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The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

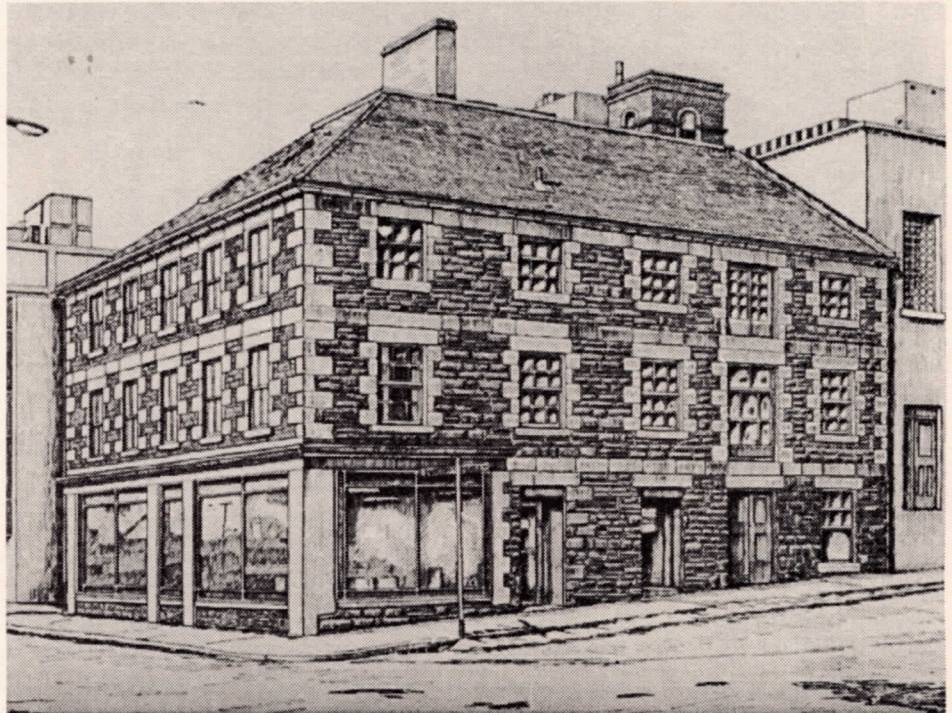
An unexpected reward

By Alan Ruffman

The ironstone Mitchell House at the southwest corner of Prince and Lower Water streets in Halifax (now 5110-5112 Prince Street, ex-1684 Lower Water Street) has always been of uncertain vintage. The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia's *Founded Upon A Rock* (2nd ed. 1971) notes that George Mitchell bought the corner lot with a wooden house on it in 1819 from a Mrs. Major. Then, the best the compilers of the day could note was "Sometime before 1850 George and J. Mitchell built their new stone building."

When Verna and Michael Turner bought the building in 1995, their attractive new sign could only reflect the City's estimate on the heritage plaque of "circa 1840". Well, that date can now be revised to "before mid-1827" as the direct result of the author's Sable Island research, an idle moment in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS), a bit of intuition, an error by an unknown PANS photocopier, and a check by Garry Shutlak at PANS.

On September 30, 1998, I was in the archives checking on a Sable Island item when I stumbled on an index to manuscripts that I'd not seen before: Record Group 1, Vol. 470, Microfilm 15,491. *A Catalogue of Manuscript Documents* prepared under the direction of Thomas B. Akin Commissioner of Public Records, entitled Special Subjects. Halifax Nova Scotia 1861. Akin's list



L.B. Jensen's drawing of the Mitchell House

was a citation to an *Index to Papers connected with The Town of Halifax between 1754 and 1828*. I idly wondered, "Is there anything on the weather for August-September 1775, when there were serious hurricanes about, or on the vicious windstorm in Halifax Harbour of 1799, or on 'The Year Without a Summer' in 1816?" And I let my eye slide down the list of the Index. *Petition of Certain Inhabitants of South Water Street, Document 128. South Water Street*. "I wonder where south started in the 1800s? Could this concern the area around Prince Street?" I mused. And I ordered a photocopy of the document and eventually it appeared. Wendy Findley of my office made a typed transcript, and

we found that we couldn't read several words on the rather faint photocopy made from a microfilm. This is where Garry came in. My inquiry to sort out the undecipherable words was fielded by him. He called with the original Document 128 (Record Group 1, Volume 411, Microfilm 15,457) in front of him. At one point as we attempted to make out the cover page annotation, Garry was talking about a hole in the page with words missing, and I was talking about a complete title with faded ink or faint photocopying. Then it dawned. There was also a letter about the Petition filed at PANS as Document 127 in Volume 411. The unknown PANS photocopier had sent me the

text of Document 128 and had, in error, sent the cover of Document 127. Back to PANS to read the letter from the Commissioners of Roads about "a complaint made of a nuisance in Water Street near the King's Wharf."

But enough of my serendipitous voyage of discovery. Suffice to say, always keep your peripheral sensors alive and open when you are doing research and browsing! The frustrated August 18, 1827, words of the petitioners to Sir James Kempt, Lieutenant-Governor, tell us not only of a two-year lack of action from their civic government but also, in so doing, note that the putrid puddle in question "commenc[es] at the Corner of Messieurs George & Andrew Mitchell's Stone Store in Water Street near the South End of the King's Wharf."

The petitioners' words follow verbatim:

The Petition of the Undersigned/being a part of the Inhabitants of South Water Street. Humbly Sheweth. That your Petitioners have for the last two Years been suffering under a very grievous nuisance in consequence of a stagnated Pool of Water lying immediately in front of the Doors of many of them Commencing at the Corner of Messieurs G. & A. Mitchell's Stone Store in Water Street near the South End of the King's Wharf and running along the Upper Side of the Street in a southerly Direction, which after a heavy gale of rain remains in the Gutter in a putrid state until in some measure dried up by the Sun. and as it is immediately opposite several of their Doors, it is not Only dangerous to the health of your Petitioners but is a manifest injury to them in their lawful business. Persons wishing to enter their Stores or Houses being obliged to jump directly over it.

Your Petitioners further beg leave to state unto your Excellency that they have made repeated Applications for nearly two Years past to two of the Commissioners of the Roads for the purpose of having this nuisance removed, and have received for answer "that there being so many Complaints they could not attend to all but would see and do something" but it still remains as usual without any attempt at removal until the Patience of your Petitioners is nearly exhausted. One of your Petitioners made

Application at the Police Office for the purpose of lodging a Complaint hereof, but was informed by one of the Magistrates that they could not take Cognizance there of any duty attached to the Commissioners of the roads, they having no control over them - but advised an Application to the Supreme Court

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Excellency will be pleased to take the Circumstances before related into your favorable Consideration and that although there may be many Complaints coming before the Commissioners of the Roads there cannot be a nuisance of greater consequence to the Community to be removed Than this - it lying in a part of the Town so much frequented that the health of the Inhabitants is endangered, and be graciously pleased to order and direct that such measures may be adopted by the said Commissioners for the removal of such nuisance as to your Excellency shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners As in duty bound Will ever pray. Halifax 18 August 1827 Signed:

William Mitchell, Agnes Pettegrew, William Patterson, Wm Buckley, Eliza [L]ove, William Murray, Duncn[sic] Hass, James Mahony, Peter Lynch, C H Rigby, John Casey, Bernard Byrnes, Timy, Horan, Andrew Mitchell, Alexr Fiddes, William Moore, Patrick Byrne

The Lieutenant-Governor referred the petition to Provincial Secretary Sir Rupert George, who in turn passed it on, with a letter, to the Commissioners of Roads. Their chairman, James Foreman, wrote Sir Rupert the following letter:

Sir, The Commissioners of the roads have requested me to reply in answer to your letter of the 29th Instant, and to State for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that they have read the petition enclosed, and have examined the nuisance complained of, and find that It has been chiefly caused by Mr. McLellan, Mr. Mitchell the principal complainants' landlord, having raised the center of the gutter in making a drain from his own premises; and likewise from others (whose names are to the petition) having filled the gutter with sweepings and rubbish from their houses, against

whom, as well as Mr. McLellan, the commissioners have now entered a prosecution. The Commissioners have requested me to state further that had the complainants applied to them by letter instead of troubling His Excellency with their petition the business would have been duly attended to

Volume 411 of Record Group 1 does not note the results of the Commissioners of Roads' vindictive prosecution. We do know, however, that George and Andrew Mitchell's stone store was in place on August 18, 1827.

To push the date even further back and to determine the actual dates of construction of the Mitchell House will require another intervention by luck, or the due diligence of persons searching the tax records, then perhaps scanning the 1819 to 1827 Halifax newspapers. As a tenant in the Mitchell House for the past 24 years, the author will be most interested in any new discoveries made by readers.



NOTICE

The Griffin

A quarterly magazine published by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Please note that the June issue will consist only of listings of heritage events.

