tax credit, but council did not want to take possession of it. The vision of the Casino Theatre Foundation simply faded away and the North End lost another opportunity for revitalization. Finally, the Casino, a mere shell of its former self, had to be torn down.

Jim Lotz was a member of the board of the Casino Theatre Foundation.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Buffet Supper, Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker
Thursday, June 19: Saraguay Club, 360 Purcell's Cove Road, Halifax



Note change of meeting place. 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. The annual general meeting and speaker are free to members. The evening will be as follows:

- 5.45 Reception/Cash Bar, Terrace Room, Saraguay Club
- 6.15 Buffet Supper at \$25.00 per person (Please register)
- 7.30 Annual General Meeting
- 8.15 Guest Speaker Bill Plaskett will discuss the architecture of Old Lunenburg

Registration Form for Buffet

Deadline for application June 12. Price \$25 per person

Menu

Juice

Lemon Chicken Almondine with Rice Pilaff, Pasta Primavera, Vegetables, Green Salad, Marinated Mushroom Salad, Greek Salad, Potato Salad and Cole Slaw Relish Tray, Homemade Tea Biscuits and Rolls
 Dessert table includes: *Traditional English Trifle, Fresh Fruit and a Selection of Pies*

Number attending Buffet, Thurs. June 19, at \$25

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

Doris's column: *Heritage Week in a Country School*



Editor Doris Butters

Although Heritage Trust did not have an official Heritage Day project this year, on February 19, Joyce, Pam and I paid a visit to East Saint Margarets Bay Road Consolidated School to see a little of what that school was doing to celebrate heritage. Invited resource persons illustrated different aspects of Nova Scotian heritage, including a cooking lesson culminating in a traditional Nova Scotian lunch; a slide show by Robin Creighton; and Mary Martha Creighton and The Merrymakers Guild of Craftswomen demonstrating traditional weaving, braiding, hooking, knitting and name-sewing skills. The day we were there, a fisherman in another room was teaching knotting and net making and had taught the youngsters how to make sailors bracelets of colourful nylon cord, without knots or loose ends. Many were very neatly done.

We were there to visit Grades 1 and 2 and to see the innovative results of Norma Henneberry's efforts to teach her class a little about their own area. Very little taller than the children themselves, Mrs. Henneberry, of a motherly roundness and a gentle firmness, has a wonderfully active imagination. Door and walls are lined with pictures of animals and birds, and a large placard with 'one-liners' of information on endangered species encourages interest in the environment, and illustrates the children's reading abilities. The whole room harbours a mass of stuff: a brochure rack, books in disorderly piles, everywhere evidence of a variety of class projects. The day we were there teacher's overloaded table and the children's desks had been pushed out of the way to make room for the kids to sit on the floor to show

their efforts on the Heritage theme.

Pam took drawings and the story of Heritage Trust's *Griffin* logo; pictures of the Enos Collins house; a copy of an early cartographer's map with bizarre illustrations of Canadian wildlife; Rogers Advertising Album showing downtown Halifax over a century ago, and a few Trust publications for the school library. Pam spoke in simple terms about the groups who tried to save *Gorsebrook*, and how it led to the formation of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to preserve where possible endangered buildings of heritage importance. Pointing out that the new group had needed an identifying 'sign', she described the significance of the *Griffin* and suggested that the children might like to design a logo for themselves or their families. She also suggested that, when Mrs. Henneberry brings her class to Halifax for swimming lessons, should time allow for a sidetrip, the group might be interested in visiting the waterfront to look at some of the historical buildings in that area.

Then it was the children's turn to display the results of their projects. Ideas had been suggested by the children themselves and names drawn for each child to choose and illustrate a topic. In small fidgety groups each held up a circle of drawing paper coloured to look like a porthole with two small lady bugs on it. The words "I love..." appeared on the circle and a carefully crayoned picture of their favourite things: cliffs, ocean, boats, gulls, a river, little houses, friendly people, the soldiers' monument, the fire hall and sea ice were all represented. In drawing the old Seabright Hotel, they had learned that early in the century film stars stayed there and people visited from as far away as California. One child chose a church built in 1833; another, the walk on which Nils Jannisch (retired curator of Maritime Museum of the Atlantic) had taken them. One little lad drew an empty pasture, which he described as, 'the field where the cows *used* to be.'! Timidly, each read out what they had written.

Gathering courage, they became a little giggly over the next project. This time a cutout drawing of binoculars, with what they had observed pictured in the eyepieces. Some may have had a little problem focussing, half the topic being in one lens, and half in the other.

Then little Nicole, perched on a step stool, became the 'chosen person' of attention. "What do we know about Nicole?" Names were drawn from a heart-shaped box and the named child asked Nicole a question about herself, family, or favourite things. Consumed with shyness, Nicole spoke so softly that, until she escaped from the 'hot seat' claiming Mickey Mouse to be her favourite character, the visitors could scarcely hear her replies

Next a heart-edged placard was held up and, in unison, the class read the written message, demonstrating their excellent reading skills. Before getting the children to show their projects, Mrs. Henneberry made them relax with a few breathing exercises; afterwards, before scattering for lunch, they said a little prayer. One small girl after waiting politely for me to get off her chair, held up her sandwich, poked a hole in the middle and, finger on the curved end of the crust, took 'snapshots'.

Before we left, using a real camera and sweeping aside a clothes-line full of cutout snowmen, Mrs. Henneberry snapped us with her children, by which time, no longer shy, they were anxious to show us their work—a particularly striking mark of esteem being shown by one young chap who invited us into the schoolyard to watch them play hockey! Unfortunately, we had to leave. Pam and Joyce had other commitments and Pam wanted to take advantage of the clear, mild day to take pictures of sea ice on the bay. All told, an enlightening experience.

Griffin: Continued from page 5
Saint Andrew's Cross with a red lion on a yellow shield. The brown flagpole has a gold spear head. The green background represents the preservation of the environment.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly was a 1966 Western film hit. But the law-abiding citizens of Truro are making it known that no outlaws can ride into their town and destroy their cultural and architectural heritage! Posses have been formed!

The good...

The 103-year-old Immanuel Baptist Church, slated for demolition in February 1996, is still standing! This is largely due to the efforts of the Society for Protection of Truro Heritage Properties (SPTHP), formed in January 1996 as a response to citizens' desire to save this beautiful structure and maintain the architectural integrity of the streetscape.

During the past 12 months, a coalition of community arts groups met regularly to determine the cultural needs of Truro. It has tried to find ways and means of procuring the church with a view to renovating and revitalizing it as a music recital hall and intimate theatre. The group also hopes to find a way to obtain the soon-to-be-vacated police station and convert it to a visual arts centre.

The process continues and in the interim, a church group is renting the building and maintaining it for the owners who 12 months ago moved into a new building.

More good news is that Truro's Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) with the help of the Colchester Regional Development Association, has published the first of two *Architectural Walking Tours of Truro* to encourage appreciation of the town's architectural gems. The second should be available this summer.

