



December 1998

Volume 23, No.4
ISSN 0384 7335

The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA



Fire damages Ott-Beamish House

By Garry D. Shutlak

On September 30, a worker using a blowtorch to strip paint from the Ott-Beamish House on Brunswick Street set this heritage building alight. Fortunately, firemen were able to contain the fire in the top apartment. The two other units received some damage. It is now being repaired by the owners.

This residence at 2229 Brunswick Street was originally built for Maria Ott-Beamish on part of the property belonging to her father Thomas Beamish in what was then the North Suburbs of the city.

The one-and-one-half storey double cottage has a central hall design, two rooms deep. The kitchen was originally in the basement. Most of the original interior details (mantels, doors, etc.) were removed for safe keeping while the house was being renovated in the 1980s. These details with those of other houses on Brunswick Street were lost in a fire at the storage location. Until the fire, the outside of the house looked much as it did a century ago, except that the original six over six window sashing



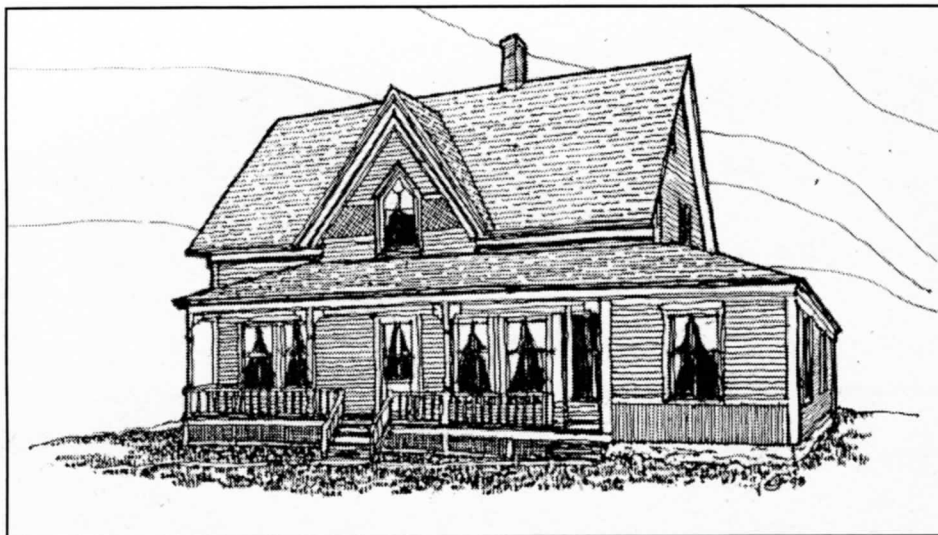
Above left: The house more or less as it looked before the fire. Above: The Greek Revival porch photographed in 1966 by Margaret Martin.

was replaced by late 19th century glass and the graceful Greek Revival entrance removed. The house was noted for its truncated gable roof with separated chimneys, five-sided Scottish dormers and elaborate Greek

Revival style entrance porch. The house dates from sometime in or before 1846 and is considered Classic Revival by Allen Penney in his book *Houses of Nova Scotia*. Sometime in

Continued overleaf

Trust book to focus on people and their houses



For its first publication, the Trust's current Book Committee has chosen to approach heritage from a different perspective. The book, as yet untitled, will highlight people's relationships with heritage. Eighteen Nova Scotians will chronicle their experiences with acquiring and restoring the old houses in which they live.

This will not be a "how to" book, but a "how-and-why-it-was-done" book. It is aimed at all those people who love old houses. The interest of most of these folk is not merely in the buildings, but in what it is like to live in them. Some of them dream of

living in a heritage house themselves. All are curious about the experiences of those brave souls who have renovated or restored an old house and made it into a home.

We were particularly anxious that the book should have a wide provincial coverage, and we are happy to report that participants are scattered right across the province. Many people have made useful recommendations, and we are particularly grateful to Wayde Brown for his advice. At least five of the contributors are members of the Trust: The oldest building in the book is Jim How's de Gannes House in

Annapolis Royal, built in 1708; Joyce and Paul McCulloch are sharing their experience with their Stone House in Port Hood. Paul Zann will chronicle the family's experience with their house, one of the oldest in Truro, in his own inimitable style. Pauline Carter will describe the very recent restoration of her house in Brookfield; Phil Hartling has a chapter on his house in Port Dufferin, and Doug Day will relate the still-continuing saga of his house in Shelburne.

The book is slated for fall publication next year, which is the 40th anniversary of the Trust. For this reason we are including a brief history of Heritage Trust. Longtime Trust member Margaret Martin has kindly agreed to write it.

The illustration accompanying this item, the work of Book Committee member John Crace, shows the 1867 home of Laurence and Diana Outhouse in Tiverton, Digby County.

The Committee will keep *Griffin* readers up to date with the progress of the book. As we noted in the letters that went out to contributors: "Each old house that has been purchased and restored can be regarded as a victory in the ongoing battle to preserve as much as we can of our past."

Ott-Beamish House *continued from front page*

the late-19th century, a 9 ft x 10 ft three-storey addition with a porch overlooking the garden and a new kitchen was added to the rear. After the explosion of 1917, the house required extensive repairs to laths, cornices, plumbing, wiring, etc. costing \$1,050. It was assessed for \$3,500 at the time.

Little is known about the original owner, Maria Ott-Beamish, except that she was aunt to two noted Nova Scotian historians, Beamish Murdoch and Thomas Beamish Aikins. The latter lived only doors away at 2151 Brunswick Street. Aikins also has the honour of being Nova Scotia's first Records Commissioner (archivist), appointed in 1857. Over the years, the house has been owned or tenanted by doctors, dry goods merchants, widows, Methodist ministers and city officials. One of the most interesting occupants was Mrs Margaret Sutcliffe, who was a tea merchant dealing in a variety of teas and coffees. John T. Murphy served a number of years as city controller. He was an elected alderman and was Mayor of Halifax, (1922-1925) while he lived in the house. Doctor William Keating lived in or owned the house from 1930 to 1957. After Dr. Keating's tenure, the house became an apartment building and/or a rooming house. About 1980, it became the property of Harbour City Homes, a non-profit agency providing affordable housing in the municipality.

We hope that the Halifax Regional Municipality will assist the owners in restoring the exterior facade of this municipally designated house in the only heritage conservation district in the city.



The Griffin

A quarterly magazine published by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Deadline for the next issue of *The Griffin* is

February 1, 1999

Submissions to:

Doris Butters, Editor
Apartment 2211,
1333 South Park Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J

Guru of the Labrador Sea

A profile of HTNS President, Dr. John Lazier

What is the connection between seafarers and the preservation of our built heritage? Naval officers have always been well represented among the presidents of the HTNS and on its board. But our current president, Dr. John Lazier, also one of those "that go down to the sea in ships: and occupy their business in great waters," is a distinguished scientist, not a naval officer.

On your behalf, I recently set out to discover more about John. His first claim to fame, he declares, is that he was conceived and born during the brief reign of Edward VIII. He is happy with this and quotes the *Globe & Mail* as saying, "1936 was the best year to be born. We were too young to be in the Second World War and millions of jobs were available when we graduated...and house prices were still reasonable!"

John was born in Toronto. His father was a professor of engineering at the University of Toronto, which perhaps accounts for his early affinity for maths and physics. "For me it was easier than writing essays. I spent more time solving maths and physics problems than anything else." When it came time to enroll in U of T, there was no doubt about his subject. But where would it lead?

A visit to Halifax as a sea cadet had given John a love of the sea. He says, "When you put physics and the sea together, you get oceanography." But, "in those days, there was nobody graduating to come into oceanography in Canada." Once again his timing was perfect. By the late 1950s, the federal government had recognized the importance of the oceans and had decided to train home grown experts. When John graduated in 1960, the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) was already more than a gleam in Ottawa's eye. Part of the government's policy was to hire new graduates as potential oceanographers. John was one of these new graduates, and was told, "If you like it, we will pay your way to go back to school."

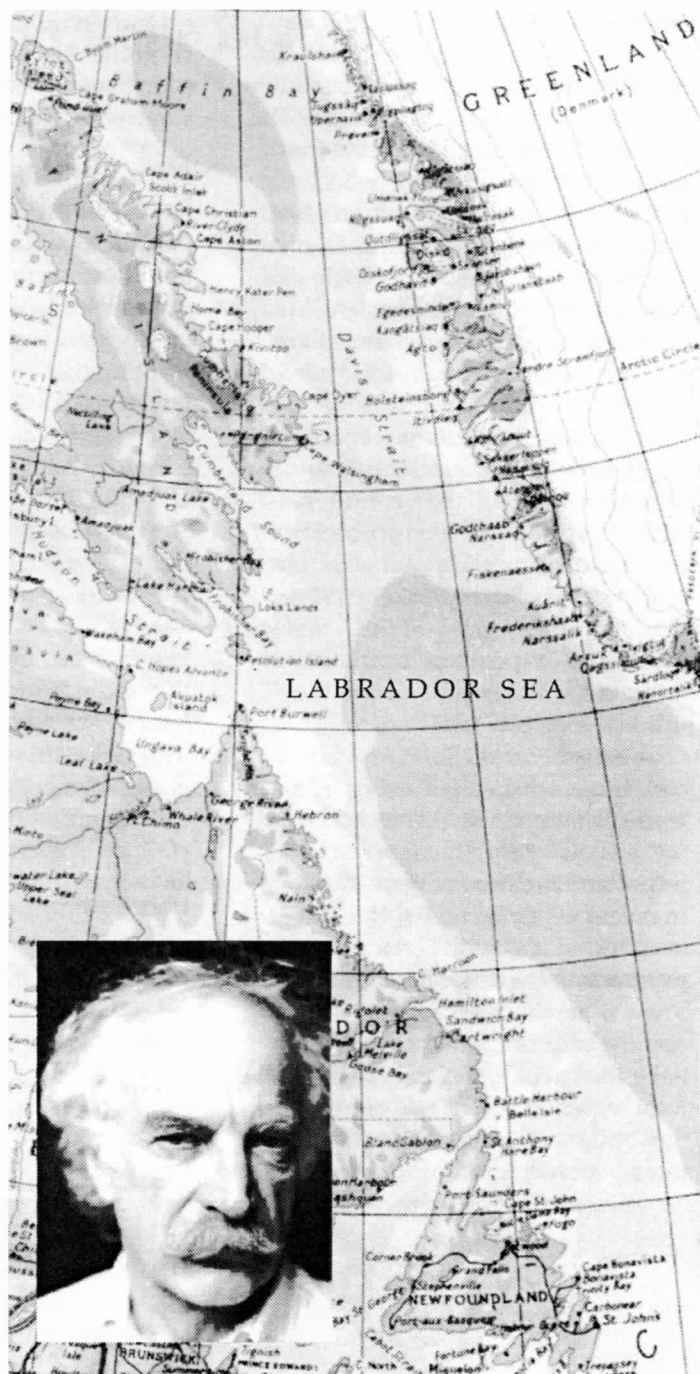
During his trial year, John worked in the Fisheries Research Building on Terminal Road. He remembers, "We used to sail on the *Sackville*, which was then used as an oceanographic survey vessel." But things were changing. "When I left in the summer of 1961, the hole [for the BIO] was being dug."