Unfortunately Anne West will be too busy raising the last \$100,000 for Saint George's to produce a full issue

Deadline for the September issue, August 1, 1999

Submissions to:

Doris Butters, Editor
Apartment 2211,
1333 South Park Street,
Halifax, N.S., B3J 2K9
Phone/fax: (902) 6286

Strolling through the Centuries in Annapolis Royal By Ernest J. Dick

Annapolis Royal has long been proud of its heritage. It celebrated its 300th anniversary in 1904 and is now planning the 400th. Fort Anne was Canada's oldest national historic site, established in 1917, and the construction of the replica of the Habitation at Port Royal in the 1930s was Canada's first major re-creation of our built heritage. This past summer a good portion of Annapolis Royal was declared a national historic district by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, and 125 local buildings have been designated of historical and/or architectural significance.

Annapolis Royal has had a long tradition of local historians, enthusiasts, curators, and raconteurs who imbibed this history and have re-interpreted and made it alive for their generation. W. A. Calnek, Judge Savary, Loftus Fortier, Colonel Eaton, Laura Hardy, Charlotte Perkins, Jim How, Barry Moody, Margeurite Wagner, Peggy Armstrong and Alan Melanson are perhaps the best-known in these roles, but do not constitute an exhaustive list. All brought considerable imagination and personality to this heritage, and all enriched and enlivened it wonderfully. And a good many of us continue to find new ways to recount and promote this heritage.

The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal, one of the oldest historical associations in the province, had for years promoted local heritage through "magic lantern" shows. Thus they had accumulated some 175 glass slides, together with scripts for a number of these presentations. Moreover, one of these presentations, that of Charlotte Perkins at the Annapolis Royal Town Hall in 1951, documenting the buildings, water-front, and personalities of Annapolis Royal back as far as 1850, had been recorded on to sound-recording discs. Thus we can still hear and see her presentation, including rapping her cane to prompt the projectionist to move on to the next slide.

Moreover, we have in Jim How a redoubtable raconteur, historian and committed "Annapolitan" whose knowledge and advice on heritage matters is being sought by all and sundry these days. Thus, we determined that Jim should be engaged "in conversation" with "Lottie" (as he remembers her). We found a 1947 photograph of Charlotte Perkins (*see illustration*) at the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County Archives and had a slide made of it, so that she could be presented both visually as well as aurally.

Local photographers Peter Davies and Carol Robinson began the task of replicating the original perspectives and this soon proved to be more complicated and time-consuming than we ever imagined. Determining the exact perspective; then obtaining an approximation of this perspective so that foliage, shadows and traffic did not obscure the view; and finally organizing with current owners to take the photographs was rarely easy or straight-forward. Fortunately, Elizabeth Ross brought her considerable expertise and energy to the task and has now made herself invaluable to our community.

Part one of this conversation, "Strolling through the Centuries," took place on December 3 at St. Luke's



Photograph of Charlotte Perkins at the 30th Anniversary Dinner of the Fort Anne Chapter of the IODE in 1947

Church Hall with standing room only. There was a considerable air of excitement. Everyone enjoys listening to Jim How, and his flair for the dramatic always ensures a good show. Jim commented on the original perspective, on the Charlotte Perkins commentary, on the location and/or building over the past 50 years and on his personal experience. Then we also videotaped and made a sound recording of the process for future generations. Neither of the historical societies had ever attempted anything this technologically sophisticated before and lots could go wrong. We accomplished the presentation with only minor glitches and Jim How did not disappoint.

He recounted the excitement of magic lantern shows of his youth, recalling his attention being divided between the images on the screen and watching the projectionist changing the glass slides which could get very hot and easily be dropped and shatter. Jim had his own cane to signal us to change slides, and everyone had great fun hearing him regale us with the often-convoluted history of particular buildings and locations. Our buildings have been moved, burned, modified, restored and neglected more times than we usually remember, and Jim certainly enjoys recounting all those complexities. He, of course, lamented the fires of 1888 and 1921 that destroyed some 67 buildings of Annapolis Royal. Moreover, he often knew of the people and events that buildings were important for and thus brought their histories to life. Jim certainly

remembered Lottie Perkins personally and enjoyed telling us of the 19th century graffiti that she had pointed out to him in the Sinclair Inn.

It was a delightful evening, both as entertainment and as education. We were able to connect archival record and current memory in an engaging and informative manner. Lots of people come out who might not attend the usual historical society meetings. It was also an important evening in the continuing campaign to protect and use our heritage. Jim not only challenges his fellow "Annapolitans" to know their past, but also to enjoy it and discover ways for the past to inform our future.

Part Two is scheduled for King's Theatre in Annapolis Royal at 8 pm on February 18 to celebrate Heritage Week. We will return to lower St. George Street and recapitulate the walk up the street for those who missed it the first time. Then, we will continue the Charlotte Perkins/Jim How stroll up St. George Street, through Lequille and "The Three Bridges" and out to the Milford House.

Moreover, we have further glass slides and scripts from other presentations, as well as many more historical photographs and more buildings that need to be remembered. Thus we will be continuing this strolling through the centuries and having great fun all the while.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

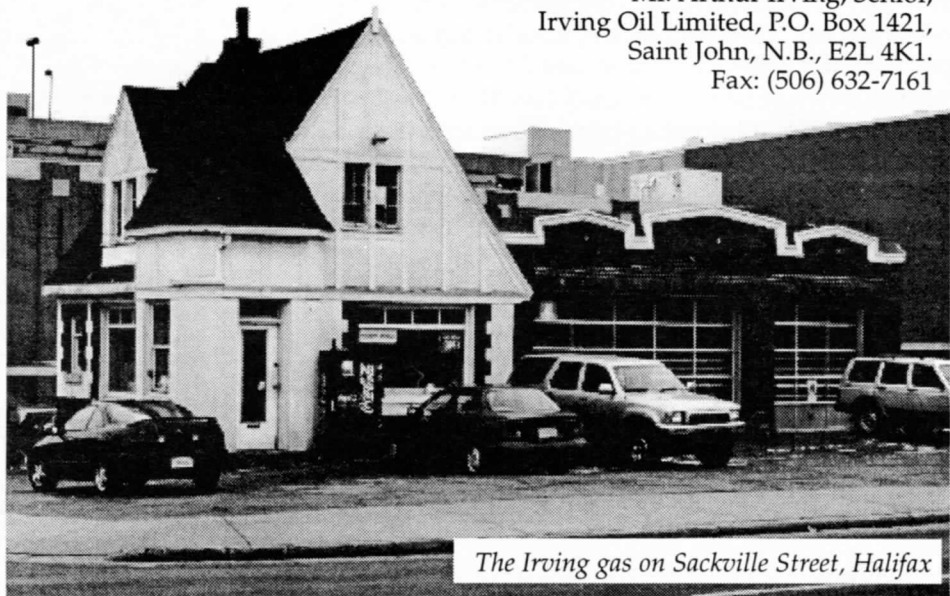
Annual General Meeting with guest Speaker, followed by Wine and Cheese Reception

7 p.m., Saturday, June 26

Royal Artillery Park, Cambridge Library, Building B, 1575 Queen Street Halifax

Please note the change of date and place of our AGN and wine and cheese reception. The meeting is FREE. Registration for the reception is \$10 per person. Register by June 10 by returning the form enclosed with the Grinnin to the Trust office, or telephone (902) 423-4807. Speaker TBA.

More letters please to:
Mr. Arthur Irving, Senior,
Irving Oil Limited, P.O. Box 1421,
Saint John, N.B., E2L 4K1.
Fax: (506) 632-7161



The Irving gas on Sackville Street, Halifax

A letter to Mr. Arthur Irving from Elizabeth Pacey

Dear Mr. Irving,

The Irving Gas station at 5536 Sackville Street is a registered Heritage Property of Halifax. I am writing to urge you not to sell this important property to Westwood Developments Ltd, who propose to cut up this building, move part of it and demolish part of it.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of Halifax. Our claims to fame are our age, our history and our architecture. In this year, particularly, we do not want any diminution of our most valued assets. On one side of Sackville Street is our *raison d'être*, the Halifax Citadel fort. Facing it across Sackville Street is the little crenellated fortress gas station. Two historic structures, one from the Georgian era and one from the 20th century, are linked by design and location.

This is the last year of the 20th century. Gas stations are a new building type of the 20th century. In 1916, there were 123,464 vehicles registered in Canada; by 1928, there were 1,076,819. Automobiles required gasoline, previously an unimportant petroleum byproduct. At first, gas stations had to blend into residential neighbourhoods, often at the edges of downtown. They were designed to be harmonious with their surroundings, but to attract attention with impressive architectural designs. The Tudor style was revived in the 1920s and 1930s. This service station is a good example of Tudor revival architecture, built in 1929-30 and designed by Saint John architects Alward and Gillies. We should make sure we commemorate the important buildings of this century. Preservation of this building in its present location would be a suitable millennium project.

This is the centennial of the birth of your father on March 14, 1899. As you know, following studies at Dalhousie University and Acadia, he served overseas in World War I and returned to work in your grandfather's business in Buctouche. In 1925, your father moved to Saint John and in 1928 he established Haymarket Square Service Stations Ltd. This was one of the first stations constructed by the new firm. The station sold gasoline from Irving Oil Co. Ltd, founded in 1929. The station served as the prototype for others in the province, and became the image of Irving Oil Company. Your father became a major leader in Canadian business and industry. He did not lose his affection for this station, where he continued to make unheralded visits to chat with the lessees. Preservation of this station in his chosen location would be a fitting tribute.