...the bad

Now for the bad news! The Colchester Academy building behind the War Memorial, for so long a prominent feature of Prince Street, finally met its fate at the hands of the wrecker's ball last October. This was a sad day for Truro residents who had spent time as students or teachers inside the walls of this elegant Romanesque structure. Work on a new building, a police station, began almost immediately. At a cost of \$3 million approximaely, we had

been hoping for a design which would incorporate some architectural elements of the Academy. The old granite pillars and stone arches were to be part of the entrance. But this is not the case, judging from a design released to the *Truro Daily News*. The HAC has been informed that the pillars will now be located inside the building, possibly supporting the main desk in the lobby.

Another wanton act of destruction to the appearance of Prince Street in the downtown core is the slated April demolition of the

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Developments in Truro
by *Janice E. Zann, HTNS*
representative in Truro

Renaissance-style Darling and Pearson designed Bank of Nova Scotia (1907). Despite pleas from the HAC, bank officials claim they can't even incorporate the facade into the new design because the stone work is beyond repair. One wonders why, with profits at a record high, this institution couldn't find the funds to salvage this attractive piece of Truro's architectural heritage.

...and the ugly

Finally, let me focus on the ugly developments about to take place. Back in 1967, as a Centennial project, the Colchester-East Hants Library was built; a monstrosity thrown up directly in front of the magnificent Second Empire Normal College (now the YMCA). This happened at a time when the town fathers were planning to demolish the college. Fortunately, someone had the foresight to have it registered as a heritage property. The 1877 brick structure, designed by Henry Busch, was featured on the \$2 stamp in 1996. The Library building, meanwhile, has come in for criticism from both heritage advocates and visiting architects, who describe it as a wart on an otherwise beautiful face.

It has even been suggested that the library could be dismantled and rebuilt in a less prominent part of the town to allow us to see the Normal College.

The library, which does perform a vital function in the community, is desperate for extra space. Despite the fact that a 30-year-old federal building, the Post Office, is just a block away and is up for sale for \$300,000, the library is seeking support from Town Council for a plan to raise \$2.5 million to add a section to this already ugly structure. This money might be spent more wisely in renovating and beautifying an existing building rather than in enlarging the existing 'wart'. The \$2.5 million would go a long way towards that renovation. At least that is the view of the SPTHC and HAC.

Another major controversy is shaping up over the impact of a proposed Atlantic Superstore (an extension of the present Save Easy store on Elm and Queen streets) on the town. To begin with, the Queen Anne style mansion, former home (1902) of the late Senator John Stanfield, will be right in the main entrance. After protest from the HAC, a prominent businessman has signed an agreement with Loblaw's to pay for the removal of the house to another location.

Meanwhile, another vociferous group has formed the Truro Residents Association to save the town from the negative effects of the Superstore:

- Increased traffic flow
- Proximity to Willow Street Elementary School
- Possible closure of smaller stores in the downtown core.
- The ugliness of this gigantic enterprise at the entrance to Queen Street, one of Truro's oldest streets and recommended to become part of a heritage district. The location, which is flanked on both sides by lovely Victorian homes, is inappropriate for a Superstore.

Letters in local newspapers show that the citizens of Truro realize they do have a right to protect what is left of their architectural heritage, and that maintaining the quality of life is more important than helping a large corporation increase its profits.

Heritage profile

The first of a series of articles about volunteers and professionals who play a key role in heritage protection and promotion in Nova Scotia

Dan Norris

Heritage Planner, Halifax Regional Municipality

How did this quiet bureaucrat, who is now responsible for the fate of heritage in the largest municipality east of Montreal, get interested in buildings? "I was probably about eight" he says. "My father always maintained an excellent collection of *National Geographics*. In the years following the war, around 1948 to 1950, all I heard about was European reconstruction."

These magazines were bedtime reading for Dan and when he finally made it to Europe, he says, "I always considered it my travelling with the *National Geographic*."

Dan was the eldest of nine children in the Edmonton home, and he was close to the siblings he refers to as "my little brothers." Later, one of those little brothers helped him take his fascination with buildings and towns a step further. "He and I would get on the bus on Saturday mornings. I would take him down town and show him buildings. He must have been about 10 and I would have been 14 or 15."

Dan admits: "We were not wholly students of architecture. We used to try and get in, then find our way around the buildings without the security guards noticing. This made it seem rather dangerous. We tried to get on the roof and look down on the city". On one memorable occasion, they reached the roof of the tallest building in Edmonton and achieved their ambition to see how the city was laid out and what it looked like from so high up.

The end of high school saw Dan ready to finish with education. Like many boys of his era, he went up North and did road surveying in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Fort Chipewyan. After that summer, "I realised I did want to do something with buildings and architecture".

There was no school of architecture in Alberta at that time, so he enrolled in a diploma course in architectural technology at technical college. The course aimed to produce draftsmen, construction foremen or juniors for architectural firms. Students learned heating, ventilation, plumbing and construction, but "we had a lot of professors teaching art history and design and an understanding of classical architecture" says Dan. He remembers these teachers fondly. Several were Europeans who had come to Canada after the war. They were "very alive" he remembers, "creating a new world with old world skills."

With his diploma in his pocket, Dan found his drafting skills were not quite good enough to get into an architectural firm, so he ended up going into construction and worked in Fort McMurray for two years. "We built a new school, two new fire halls; we laid out a sub-division for trailer homes with normal streets and sidewalks...parks for kids and playgrounds."

Then, with money in his pocket, the lure of Europe surfaced again. In March 1977, Dan flew to Rome. He and a friend he made on the plane had to hitch hike into Rome because the city was immobilized by a strike. They disdained offers from ordinary folk, but climbed into a chauffeur-driven black Mercedes with a well-dressed man in a Homburg hat. Dan's sense of direction told him their route was round the city, not into it. Thumbing through his Italian dictionary he haltingly asked "Do all roads go to Rome". Shortly after that the car broke down. "We got out to help, and it left with our bags!" The blow of this meeting with the Mafia was softened, however, by the



kindness of the chief of police of Rome who arranged a night in a *pensione* for them, gave them introductions and had one of his men give them a private tour of Rome at 60 miles an hour.

Those three months in Europe also included time in Florence, Milan, Venice, Naples, Athens, a trip to Greece which included seeing where the Olympic Games began, and a pilgrimage to Israel. Here the Roman Catholic-raised young man visited both spiritual and architectural landmarks and stayed in a kibbutz.

And how did Dan respond to his first taste of Europe? "I was deeply moved. I decided that this was my calling...especially in Italy, it was the whole nature of the European form that is still imprinted on my mind". Remembering his favourite cities, he says, "You would be travelling down the street and you could not see the end; you always could in Alberta". He realized that architecture can bring a sense of mystery, a kind of planned confusion.

What was his most vivid memory? "We arrived in Venice by train just before Lent". It was Carnival and, adds Dan, "everyone was dressed in costume...it was a foggy, warm night...with people coming around corners, saying 'Boo' and shaking things at you." Dan and

Continued on page 10



Trust news

Welcome new members!