Confirmed in his career choice, John enrolled in a masters' program at the University of British Columbia in September 1961. Also enrolled, in a masters' in biochemistry, was Catherine Sheldon. They had known each other since they were ten and eight and on December 27, 1961, they married.

In 1963, they came back to Halifax, John to the now-functioning BIO and Catherine to begin a PhD program and teach in the bio-chemistry department at Dalhousie. His summers ever since have been occupied by research voyages to the northern waters aboard the BIO's fleet of research vessels. This pattern was only broken during the period from 1968 to 1971, when the Laziers moved to Southampton, England, for John to add a PhD to his qualifications.

Scientific research is a painstaking process of finding

September 1998



Dr. John R.N. Lazier; with a map giving the location of the Labrador Sea

and assembling tiny jigsaw-puzzle pieces which eventually reveal a bigger picture. John has dedicated his life primarily to studying the Labrador Sea, which is the area between Labrador and Greenland: "We knew from studies following the sinking of the *Titanic* that it was an important part of the ocean." This is because icebergs from Baffin Bay pass through it, and it is a unique location for renewing the deep water in the ocean.

The jigsaw-puzzle pieces include studying the temperature of the water, its salinity and its currents. Because of an amount of vertical mixing of the water in winter which is unusual in the world's oceans, it is also possible to study the debris of world events. Volcanic action, nuclear bombs and other harmful events have

Continued overleaf

Page 3

left their mark in the water and on the ocean floor, along with the shells of millions of gigatons of animals that originally lived near the surface. The picture revealed gives clues to the world's problems with fish stocks, global warming and pollution. It is studies like these, fitted into a worldwide network of research, which may ultimately enable us to reverse the destruction of our planet that we have been engaged upon for so long.

To describe John's career is a tough task for a non-scientist, so I asked his boss at the BIO about his achievements. "He is known around the world as the guru of the Labrador Sea," says Dr. Alan Clarke. "When oceanographers think of the variability of the deep ocean, they think of the Labrador Sea and they think of John's work."

Over the years, John and his colleagues worked with scientists from around the world, and this work is now being recognized as important to future climate studies. In recent years, he notes, "we have been inundated with research programs from different countries. They value the work we have done and the information obtained. We have the background they need." John hopes the work will continue as one of Canada's contributions to inter-national ocean programs under the World Meteorological Organization.

Changes in the organization of the BIO over the years brought oceanographic and fisheries research together. "That is how we got collaboration between biologists and physicists that were impossible before," says John with enthusiasm. This in turn brought about an important collaboration between John and his colleague Dr. Kenneth Mann, who worked for five years to produce a textbook entitled *Dynamics of Marine Ecosystems: Biological-Physical Interactions in the Oceans*. John modestly says that "it is not an original scientific work, but a synopsis of what had already been written." It must have filled a need, however, because it is now in its second edition.

In 1994, John took advantage of

an early retirement package, but he continues his research at the BIO as a scientist *emeritus*; that is, he does the same work but as a volunteer!

How did this busy scientist get involved with Heritage Trust?

Back in 1975, John and Catherine bought a farmhouse in Mahone Bay. It was built in 1800 by the Morash family, who were Foreign Protestants from Lunenburg. It had stayed in the family until 1937, when it was bought by an American family as a summer home.

Catherine's colleague Lucille Stewart came to their first party at the farm. One thing led to another and in 1976 she asked John if he would like to be on the board of the Trust. Phyllis Blakeley was then president. When treasurer Hugh Dakin left, John volunteered for the job. "It would give me something to do rather than be a nodding head." In 1983, he also became treasurer of the Halifax branch of the Canadian

HTNS must continue to search for "a future for the past"

Diabetes Association. Soon afterwards, he dropped the treasurership of the Trust, but remained a member. His next active involvement came when he joined the newly-formed Finance Committee in 1988. In 1996, he rejoined the board.

In 1997, a flyer about the new Community Health Boards came through the door and John felt an urge to help. He was chosen to join the board and a change in his volunteer life seemed imminent. But suddenly, "Don Patton asked me to be president [of the Trust]". It was one of those 'walk in the snow' situations. Over a tough weekend, John decided, "I could not leave the Trust. I had this connection going back 20-odd years...By Monday I convinced myself that I would take the job...It was amazing what my

mind did."

The future...

With the decision made, John's ideas on the nature of his presidency began to gel. He doesn't see himself as a fanatical fighter for heritage buildings and admits freely that he doesn't remember the details of individual buildings. "I like the feel of old buildings...the connection with the past." But he says, "When I first became president, the thing that impressed me most was how respected we are in city government. The councillors want to know how the Trust feels about something." He adds, "Of course, that is because it is first and foremost an advocacy group. That is how it began and that is the thread that holds it together."

John believes that HTNS must continue to search for "a future for the past" and adds, "It is not ever going to disappear as long as that attitude still exists and this group, or something like it, continues to grope for answers."

But he is also a firm believer in the importance of a well-run ship. Making sure that things work properly has been his priority; starting with the smooth running of the office. One of his first actions as vice-president was to help Joyce bring the bylaws up to date. He later worked to correct anomalies in the Trust's relationship with the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

As he struggled to acquire the knowledge he needed to be president, John realized "how much information is only passed on verbally." This led to his decision to give all new board members background information to "bring them up to speed with the history of what has been going on and what the committees are for." He also realized that many decisions made at meetings are only handed down verbally. "I am anxious to get some of the guidelines written down so that...everybody knows how it works."

Not startling stuff, but setting the groundwork for a successful transition to the 21st century. Thank you for saying "Yes", John.

Anne West

The Griffin, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Doris's column: A fall weekend in Cape Breton



The seven Trusters who set off October 2 on the long-anticipated Fall Colours weekend in Cape Breton were not disappointed. The colours

became even brighter during the three-day tour, although in the Lake Ainslie area they were more a dusky gold than a flaming red. The rolling hills dappled with sun and racing cloud shadows, wind-whipped lakes, white-caps racing over the ocean to crash in high flung spume onto rocky shores, offered a breathtaking alternate panorama. Gale force winds, buffeting us at every stop, took away what remained of our breath.

En route to Chéticamp, we stopped at Harrison Hills Bed and Breakfast, Margaree Falls, to deliver a package to owners Robin and Marilyn Harrison. During a tour of their lovely home, we went into a room with a grand piano. The floor had been lowered to improve the room's acoustics. Robin, a talented musician, needed little persuasion to play for us. Marilyn, who runs the B & B, is also a music teacher, gives a course on acting to Grade 12 students, and produces plays for summer theatre on a tree-sheltered outdoor stage in their pleasant garden.

From there we went to Margaree Harbour, where John May runs a delightful pseudo-Tudor gift shop/café and a museum of military dioramas. In one corner, were some of the beautifully carved figures created by Susannah May, John's wife, a sculptress and a fervent environmental activist. Their daughter, Elizabeth, is well known for her activities in ecology and the environment, and is an outspoken advocate for women's health. Farley Mowat, a long-time friend, made a present to Elizabeth of the Newfoundland schooner immortalized in *The Boat That Wouldn't Float*.

Anchored in the harbour outside the shop, it is now a floating restaurant. After a welcome cup of tea and home-baked Scottish goodies we were off.

Our first stop in Chéticamp was "Flora's", to check out some of the more unusual gift items and the hooked work for which Chéticamp is noted. By the doorway, busily hooking wall plaques, sat the young woman who has replaced the now-retired Flora.

Auberge Déjeuner de Soleil, a small B & B at the foot of the hill behind the town, provided us with a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast before we went on our way. We dined that night at *Le Gabriel*, a fine restaurant not far from the Auberge.

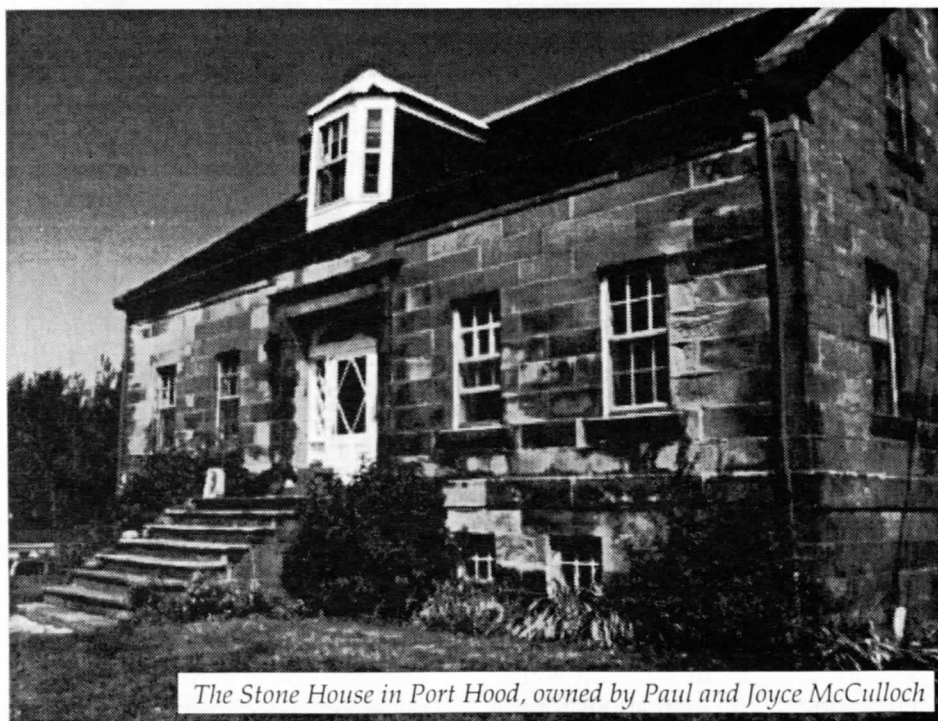
On Saturday morning, dark rolling clouds replaced Friday's sunshine when we set off along the Margaree for Iona Highland Village. On both sides of the river the leaves were a glowing fiery red. Cape Breton roads are not well marked, but we reached Iona only a little late for our guided tour by Rodney Chiasson.

Overlooking the spectacular Bras d'Or Lakes, the Highland Village is an outdoor pioneer and living history museum, part of Cape Breton's determination to preserve its Scottish heritage and culture. A video depiction of the Scots who emigrated

to Cape Breton gave a general idea of immigrant history. A recent addition, Roots Cape Breton, is a computer-assisted genealogy and family history research centre with resources including post-1811 census information, birth, death, marriage, church, land and land grant records. Research may be conducted independently or by the Centre's staff.