Early gas stations are very rare. A 1995 federal study found (*Cont. page 9*)

The Griffin, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Doris's column: Chester homes and harbour, August 1998



Nine Trusters travelled by bus to Chester on August 22 to enjoy the town's Heritage House and Harbour Tour.

It was hot waiting in the sun for the Harbour Tour, so Hilary arranged for us to visit Big Gooseberry Island first, then, time permitting, go back to the end of the queue for the Harbour Tour.

Big Gooseberry Island has seen many changes and farming projects. An arboretum was started; plans by the Grove family to build a mansion on the highest point were abandoned after the Depression, leaving only a granite lined cellar and the remains of a roadway; during the Second World War, the Stahl family (who lived there without electricity) built the summer house on the hill and kept ponies from a Montreal circus; for 20 years Colonel and Mrs. Kenneth Campbell let their caretaker Ruben Heisler raise sheep on the pasture. Liz and Ted Brainard, its owners since 1987, have made necessary repairs, including saving the tiny cottage built in 1901.

The Brainard's **Cape style house**, has unusual field stone chimneys topped by four foot-high brick pillars covered by a flat metal plate. Glossy white walls set off floors and trim painted in clear bright colours. There were several colourful hooked rugs and over the dining room table a delicate copper-green wrought iron chandelier in a rose and leaf pattern.

The **Boathouse**, built for the Groves' long yacht, has been shortened by 30 feet to improve the view from the sunroom. There is still a large fireplace and chimney on the rear wall, and a packed-earth floor which at one time had a removable dance floor. A large vegetable garden, fenced to keep out the deer, is up the hill towards Shangri-la. Red squirrels, mink, pheasant and grouse also live on the Island.

The **Guest House** also has a fieldstone fireplace, with paint work, quilts and decorator touches of pale blue, a kitchen corner of white-pine panelling and in marked contrast, black wrought iron latch and hinges on the old Dutch door.

Up the hill, the exterior of **Shangri-la**, b.1941, is of vertical boards with unusual scalloped bottom edges, and narrow raised wood strips dividing the boards. Although the house has no electricity it is bright with white-painted walls and colourful wood floors. Cottage and Shangri-la are enjoyed by the Brainard's children.

We returned to the mainland in a boat skippered by a Newfoundland fisherman who now uses his craft for pleasure and tours. The guide with him pointed out many interesting sights, including Meisner's Island owned by writer Christopher Ondaatje. This made up for the fact that we had no time for the Harbour Tour if we wanted to eat before visiting the houses. We ate our brown bag lunch overlooking the harbour.

Tranquility Place, on Otter Point Road, East

Chester, owned by Elaine and Maurice LeBlanc, is modern (1988) but conforms to the traditional architecture of older homes. All woodwork was hand-made from local pine by Lunenburg County craftsmen. The beautiful mahogany furniture gleamed with beeswax polish. Part of the house is Elaine's "Linens for Life" studio, and attractive examples of her work in natural fibres were on display. The windows offer panoramic views of the water and a seaside perennial and rose garden. 'Tranquility' is a fitting name for this house.

Countway-Mosher House, 4956 Hway 3, Middle River, was a double house when brothers John and Francis Countois (changed to Countway in 1832) married sisters Amelia Matilda and Sophie Heckman. One of their daughters married a Mosher. Between 1875 and 1900, 13 children were raised in the Countway half; at that time without running water and electricity. Unoccupied for several years in the 1960s, the house fell into disrepair. The present owner, John Chataway, who converted the house into one large residence, says renovation is still a 'work-in-progress'. An early Cape Cod farmhouse, it has been spared Victorian embellishments; a bog, created by the highway and bridge, provides a home to an annual late June display of fireflies.

A cast-iron and enamel stove is prominent in the kitchen, but modern appliances are tucked into a corner. The white painted living room has an exposed beam



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Janina Konczacki, Professor of Social and Cultural History, has been our guide since 1984 and has a wealth of knowledge.

We will have six days based in Edinburgh, four days in Aberdeen and three days touring the Highlands. Accommodation, breakfast, dinner, entrance to Homes and Gardens and coach are included.

For full details contact Hilary Grant, 835-2795

Stanfield House wins award

Donald P. Keddy, owner of the Stanfield House Inn in Truro (see *Griffin* March 1998), is the 1999 recipient of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia's Built Heritage Award. The award will be made in the spring.

The nomination was made jointly by HTNS and the Society for the Protection of Truro Heritage Properties. The submission was prepared by Janice Zann, chair of the Trust's Communities Committee. It is in itself a fine document, complete with a full range of photographs of the interior and exterior of the house and pictures of its recent adventures.

Built in 1902, the house was moved to new location in 1997 when its original site became part of a parcel of land bought and developed by Atlantic Superstore. Donald Keddy masterminded the move and then restored the building, which is now operating as an upscale Inn. Report has it that the luxury accommodation, food and service are excellent. (*Continued on page 8*)



Doris's Column continued

ceiling above a narrow wooden dentil-carved frieze, and a fireplace covered by wooden doors. But the most unusual feature is the double staircase. One can mount part way from either side, where it joins to form a centre staircase up to a narrow landing leading to the bathroom and bedrooms.

Strawberry Rose Cottage. 5112 Hwy 3, a traditional Cape Cod home, was built in 1939 by Edgar Skerry of New Ross. It was purchased 10 years ago by Jean Mary McDougall and lovingly restored. After removing seven layers of paint from the fireplace, it was found that wood slivers had been mixed with the mortar between the bricks.

An avid antique collector, Ms. McDougall has furnished her home with many choice pieces including a collection of early French portraits and many embroidered pictures. Outside on the deck, a couple of daybeds provided a resting place for a few minutes while we quenched parched throats with fruit punch thoughtfully provided by our hostess.

Looking back at this snug little house with its trellised arbour at the front door, colourful window boxes and little circles of flowers dotted around the lawns, I noticed that even the Dog Kennel had been decorated—blue and cream with little red cut-out hearts and a plaque for “Bill's Friend” above the opening!

We ended our tour at **Ogilvie**

House, 15 Water Street, owned by David Creighton. A one-time inn, this six-bay New England Colonial style house was built in 1790 by carpenter/merchant Simeon Floyd. The original ‘Christian’ door has four-pane transom lights and two small windows in the top of the door. The living room, which at one time covered the entire first floor has been divided into kitchen and living areas. Above a modern electric oven built into the brick kitchen chimney sits the original bake oven. I did not follow the others up the hidden staircase from the basement to the third floor which was probably used by the domestic help.

Downstairs rooms were low-ceilinged with exposed beams, the walls of vertical wood panelling, painted white in the living rooms and teal green in the kitchen. Counter tops were of solid wood. The old summer kitchen had 12-inch floorboards and a long lead-topped cupboard counter. In one small room an eclectic collection of artifacts included old hats, a Spanish helmet, several weird masks, and an end wall covered with paintings of ducks.

Throughout the house are family photographs of the seven handsome children. One particularly captivating picture taken in the garden is of a pretty bride and her retinue of bridesmaids. In the most recent family photograph the children are all grown but still remarkably attractive. A large oil

painting of a young man at the helm of his sailboat is of the son who is the present owner of the house.

We enjoyed afternoon tea at **Saint Stephen's Anglican Church**, although it meant missing the last tour of the harbour. After an hour or so spent walking or shopping we returned to the Rope Loft for dinner before an evening of music in Saint Stephen's Church.

The *Musique Royale* concert by the Baltimore Consort was terrific. Five skilful and lively young musicians and an appealing soprano with the picturesque name of Custer LaRue play their own arrangements on mediaeval instruments: lute, viol, flute, cittern, bagpipes, early guitar, rebec, recorder and crumhorn. Much of their music is over 400 years old, but not archaic in performance. It is a ‘crossover’ of traditional pieces preserved by Scottish immigrants in the Appalachian Mountains and the folk music of the New World.

With quiet humour, the five demonstrated their instruments and in a final reel suggested that anyone who enjoyed Scottish dancing should get up and dance. Two young lads accepted the invitation and mounted the altar steps to perform a fast and intricate Nova Scotia clog dance—in athletic shoes! They were cheered to the echo and the Consort received a standing ovation.

A superlative day, thanks to Hilary for arranging it, and the weatherman for co-operating.

Spry's Field: an Urban Farm Museum *A Special Report by Michelle Raymond*

Part I: History

Two hundred and fifty years ago, as everyone in Nova Scotia is only too well aware, the British deemed it necessary to establish a garrison at Chebucto in response to the powerful French fortress on *Ile Royale*. The site chosen was easily defensible, near the tip of a long narrow peninsula, and lay on a deep and ice-free harbour a safe distance from Louisbourg.

What is less well known is the history of the outlying mainland areas neighbouring the new settlement. At first, British-Indian/French hostilities kept Halifax settlers largely confined within the palisades of the town. After the second fall of Louisbourg in 1758, however, and the Indians' consequent loss of French allies, the inhabitants of Halifax were free to begin exploring and exploiting the territory beyond the town defences.