The following people have recently joined Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. Welcome to our ranks.

- Romi Casper, Yarmouth
- W.L. Chaffey and G.M. Chaffey, Bedford
- Gale and Roger Dial, Windsor
- Barbara Fisher, Sackville, N.B.
- Mark Grantham, Halifax
- Frances Ingersoll, Halifax
- Janet Morris, Halifax
- L. Kent Sweeney, Yarmouth

Tiny but important plasterer

One of the ways in which the folks at Saint George's raise funds to complete the restoration is by inviting people to join the team as

honorary Architects (\$1,000), Master Carpenters (\$500), Glaziers (\$250) or Plasterers (\$100). Over 300 people, including many Trust members are now honorary artisans.

The latest is Emma Olwen Grant, who was born on June 2, 1994, even as fire raged through the Round Church. Her doting grandmother, Trust member Hilary Grant, has made Emma an Honorary Plasterer. All at Saint George's look forward to Emma's first visit to see, among other things, the spectacular plastering that has recently been carried out.

You will be pleased to know that all plaster products have been provided at half price by Canadian Gypsum in memory of its own Maritime beginnings. Photographs of the church will appear in the company's newsletter.

In Memoriam

Many of you will remember fondly long time Truster Vivian Rodgers, who passed away suddenly in April, 1997.

Norris: continued from page 9

his friend wandered towards Saint Mark's and found, "a whole square full of people dancing, laughing and joking and classical music [playing]. I thought 'This has to be what Europe is all about' ".

Back in Alberta, more determined to be an architect than ever, Dan completed a BA at the University of Alberta, with a double major in fine arts and urban geography. His next step was to enroll in architecture at TUNS in 1980. Fate took a hand again; he arrived to find all the architecture students on strike and burning the dean of architecture in effigy. Put off by this, he settled instead for a Master's in Planning degree, specializing in urban geography.

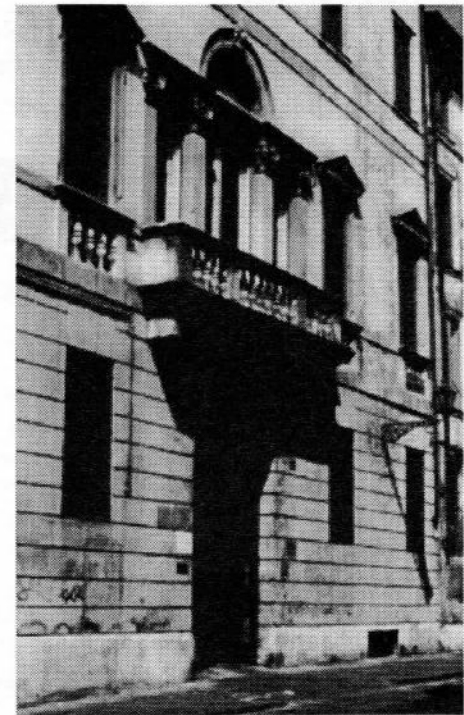
In 1984, before finishing his thesis, he got a job with the Province of Nova Scotia as its first full-time heritage officer. He and recently retired Head of Heritage Brian Cuthbertson were hired at the same

time. Dan enjoyed the challenge of creating a new job, and also finished his thesis part-time, graduating in 1989.

At that time Dooley Churchill, the City of Halifax's first full-time heritage officer, was about to retire and Dan became his successor. When the Halifax Regional Municipality was created in 1996, Dan became its Heritage Planner and has just finished his first year in the new job, which has a much magnified mandate that includes museums and heritage collections as well as built heritage. He finds the challenge stimulating. "It is a tremendous job, that is why I am still fired up."

Asked whether he has time for hobbies, he says, "My hobby is my work and my avocation. However, Dan and his wife Deborah do hope to visit Europe together next year.

Anne West



Classic Venetian or Palladian window on a palazzo in Vicenza.

So, who was this guy Palladio?

By Anne West
Saint George's Round Church owes its National Historic Site status to its Palladian style. In 1996, Chris and I set off on a light-hearted camping trip across Northern Italy to find out who Palladio was. In and around Vicenza, which was recently designated a world heritage site as the "City of Palladio", we began to find the answer to our question.

Andrea Palladio is the only architect whose name has been immortalized in a style of building known around the world. He was born in Padua, Italy, in 1508. Apprenticed to a stonemason, he broke his bond when he was 16 and moved to Vicenza, where he worked for two sculptors. At the age of 30, he came under the patronage of Count Trissino, whose house was a meeting place for artists and learned men.

Turning his attention to architecture, Palladio became one of many people who turned away from the Gothic style of the middle ages and based his designs on the classical symmetry of the Romans. He and Trissino travelled to Rome in 1541 and 1545 and measured the ancient buildings in the city. "His mission was to 'free' his country from the

Gothic in a return to correct classical proportions" says Desmond Guinness in *Palladio: A Western Progress*.

By the time of his patron's death in 1550, Palladio was established as an architect in the Venetian Republic. It was a time when wealthy merchants vied with each other to create bigger and more beautiful town houses and country villas and when the faithful sought the favour of God by building ever more magnificent churches.

But Palladio's biggest impact came through his *Four Books of Architecture*, published in 1570. These included illustrations of Roman antiquities and most of his own buildings. Its subjects range from the correct proportions of every conceivable architectural feature to appropriate building materials.

The *Four Books* were read throughout Europe and influenced many architects, including Britain's Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren, to adopt what became known as the Palladian style. Colonizing Britons then carried the style to the Bahamas,

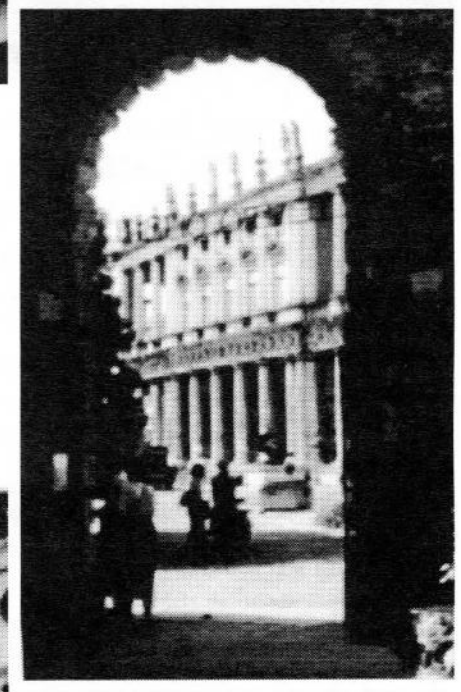
Right: La Rotonda, a country villa outside Vicenza which is Palladio's most copied building.

Below R: Palazzo Chiericati, seen through the gate of the Teatro Olimpico, Palladio's last work.

Below: The Basilica, a large public building in Vicenza which Palladio "modernized".

North America, India and elsewhere.

When that talented amateur architect Edward, Duke of Kent, lived in Halifax from 1794 to 1800, he encouraged the congregation of the Little Dutch Church to create a Palladian masterpiece in the difficult form supposed to represent perfect symmetry—the circle.