Most of the historic buildings were brought in, the reproductions on site built according to methods used by early settlers, with materials readily available to them. The replica of a fieldstone, sod-roofed Black House, the only one of its kind in North America, gives an impression of life in Scotland prior to emigration. The other buildings follow the progression of the Scottish settlers' life in Nova Scotia from the one-room Log House, c. 1810, to the comparative comforts of the early 1900s.

The Barn, built in the mid-1800s of mortice and tenon construction with hand-hewn timbers, was brought from its original location and re-assembled at Iona. It houses a fine collection of carriages, including a handsome, glass-panelled hearse and the blue and cream nine-seater wagon used by Alexander Graham Bell on stopovers *en route* to Baddeck. There was also a collection of early



The Stone House in Port Hood, owned by Paul and Joyce McCulloch

farm implements, among them a curved axe for debarking logs, a curious wrought iron gadget for scraping horses' hooves, and a variety of saws, including a 12-inch-diameter circular "Sally" saw, with a cumbersome, gas-driven motor.

The MacQuarrie/Fox House, c.1865, is one of the original houses, and represents a middle class home during a time of prosperity. Instead of an open cooking fire, it has a large iron step stove with a raised oven behind the hobs on the lower step.

The one-roomed Whycocomagh/Portage Schoolhouse, c.1920, served District #60 until 1966, when it was taken apart and re-assembled on its present site. MacLeod's General Store, c.1920, supplied just about everything the settler couldn't grow or make for himself. Visitors can buy sticks of country candy or the blacksmith's ornamental ironware.

The most modern building is the MacIvor/Nash House, c.1900. The kitchen boasts an iron "Chester" coal-burning range, and the sitting room a large round coal stove with isinglass windows.

A highlight of our Village tour was a visit to Alex Matheson's Blacksmith Shop. It is a "modern" forge representing the late 1800s to mid-1900s. Blacksmith John MacDonald fashions farm implements, runners, horse shoes, and—time permitting—ornamental ware such as the elegant double-armed candle holder with an iron flower finial at the centre, which stood at the forefront of the forge.

Our last stop was a peep into the old Carding Mill, once water-powered by a series of wheels and belts, which had been brought in from Middle River. After hot coffee and oatcakes in the Visitors' Centre we bade goodbye to Iona.

A chance meeting with a friend of Hilary's in a café on the other side of the Grand Narrows led to a fascinating visit to the old Narrows Hotel. This 1827 building was bought in the 50s by the MacNeil family as a summer home. It is now owned by Terry and Elaine MacNeil, owners and operators of Barra Strait Marina, who are living in the building while renovating it. Fire regulations for use

as a three-storey hotel would have required such drastic changes that much of historic interest would have been lost. They have settled instead for using two storeys only, as a B & B.

At one time three-masted schooners passed through the old iron CN Bridge. John A. Macdonald was among the guests who stayed at the old hotel. Another was Alexander Graham Bell, who came up by train, stayed overnight then continued on to Baddeck by coach-and-four or the old side wheeler paddle boat which plied the Bras d'Or Lakes. While Bell was working on aids for the deaf, he was often accompanied by Helen Keller, who liked to take a daily swim across the Narrows with her dog.

Despite the mess of "work in progress", we were shown where and how changes will be made, and details of which they were so proud: the panelled doors, a beautiful embossed tin ceiling and frieze, old horizontal pipe radiators with bronze grill fronts and marble tops, the carved newel post and turned balusters, and a little powder room with 'rabbit ear' taps which when pressed together started the water. The spacious downstairs rooms have 9ft. 9 in. ceilings and two large windows overlooking the water. A second-floor bedroom with an attached dressing room is occupied at present by the carpenter, who claims to have "fallen in love with the place".

We wished them the best of luck with their charter fishing service and their future B&B. Then, after losing ourselves along backroads, we paid a flying visit to JoAnne and John Gardiner, who live several miles from Orangedale. My daughter Lesley, our van driver, who had visited the Gardiners last year, was impressed by their simple country lifestyle. Thirty years ago, these well-educated Americans opted out of the busy whirl of city life, bought the old farm and, living almost entirely off their own resources, raised their four children there. They have a couple of cows, a few pigs, turkeys, chickens, fruit trees and bushes, a vegetable patch, extensive herb gardens and a beautiful flower garden. A large rainwater cistern provides water for

domestic needs; they have neither car nor telephone and only recently acquired electricity. Their nearest neighbour, nearly two miles away, drives them to town when need arises.

Both are professional writers, and make a little money writing gardening or nature articles. JoAnne has published five books on plants, herbs, etc.; one describes how they developed their rustic way of life, mainly by trial and error. On occasion she has substituted on radio for Majorie Willison. They also sell vegetables, dried herbs, seeds, and home-made jams and jellies.

A couple buying vegetables led us to the highway, and we drove to Port Hood to overnight at the Hebridean Motel. We dined sumptuously at Duncreigan Country Inn, an elegant new restaurant behind a barrier of trees just off the main road.

On Sunday the wind had not abated, seas were high and the temperature low, so our boat trip to Port Hood Light had to be abandoned; the only disappointment of the tour. However we did get to Mabou Harbour Lighthouse, now a museum and tourist centre. There is no longer a resident keeper; the rear range light maintained by the Coast Guard still guides fishermen safely home as it has done since 1884. President of the local lighthouse preservation society, Carrie Beaton, told us that this summer the Society leased the lighthouse from the Government for \$600, and were gratified at the number of visitors, many from around the world. Two students set up the display of old photographs of the area and artifacts from the now defunct lobster cannery and the Nova Scotia Coal and Gypsum Plant Ltd. Fundraising to save the lighthouse is by donation and the sale of T-shirts and caps.

The Lighthouse was originally built farther along the shore by E.C. Embree at a cost of \$2,450. It had no foundation and in 1928, at a cost of \$58,000, was pulled back using cables, and set up on its present site. The compass with Gaelic wording painted on the floor was done by Peter Rankin the first keeper of the light. Carrie told us of an old local ritual - a white hankie cast to the breeze at midnight on New Year's Eve will indicate the weather for

the coming fishing season!

We had time to spare before our date with Joyce and Paul McCulloch at the Old Stone House. Lesley took us "adventuring" along a mountain road offering a stupendous view of the sea roaring into a small bay with a distant view of a long low building and fishing boats tucked safely within the arms of a manmade mole. We wound our way down through the hills for a closer look at the little settlement with its fish plant, boats and tidy looking homes perched on the hillside.

Finally back to Port Hood and afternoon tea with Joyce, Paul, two of their friends and Ida, an alert 90-year-old who is working with Joyce on researching the history of Peter Smyth who built the house in 1850. Smyth became the wealthy owner of several stores in the area. He was Justice of the Peace for Inverness County and a member of the Legislative Assembly for 20 years, afterwards serving on the Legislative Council until his death in 1879. It is a lovely home overlooking the water with plenty of natural light from windows set within the near-two-foot thick walls. The attractive and suitably period-looking wallpapers were bought, Paul admitted, on sale as a job lot from Sears!

After a truly decadent tea and before our coach turned into a pumpkin, we left for home. By this time the weather had cleared and the trees glowed like fire in the afternoon sunlight. Later a full hunter's moon in a sky of stars lit our way back to Halifax.

A pity that so few joined the tour; those who did thoroughly enjoyed it. Hilary did a great job despite the short time she had to finalize the arrangements; until applications come in, it is impossible to reserve transport, accommodation and meals, and calculate costs. Thanks to Hilary and Lesley.

Les Batten: attributable to the use of asbestos in masonry mortars. Les was aware of the condition and of the limited time he had. He remained actively and cheerfully involved in numerous projects, such as Government House and the Church of England Institute, and continued to remind us all of our responsibility to preserve the marvellous buildings we have inherited. *David Garrett*

Obituary

John Stewart Kendall 1920-1998

On September 11, 1998, a great friend of Nova Scotia heritage died at his home in Sydney. John Kendall may have appeared to be a modest and unassuming man, but his determination to preserve artifacts, documents and artwork significant to the history of Nova Scotia has been much appreciated by numerous organizations. He did not hoard his acquisitions, but often promptly transferred them to the appropriate custodian. Among the beneficiaries, to name a few, are the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Fortress Louisburg, University College of Cape Breton and the Nova Scotia Historical Society, of which he was a lifelong and active member.

One example of his concern for heritage preservation was illustrated during the late 1970s, when the Friends of the Painted Room Society were desperately raising funds to prevent the National Gallery from taking the Karsdale Painted room from Nova Scotia. While the Friends were anxiously counting \$5 and \$10 cheques sent in by well-wishers, John Kendall got wind of the campaign and sent a cheque for \$25,000 to the fund. Regrettably the battle was lost, and all the cheques were returned.

Born in Windsor in 1920, John Kendall was the son of wartime Lieutenant Governor Henry Kendall of Windsor and Margaret McLennan of Sydney.

Obituary:

Les Batten, Stone Mason & Restoration Specialist (1929-1998)



Nova Scotia's heritage community suffered a considerable loss with the sudden passing of Les Batten on September 22. Les came to Nova Scotia from his native England in 1984 to lead a team of English masons in the restoration of Province House in Halifax. Other significant projects followed: The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the old Halifax Post Office, the Bank of Nova Scotia Head Office, Government House and Fredericton Cathedral, plus projects in Upper Canada and the U.S.

Perhaps his most significant contribution was to train Nova Scotians in stone restoration. When work on the restoration of Province House was initiated in the early 1980s, there was no company in this area able to undertake the stone work. Southwestern Stone Cleaning and Restoration of Bristol, England, agreed to provide seven masons to do the project, and in the process, to train Nova Scotians in traditional and current masonry restoration practices. Out of approximately 200 applicants, 12 apprentices were selected for the four-year apprenticeship program, which included courses on geology, architecture, and masonry technology, as well as shop and field work. A stone cutting shop was set up in the then unused power plant on Lower Water Street (now Electropolis). The atmosphere of the shop, except for the electric lights and pneumatic hammers, could have been centuries old.

Of the 12 apprentices (many of them NSCAD sculpture students), 10 completed the apprenticeship, and most continue to work in masonry in Nova Scotia. This program was, and remains, unique in Canada and offers a strong example for the integration of art, craft, and building practices.

Les's cheerfulness, charm, knowledge, dedication to his work, and respect for the work of those of earlier times and the artifacts they left behind made the apprenticeship program successful. These qualities also contributed to Les's success in giving advice and direction to architects, engineers, building owners and the public on the care, maintenance and restoration of masonry buildings.