The fields beyond the walls soon extended the length of the peninsula, many sloping toward the North West Arm. As well, by the 1760s, one of the more desirable prerogatives of power was the grant of a fish lot on the Arm, whose waters teemed with mackerel and herring. Fresh water on the peninsula was, of course, not as plentiful as on the mainland shores, and the lakes and streams flowing down the steep western slopes of the Arm were essential to the survival and growth of the garrison town, both as a source of ice and water power to drive grinding mills and sawmills. Many of the same men who received grants of fish lots also petitioned for, and received, 200-acre farm grants on the darker, western banks of the Arm. Beyond them, the area now known as Spryfield was settled in 1768, when nine adjacent 500-acre lots were granted to prominent merchants and military men from Halifax, including Anthony Henry, Daniel Hail and Henry Leiblin, a Halifax baker and brewer of spruce beer.

Their holdings, with 1,000 acres to the east, eventually came into the hands of Captain William Spry (1734-1802), Chief Engineer and Surveyor of the Army. Spry lived on Granville
September 1998



Cows making their way along the Herring Cove Road, near Long Pond. The Drysdales, who were early settlers in Spryfield, inherited this farm from the Thomas family, who were granted 100 acres of land here in 1866. (1928 photo)

Street throughout his time in Halifax; during this time he oversaw the repairs and enlargements of the Citadel, and the building of the redoubts at Fort Needham and Fort Massey. He also set some of the soldiers under his command to taming part of his lands on the far side of the North West Arm, and built a road to encourage the establishment of a farming community. The 200 acres cleared by his men became known as Spry's Field and eventually Spryfield.

When Spry returned to England in 1783, he sold his lands, including Spry's Field, with its mansion house, barns, gardens, fruit trees, cattle and poultry, to a John Murphy, who immediately sold it to George McIntosh. By 1821, McIntosh had subdivided and sold the land off to smallholders and farmers. The 1827 census shows root crops, swine, horned cattle, oats, barley and wheat as the primary products of the area.

The very qualities which made much of the area inhospitable to farming are those which preserved its agricultural character until recently. The soil is mostly rocky and thin, scraped away by retreating glaciers. But those glaciers also deposited a few rich pockets of drumlin soil throughout the granite backlands.

Those pockets underlay the Dart, Kidston, Olie, Umlah, Brunt and Sutherland farms; the rest of the area was considered of little value. The rough terrain means that oxen, rather than horses were the draft animals of choice, and well into the 1940s, grazing practice was to turn cattle out into the woods to forage.

In 1844, the Halifax Water Company was formed to assume responsibility for providing water to the residents of the city. The high elevation of the Spryfield backlands made Spruce Hill and Otter Lakes the preferred choice as water supplies. This began the series of farmland expropriations in the area which was to culminate in the 1950s with the expropriation of land in the watershed area, and the demolition or removal of all dwellings and farm buildings, at their owners' expense.

For many years, Captain Spry's road ran out to a sparsely settled area. By the Second World War, however, Halifax itself was bursting at the seams, and simply finding wartime accommodation was a victory. Many people sought living quarters on the mainland. Although numerous ferries had traversed the North West Arm since the early 19th century, they now became full-fledged commuter transport.

The boom didn't end in 1945. Post-war housing crept out the length of the Herring Cove Road (paved in the late 1950s), although Spryfield was never subject to the same intense development as other regions. It continued to be relatively inexpensive land, relatively rural, and attractive to those coming to the city from other rural parts of the province.

Wherever possible, this transplanted rural population adapted its own traditions to the new setting. I remember going around the Armdale Rotary every morning in the wake of a horse and wagon driven by Maurice Keating, who was gathering scraps from city restaurants to feed his pigs. Crocheted and knitted goods remain an item of trade in Spryfield and, until last winter, it was possible to buy fresh Spryfield eggs. Here and there, one still glimpses small poultry flocks in the backyards. The Herring Cove Road has certain stretches which have developed into informal markets, places where trucks traditionally pull up to sell fresh produce, fish, eggs, pumpkins, Christmas trees. At least some of this comes from Spryfield. It is 40 years since the children of Central School have been able to go to Blades Lumbermill cookhouse for cookies at lunchtime, but they still carry fishing rods to the McIntosh Runs, just outside the front door of the public library across the street.

Spryfield's built heritage is scant, though, and dwindling fast. Peter Saulnier, who grew up in Spryfield, began photographically documenting the demolition of the area's older buildings in the 1970s. It is a heartrending record, and a graphic reminder of how a community dies—buildings first.

Stanfield House, cont'd from page 6
The house is in the Queen Anne Revival style which was fashionable early this century. It was built by "Honest" John Stanfield, distinguished soldier, parliamentarian and head of the Stanfield underwear empire. He located his house a convenient distance from the company's main plant on the Salmon River.

Part II: The Urban Farm Museum Society

There is no Urban Farm Museum in Spryfield yet. The Society has germinated slowly, since it was first proposed to the Mainland South Heritage Society five years ago. An initial public meeting in 1995 brought about 20 people to discuss the idea, and a dedicated group (now the Farm Museum Society) has been working since 1997 to choose and procure use of one of the early Spryfield farm sites.

The society was founded in response to the threats to this community described in Part I of this report. As smaller schools and stores are closed and smaller houses torn down to be replaced by apartment blocks, the people living among them often become estranged from each other, and from their historical context. The transmission of practical knowledge becomes more and more difficult, and eventually impossible.

We hope to redress that loss by making the farm museum available to local schools for use as a *locale* for part of their curriculum, from primary through to grade 12. This will give students a chance to develop an intimate relationship with the farm, to act as tutors to younger students, and most importantly, provide a venue for learning the practical skills essential to physical survival; the same skills which were until recently practised as a birthright, but which have now become 'heritage'.

These skills, including food gardening, preserving, nutritional knowledge, first aid, sewing and carpentry, also have sound pedantic applications: mathematical, chemical, physical and artistic, as many museums across Canada and the United States have already found. Concerted activity, with visible, useful results, is a great way to teach. The museum can be a part of the restoration of pleasure to the community too; with the disappearance of impromptu toys and homemade music, 'fun' has also, too often, retreated to the domain of 'heritage'.

At the moment, the Urban Farm Museum Committee is working to find a suitable site. Any of the three sites under consideration will need reclamation, (scrub clearing in one case), and ploughing—we hope in the traditional manner by oxen, although I've been told "Oxen can't work the nine-hour days the way they used to". The tradition of house moving is strong here, and we are planning to partially dismantle and bring in a c. 1820 pegged Cape Cod from further down the coast. This building was originally, before the removal of an entrance vestibule, identical to the house known to have stood on one of the farm sites under consideration.

In the meantime the non-existent museum has generated and supervised research projects for students at all levels—from oral history collection (high school level), to researching a 'Downtown Spryfield' history walking tour for the Mainland South Heritage Society (graduate student), mapping and surveying vegetation in overgrown farm gardens (BSc students), studying nutritional patterns in the area (nursing students), analyzing terrain for siting of farm museum buildings (environmental planning students).

As well, the society is sponsoring talks on farms and cities. Elsie Morash and Nan Geizer spoke on farm life in Spryfield in the early years of the century; Elizabeth Corser of Cole Harbour Farm spoke on the travails of preserving rural heritage. Martin Willison and Martin Grusky presented *From Victory Garden to Community Farm: Food production in the urban setting*. Other talks will concern the use of draft animals, the history of common lands and the urgent need to preserve plant heritage.

This is a good chance to say 'thank you' to all the people and organizations who have listened and commented and helped. Particularly the Mainland South Heritage Society, with its dedicated researchers Heather Watts and Peter Saulnier, the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society, and the multi-service centre and library. We hope someday soon to be able to welcome you to Spry's Field, and show the working heritage of this dogged and remarkable community.

registered heritage gas stations in the country. The preservation of gas stations is at the leading edge of heritage commemoration. The federal report noted that the Sackville Street station is a "superior example" of the early phase of service station design and that it is relatively unaltered. In this history of Halifax, only one registered Heritage Property has ever been demolished for a development, and no registered Heritage Property has ever been moved.

Preservation of this building in its present site will contribute to tourism. As we enter a new century, nostalgia for the early days of motoring will increase. This station is ideally located close to other tourist sites; the design is attractive and whimsical, and it is associated with an important Canadian.

Please allow the Sackville Street service station to remain as a rare Heritage Property, that will increase in heritage value in this momentous year of 1999.

Yours very truly,

Elizabeth Pacey

Nova Scotia Representative, Board of Governors, Heritage Canada Foundation.