Heritage Trust Program—Spring 1996

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 Sreet, Halifax.

Thursday, June 19/97

Buffet, AGM and Speaker
We meet at the Saraguay Club, North West Arm. For details see page 13.

Saturday/Sunday, June 21/22

Historic House Tour to Annapolis Royal, see page 13.

Saturday, August 16

Historic House Tour of Mahone Bay.
For details see page 13.

Saturday, September 13

Historic House Tour of Lunenburg.
For details see page 13.

Speakers on waiting list:

Alan Ruffman: WW II Submarine Net
Cathy Brown: N.S. Light Houses
NSCAD: History of Garden Design
Greg Munn: Photographer Mr. Hirtle

Suggestions always gratefully received

Events sponsored by other societies

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

1741 Hollis Street. Info: 424-7542

June '97 to January '98

Huntington Folk Art Festival

July/August

Exhibitions: 1) Dawn McNutt : All the ancients walk inside us; (2) Nova Scotia collects: Tony Saulnier
May to September 9
Mermaid Theatre Exhibition.

YWCA Benefit

Sunday, June 22

Gardens on Sundays: Seven private gardens and the related Mary E. Black Gallery exhibition: Wood, Water and Whimsy. Info: 423-4142

The Royal N.S. Historical Society

Legislative Chamber, Province House

Thursday, May 22 -7.30 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speakers: Janet and Jock Murray
Topic: Medical career of Sir Charles Tupper

Regional Museum of Cultural History

100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth: 464: 2916

June 4 - September 28

Shades of White: an exhibition of heritage domestic white work from the permanent collection. A Nova Scotia Craft Theme Year event

June 30-October 26

Paddles in Time: The history of competitive canoeing in N.S. A 1997 World Senior Canoe Championships event.

Shubenacadie Canal Commission

Fairbanks Centre, Dartmouth. Info: 462-1826

Open daily May 24 to mid-October

Monday-Friday, June 2-6

Ghosts of the Canal: day camp for children. Possible second camp.

Saturday, June 7: 10 am to 3 pm

Trails Day: visit or walk the trails.

Also Classic Mustang Car Show.

Tuesday, July 1

Canada Day special programs

Saturday, July 12

Museums Day: canoe race to the sea.

Details 429-4456

Wednesday/Thursday: July 30/31

2nd Annual Canal Conference.

Waterway of opportunity: opportunities for Recreation. Special speakers on: walking trails, fishing, white-water rafting, etc.

Weekends in June, daily, July/August
(weather permitting)

Canal boat tours, small charge.

Friends of McNabs Island Society

Sunday, June 1

Spring Beach Sweep: McNabs and Lawlor islands. Enq: 434-2254 .

Federation of N.S. Heritage

Sat./Sun. July 12/13

Museums Weekend. Celebrations at all museums. Check media/posters.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

Poplar Street, Dart. Info: 434-0222

Saturday, June 21 : 4:30 to 6 pm.

Corn chowder supper with rhubarb desserts. Adv. \$8, \$6 ch. Door: \$9, \$7.

Saturday, July 5 :2 to 4 pm

Outdoor strawberry social. Live performers, prizes. Adv: \$4, ch/ seniors \$3. Door: \$5 and \$3.50.

Sunday, August 10 : 7.30 pm

Settlers Supper in the main barn.

Seven courses of traditional fare, served in a single bowl. Performers dramatizing everyday happenings from settlers' times. **Reservations required:** \$16 per person.

Sunday, August 24 - 2 pm

Garden Party: Halifax classical musicians perform in an informal outdoor setting. Afternoon tea, in tearoom if weather inclement.

Tickets: Adv: \$6.00. Door: \$7.00

Saturday, Sept 6: 4.30 to 6.30 pm,

Corn Boil and Ceilidh. Music, fresh local corn, summer salads, beverages.

Tickets: Adv: \$5; ch \$4. Door: \$6 all

Fort Sackville Foundation/Scott Manor House

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford, Info: Diana 835-1924, Anne 835-5368

Saturday, June 28: 2-4 pm.

Open Tea, part of Bedford Day celebrations, no charge.

July and August

Tearoom open daily, 2 -4 pm small charge

July

A display of of period costumes

August

A display of Mi'kmaq artifacts

Fultz House Museum

33 Sackville Dr, Lr. Sackville. Info: 864-1878

July 1 to August 26 : 10.to 2 pm

Tuesday Teas: small charge.

Tuesday, July 1

Canada Day: Special presentations, home-made bread and baked beans

Continued on page 14

Mahone Bay Historic House Tour

Saturday, August 16, 1997

(Deadline for applications is August 10)

Heritage Trust members and friends are invited to tour six historic homes in Mahone Bay, on Saturday, August 16, from 1 to 5 pm, followed by afternoon tea at Saint James' Anglican Church Hall. Saint James hosts its annual flower festival this weekend, an added attraction.

The bus will leave the Lord Nelson Hotel at 11.30 am and return by 6.45 p.m.

See registration form overleaf.

Lunenburg Historic House Tour and Tea

Saturday, September 13

(Deadline for applications is September 6)

This tour offers an opportunity to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site designated town of Lunenburg and view 10 heritage buildings. The buildings are open from 10 am to 4 pm. They include:

- The Lennox Inn, 1791
- Blair House, 1828
- Charles Morash Homestead, 1840
- Lewis Anderson House, 1840
- The Old Marine Hospital, 1897
- Lunenburg Academy,
- Saint John's Anglican Church
- Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Zion Lutheran Church
- Thomas Walters and Son Blacksmith Shop.

Tea will be served at Saint John's Church Hall (Lunenburg's first Court House) from 2-4 pm. This is not included in the cost. Bring picnic lunch and beverage.

Bus will depart Lord Nelson Hotel 7:45 am. and return by 6:00 pm.

Registration Form

Lunenburg Tour:

Saturday, September 13

Name.....Phone.....

Address Postal Code

\$5.00 Registration Fee, members

\$7.00 Non-members, guests

\$49.00 Bus

By car

\$15.00 House tour, tea ticket, per person

Amount enclosed

Make cheques payable to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and mail to office. P.O. Box 36111, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3S9.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Weekend Tour

Historic House Tour to Annapolis Royal, Granville Ferry and Caledonia

Saturday June 21 and Sunday June 22

Deadline for application is June 12!!!

We return to Annapolis Royal and Granville Ferry for an historic house tour of five 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 Garrison House, followed by a theatre 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.

The bus will leave the Lord Nelson Hotel at 7:30 am on Saturday, June 21. **Bring a picnic lunch.**

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

Bed and Breakfast list

Full details of the B & Bs, including prices, are in your June *Griffin*, or at the HTNS office. Bus checks in to B/Bs 1 pm.