The illness that took his life was emphysema, which was (Cont. left)

A regional museum for the new millenium

On October 29, 1998, a rainy night, more than a hundred people attended a public meeting billed as "A Regional Museum for the New Millennium - Planning for the Future" to discuss the future of the Regional Museum of Cultural History. People were anxious to find out what was going on and, without exception, those who spoke supported the museum. Exactly five days later on November 3, without warning, Regional Municipality staff recommended to Council that the museum be closed.

How did we get to this sorry state?

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum was a 1967 Canadian Centennial Project that opened its doors in early 1968. Later, the William Ray (Quaker, 1786) and Evergreen (1867) houses were acquired and opened to the public. Owned and operated by the City of Dartmouth, the museum was strongly supported by volunteers and the community over its 30-year existence. Following amalgamation, the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) became the owner and operator. The museum was renamed the Regional Museum of Cultural History and its troubles began.

HRM, caught early in a budget crunch, questioned its ability to fund the museum to a sustainable level. Indeed, it asked if the municipality should even be in the museum business. Concern over the museum's future led Council in late June of this year to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to report by December on the mandate and services of the institution, how it should be governed and run, how it should be financed in the future and a plan for a significant reduction in the 1999/2000 operating budget.

The Committee, whose members come from Head of St. Margarets Bay to Sackville to Musquodoboit Harbour as well as the two former cities, has been meeting regularly to research and develop strategies to deal with these issues.

It is no secret that the HRM is in a financial mess and the case for a

museum has to be made in light of cuts to essential services such as snow plowing. So we have to ask: Is there a role for a municipal museum? Among the positive points to consider are the following:

- It is an invaluable resource for our young people ; it provides them with an opportunity to understand and appreciate their heritage and history, a role no other museum is filling
- Museums and other heritage and cultural institutions help communities come together, a key role in HRM at this time. A vibrant museum can provide an opportunity to create and foster strong feelings of belonging to the whole community, while preserving and valuing local histories and traditions
- Museums can make significant economic contributions: they make communities attractive to tourists and new business, and can be an important part of the cultural tourism strategies of municipal governments
- The museum could play a key role in the continuing development of downtown Dartmouth .

Should municipalities be in the museum business?

Municipalities are in the museum business. In Canada some 300 museums of all sizes are under municipal jurisdiction. Many are run directly by the municipal government, others are operated by community boards on behalf of the municipality, which in most cases own the collection and facilities. Many of our community museums receive some municipal assistance. Direct funding varies between 45% and 100% of the museums' overall budgets. And let's not forget that Dartmouth was a longtime example of municipal participation.

Can we afford a municipal museum?

According to figures provided to the Committee, last year's municipal contribution to the budget of the museum was \$361,184.00, and it provided jobs for seven full-time people, including highly specialized

professionals. That represents one fifth of one cent on the tax rate.

Can we afford not to have a museum?

At present the museum, in addition to the Quaker House and Evergreen, holds some 45,000 artifacts, including a significant costume collection and extensive archival holdings. There are also 5,000 artifacts that belonged to the four municipal units before amalgamation. These have been catalogued, and a draft Heritage Material Policy has been developed to guide their management and care. Inexplicably, this was never forwarded by staff to Council, with the result that no, one body is responsible for their preservation, conservation or management and they are largely inaccessible. Over time many of these items will inevitably be lost if this situation continues.

What of the future?

Staff's solution of closing the museum is not as simple as deleting a line from the budget. A well-crafted policy for the disposition or dispersal of a collection of this size and significance must be developed. It should include the professional process, legal advice and a solid public relations program. Done properly, it is not cheap, easy or fast. Storing the collection, while better than disposal, has ongoing costs and severely limits accessibility and the ability to raise funds.

The Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on what it trusts will be recommendations that Council can accept to keep the museum operating, even at a reduced level, while a new governance structure is put in place, fund-raising efforts are maximized and a strong future for this invaluable asset is assured.

Trust Board members David Flemming, Bob Frame and Brenda Shannon are members of the Ad Hoc Committee. David and Bob, with their extensive backgrounds in museum work, have been invaluable members. Brenda was elected Chair by Committee members.

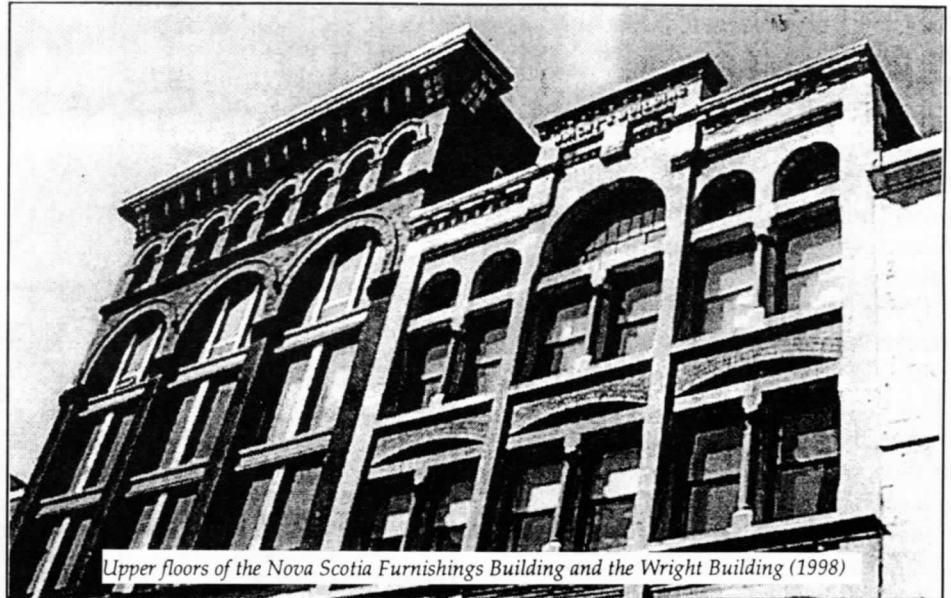
Rejuvenating Barrington Street *By Bill Plaskett*

Like old downtown shopping streets everywhere, Barrington has suffered because of modern shopping centre development, including 'big box' retail on the edge of the city. Many communities, however, have begun to counteract this trend by re-inventing their downtowns as 'experience retail' districts with a focus on leisure shopping, arts and entertainment. Barrington Street took a step in this direction on October 30, when a report was presented to the Board of Directors of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC).

The report was prepared by David Garrett Architects in association with transportation planner Maurice Lloyd ; Bill Plaskett, heritage planner, and the Urban Marketing Collaborative of Toronto. It has four sections dealing with traffic, special district initiatives, use and marketing, and urban design. Drawing on experience from elsewhere, particularly Vancouver's Gastown and Denver's Lo-Do district, the central thesis of the report is that work is needed on all of these fronts if revitalization is to be successful. The basic direction is to build upon the heritage assets of the street and create a district of special ambience, infused with fun and richness, and the basic strategy is to increase private sector confidence while making public realm improvements.

Traffic is one of Barrington Street's greatest problems. To make it more user-friendly, the report suggests that:

- Buses be reduced in number by selective re-routing, and diesel buses be switched to propane;
- Traffic volume and speed be reduced by allowing on-street parking on one side of the street, allowing left turns, and eliminating one-way crossstreets.
- Accessibility to Barrington be improved by moving ahead quickly with the new parking structure on Granville Street.
- Research continue into long-term improvements to downtown transportation such as light rail commuter access, and alternate



Upper floors of the Nova Scotia Furnishings Building and the Wright Building (1998)

uses for the redundant Cogswell Interchange — including parking. Barrington Street is one of the most significant historic commercial streetscapes in Canada and has great potential to be marketed as a district of special ambience within the greater downtown. Although many of its 40 heritage buildings have been significantly altered at street level, all have the potential to become whole again through sympathetic refurbishment. The report recommends that:

- Barrington Street be designated a heritage conservation district. This could be a core project in the establishment of a future Regional Capital District benefiting the entire municipality.
 - A program of financial incentives be set up to re-establish investor confidence and trigger private investment; this to be linked with public realm improvements.
 - Design guidelines tailored to the diverse character of the street be adopted to ensure new development will enhance the district.
- Downtowns have an advantage in the 'experience retail' market niche. Their human scale and ambience provide a quite different experience from the warehouses and parking lots of their suburban competitors. With focused business recruitment, a seed project such as re-opening the Paramount Theatre, and expansion of the downtown residential population, Barrington could

once again shine as the historic, vital, upbeat mainstreet of the region.

The report includes recommendations for widened sidewalks, pedestrian amenities, improved street lighting, gateway features, courtyard access, and the activation of dead space to bring life to the street.

In his presentation to the DHBC, David Garrett described the strategy as an exciting recipe for rejuvenation with many ingredients, the exact combination to depend on the priorities of the stakeholders who become involved and the amount of heat and enthusiasm they generate. With vision and careful stirring, the potential is there for a gourmet meal.

The report will be distributed to property and business owners on the street as well as to key staff and politicians in HRM and the N.S. government. The next step is to set up a working group to clarify issues, build consensus for solutions and identify priorities. Downtown revitalization has succeeded in hundreds of communities in North America and Europe, and it can be accomplished in Halifax as well.

We hope that the heritage community will support the establishment of the street as a heritage conservation district. The report includes a catalogue of Barrington Street's heritage buildings. Obtain copies from the DHBC, 1668 Barrington, Halifax, B3J 2A2. Phone: 423-6658.

Congratulations to Lou Collins, FRNSHS

"For meritorious service in furthering the objects" of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, **Lou Collins**, historian and a founder of Heritage Trust, was one of three inductees as Fellows of the Society during the book launch of the *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society*, on October 28, 1998.

The citation by David B. Flemming, President of the Society reads:

"Lou Collins has over many decades served this Society, his city, province and country in the furthering of research and writing to advance historical knowledge and understanding. A long time educator, writer and historian, Lou's passion for our province's built heritage resulted directly in the preservation of many important buildings in the province, including Halifax's Historic Properties. He has enabled governments, historical and heritage societies, students and the community at large, to understand and appreciate the importance of our heritage and history. He has served as President of this Society and was Halifax's Civic Historian from 1968 to 1996. His walking tour guide *In Halifax Town*, written in 1975, reflects a city whose downtown has changed over the years, while at the same time providing readers with an intimate, personal appreciation of Lou Collins' home town. Lou has been the recipient of numerous awards and honours, from the American Association of State and Local History, Heritage Canada and the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, to name but a few. The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design awarded him an honorary doctorate of fine arts in 1979, and in 1996, Dr. Collins became a member of the Order of Canada. He continues to be active in heritage matters, and his advice is regularly sought by those involved in such activities. I am pleased to call upon Terry Punch, a Fellow of the Society, to present Lou with his certificate."

Congratulations, Lou, on a well deserved honour.



Gifts

Old Railway Stations of the Maritimes

by Peter M. Latta
Price \$6.95, obtainable from St. Agnes press, P.O. Box 23025, St. John's, Nfld., A1B 4J9.