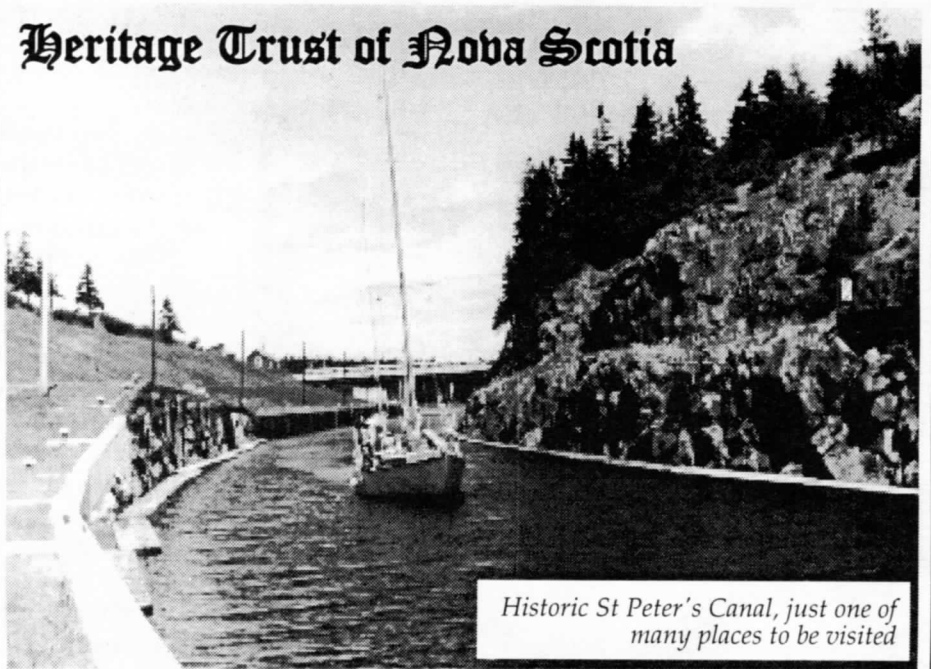
Profile of Pam Collins

In the January issue of *The South-ender*, reporter Anna Quon profiled Pam Collins.

Even those of us who know and love Pam may have been surprised at the range of interests described. Here is Pam as gardener, photographer, teacher, Girl Guide leader and balletomane as well as the researcher, meticulous organizer and lover of heritage we know so well.

The article captures the essence of Pam with a quote: "I guess whatever I undertake, I undertake with a passion." Illustrated with one of her beautiful ballet photographs, it does not omit to mention the dedicated support that Pam has always given to husband Louis, and the fine family she has brought up.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia



Historic St Peter's Canal, just one of many places to be visited

A Scenic Spring Tour

June 5/6, 1999

A tour of beautiful Cape Breton is being planned for Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia members and friends. We depart Halifax at 8.30am on Saturday June 5, on a comfortable coach and stop overnight at The Sydney Delta.

En route we will stop at the Village of Saint Peter's (on the Canal) established in 1650, visit the Nicholas Deny Museum and MacAskill House Museum. Lunch at Parker's Restaurant will include a presentation by Colin McDougall on the history of the area, and perhaps a chat with Mi'kmaq Chief Lindsay Marshall from the Chapel Island Reserve. Then on to Glace Bay where Marconi made his mark on history, and a visit to the Miners' Museum.

We return to Halifax on Sunday with a short stop or two on the way, and end at about 3.30pm with a presentation at The Edgett International Dance Studio on Strawberry Hill, to learn about what is happening with Dancesport in Nova Scotia and Canada.

Although the complete cost has not yet been finalized, **the cost of coach, hotel and breakfast will be \$100 per person, based on double occupancy. Saturday night dinner options, and museum and lecture costs are being worked out and should not be extensive.**

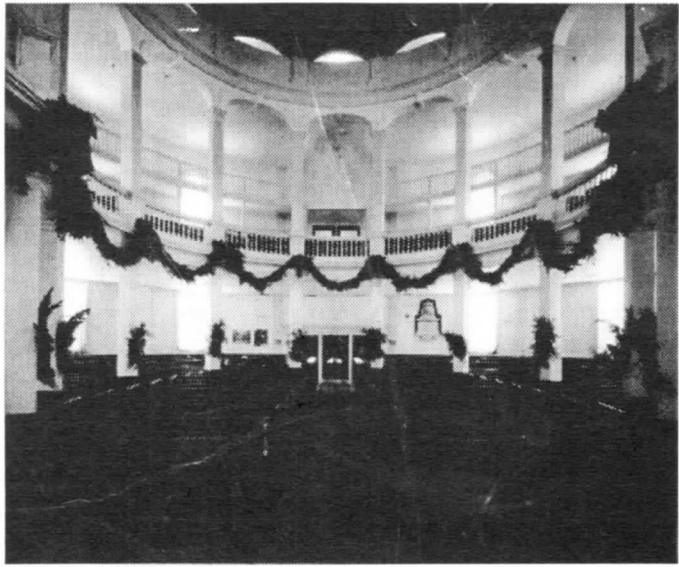
A minimum of 40 persons will be necessary and the deadline for registration is April 30. Final details should be ready by mid-March.

For further information and registration please call Evelyn Edgett at 429-2567 or 455-1924. If I am not at home, leave your name and number and I will get back to you. If you care to write, the address is: Evelyn E. Edgett, 5515 Victoria Road, Apt.#816, Halifax, NS B3H 4J9

I am looking forward to conducting you on this scenic tour of beautiful Cape Breton Island.

Thank you.

Evelyn E. Edgett



Christmas 1998

Alvin Comiter photo

Saint George's—glad tidings and the final challenge!

We have now raised over \$4.4 million and recently ascertained that we are only \$100,000 short of being able to complete a slightly modified restoration! Since that date, a parishioner has chipped in with the first \$10,000 and more donations have arrived, so we are now down to around \$80,000!!

Modified plan

We have decided that there are some details (the bell, the east window, the chandelier, parts of the upper gallery and some landscaping), which can wait for the future. Perhaps they will eventually become the subject of bequests.

The modified plan entails completing all public areas including the donor recognition room, and purchasing the new organ. However, it is important to understand that much of the organ money (approximately \$180,000) is in the form of pledges, some of which are not due until 2002. So we will not be ordering the organ in the near future.

The challenge

But, for the present, we are trying to raise \$100,000 by June 2, 1999, so that the day can be a celebration of the fifth anniversary of the fire and of the completion of the campaign.

Members of HTNS and the Trust itself have been wonderful friends to Saint George's. Thank you for helping us reach this point and please let me know if you have any suggestions for raising the last little bit. The names of people who may not yet have been asked to help would be particularly useful. Contact me at 422-9446.

Perhaps there is life after the restoration!

Anne West, Campaign Chair

Hal Forbes, a key part of North

From a magical cave on Gottingen Street that smells of new sawn wood, a young and enthusiastic group of carpenters turns old houses into new. To do this they also manufacture the "gingerbread", elaborate and charming wooden brackets and trim exactly like those that embellished houses of the high Victorian era.

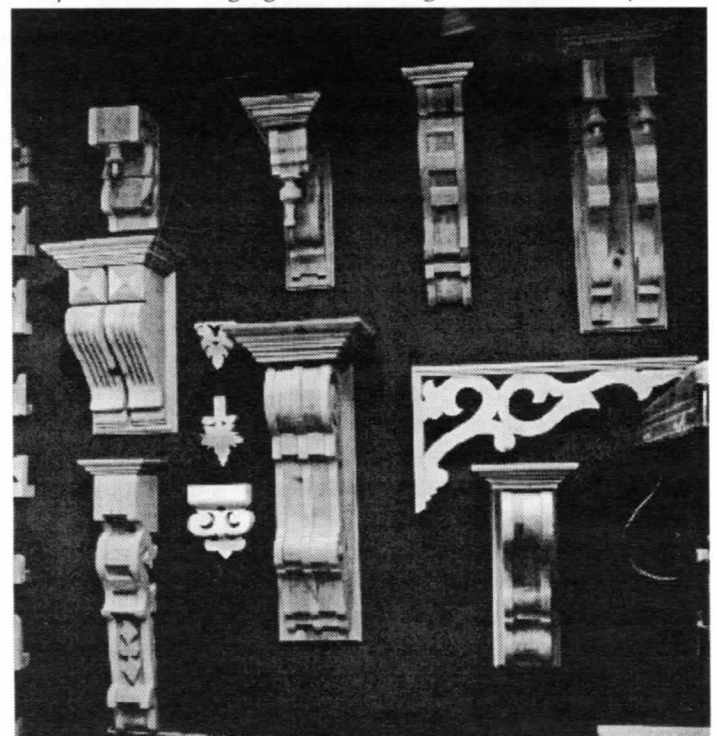
Behind this enterprise is Hal Forbes. What started as the need for a home, then became "a good retainer during the stop-start life of films", has turned into a full time enterprise. Hal has now renovated 14 buildings in North End Halifax and his work is becoming well enough known that he is in demand as far afield as New Brunswick.

Since "gentrification" of this area began in the mid-80s, Hal's sense of colour and style have brought a new sense of well being to an area that had never really recovered from the 1917 explosion. There may be academic arguments about whether his work is genuine restoration, or simply embellishment, but the fact remains that tired housing stock has a new lease on life, people have homes and the results are beautiful.