Auberge-Wandlyn Motel

Rob Ferguson, Box 551, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO.
Tel. 1-902-532-2323, 532-7563

Bread & Roses Country Inn

Monica & Richard Cobb, 82 Victoria Street, Box 177, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO Tel. 1-902-532-5727

Garrison House

Patrick Redgrave, 350 Saint George Street, Box 108, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO
Tel. 1-902-532-5750

Hillsdale House Inn

Leslie Langille, 519 Upper Saint George Street, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO
Tel. 1-902-532-2345

King George Inn

Michael & Donna Susnick, 548 Saint George Street, Box 43, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO
Tel. 532-5286 or 425-5656.

The Poplars B&B

Iris & Syd Williams, 124 Victoria Street, Route 1, Box 277, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO
Tel. 1-902-532-7936

Queen Anne Inn

Leslie Langille, 494 Upper Saint George Street, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO
Tel. 1-902-532-7850

The Turret B&B

George & Barbara Dunlop, 372 Saint George Street, Box 497, Annapolis Royal, N.S., BOS 1AO
Tel. 1-902-532-5770.

Registration Form

Mahone Bay Historic House Tour

Saturday, August 16

For further information, please telephone Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia office. Tel: 423-4807

\$5.00 Registration fee
\$10.00 House Tour Ticket
\$42.00 Bus
_____ By Car

Amount enclosed

Name Phone

Address Postal Code

Please mail to office;

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia,
P.O. Box 36111,
Halifax, N.S.,
B3J 3S9

Note

This weekend, Saint James' Anglican Church is holding its flower festival, on the theme 'Paradise'. Tea for tour visitors is available at Saint James'.

Registration Form

Weekend tour to Annapolis Royal and Caledonia

Deadline for applications: June 12

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, per person \$13.00

Historic Gardens \$3.00

Garrison House Dinner \$27.00

(includes taxes, gratuities)

Meal order:

Soup/Salad,/.....

Chicken/Fish with rice/vegetables/.....

Dessert

Tea/Coffee/.....

Sunday Chowder Lunch \$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

Continued from page 12

Waverley Heritage Society

Heritage Museum, 1319 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley. Info: 861-4726

July and August: 2 to 4.30 pm

Friday afternoon teas, small charge.

The museum holds much of local interest, including the gold-mining period. A display of old musical instruments celebrates this summer's theme of Music.

Wolfville Historical Society

Randall House Museum, Wolfville.

Info. summer programs and events:

Robbins Elliott: 1-902-542-9852.

Wednesdays: 2 pm:

Monthly meetings at Town House on Main Street.

Bluenoser's School of Rug Hooking

Tuesday/Saturday August 26 to 30

Agri Tech Park, John Walker

Boulevard, Bible Hill, Truro, N.S.

Courses: Fine Cut Pictorial, teacher

Marjorie Judson; Introductory and

Basics: Bonnie Loomer; Whimsical

Primitives: Sylvia MacDonald;

Dyeing and Colour Theory: Barbie

Baker Dykens; Find It and Finish It:

Page 14

Kay Magwood; Sculpture: Leslie Allen. **Tuition \$145** payable with registration. **Accommodation, meals, taxes: Double \$205 per person; Single \$241.** Balance payable before July 1st. **Registrations:** Bonnie Loomer, 199 Sunnyvale Crescent, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4E 2S9. Info: 902-864-1375

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum Society

Barss Corner, Nova Scotia.

Year-round activities, summer

programs and times call Donna M.

Smith or Wendy Looke 902- 644-3288.

Kings Historical Society/Old Kings Courthouse Heritage Museum

37 Cornwall Street, Kentville.

Until mid-June

The Eastern Aeronautical Research Collection

Until mid-July

What She Kept: the Beth (Parker)

Bezanson collection

Lunenburg Heritage Society

Saturday, September 13: 10 am-4 pm

Lunenburg Historic House Tour. Old

Marine Hospital (c.1897); Lewis Anderson House (c.1840); Charles Morash Homestead (c.1849); The Blair House (c.1828); Lennox Inn (c.1791). Other historic sites: The Lunenburg Academy; Saint John's Anglican, Saint Andrew's Presbyterian, and Zion Lutheran churches, and Thomas Walter and Son blacksmith shop. **Tickets: \$15.** Info/tickets: Lunenburg Heritage Society, P.O. B. 674, Lunenburg, B0J 2C0; Trudie Bazemore: 902-634-9423/ Barbara Zwicker, 902-634-8575. Tea 2-4 Saint John's Anglican church hall.

West Pubnico Acadian Festival

Tuesday/Sunday, August 5/10
Chez-nous a Pomcoup 6-day program of traditional high mass, music, Acadian, foods, children's parade, competitions, games and fireworks. See page

Yarmouth County Historical Society

Saturday, May 31: 7.30 pm
Autograph Auction Expansion Fund Benefit.

Saturday, July 12: day long
Annual Garden Sale fundraiser.

Planning the North Suburbs

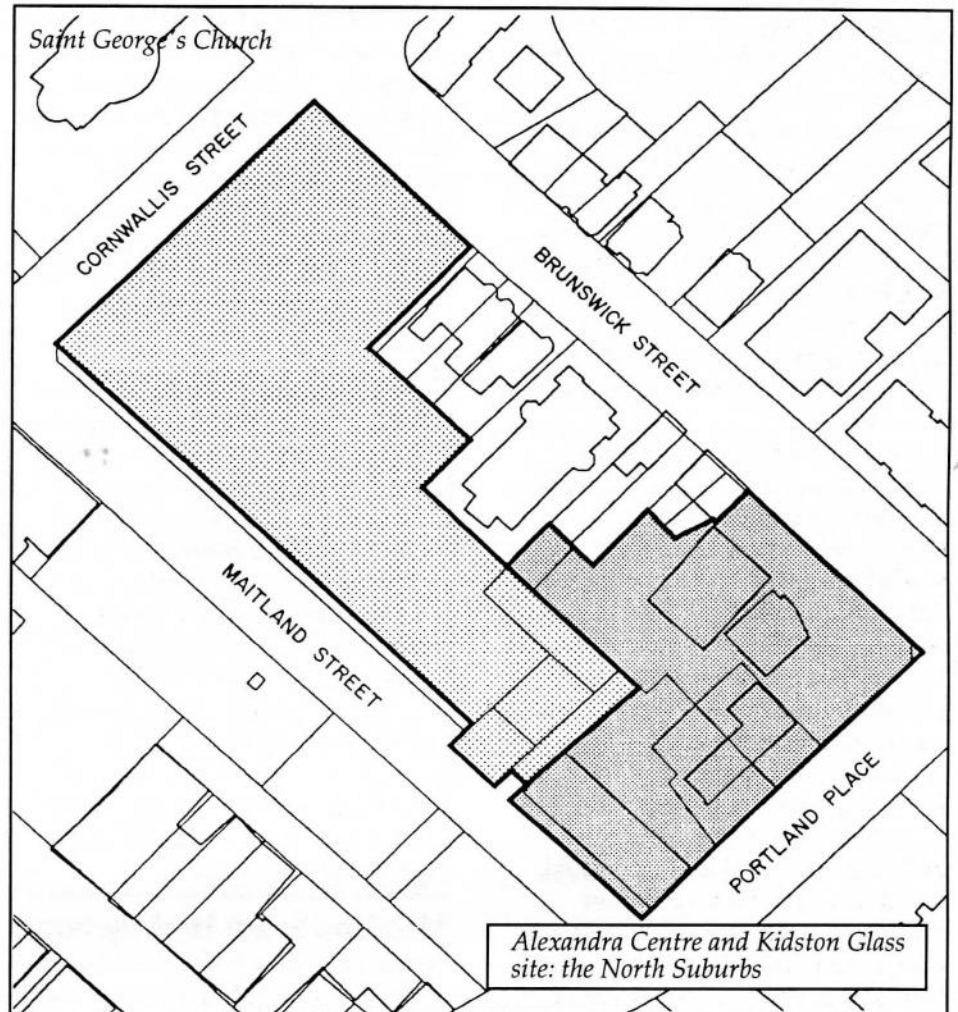
Not long after Halifax was founded in 1749, the settlement began to expand along what is now Brunswick Street. Among the people who established their homes in the North Suburbs were the German settlers who built the Little Dutch Church.