A Breed Apart: Nova Scotia's Duck Tolling Retriever

by Gail MacMillan
\$24.95 tax free from Masthead Gift Shop, Yarmouth County Historical Society & Museum, 22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS. B5A 3C8

1917 Halifax Explosion and American Response



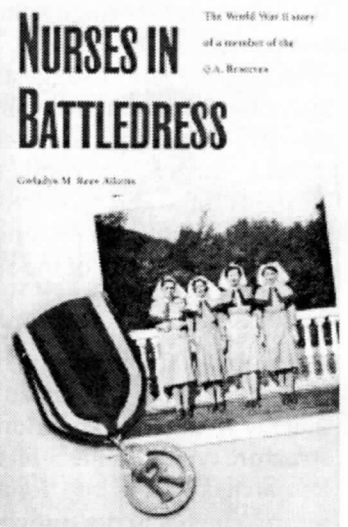
Blair Beed

Blair Beed's new book *1917 Halifax Explosion and American Response* is hot off the press for Christmas. Using many never before published photographs, it describes the magnificent way in which Americans and others responded to the Halifax Explosion and the tragedy it brought with it. Many of the photographs give an intimate picture of the Beed family and its experiences after the explosion. Priced at \$19.95, the book can be obtained tax free from the publisher: Dtours Visitors and Convention Service, P.O. Box 3443, Park Lane Centre, Halifax, NS., B3J 3J1. Bookstore price adds HST.

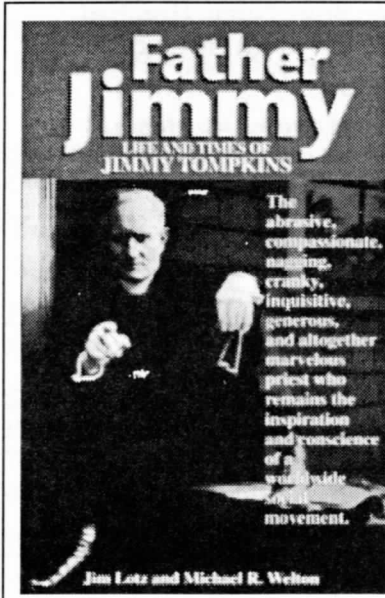
All's fair in love and war

Nurses in Battledress is Trust member Gwladys M. Aikens' thrilling and poignant story of her Second World War experiences as a member of the QA Reserves. This remarkable book, which includes shipwreck and bombing, also covers the front line doctor/nurse romance that brought Gwladys to Nova Scotia. Don't forget to put this book on your own Christmas list if you have not yet read it.

Gwladys is her own publisher, obtain the book for \$12.50 from Cymru Press, 6369 Coburg Road, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J7. 423-9932.



for Christmas



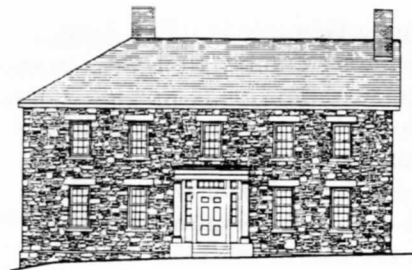
Cape Breton pioneer

This book by Jim Lotz and Michael Welton describes the abrasive, compassionate, nagging, cranky, inquisitive, generous, and altogether marvellous priest who remains the inspiration and conscience of a worldwide social movement. Father Jimmy Tompkins was the spiritual father of the co-op movement in Nova Scotia. Father Jimmy was a born teacher. In Jim Lotz's words, "He wouldn't even let out the cat for you. But he'd sit up half the night nagging you to do it for yourself." Price, including tax, \$16 plus \$2.50 shipping from Breton Books, Wreck Cove, N.S., B0C 1H0. Available in booksellers. By credit card from 1 (902) 539-5146.

Lunenburg Commemorative Plates

Trimmed with 22kt. gold. Now only \$9.95 tax free (regularly \$25.00) from Atlantic Save Easy, Lunenburg

Carleton House



Our current Trust publication, *Carleton House*, is the perfect Christmas gift for anyone interested in the preservation of old and historic buildings. This account of Halifax's oldest residence, from its construction to its rescue from destruction, provides valuable insights into the process of saving heritage buildings from extinction through creative new uses for such structures. Costs \$15.95. For copies, call Pat Lotz, 423-326.

South Western N.S. Coverlet

Commissioned by the Yarmouth Co. Historical Society, price and details from the Masthead Gift Shop, Yarmouth County Historical Society & Museum, 22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS. B5A 3C8 or by phoning 902-742-5539.

Please Pass the Butter

Recollections of Elvin Falkenham Dairy Farmer of Lunenburg County, as told to Shelley Harquail, Lunenburg Heritage Society. \$10 tax free + \$2.50 for mailing, from George McKiel, RR#1, Rosebay, NS., B0J 2X0. Cheques payable to Lunenburg Heritage Society

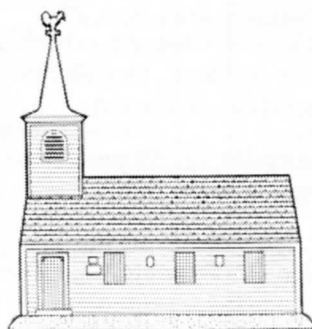
Our Poems

By The Poetry Society of Nova Scotia. \$13.50 + 7% HST. Available at The Book Room on Barrington Street.

Talk about the Maritimes

The CBC Radio Talks of Norman Creighton

An anthology of Maritime radio pioneer Norm Creighton representing the finest of his many broadcasts. These tales of the simple life in Maritime Canada are enduring moments in time. Nimbus Publishing, \$16.95



Heritage Tree Ornaments

The Downtown Halifax Business Commission promotes the history of Halifax through a series of collectible pewter Christmas tree ornaments created by Aitkens Pewter. The latest addition to the series, which now totals 18, is the Little Dutch Church. Others new this year: Government House, The Town Clock, The Public Gardens gates, Keith Hall and the Bank of Nova Scotia. Buy these delightful ornaments at \$8 each (including tax), from Aitkens Pewter, Historic Properties, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Kelly's Luggage, the Book Room or Goody Baskets. Or call Allison Gillis, DHBC at 423-3740.

Events sponsored by Other Societies

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Cole Harbour Ph: 434-0222 or 465-1032

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

Museum staff At Home 7-10 pm. Friends and supporters of the Museum are invited to drop in.

Sunday, December 13 - 2.00 pm

A carol sing/service in the Meeting House on Cole Harbour Road. This one-time Methodist Chapel, once a municipal property, is at last fully owned by the Museum and part of its complex. It is now a Provincial Heritage Property. Come and help celebrate!

Sunday, February 14, 1999, 7 pm

Valentine's Candlelight Dinner in an intimate setting for 14 couples. Cosy, non-smoking atmosphere. Delicious meal, soft candlelight and romantic music. *Sainte Famille* wine available. \$50. couple. **Reservations required.** Ph: 434-0222 or 465-1032

Royal N.S. Historical Society

At Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6106 University Avenue, Halifax. Contact: Dr. Alan Marble 423-5359

Thursday, December 10, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Douglas Trider on the history of Dartmouth Common

Thursday, January 21, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Frank Jones: A Hot Southern Town; Confederate Sympathizers in Halifax During the American Civil War

Thursday, February 25, 7.30 pm

Brian Cuthbertson: History of the Halifax City Hall and Grand Parade.

Calligraphy Guild of Nova Scotia

Meets 7-9 pm, third Monday of the month. Details/venue contact: Les deWit 835-0508/John Peake 425-4128

Poetry Society of Nova Scotia

Meet 2 pm, third Saturday of the month, PANS, 6106 University Ave., Halifax. Ph: Daphne Faulkner 423-5330
The last meeting of 1998 will be held on December 19.

Bedford Historical Society

The Teachery, 9 Spring Street, Bedford. Contact: Tony Edwards 835-3615.

Saturday, February 20, 1999, 7.30 pm.
Program and Speaker TBA.

Costume Society of Nova Scotia

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

Contacts: Sheila Yeomans 429-2298 or Sheila Strong 425-6500, or 422-4853

Monday, January 18, 1999, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Susan Charles, Director, Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage
Topic: Dugald Museum Collection.
For Info: Susan Charles 423-4677

Monday, February 15, 7.30 pm

Presentations by 25 students from Dalhousie University Costume Studies Program

Monday, March 15, 7.30 pm

To honour the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Halifax

Speaker: Dr. Janina Konczacki
Topic: 18th Century Dress: Unreasonable Dress in the Age of Reason

Canadian Authors Association - Nova Scotia Branch

Meets 2 pm, fourth Saturday, September-June, PANS, 6106 University Ave., Halifax. Contacts: Evelyn Brown 466-2558. Mary Ann Monnon 902-542-2726. P.O. Box 332, Wolfville, NS. BOP 1XO.

Fort Sackville Foundation & Scott Manor House

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford.
Program information: Beth Kennedy 835-3632 or Anne McVicar 835-5368

Monday, Nov. 23 - Sun., Nov. 29

Yesteryear's Wish Book. An exhibit of historic dolls and toys. During the week school children invited.

Friday, November 27, 7-9 pm

Grand Opening to the public.

Sat. & Sun. Nov. 28-29, 1-5 pm.

\$1.00 person; \$2.00 family.

Thursday, December 3, 7 pm

Scott Manor House. Traditional lighting of Bedford's Christmas tree, carol singing and refreshments.

Monthly meetings, 7.30 pm, third Tuesdays, in the Scott Manor House.

Tuesday, January 19, 1999, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Alex Wilson, Museum of Natural History, Historical Gardens

Tuesday, February 16, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Bruce Nunn, Historian
Swapping Bedford Historical Facts.

Federation of N.S. Heritage

Information courses/activities: 423-4677

Friday, December 4

Courses/workshops: Museum Studies Certificate: Unit 7 (Exhibits)

Monday, December 14

Deadline: submissions for Heritage Day Event listings.

Thurs./Fri., January 14/15

Training for Trainers' Workshop (Level II) and Stress Mgt Package.

Friday, February 26

Built Heritage Workshop

Saturday, February 27

Valley Regional Meeting

Kings Heritage Society & Old Kings Courthouse Heritage Museum

37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville, NS.
Details/time: Joanne Peill 902-542-5517

Sunday December 6

Musical Meanderings: Annual Christmas House Tour and Yuletide Tea. Only 3 homes this year, but includes music at Old Kings Courthouse during tea, 3-6 pm: Paula Rockwell, m. soprano; Susan Dworkin Macinnes, soprano; Gordon Hansford and Ed Coleman; Ardyth Robinson and Jennifer Wyatt, harp, and Clara Whitman, violin. Also display of music boxes and Christmas decorations. Homes open: Clark/Sylvana Forsyth, Belcher St, Port Williams; Dorothy/Gerry Wood, Mountain View Rd, Kentville; Heather/Bev Ilsley, MacDougall Heights, Kentville. \$12 tour/tea/entertainment. \$5 tea/entertainment.