How did Hal come to tread this path? He was born in Summerside, P.E.I. His father died when he was very young, so he was brought up by his school-teacher mother, who recognized his artistic gift early. There was not much art in the school system (where Hal did not shine anyway) so he attended private classes with a woman he describes as the "grande doyenne of art in Summerside." She taught him drawing and painting in water colours and oil.

After years of under-achieving, Hal was shipped off to boarding school. At King's Edgemoor in Windsor, Nova Scotia, he turned into an honours student, lured by the unusual reward of movies for those with high marks. Movies became a lasting interest.

Sample brackets hanging in the Gottingen Street workshop



nd revitalization *By Anne West*

Having been told since grade 7 that art was what he did best, he enrolled in fine arts at Mount Allison. He says, "I stayed for a year and was disturbed to find out that art was not what had been hammered into me". The courses "were so structured and disciplined...that if you did not paint rolling clouds over the marsh on a sunlit day, you did not paint." So he switched to the Visual Arts School in Charlottetown, P.E.I. This school, born of the amalgamation of the Craft School and Holland College, was as unstructured as Mount Allison had been structured. Hal finally found a niche and studied textiles. "It was great, I really enjoyed it."

The chronology of Hal's life is hard to piece together precisely. Around this time, he managed a chain of cinemas, or what he calls "a bunch of drive-ins" on P.E.I. for three years. It was hard work and long hours, but the reward was the film awards and conventions he got to attend at the end of the the season. He travelled the world to festivals in Los Angeles, New York and London. Stage-struck, he saw Glenda Jackson in *Rose* and the closing night of *A Chorus Line* at Drury Lane.

In 1977, he enrolled in the costume studies program at Dalhousie. Turned down at first, he contested the decision, and was then accepted by Program Director Bob Doyle because of his "spunk".

Finally the pieces of Hal's jigsaw puzzle fell into place. He had taught himself the basics of sewing on a treadle machine when he was 16. At Dal he helped create costumes for *The Canterbury Tales*, and *The Inspector General* and quickly made a connection with Neptune Theatre. After graduation in 1982, he immediately went to work at Neptune, not in the costume department but as production buyer. "People said I had sold out; given up two years of training to drive around and find wigs..." During his first five years with Neptune, he moved gradually up from production buyer to production manager, until eventually he says, "I ran all the departments; acted as liaison between



2031 Creighton Street, Hal's first project and home

the manager, the designers and the artistic director."

Faced at the end of a season with the sudden lack of a costume designer, it was easier for him to do the work himself than find someone at short notice. So began a stint as costume designer for Neptune. In this he was helped enormously by the fact that he knew all the budget and other production constraints from his previous work.

Towards the end of the 80s, he had an opportunity to do some film work and designed the wardrobe for *Justice Denied*, the film about Donald Marshall. Then he returned to Neptune, to costume three more shows.

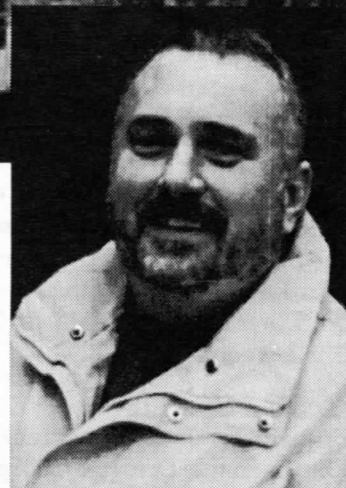
In 1984, needing a permanent home and feeling it was now or never as house prices rose, Hal bought a house on Creighton Street in Halifax's North End. His dream house belonged to Mrs. Jollymore, a matriarch who was 90 at the time. He was advised to knock on her door. He did and thus began an on-again, off-again courtship while she decided whether or not to sell to him. In the end he decided the length of the courtship was due to the fact that she enjoyed his visits! However, one June morning she finally rang him and said, "You'd better get up here, your grass needs cutting."

The house was not in bad shape, but the back ell had to come

off and Hal built a wonderful kitchen in the basement where it had originally been. He explains, "In the 1860s and 70s. everyone had to haul the indentured help out of the basements and build ells because they were dying of tuberculosis."

This is where Hal first let his amazing colour sense loose on the North End. He switched high-gloss chocolate brown and off-white to what Mrs. Jollymore, who visited frequently, called "Poor house red"

Where did Hal come up with a colour palette that is instantly recognizable as you walk or drive around? He says, "I tried my best to figure out historic colours, but the documentation is extremely limited on colours...I remembered a lot of early houses were painted with ox blood" He believes that colour is a subjective thing, but tries to capture the essence of an earlier era. "I had one critic come by and tell me that somebody described this end of town



(Continued on page 18)

Events sponsored by Other Societies

Calligraphy Guild of Nova Scotia
Meets 7.30 pm Third Monday of the month. Details/Venue: Les DeWit 835- 0508 or John Peake 425-4128

Poetry Society of Nova Scotia
Meets 2.00 pm the Third Saturday of the month, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6106 University Ave., Halifax, Contact: Daphne Faulkner 423-5330

Bedford Historical Society
Meets 7.30 pm, alternate months at The Teachery, 9 Spring Street, Bedford Contact: Tony Edwards 835-3615

Saturday, March 27
Program: TBA

Saturday, May 8
Annual General Meeting

Costume Society of Nova Scotia
Meets 7.30 pm the Third Monday of the month, September to April, at Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lwr. Water St., Halifax. Contact: Sheila Yeomans 429-2298

Monday, March 15
Speaker: Dr. Janina Konczacki. Topic: Unreasonable Dress in the Age of Reason: 18th century dress in France, England and the New World

April
Annual General Meeting. Day/time/venue TBA.

Canadian Authors Association - Nova Scotia Branch
Meets 2.00 pm the Fourth Saturday of the month from September to June, at Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6106 University Ave., Halifax. Contact: Evelyn Brown 466-2558, or Mary Ann Monnen 902-542-2726 Wolfville.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum/Rose and Kettle Tearoom
471 Poplar Street, Dartmouth. Museum and Tearoom open for the season on May 15. For Summer programs Contact: 434-0222.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society
Meets on the Fourth Wednesday of each month at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lwr., Water St.,

Halifax. Members of the public are welcome to both the Business Meeting at 7.00 pm and the program which follows at 7.30 pm. Contact: 424-7490

Wednesday, March 24 - 7.00 pm.
Business meeting. Program TBA.

Tuesday, March 30 - 7.30 pm
Special program, a repeat of Kathy Brown's illustrated talk on the current restoration of Sambro, North America's Oldest Working Lighthouse.

Royal Nova Scotian Historical Society

Friday, March 19 - 6.00 for 6.30pm
Annual Dinner Meeting, at Saint George's Church Hall. Speaker: Henry Roper. Topic: The Bishop, the President, and the Professor. Turmoil at the University of King's College in the 1880s. Reservations required. Call: 420-0273

Thursday, April 29 - 7.30 pm.
Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6106 University Ave., Halifax. Speaker: Julian Gwyn. Topic: Managers and Workers in the Halifax Naval Yard, 1758-1819

Friday, May 14, 7.30 pm
AGM in the Legislative Council Chamber, Province House, Halifax. Speaker: Nancy Vogan. Topic: The Robert Moor Music Book and Presbyterian Psalm Singing

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

Friday, March 5
Training Session at Cape Breton Centre for Heritage and Science, Sydney, Nova Scotia. Topic: Effective Leadership: The Basics of Board Governance.

Fri/Sat/Sun - May 14/15/16
Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage Conference and Annual General Meeting, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia For details contact: 423-4677, or E-mail: fnsh@fox.nstn.ca

Charles Macdonald Concrete House
Centreville, Nova Scotia - from 2.00 to

4.00 pm - Special 1999 program of free Sunday Talks on local History. Contact Stephen Slipp: 902-542-7203

Sunday, March 21
Speaker: Louis Comeau, Topic: Kings County Family Album: Photography in Kings County, 1890-1940

Sunday, April 18
Speaker: Marven Moore, Topic: Built for the Sea: Shipbuilding and Shipwrights in Nova Scotia.

Sunday, May 30, 2-4 pm
Apple Blossom Open House. OFFICIAL PLAQUING AS PROVINCIAL PROPERTY.

West Pubnico Historical Society
Year-long series of special lectures to be held at 7.00 pm in Room B34A, Bernadin-J.-Comeau Building, Université Sainte-Anne, Point-deL'Eglise Nova Scotia. The lectures are in French and open to the public. Contact: Gerald C. Boudreau 902-769-2654

Wednesday, March 24
Speaker: Father Maurice LeBlanc CJM Topic: Father Sigogne's relationship with the Acadians of Yarmouth Co.

Wednesday, April 28
Speaker: Raymond LeBlanc. Topic: The Spiritual Father of the Mi'kmaq.

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum
Barss Corners, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia. For Pioneer Day, and the annual Maple Sugaring-Off programs contact 902-644-2893.