This early development was recalled during a public workshop on the development of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) owned Alexandra Centre-Kidston Glass Lands in Halifax. During the workshop, which was held at the North Branch Library on February 24, HRM Heritage Co-ordinator Dan Norris referred to the area by its original name, the North Suburbs, a name which seemed to strike a chord with the people present.

HRM staff invited local residents and members of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to discuss the development of this very important block. The property is bounded by Brunswick, Cornwallis and Maitland streets and Portland Place. Most of it is vacant, but it contains a number of important Georgian and Victorian buildings and is overlooked at the north end by Saint George's Round Church. Saint George's was designated a National Historic Site primarily because of its unique round Palladian architecture. The site is also close to the Victorian row cottages, the Twelve Apostles, and forms part of the Brunswick Street Heritage District.

The 30-or-so people who attended the meeting worked in small groups to consider all aspects of the proposed development of the site. They first studied the HRM's goals for development. Number one is to preserve and enhance the buildings, areas, streetscapes and conditions which contribute to the heritage character of the area.

The HRM also wants future development to be compatible with the heritage buildings already on or near the site; if possible it seeks development of the whole site, although development of portions of it is not ruled out. Another important goal, which could influence all the others, is that the site must be sold or



leased at market value. The HRM is looking for a reasonable financial return from the sale of this land to developers.

*...this exciting
new approach
to planning...*

Working through the questionnaires provided by the HRM, people eagerly considered the types of land use permitted on the site, the placement of buildings, the future of Maitland Street, parking for the residents of the new development and ways of ensuring that the design of any new development is pleasing.

The people who took part in this exciting new approach to planning reached a remarkable consensus of opinion when it came time to share their conclusions. To boil a lot of work down to a few main points, they wanted a low-to-medium density development that could accommodate people from more than one social stratum, buildings that are sympathetic to (but not necessarily derivative of) the existing buildings, green space, good views of Saint George's, perhaps a convenience store.

Their overall desire was to see HRM make possible a truly excellent development of real homes for real people, something of which Halifax can be proud. HRM staff are now developing proposals which will include the ideas and opinions of the citizens who helped to start the process.

By Anne West

News from Heritage Groups around the province

Friends of McNabs Island Society (FOMIS)

This society, which seeks wise use and preservation of the natural and human heritage of McNabs, Lawlor and Devils islands in Halifax Harbour, feels that the time is ripe for creation of an Outdoor Education Centre on McNabs Island. Despite total lack of facilities and limited transportation, the island has been used for years on an informal basis for recreation and outdoor education programs.

In an effort to bring together those interested in such a centre, the FOMIS Outdoor Education Committee hosted a half-day workshop on March 1. It attracted outdoor specialists, educators, students and parents, and focused on the outdoor educational needs of school and university students and others who visit the island. Consensus was that there is no need for a new building to house the centre; all the existing empty buildings, repaired and retrofitted, could serve outdoor education purposes. The historical character of the Conrad and Lynch houses should be maintained. Committee Chair John Charles is preparing a report for presentation to N.S. Department of Natural Resources and Parks Canada.

According to Mike Tilley of the McNabs Island Ferry, which now runs year round, there is a steady trickle of visitors to the Island even during the winter.

The winter issue of *The Rucksack* contains details of the centre project, and an account of what FOMIS members, staff from Public Works Canada and the N.S. Department of Natural Resources found in neglected Fort Hugonin during a February visit to assess its potential as part of the proposed complex.

June should see a Department of National Defence (DND) team on a military exercise on the shores of McNabs. The Island will remain open to visitors during the exercise, and further information is obtainable from DND's Nancy Weatherspoon, ph: 427-0550, ext. 112

McNabs Island snippet

The following notice, which was unearthed by the intrepid Alan Ruffman, appeared in *The Nova Scotia Gazette and The Weekly Chronicle*, September 19, 1775. John Bulkeley was the son of Provincial Secretary Richard Bulkeley who held the lease of the island at that time. Cornwallis's Island was the pre-1872 name for McNabs.

This is to give notice to all persons who would land cattle on Cornwallis's Island that they must first make application to Mr. Thomas Phelon; and likewise all persons upon removing their cattle from the said Island are to inform said Phelon thereof and pay him such charges as he may make for their Grazing.

Also all persons having removed their Cattle from said island this summer, are required to satisfy the said Phelon for their Grazing, or they will without further Notice be sued.
sgd. JOHN BULKELEY

Mainland South Heritage Soc.

Earlier Pastimes and Pleasures, the collection of old photos and artifacts put together by Mainland South Heritage Society is now on permanent display in an empty store overlooking the food court in South Centre Mall, Spryfield.

Memorabilia of many of the area's oldest families is included in the exhibit. Also pictures of the North West Arm bustling with small craft activity, and gatherings at places such as The Dingle for picnics, ball games and swimming. For more detail: Michelle Raymond, 477-7896

Yarmouth County Historical Society

Once again a photograph from the collection of Yarmouth County Historical Society has been chosen to label a Jost wine. This year's full colour image is of the old Yarmouth Light, with a brief history of the Light and some publicity for the Museum on the back of the bottle. A collector's item, available in

Yarmouth for a few months only.

A photographic history of Yarmouth County from 1858 to the 1940s is also in the works and should be available this autumn.

Should you be in the Yarmouth area during the next few weeks and plan a visit to the Museum, you might like to examine the unique shawl draping the shoulders of one of the costumed mannequins. It has an over-all pattern of hundreds of small metallic pieces, each clamped into the material. Must have weighed very heavily on the shoulders of its original owner.