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Old Chester Train Station, Hwy 103, Chester. Fran Underwood 902-275-5092

HTNS Program: Dec. 1998

Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax

Thursday, December 17, 1998, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Ms. Lila Gashus.

Topic: 'Ashets of Gigots and Petticoat Tails' - Scottish interpretation of French dishes which became popular in Scotland. Scottish goodies will be served to better illustrate the lecture.

Waverley Heritage Museum

1319 Rocky Lane Drive, Waverley. Annie Smith 861-2427

Sunday, December 13, 2-4 pm

Christmas Candlelight Tea. \$2 per person.

Yarmouth County Historical Society

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth. Contact: 902-742-5539

Friday, December 4-7.30 pm

Monthly meeting will be annual Christmas gathering

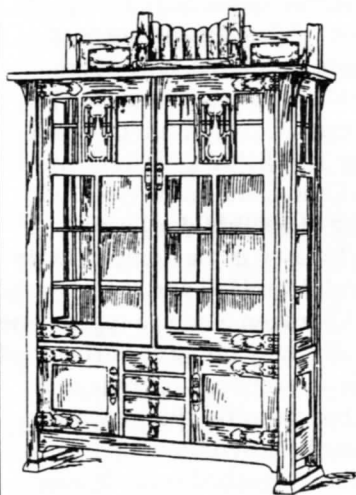
Saturday, December 5, 1-5 pm

Fifth Annual Fundraiser Christmas House Tour and Tea. Six unique houses will be open this year. Price/details: Helen Hall, 902-742-4467.

Tuesday, December 8-7.30 pm

Armchair Travel Series: Program TBA.

ATLANTIC HERITAGE PRESERVATION



- sensitive repairs to fine furniture and family heirlooms by a trained Conservator
- Free consultation offering practical treatment options
- Since 1984 working with private clients and public collections

Contact Craig Dix for more information.

Telephone/Fax: 902-477-5899

Member: Canadian Association of Professional Conservators

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

presents a public lecture series

Halifax 1749 to 1999: 250 Years of Society and Culture

Thursday, January 21, 1999

Young Mr. Keating's search for a career: patterns of social mobility in the 19th century

Speaker: **Dr David Sutherland**, Dalhousie University

Thursday, February 18

Touring 250 years of Architecture in Halifax

Speaker: **Dr Elizabeth Pacey**

Thursday, March 18

Furniture and interior decoration in 19th century Halifax

Speaker: **Meredyth Rochman**, colour and space planner

Thursday, April 15

The changing scene; visual records of Halifax from the 18th to the 20th century

Speaker: **Scott Robson**, Curator, History Collection, N.S. Museum

Thursday, May 20

Landscapes and Gardens of Halifax

Speaker: **Alex Wilson**, Manager of Collections, N.S. Museum of Natural History

Thursday, June 17

Two Hundred Years of Justice in Halifax

Speaker: **Alan Parish, QC**

Thursday, September 16

Manners, morals and the demi-monde in 19th century Halifax

Speaker: **Dr. Judith Fingard**, Dalhousie University

Thursday, October 21

Medicine, the medical profession, health and hygiene in 18th and early 19th century Halifax

Speaker: **Dr Alan Marble**, Dalhousie University

Thursday, November 18

Annual Dinner

Speaker and venue to be announced

Thursday, November 25

Food and entertainment; daily routines of domestic life in 19th century Halifax

Speaker: **Meredyth Rochman**, Colour & space planner

Thursday, December 16

Two hundred and fifty years of clothes and dressing as a reflection of social rank in Halifax

Speaker: **Robert Doyle**, Founder and Director (retired) of Costume Studies at Dalhousie University

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

The Society's report on the July 9, 1998, meeting of the Coast Guard's Regional Advisory Council on Lighthouse Alternative Use (RACLAU) appears in the September issue of *The Lightkeeper*, available in the Heritage Trust office.

New options discussed at the meeting included a device based on a Treasury Board policy called "96-1", originally designed for fish hatcheries. It allows a group to take ownership of Fisheries and Oceans property if they successfully operate it to government standards for five years. The five-year operation is considered payment and gets around the "full market value" requirement which could bankrupt many community groups interested in lighthouses. However, "96-1" has to be advertised for 30 days, during which time commercial and real estate interests could be attracted by the offer.

Speaking for NSLPS, Dan Conlin said that this may be a helpful short-term solution; the five-year period gives a transition time for community groups to see if they can succeed with a site while it still remains publicly owned.

Another option is a non-profit lighthouse agency along the Maine Lights model. This would take over a block of perhaps 40 or more lighthouses and administer alternate uses for them. NSLPS expressed concern over this privatized approach, questioning where the non-profit resources would come from in this region for such large-scale heritage property management. Their preference is still a Lighthouse Preservation Act. Given the present threat, a 'multi-tool' approach is needed for lighthouse preservation, opening up a diversity of ways applicable to individual situations: leases, licences, 96-1, an agency, possible legislation, etc.

All approaches were up for discussion in workshops at the Beacon Conference in Moncton on November 12-13.

During the summer, the Lighthouse Protection Act Committee



News from heritage groups around Nova Scotia

(Dan Conlin, David Curry, Chris Mills) met three times to discuss goals and strategies for the preservation and protection of Canadian lighthouses. They drafted an overview of proposed contents of such an act, outlining the significance of lighthouses— navigational, historical, cultural, educational, etc— and the need for an umbrella act to protect structures and sites threatened by the federal government's divestiture of surplus lightstation buildings and property.

In September the Committee met with Betty Pacey, and the Heritage Canada Foundation's Doug Franklin, who was instrumental in developing the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act. Mr. Franklin provided useful information about the political processes leading to the passing of protection acts and agreed to assist the Society in working towards a national lighthouse protection act.

On the positive side, Joe Murphy of the Coast Guard reported on three leases signed with community groups who have taken over some well-known harbour lights this summer: Neils Harbour, Cape Breton (by the local fire department as an ice cream stand); Wood Island, Prince Edward Island (by a regional development corporation, as a museum, gift shop and golf shop); and Mabou Harbour, Cape Breton (as a museum and tourist centre).

Also featured in *The Lightkeeper* is a story on Coffin Island Light, a report on the restoration work in progress on the Sambro Light, and another on the July 20 NSLPS-sponsored trip to the Tusket Islands, south of Yarmouth.

Mahone Bay Founders Society

On Sunday October 25, 1998, three heritage houses in Mahone Bay were designated municipal heritage properties:

77 Edgewater Street was built in 1874 by John Augustus Joudry, merchant, blacksmith and yeoman, and the town's first police officer. Joudrys lived there for over 100 years. Present owners are Bob and Christine Morse.

It is a one and a half storey colonial style house with a steeply pitched gable roof and a Lunenburg Bump. It has bracketed eaves and decorative fretwork above the windows. The central chimney has been removed, otherwise the facade is original.

457 Main Street, built in 1876 for master mariner Captain Edward Strum, is an imposing building, two and a half storeys high, with a steeply pitched gable roof, return eaves, and a three-storey Lunenburg Bump. Dr. Hamilton, physician and surgeon, lived there from 1905-1928. From 1929-1943, it was the manse for the Presbyterian Church built on Main Street by T.J. Nichol after the United Church Union, and from 1956-1961 the home of boatbuilder Leaman Hirtle. Today it is the home of Lynn Rotin and Peter Hall and their family.

17 Aberdeen Street, a typical one and a half storey home constructed of wood, is an excellent example of its type. It has a central chimney, two open hearths, a symmetrical facade and a steeply pitched roof. It was built as a double dwelling in 1849 by two brothers, James and Alexander Kedy, and has always been used as such. One of the brothers was a shoemaker and traces of his livelihood were found by a recent owner. The house is currently owned by the Reverend George Wawin.

The Society will hold its annual Tannenbaum Celebration and Ornament Competition culminating in tea at Government House, where the Lunenburg County tree in the hall is entirely covered by Christmas ornaments made by the Founders Society over the past 20 years.

The Founders are also working with the Bayview Cemetery Corporation to translate gravestones inscribed in German. They will be identified later by signs in German and English. An interpretative board will also be erected at the entrance to alert visitors to this heritage site.

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

The Society held its fourth annual *Victorian Christmas* from November 26-29 at Chester's Historic Train Station. It was a weekend-long Festival of art, antiques, crafts and food. On Friday evening, a tree lighting ceremony was held, followed by family carol singing. People were encouraged to wear period costume.

Chester Theatre presented *The Novelty Salesmen*, a vocal quartet from Halifax who sing in lush harmonies and exciting rhythms.

On Saturday and Sunday, some of Chester's accomplished artists, including woodworkers, potters, a linen designer and a designer who uses fish leather, opened their doors. The \$1 admission fee for *Studio Doors* included a draw ticket for a painting and a map showing which studios were open. Restaurants and cafés participating in the *Victorian Christmas* were also on the map.

Rockingham Heritage Society

In 1989, residents interested in local history formed the Rockingham Heritage Society to preserve and promote the heritage of the greater Rockingham area. This includes communities between Bedford Basin and the Bicentennial Highway from Clayton Park to Fernleigh Park.

The Society is now researching and recording the history of these communities, which have been home to Mi'kmaq, Acadians, a royal prince, lieutenant governors, innkeepers, farmers, fishermen, railway workers, artists, teachers and students. Sharon

Ingalls (443-4812) or Carol MacAskill (443-3436) are interested in hearing from anyone willing to assist with information or relevant photos.

In time for Christmas giving, the Society has produced a Rockingham Heritage Society Calendar for 1999. Among its interesting black-and-white archival photographs is one of a family group contributed by Trust member Daphne Faulkner. The calendar is \$5 per copy, tax included, from Sharon Ingalls, Carol MacAskill, or Carole Worrall (443-7043).

Yarmouth County Historical Society

Tenders closed on November 12, 1998, for Yarmouth County Historical Society's long-awaited expansion project, and although estimates appear higher than anticipated, work should begin shortly. The first phase will include construction of the Preservation Building and renovation of the Research Centre. The west side Meeting/Education area will be started later when fundraising has been sufficient to support it.

Fundraising efforts include the sale of Christmas wreaths made by Brian Hurlburt, a House Tour and Tea and a Christmas Concert. The Mast Head Gift Shop offers a wide selection of wares: books, antique brass reproductions, pewter, Victorian writing paper, journals, stickers and pocket mirrors, suitable for Christmas giving. The Museum will be open daily from 2-5 pm until the end of May.