Yarmouth County Historical Society
22 Collins Street Yarmouth NS. Contact: 902-742-5539
Meets at 7.00 pm First Friday of the month. For Program phone Carolyn Richardson: 902-742-2722
Armchair Travel Programs are held monthly at 7.00pm. For Program and date phone: 902-742-5539

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Annual General Meeting with Guest Speaker, followed by Wine and Cheese Reception 7 p.m., Saturday, June 26

Royal Artillery Park, Cambridge Library, Building B,
1575 Queen Street, Halifax

Please note the change of date and place of our Annual General Meeting and wine and cheese reception. The meeting is FREE. Registration for the reception which follows is \$10 per person. Register by June 10 by returning the form which is enclosed with the Griffin to the Trust office, or telephone the office (902) 423-4807.

Speaker to be announced at a later date.



Search
The Jews and the Growth of Equality in
Out the
British Colonial America, 1740-1867
Land
SHELDON J. GODFREY
JUDITH C. GODFREY

Search Out the Land **Sheldon J. Godfrey and Judith C.** **Godfrey**

Many HTNS members will remember Sheldon Godfrey's talk on the history of Jews in Canada at City Hall in October 1996. This fascinating book by Sheldon and his wife Judy maps the history of Canadian Jews from the arrival of the first settlers before 1750 through to the 1860s and introduces a new set of colourful players on Canada's stage. Focusing on the significant role played by Jews in British North America in the fight for civil and political rights, the authors compare the development of Canadians' rights with that of other British jurisdictions of the time. Using extensive archival, genealogical and legal research, the authors prove that settlers other than those of British and French origins were building exploring, and developing Canada from its inception.

Joyce McCulloch has eight copies of this book available for sale at the retail price of \$35. Please call Joyce at 425-1057 to obtain a copy.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

presents a public lecture series

Halifax 1749 to 1999: *250 Years of Society and Culture*

Meetings of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, unless otherwise stated.

(Message from the President: If you need transport to meetings, call John Lazier at 429-5063)

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

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

So far this series has drawn record crowds. Around 120 people enjoyed Betty Pacey's talk on HRM architecture on February 18. Bring your friends.

Society for the Preservation of Eastern Head

A millennium project of the Society for the Preservation of Eastern Head is a study of the recently acquired records of the schooner *Ida Peters*, and the eventual publication of one of her captain's log books. Its purpose is to help develop a greater understanding of life on Digby Neck 100 years ago, and of its marine heritage,

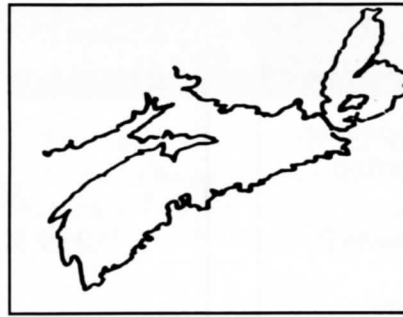
The first record being worked on is an Agreement of Sale dated April 18, 1894, the day the schooner was sold for \$400 by Captain Manning Trask to Captain William F. Spurr. But who were these two seamen? Where could the Society find out more about the *Ida Peters*, which plied the coast from Little River to Yarmouth and New Brunswick over a 100 years ago?

Replies to a letter in *The Digby Courier* established that Trask was a 'transport captain' based in Little River; that there are no known descendants, and that he lived at 9 Cherry Valley Road, now the home of Mrs. Marcella Connor, daughter of our correspondent Mary Lynyak. At this point less is known about Captain Spurr, although a Mrs. Proulx phoned to say she believes there to be one woman relative still living. So the search continues. It would be appreciated if anyone with information about the *Ida Peters* and her two masters would contact Mary Lynyak, Society for the Preservation of Eastern Head, Little River, Digby County, NS BOV 1C0.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Work continues on the restoration of several Nova Scotia lighthouses to preserve them and make them accessible to the public.

Restoration of Sambro Island Light is now complete. The tower has been primed red and white ready for top-coating this spring. Tearing away the old rotten shingles exposed the original 1758 stonework—a rare opportunity for the Society volunteers to study and document details. Debate continues on the source of the stone, which does not appear to have come from the island.



News from heritage groups around Nova Scotia

The wooden tower of Five Islands Light on Minas Basin has been completely restored and will be open to the public in May. It may be viewed throughout the year when the owners are available; phone Fay Currey (902) 254-2060.

New features to the Burntcoat Island Head Replica Light site include a viewing deck and a reproduction of the oil shed. Built to the original specifications, the oil shed now houses improved washrooms and storage space, and the deck enhances a spectacular view of the world's highest tides. This spring work will start on the stairwell to the lantern to improve access for visitors.

The Sandy Point Recreation Group has improved the facilities for a shore walk and a picnic site overlooking Sandy Point Light. Basically unchanged since 1873, Sandy Point is one of the oldest operating lighthouses along the South Shore. The tower itself is not open to the public, but one can walk out to it at low tide.

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society's December newsletter includes full coverage of the two-day Beacon Conference held last November in Moncton, New Brunswick. A Lighthouse Protection Act Committee has been formed to plan a private member's bill lobby.

Two days of workshops are being arranged for those involved in lighthouse projects in Nova Scotia, and a steering committee set up for a Lighthouse Club of the Atlantic.

West Pubnico Historical Society

The dream by the local historical society of a traditional Acadian Village of Nova Scotia at West Pubnico, is finally to be realized. After 10 years of planning, the first

phase including two houses, two fish sheds and a blacksmith's shop, were moved to the site last fall, winterized and are now restored.

Over the years both the Charles Duon House (c.1832) and the Maximim d'Entremont House (b.1856) have been home to West Pubnico families, and many local men and women have worked in the fish sheds and blacksmith's shop. Located on one of the highest points in Pubnico, the historic village affords a panoramic view of the surroundings of the more modern village. Furnishing should not pose a problem as villagers who possess authentic artifacts handed down from grandparents have generously offered to donate their treasures to the Village, considering it an appropriate place for them. This phase of the project also includes development of an amphitheatre, an old-fashioned wharf, and a modern Reception Centre housing an information counter, café, and arts and crafts boutique. The estimated cost of \$1.3 million is to be financed by three levels of government and a community fund-raising campaign.

The year 1999 also marks the bicentenary of the arrival of missionary Father Jean Mandé Sigogne, who spent the last 45 years of his life serving Acadians in southwest Nova Scotia. Preacher, builder, educator and advocate of Acadian civil rights, he greatly influenced the re-establishment of the Acadian people.

In celebration, the Sigogne 200th Committee has planned a year-long series of public talks on Father Sigogne and his work. The first one, on January 25, was by C. Boudreau, followed by the official opening of an exhibit on Sigogne in the Gallery père-Leger-Comeau, Université

Sainte-Anne. The evening concluded with a reception and the unveiling of a painting of Sigogne by Heritage Trust member and Acadian artist Father Maurice LeBlanc, CJM. Sponsored by the Centre Acadien of the Université, and arranged by Doreen Surette-Boucher, the exhibit will be open throughout the year.

Future lectures include *Father Sigogne's Documents, A Mirror on the Life of Acadian Ancestors*, presented by Neil Boucher on February 24; *Father Sigogne's Relationship with the Acadians of Yarmouth County*, by Father Maurice LeBlanc, on March 24; and *Sigogne, the Spiritual Father of the Mi'kmaq's* by Raymond LeBlanc on April 28. Titles and dates of the scheduled fall talks will be announced later. Lectures in French, are free and open to the public. They start at 7.00 pm in amphitheatre B34A, Bernardin-J. Comeau Building, Université Sainte Anne, Point-de-l'Eglise, For further information contact Gerald Boudreau: 902-769-2654.

Yarmouth County Historical Society

With a score of 84.2 per cent, Yarmouth County Museum ranked highest of the 57 community museums evaluated last June by the Nova Scotia Museum Evaluation Committee. The Museum was commended on the manner in which it is run, managed and governed; on the organization and protection of the artifacts; and on the running and increasing importance of the research and genealogy centre. Community museums are those owned by historical societies or municipal units, such as the DesBrisay Museum, which are not part of the Nova Scotia Museum System, as is the Firefighters Museum of Nova Scotia, nor do they include federal museums or those privately owned. Congratulations Yarmouth!

The contract for the society's expansion project has been awarded to Blunden Construction Limited. Work on Phase I, construction of the Preservation Building and renovation of the Research Centre, will start shortly and is expected to take 34 weeks.



The Friends of McNabs Island Society

The long awaited federal-provincial Land Use Strategy for the two outer Halifax Harbour islands was released on November 13, 1998. At that time, Parks Canada transferred Lawlor Island and all its holdings on McNabs Island, except Fort McNab National Historic Site, to the Province for a future provincial park.

Lawlor Island will be left to its nesting great blue herons and ospreys. To preserve its wild character, only limited infrastructure will be allowed on McNabs. Acquisition of the remaining few acres of private holdings on McNabs is to be a high priority for the Province, and the privately owned Devils Island could potentially be incorporated into the future park. An outdoor education centre is planned on McNabs Island. Although no names were mentioned, partnerships with interested parties are, provided such development is compatible with natural and cultural heritage resource conservation and protection objectives. A proposed fixed link to the mainland is out. As yet no mention has been made of a time line, nor of new funds for the future provincial park. Neither is there mention in the Land Use Strategy of the future of the

Hugonin Point/Fort Hugonin property, at present administered by the Department of Defense.