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum Society



Although the Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum in Barss Corners, 18 km from New Germany, is only seasonal, the Society usually plans late fall activities and a maple sugaring-off in early spring. Summer programs include strawberry teas, a harvest festival etc. To find out more call Museum Administrator Donna M. Smith at 1-902-644-3288

On a cold and stormy March day the Society provided a full day of 'Pioneer' activities to 50 Grade 4 students. A borrowed mill ground the grain for bannock, apples were peeled for sauce, and beans shelled and put to bake. Potatoes, salt pork, onions and apples went into *smeltz* potatoes (a Lunenburg County traditional meal) and old-fashioned molasses cookies were made and baked. The students worked with the volunteers and at lunch time all enjoyed the fruits of their labours. A glass bottle churn from the museum's working collection set up for butter-making provided a lot of fun, but sadly—no butter!

Wool carding, spinning and weaving were practised and two older sisters helped students embroider a large tablecloth set up in a quilt frame; an activity surprisingly

popular with the boys! Two older men spoke of their experiences with oxen and working in the woods, but to the students' disappointment, bitter cold, a biting wind, and blowing snow prevented the planned visit by live oxen.

Another volunteer introduced the students to the art of tin-smithing: the use of hammer and nails to punch a design into a tin pie-plate. Donna Smith gave a talk on plants and how the pioneers learned the use of plants for medicine from the Mi'kmaq Indians. As weather prevented the sugaring-off, they faked it. The children tasted maple sap collected the day before and the museum's sapping display was used to demonstrate boiling down the sap. However, the maple butter 'taster' on a cracker was real enough.

A Scavenger Hunt held in the Museum was a standard "How many hats can you find?" type of questionnaire, and included activities such as writing on a slate. To end the day, entertainment by a local combo comprising fiddle, keyboard and guitar, set several of the children to dancing. It proved such a success that variations on *Pioneer Day* were arranged for three more classes later in the spring.

(Abstracted from a *Parkdale-Museum Community Museum newsletter*)

The Society for the Preservation of Eastern Head

(*Little River, Digby County*)

The Society is looking for information on early lighthouse-keepers of Little River: Manning Trask, Norman Trask, Roy Trask, Eldon Frost, Jack Frost, William Frost and Hazen Tidd. If you can help, call 902-834-2717

New Dolls for SPEH: Rolande Strand has produced more of her charming collectible dolls based on Digby Neck and Islands folklore. The latest *Child of the Mist* (a standing version of the original doll) and *The Captain's Widow* will be on sale this spring. Also in gift shops along the Neck: Poster by Michael Towle *Digby Neck: A Way of Life*, and *The Little River Girl* doll kit by Permillia and Marcella. Rolande's doll *Mrs. Stanton at the Ball* can be made to order. (I saw a colour snapshot and Mrs. S. is a real beauty. Her story fantastic, Ed.)

June 1997

Fort Sackville Foundation Scott Manor House

(*Fort Sackville Drive, Bedford*)

Scott Manor House's new Reading Room is now open for reading/reference purposes. Contains material on the Archaeology of Nova Scotia.

Contact: Ann McVicar: 835-5368

Museum name change:

Regional Museum of Cultural History

Reflecting the amalgamation of the Halifax Regional Municipality and the changing role of the museum within the municipality, please note that the

Darmouth Heritage Museum

has been renamed. It is now the *Regional Museum of Cultural History*. The location remains the same: 100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, as does the phone: 902-464-2916 and fax : 902-464-8210. Anita Price is still assistant curator.

West Pubnico Acadian Festival

Chez-nous à Pomcoup is the name and music the theme of this year's West Pubnico Acadian Festival, to be held from 5-10 August. Many local and visiting Acadian musicians will augment the traditional program of events, displays and competitions. Also, two anniversaries will be celebrated this year: the 1937 founding of the only French weekly paper in Nova Scotia, *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*, and the 150th anniversary of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *Evangeline*.

The paper was founded by Desiré d'Eon on February 10, 1937. M. d'Eon had to drive from Pubnico to Digby to have the first issue printed but the winter roads were treacherous and his car went into the ditch. Nevertheless, it came out on time to be distributed to all Acadian homes. Sadly, M. d'Eon, who was looking forward to the 60th anniversary, passed away suddenly last fall.

Restored and again operational, his old printing press will be on display during the festival. In the fall, special activities are planned to

celebrate the anniversary, including an evening of Acadian music and song. Stored for many years in Maurice LeBlanc's garage, this old Goliath of a press went through the wood floor, which had to be replaced with concrete.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the poem *Evangeline*, the Acadian Museum of West Pubnico and the Tuna Museum of Wedgeport are looking for anything connected with *Evangeline*, for display during the tourist season—even such items as a bottle of the now extinct *Evangeline Beverage*, or a tin box of Ganong's *Evangeline Chocolate*. Among songs that will be on view are two that Maurice has discovered: *Sweet Evangeline of Old Arcady*, by Joe McCarthy and Fred Fisher, and the bilingual *Les saules t'attendent, Evangeline: The Willows Await Thee Evangeline*, English music and words by W. Delaney, French by P. Bouchard.

After preservation treatment, the Acadian aboiteau (sluice) discovered in 1993 in the West Pubnico marshland, is now ready to show. If possible, this too will be part of the festival exhibits.

Acadian village nearer

Finally an extract from a newsclip in the *Chronicle-Herald*, *Tuesday, April 22*: The long-dreamed of construction of an old-time Acadian Village in West Pubnico drew a step nearer to realization in April, when nearly \$1 million in federal and provincial funding was handed over to Le Comité du Village Historique à Pubnico-Ouest. The village will feature some original structures and a number of existing period homes, including the Manor d'Entremont, (home of the founder of West Pubnico), which will be relocated and rebuilt. Other attractions will include a farm, wharf and fish shed, a chapel and a stage for live entertainment. The main entry point will feature a reception area, restaurant, craft shop and restrooms. Ongoing operating costs will come from fundraising and revenue from admissions and on-site amenities
(Abstracted from a contribution by Fr. Maurice LeBlanc of West Pubnico)

From the Bookshelf



Heritage beyond the Maritimes
Heritage Canada magazine helps you keep in touch with heritage happenings beyond our own region. The January issue relates the story in this year's Heritage Day poster, David Blackwood's etching of the moving of Job Sturge's House. The December issue contains much of interest from all over Canada. Shane O'Dea of St. John's, Newfoundland, has been elected Chair of the Board of Governors of the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Features include 'Conservation Priorities', on preservation and restoration v. reconstruction; an item on recent changes to Vancouver's Charter making possible the preservation of heritage interior fittings and fixtures; and a story on the 50th anniversary of the discovery of oil in Alberta.

First in a series on "Signature Buildings" is Betty Pacey's article on Fort Massey, angled a little differently from her story in the December *Griffin*; and an unusual story on Montreal's 'Almost Forgotten

Women', a remarkable group who tried to alleviate the suffering of Montreal's destitute 175 years ago.

A new program at Burritt's Rapids Correctional and Treatment Centre puts non-violent inmates into the community through labour-intensive projects. They are currently working on a complete restoration of the 117-year-old Saint Augustine's Anglican church in Acton's Corners. The community gets free labour, and inmates acquire job skills that can be credited to trades apprenticeships.