As a result of a meeting between the Society's president, Eric Ruff, and Ken Martin in Bath, Maine, Eric discovered that two ship portraits with a Yarmouth connection were to be auctioned in New Hampshire in August. Eric successfully applied for a grant from the Federal Government under its Cultural Property Export and Import Act, which helped repatriate the paintings to Canada. One is of the barque *E.H. Duval* of Yarmouth signed by John Loos of Antwerp in 1870, the other is of the *Ocean Express* of Halifax, Captain S.W. Crosby of Yarmouth, Master, painted by Benjamin Tindall of Hull, England, and believed to be the only painting by this artist in a Canadian

maritime museum collection.

While visiting the South African Maritime Museum in Cape Town during a trip to Africa last year, Eric met a museum staff member on a government committee, who told an MP on that committee about Eric's visit. Later a letter was received by Eric enquiring how Canadian tax incentives help our museums. Eric sent some information and arranged for more to be sent from the Canadian Museums Association and the Cultural Property Export and Import Act staff. A recent reply from the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa says in part: "I can't help but feel that yours is a very special Museum...to elicit the response that you have from your community...The information that you provided is exactly the type that we need in order to add weight to our campaign for tax incentives for South African museums..."



Christmas

in the Round

A celebration of Christmas past in music and readings

Host: Elizabeth Logan

Clary Croft

Scott Macmillan

Rejouissance

Incantatus

Saint George's Choir

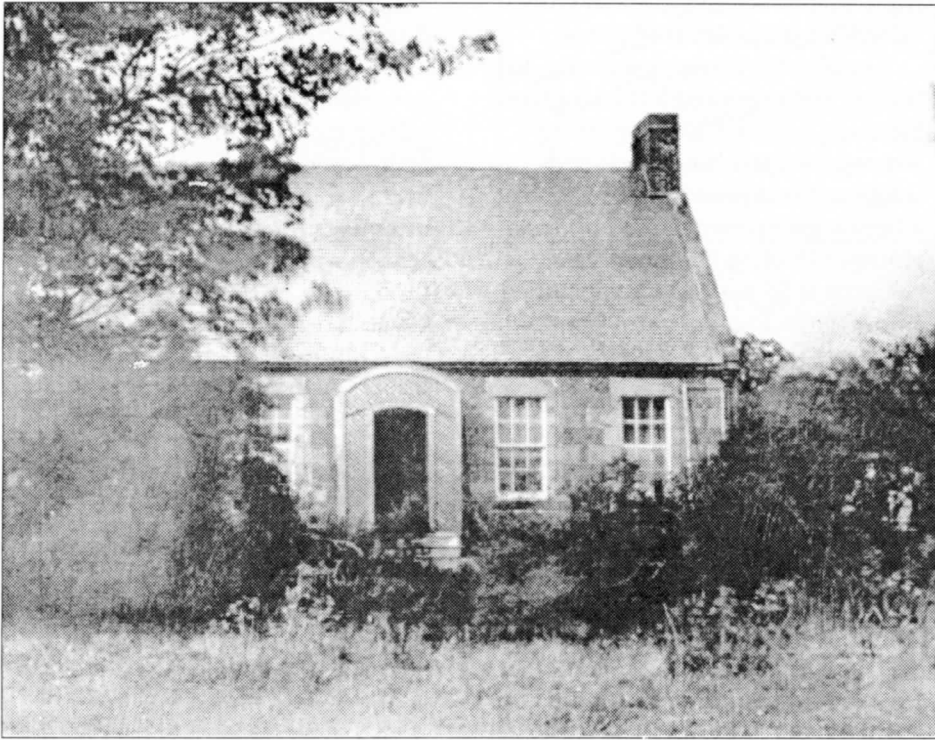
and more

**7:30 pm, Wednesday,
December 23**

Saint George's Round Church
Corner Brunswick and Cornwallis
streets, Halifax

Tickets \$10 (\$5 children) at the
door only. Proceeds to Saint
George's Restoration, Organ
Fund

What's happening at the McCulloch House, Pictou



The McCulloch House, Pictou, in the 1890s

By Nancy O'Brien

Repairs are underway at the Thomas McCulloch House in Pictou, part of a larger plan to stabilize and restore the 1806 building. The poor condition of the House, obvious in mouldy walls and a leaking roof, prompted the Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society to seek a Building Conservation Study to help plan the work. The building, a provincial museum since 1973, was closed to the public this summer and will remain closed through 1999. The Hector Exhibit Centre, on the same property, remains open.

Both the Hector Centre and the McCulloch House Museum are administered by the Board of the Genealogy and Heritage Society, itself the result of a merger of the former Pictou County Genealogy Society and the Hector Centre Trust. Janet McKay, of the Stone House at Central West River, was elected president of the Society at the Annual Meeting in June, succeeding Doris MacMillan.

According to the goals of the new Society, which form part of its Mission Statement, McCulloch House is to be returned "to its original appearance." This means removing the present roof and the well-known

dormers added in the late-19th century, which have been there for as long as anyone now living remembers. Formerly there was a simple roof loft where McCulloch's students lived. The current work plan does not include lowering the roof, but will stabilize the main floor in its original state and improve the cellar.

The contract for the project was won by Fowler, Bauld and Mitchell, whose architect Mac Mackay proposed the plan of work. Funding is from Nova Scotia Government Transportation and Public Works. One challenge has been to find handmade bricks of the right size and colour. As they are not available here they will come from Maine and be laid by local masons. McCulloch's bricks came from Scotland.

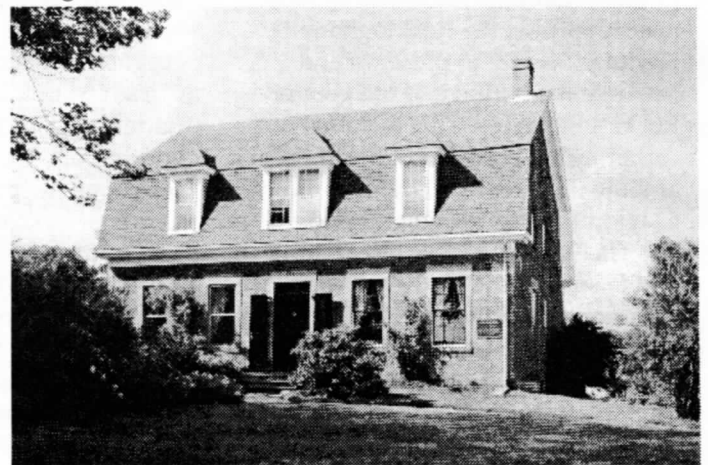
The Reverend Thomas McCulloch arrived in Pictou in 1803 and left in 1838 to become the first president of

Dalhousie University. His legacy to Pictou includes founding the Pictou Academy, of which he was the first principal, in 1817. When Audubon visited him in his house, Sherbrooke Cottage, in 1833, his library and ornithological collection were already renowned. Stuffed specimens can still be seen at Dalhousie and more will reappear when his house opens again.

McCulloch is known to have written to Scotland for seeds for herbs, vegetables and a small flower garden. The Society now managing the house has as its property goal "to improve the appearance of the total property, including the establishment of a garden typical of McCulloch's time." This is not now in prospect; in recent years the grounds have been maintained by volunteers of the local Horticultural Society,

Along with other community museums in Nova Scotia, the Hector Research Centre gets a percentage of its direct operating budget (security, heat, snowplowing) from Nova Scotia Museum Services; the Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society administers McCulloch House, itself a provincial museum for the N.S. Museum, which recently called for research grant applications to plan a program for McCulloch House when it eventually reopens. Guides are employed seasonally as funds through Human Resources allow. A site manager is employed year round.

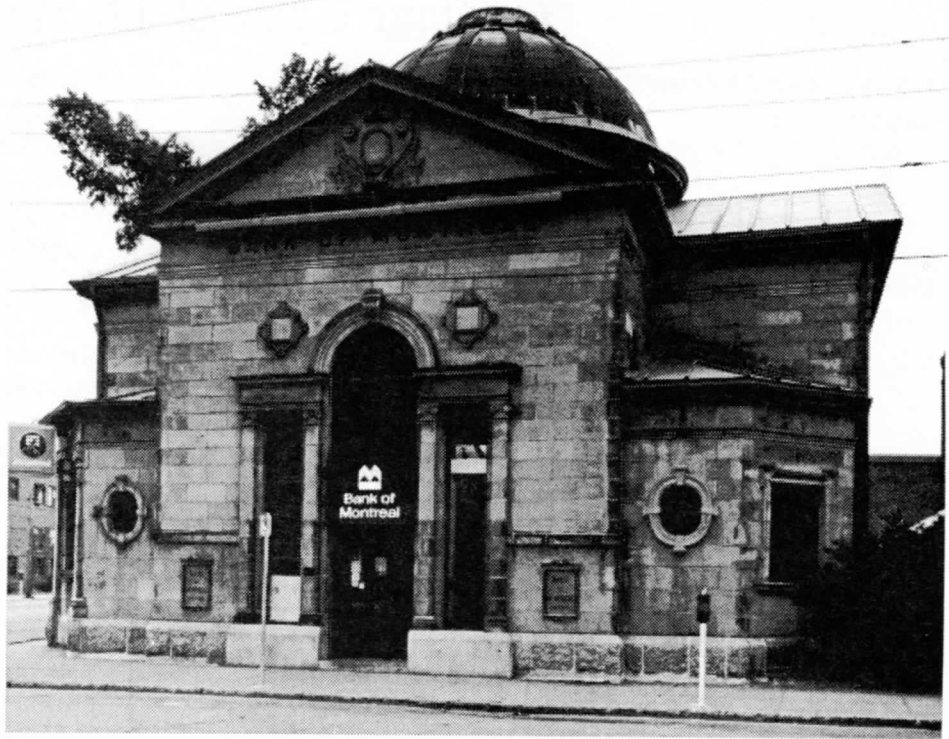
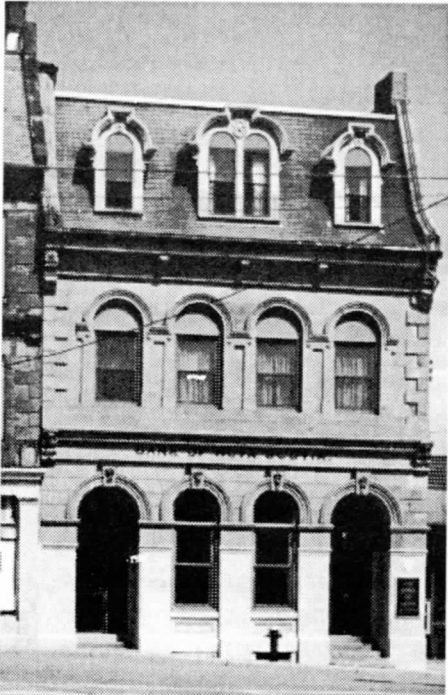
The McCulloch House after the addition of the second storey



Historic banks

Bank mergers could lead to the closure of historic bank buildings. Trust President John Lazier recently wrote to the presidents of the four banks considering mergers. His letter asked that the banks adopt a policy of continuing to use any of their heritage buildings in Nova Scotia which might be affected by the mergers.