A Heritage Canada fundraiser is announced: a T-Shirt with a four-colour image showing the elements of heritage: the people, the natural environment and the buildings that surround us. \$18.95 plus shipping and taxes. Interested? You can order through Maritime Trading Co., Ste.270, 5687 West Street, Halifax, NS., B3K1H6, by phoning 492-2985, by faxing 492-8770 or by E-mail at maritime@atcon.com 80 per cent of proceeds further the work of Heritage Canada.

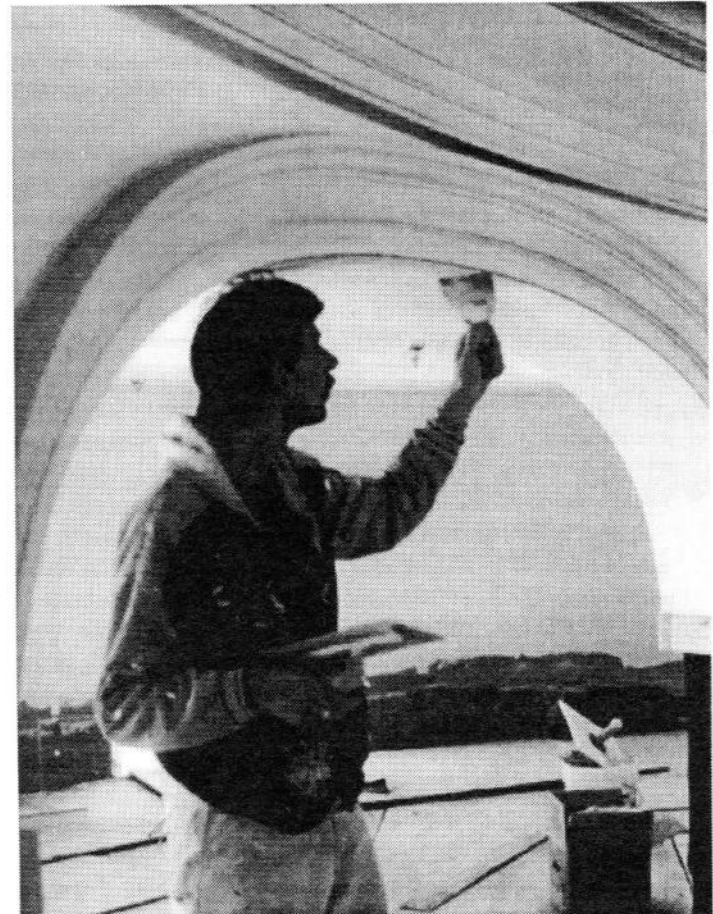
Progress at Saint George's

Much has happened since so many Trust members braved the elements to attend our Open House in January.

The walls and ceilings of the main gallery and the ground floor have been plastered, as have the arches that join the pillars. This had made a big difference to the look of the building, and to its acoustics. The choir is in raptures because the quality of the sound in the building is even better than before the fire.

The project is on time and under budget and we have hit the \$3.9 million mark towards our goal. The team of volunteers keeps working hard to raise funds and a generous donor has challenged the parish to raise \$10,000 by holding small events. The donor will match these funds. Parishioners have already given \$220,000.

Left: Plastering of the arches in progress.



Giant Yard Sale & Auction

9 am, Saturday, June 7
 Auction at 12-noon

Bid on one-year lease of '97 Ford Escort, provided by Taylor Lincoln Mercury, Weekend at the Sheraton, Robert Bateman Print, Jane Reagh oil painting and more.

•••

There's still time to donate "stuff" you no longer need to help restore the Round Church Collection/Info: 425-3658
Bring...and buy!

Heritage Calendar

June 1997

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 FOMIS McNabs beach sweep AGNS Folk Art festival starts, runs to Jan.98	2 SCC Day Camp opens	3	4 RMCH Exhib. '...White' to Sept. 28	5	6 SCC last day of Day Camp WHS Friday teas 2 pm	7 SCC Trails Day 10 am
8	9	10	11	12	13 WHS Friday teas 2 pm	14
15 KHS Aeronautical Exhib. closes	16	17	18	19 HTNS AGM Saraguay Club	20 WHS Friday teas 2 pm	21 HTNS bus tour <u>Ann/Royal</u> CHHF Corn chowder supper 4:30 pm
22 YWCA Gardens on Sunday tour	23	24	25	26	27 WHS Friday teas 2 pm	28 SMH Tea Party, 2-4 pm
29	30					SCC boat tours all weekends in June

Heritage Calendar

July 1997

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
SCC boat tour daily SMH teas 2-4 daily FHM 10-2 daily Teas: daily		AGNS exhib. to end August SCC Canada Day 3 pm FHM special program	2	3	4 SMH Exhib. Costumes WHS Friday teas, 2-4 pm	5 CHHFM Strawberry Social 2-4 pm
6	7	8	9	10	11 SMH Exhib. Costumes WHS Friday teas, 2-4 pm	12 Museums Day SCC program, canoe race YCHS /M Garden sale all day
13	14	15	16	17	18 SMH Exhib. Costumes WHS Friday teas, 2-4 pm	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 SMH Exhib. Costumes WHS Friday teas, 2-4 pm	26
27	28	29	30 Subenacadie Canal Conference 2nd anniversary at Fairbanks	31		

Heritage Calendar

August 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SCC Boat tours daily SMH Teas daily	----- month: SMH Exhibition Mi'qmaq Artifacts				WHS Friday teas to September 2-4:30 pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		W.Pub. Acadian Festival	W.Pub. Acadian Festival	W.Pub. Acadian Festival	W.Pub. Acadian Festival WHS Friday teas 4:30 pm	W.Pub. Acadian Festival
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
W.Pub. Acadian Festival CHHFM Settlers Supper 7:30 pm					WHS Friday teas 4:30 pm	Mahone Bay house tour Flower festival and tea
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					WHS Friday teas 4:30 pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CHHF Garden Party 2 pm		Bluenosers rug hooking Truro	Bluenosers rug hooking Truro	Bluenosers rug hooking Truro	Bluenosers rug hooking Truro WHS Friday teas 4:30 pm	Bluenosers rug hooking Truro

Abbreviations used in this calendar

ASHC Age of Sail Heritage Centre
 AGNS Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
 CHHF Cole Harbour Heritage Farm
 CSNS Costume Society of Nova Scotia
 DHA Dartmouth Heritage Association
 FNSH Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage
 FSF Fort Sackville Foundation
 FOMIS Friends of McNab's Island Society
 FHN Fultz House Museum
 HC Heritage Canada
 HTNS Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
 KHS Kings Historical Society
 MMA Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

MSHS Maintland South Heritage Society
 MNH Museum of Natural History
 NSPS Nova Scotia Poetry Society
 NSCAD Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
 PANS Public Archives of Nova Scotia
 RNSHS Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
 RHS Rockingham Heritage Society
 RMCH Regional Museum of Cultural Heritage
 SCC Shubenacadie Canal Commission
 SMH Scott Manor House
 WHHS West Hants Historical Society
 WHS Waverley Historical Society
 YCHS Yarmouth County Historical Society
 YCM Yarmouth County Museum



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