The letter said, "Many of these



Above: Bank of Montreal, Sydney. Left: Bank of Nova Scotia, Pictou. Both photographs by Alvin Comiter from Landmarks: Historic Buildings of Nova Scotia, by Elizabeth Pacey and Alvin Comiter

bank buildings are very fine examples of the work of important Nova Scotian and Canadian architects".

A letter also went to members of provincial heritage groups asking them to write to bank officials expressing concern about the future of these building.

The Rev'd Lionel Temple-Hill

The Trust regrets the passing of The Reverend Lionel Temple-Hill, a long time member who was especially missed at the Nov. 19 Annual Dinner. He said the Grace at these dinners for many years. An obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Griffin*.

More on the Navy League Building

A letter from John T. Stuart of Halifax which adds to Garry Shutlak's September 1998 City Rambles:

The Halifax Sailors' Home was created in the 1870s, and later operated by the Seaman's Friend Society supported by donations from Halifax merchants, but in spite of a bequest from the estate of noted Haligonian Sir William Young, the Home was soon in financial difficulties. There were controversial management policies as the manager was a temperance fanatic, and the introduction of steam ships and smaller crews had lessened the need for such homes. By 1896, the Halifax Sailors' Home had closed.

Among the maritime interests of the Navy League of Canada,

which had been established in 1895, was the the development of a Canadian navy, the fostering of an interest in maritime affairs, and the welfare of sailors. As a result, in 1919, by an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature, the Halifax Branch of the Navy League of Canada absorbed both the Halifax Sailors' Home and the Seaman's Friend Society. The Navy League building was soon constructed and carried on the good works.

In addition to providing a hostel for seamen, from 1927 to 1932 it also housed the Half Company of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve under the command of Halifax barrister Joseph P. Connolly, MC RCNVR. This Half Company later evolved into the largest Naval

Reserve Division in Canada, *HMCS Scotian*.

Although the Navy League had incorporated the Sailors' Home into its activities in 1919, in the 1920s the sign over the South Street entrance portico still read 'Halifax Sailors' Home'.

No doubt in recognition of the efforts of the Navy League on behalf of the Navy, in the 1990s Maritime Command still provided office space to the Halifax Branch of the Navy League. On a national basis, the Department of National Defence still supports the Navy League and the cadet units that they sponsor. The building may have been demolished, but the objectives and ideals of the Navy League continue.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Executive and Committee Chairs 1998-1999

Executive

President	Dr. John Lazier	429-5063 (h) 1531 Le Marchant Street 426-2558 (o) Halifax, N.S., B3H 3R2. lazier@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Past President	Joyce McCulloch	425-1057 (h) 1597 Dresden Row Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K4
V-P Finance	Pauline Hildesheim	423-1925 (h) 1326 Lower Water Street Halifax, N.S., B3J 3R3
V-P Heritage	Brenda Shannon	429-2154 (h) 1538 Oxford Street Halifax, N.S., B3H 3Z2
Treasurer	Ian McKee	477-3112 (h) 21 Litchfield Crescent 477-5572 (o/f) Halifax, N.S., B3P 2N4 ian.johanne@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary	Ann Marie Duggan	423-7443 (h) 2053 Creighton Street 497-0227 (c) Halifax, N.S., B3K 3R3

Committee chairs

Awards	Pamela Collins	455-6093 (h) 6446 Liverpool Street Halifax, N.S., B3L 1Y4
Membership	Sandra Sackett	429-3464 (h) 6110 Charles Street 424-8520 (o) Halifax, N.S., B3K 1L2
Newsletter	Anne West	422-9446 (h) 1161 South Park Street 425-1453 (f) Halifax, N.S., B3H 2W9 awest@ns.sympatico.ca
Nova Scotia Communities	Janice Zann	(902) 895-6648 (h) 111 Willow Street Truro, N.S., B2N 4Z8
Programme	Hilary Grant	835-2795 (h) 17 Borden Street 835-6644 (am) Bedford, N.S., B4A 1W1 835-3036 (f)
Projects	Meredyth Rochman	455-4929 (h) 6518 Almon Street Halifax, N.S., B3L 1V8
Property	Douglas Price	422-6105 (h) 940 Marlborough Ave Halifax, N.S., B3H 3G8
Publications	Pat Lotz	423-3263 (h/o) 5680 Inglis Street Halifax, N.S., B3H 1K5
Publicity	Maureen Williams	425-0251 (h) 5745 Inglis Street 426-1598 (w) 426-8627 (f) Halifax, N.S., B3H 1K5 maureen_williams@pch.gc.ca(w) mkwillia@is2dal.ca (h)
Research	Dr. Elizabeth Pacey	423-3576 (h) 6269 Yukon Street 422-8814 (Fernbank) Halifax, N.S., B3L 1Y4

Board of Trustees, 1998-1999

Retiring 1999

Greg Bakeeff	445-4896 (h) 40 Stratford Way 496-1180 (w) Halifax, N.S., B3S 1E5 greg.bakeeff@nbpcd.com
Ernest Dick	902-532-7035 (h) P.O. Box 95 902-665-5031 (o) Granville Ferry, N.S. ejdick@mid.auracom.com
Dr. Paul Erickson	454-8783 (h) 5624 Drummond Court erickson@ns.sympatico.ca Halifax, N.S., B3K 3Z4
Robert Frame	469-6227 (h) 7 Newcastle Street framerw@nsm.ednet.ns.ca Halifax, N.S., B2Y 3M4
Shawn Miner	902-798-2587 (h) RR #2, Falmouth 425-1115 (msg) N.S., B0P 1L0 sminer52@hotmail.com

Retiring 2000

Elizabeth Adamson	902-542-3747 (h) 94 Main Street agar.adamson@acadiau.ca Wolfville, N.S., B0P 1X0
Kathy Lee Brickenden	457-1177 (h) 5 Laurentide Drive Halifax, N.S., B3M 2M9
Doris Butters	422-6286 (h/f) 2211-1333 South Park St Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K9
Kate Carmichael	423-5225 (h) 6517 Coburg Road 423-3841 (w) Halifax, N.S., B3H 2A6 492-8059 (hf), 429-0865 (wf)
David Flemming	455-2400 (h) 3264 Albert Street d.flemming.t.dore@ns.sympatico.ca Halifax, N.S., B3K 3M9
David F. Garrett	425-0182 (o) 5th floor, 420-0180 (f) 1684 Barrington St, garrett.arch@ns.sympatico.ca Halifax, N.S., B3J 2A2

Retiring 2001

Dr. Paul Brodie	422-1053 (h) 6215 Coburg Road at870@chebucto.ns.ca Halifax, N.S., B3H 1Z8
Graeme Duffus	420-1851 (w) 5203 Green Street 425-7445 (f) Halifax, N.S., B3H 1N6 gfduffus@ns.sympatico.ca
Carol Nauss	902-275-3826 (w) 80 Main Street, Box 321 902-275-2579 (f) Chester, N.S., B0J 1J0 canauss@chebucto.ns.ca
Bill Plaskett	445-3342 (h/f) 38 Ravenrock Lane 902-275-2599 (w) Halifax, N.S., B3M 3A1 af841@chebucto.ns.ca
Sally Rankin	902-787-2710 (h/f) Box 32, Judique Inverness Co., B0E 1P0

Heritage Calendar

December 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 FSF/SMH 7 pm Xmas Tree lighting, carols	FNSH museum studies course (unit 7) YCHS 7:30 Xmas gathering	5 YCHS 1-5 pm Xmas house tour and tea
6 KHS/OKCHM Xmas house tour and tea with music	7	8 CHHF 7-10 pm At Home YCHS 7:30 pm Armchair Travel	9	10 RNSHC 7:30 pm Dartmouth Common, Trider	11	12
13 CHHF 2 pm Carols at Meeting House WHM 2-4 pm Xmas Candlelight Tea	14 FNSH Deadline for Heritage Day events	15 CGNS 7-9 pm Meeting	16	17 HTNS 7:30 pm Scottish/French cooking	18	19 PSNS 2 pm Meeting at PANS
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

For more detailed information about these events see pages 12 and 13.

Heritage Calendar

January 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 FNSH Workshop "training for Trainers" Level II	15	16 PSNS 2 pm Meeting PANS
17 CSNS 7:30 pm Meeting MMA Dugald	18	19 FSF/SMH 7:30 pm Historic Gardens (Wilson)	20	21 HTNS 7:30 pm 1999 Lecture Series begins RNHS 7:30 pm Confederate sympathisers	22	23 CAA 2 pm PANS
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Heritage Calendar

February 1999

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5 YCHS 7:30 pm meeting	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CHHFM 7 pm Valentines Dinner/music	14	15 CSNS 7:30 p,m Meeting MMA Students	16 FSF/SMH 7:30 pm Historical Faxts Bruce Nunn	17	18 HTNS 7:30 Lecture E. Pacey	19 PSNS 2 pm Meeting PANS BHS 7:30 pm meeting
21	22	23	24	25 RNSHS 7:30 pm History City Hall, Grand Parade, B.Cuthbertson	26 FNSH Workshop Built Heritage	27 CAA, 2 pm PANS FNSH Valley regional meeting
28	29	30				

Abbreviations used in this calendar

ADLHS	Admiral Digby Library and Historical Society	MMA	Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
ASHC	Age of Sail Heritage Centre	MSHS	Mainland South Heritage Society
AGNS	Art Gallery of Nova Scotia	MNH	Museum of Natural History
BHS	Bedford Historical Society	NSCAD	Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
CAA	Canadian Authors Association	PANS	Public Archives of Nova Scotia
CHHF	Cole Harbour Heritage Farm	PMCM	Parksdale-Maplewood Community Museum
CGNS	Calligraphy Guild of Nova Scotia	PSNS	Poetry Society of Nova Scotia
CMHS	Chester Municipal Heritage Society	QCM	Queen's County Museum
CSNS	Costume Society of Nova Scotia	RNSHS	Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
DHM	Dartmouth Heritage Museum	RHS	Rockingham Heritage Society
DHA	Dartmouth Heritage Association	SCC	Shubenacadie Canal Commission
FNSH	Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage	SMH	Scott Manor House
FSF	Fort Sackville Foundation	SRM	South Rawdon Museum
FOMIS	Friends of McNabs Island Society	THS	Truro Historical Society
FHN	Fultz House Museum	WHHS	West Hants Historical Society
HC	Heritage Canada	WHS	Waverley Historical Society
HTNS	Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia	YCHS	Yarmouth County Historical Society
KHS	Kings Historical Society	YCM	Yarmouth County Museum
MBFS	Mahone Bay Founders' Society and Settlers' Museum		