In the hope of gaining more friends for the protection of the Green Jewel of Halifax Harbour, the Friends organized a guided tour of the Island for local members of the federal House of Commons, the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly and councillors of Halifax Regional Municipality on September 29. The tour included Fort McNab, McNab family cemetery, the former Island Teahouse, the abandoned Hugonin-Perrin estate, Conrad and Matthew Lynch houses and Fort Ives.

For years the Friends have been interested in leasing the former Island Teahouse to use as an outdoor education centre. In November they received from the provincial government an offer to lease, but the terms are expensive, requiring the Friends to pay survey and appraisal fees and full insurance. Also the building would require considerable repair work as it was vandalized some years ago.

Nothing daunted, the Friends' Outdoor Education Committee is preparing a budget and looking for ways to fund such a venture. Anyone interested in helping the Friends is invited to contact Catherine McCarthy, 434-2254

The challenge now facing the society is to finish fundraising. To date \$1.9 million has been pledged but another \$500,000 is needed. Two raffles in December realized \$1,250. The next event will be a Craft/Hobby Day at Beacon Church on March 27.

Two recently acquired ship portraits from New Hampshire are now on display. They are of barques *E.H. Duval* of Yarmouth, painted in

1870 by John Loos, Antwerp, and *Ocean Express* of Halifax, Captain S.W. Crosby of Yarmouth, attributed to Benjamin Tindal of Hull, England. The repatriation grant from the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board covered 70 per cent of the cost; the remainder came from the Treasure Chest Fund set up by the late Henry Ross, to which many members have added over the years.

News from other societies continued from previous page:

Rockingham Heritage Society

Last summer's research project on the Mi'kmaq inhabitants of Bedford Basin during the early 1700s indicated that about 300 Mi'kmaq sojourned in the area for about nine months each year.

Their main village site appears to have been at the mouth of the Sackville River, which gave access to the wide variety of marine, animal and plant resources they needed. The site also allowed for easy communication with other Mi'kmaq communities and was but a short portage to Rocky Lake and the rivers and lakes which carried them to the interior of the province and to Minas Basin.

Abundant food during the spring salmon run provided an opportunity for the Mi'kmaq to congregate in one village. At other times they separated into smaller groups of three to five families settling at different locations such as Birch, Fairview and Mill coves. Determined by the seasonal cycle they exploited resources farther afield: Lawrencetown for the eel run, Cole Harbour marshes for migrating waterfowl, and the Harbour mouth for seals and whales.

Of particular interest to the researchers was the discovery of the burial site of many Mi'kmaq who died from fatal diseases introduced in 1746 by Duc d'Anville's fleet. Oral accounts passed through generations told that they were buried by a stream behind the tannery. Old maps identified the brook, which ran (and probably still does run but underground) between Vimy Avenue, Fairview and Bayview Avenue, Clayton Park.

The 10-week project was assisted by government funding for Janice McGrath, an education student at Mount Saint Vincent University, and relied primarily upon historical documents, anthropological studies and old maps.

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Annual Financial Statement

REVENUE	Year 1998	Year 1997	Year 1996
Membership	\$4,621.41	\$4,850.00	\$4,550.31
MacDonald Rent	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
Investment	30,230.07	28,513.11	29,178.61
less reinvestment	(3,023.01)	(2,851.31)	(2,917.86)
TOTALS	36,028.47	34,711.80	35,011.06
Publications	460.19	1,893.68	53.30
Donations	3,095.80	605.00	705.00
CASH FLOW INCOME	\$39,584.46	\$37,210.48	\$35,769.36
EXPENSES			
Office	8,480.64	7,643.98	9,187.53
Board travel	378.00		
Macdonald insurance/tax	3,586.10	3,536.40	3,395.48
Macdonald maintenance	2,020.68	8,293.50	2,127.22
Legal fees	6,659.06	2,055.78	1,000.00
Newsletter	5,440.49	4,910.12	4,366.02
Membership	10.00		504.25
Program	224.83	1,101.96	1,498.31
Projects			307.80
Publications	204.55	4,176.58	1,481.28
Publicity		331.55	512.32
Research	1,511.73	2,268.24	3,263.62
President			200.00
Conferences	1,064.40	958.66	640.00
Awards			
Buildings at risk	575.00		
Contingency (Saint George's)	2,000.00		
Church of England Institute		10,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,155.48	\$45,276.77	\$28,483.83
Excess of income over expense	7,428.98	(8,066.29)	7,285.53

Current Assets

January 1	\$784,857	\$722,350
Excess of income during year	7,429	(8,066)
Reinvestment	3,023	2,851
Capital gain	32,934	67,722
Capital loss (unrealized)	(19,320)	
TOTAL ASSETS December 31	\$808,923	\$784,857
Assets are made up of cash	5,181	3,950
Investments (market value)	629,742	606,907
Macdonald property (book value)	173,500	173,500
Publications	500	500
	808,923	784,857

City Rambles

Harrow House, 1104 Tower Road *By Garry D. Shutlak*

The death of Rauff de Ruyther Duan Acklon, known to the world as Halifax born actor and author David Manners (1900-1999), set me wondering about where he had lived in Halifax.

As it turns out, it was 1104 Tower Road (formerly 104-106), the Harrow House Apartments, appropriately named after the school founded by Rauff's father, George M. Acklom.

The double residence at 104-106 Tower Road was originally built by Dodge & Company, who sold the unfinished building to Charles E. Brown of Brown Brothers and Avery, Brown & Company, wholesale and retail druggists. Mr. Brown called on the services of architect J.C. Dumaresq and builders MacIntosh & McInnes to materially alter the house internally and externally in 1872.

Mr. Brown lived at 104 for over 20 years, leasing out 106 to a succession of military officers and merchants with an occasional clergyman thrown in. Purchased in 1893 by J. Franklin Shatford, corn and oil merchant, the entire house was leased by G.M. Acklom, MA, Queen's University, Cambridge, in 1898. Mr. Acklom decided to open a school to provide care and tuition for youths between the ages of eight and 14. Among the families who sent their children there were the McKeens, Mitchells, Cogswells, Stairs, Silvers, Wainwrights and Morrows. The school offered classes in Latin, French, mathematics, arithmetic, drawing, mapping and music.

It was in this house that Dorothea Cecily and Rauff de Ryther Daun were born, the former in 1898 and the latter in 1900. The school was damaged by fire and water in 1900 when a fire broke out on the upper floor, damaging the third floor and roof. The quick-witted Mr. Acklom climbed out onto the roof and fired off a revolver to alert his neighbours' to call the fire department. The building was soon repaired, and classes resumed during the fall session in October 1900. The school ran until the summer of 1906, when it ceased operations, and the family moved to



Above: Schoolmaster George M. Acklom

Above right: Rauff de Ruyther Duan Acklom (better known as David Manners)

Right: right: Dorothea Cecily Acklom

Below: A drawing of Harrow House



Montreal and subsequently New York.

After the school's removal, the building became associated with the Salvation Army as its Army Home, Army Rescue Maternity Hospital, or Army Receiving Home. The Salvation Army vacated the property in 1925. From that date until 1979, the building was a nine-unit apartment building. In 1979, a large addition added to the rear turned the once elegant brick double house into a 54-unit apartment building. Even with the changes, the Acklom family would still recognize their old home.



Hal Forbes: continued from page 10

somebody described this end of town as being 'mouse grey throughout'. With the unpainted, weathered shingles, that was probably pretty accurate." He spends a lot of time photographing and documenting Victorian buildings, to make sure his work is correct, and frequently asks himself "Is this too theatrical?"

Making a living now became more difficult. Hal remembers, "When I left Neptune and finished my first film, I thought I had the world by the tail" but he adds, "In film, when your latest film is good, you are great, and when it is bad, you don't exist"

He had an appointment with his bank manager and instead of asking for an extension of his overdraft, he found himself asking for more money to buy another house! When renovated, this house on Falkland Street, won the 1990 Provincial design Award. "Gentrification" was the trend in the north end, and Hal was one of a group of people, Larry Lamont, Brian MacKay Lyons, Stephen Townsend, Robert Sanford, engaged in it.

Some critics believe that this new generation of entrepreneurs is destroying the way of life of the older residents of the area. But Hal describes a recent neighbourhood New Year's Eve party attended by everyone and points out that, "This is still very much a neighbourhood. Because the houses are so close together, we do not have the privilege of ignoring each other."

But just after Hal bought the Falkland Street house, he had a surprise call from Rita MacNeil, which resulted in spending four years as her costume designer and personal assistant. He toured the world with her and did three TV specials.

This came to an end in 1992, so he threw himself back into house renovation. He was still doing it by purchasing the houses, and says, "I did six before I began to think of it as a full time business." The switch occurred with Pat's Grocery on the corner of Bauer and Cornwallis streets.

In 1994 he bought the old New York Dress Shop on Gottingen Street as a headquarters for his business and renovated it as an example of what he could do. Expected government funding was not forthcoming, and hard times began again. However, today he is back in business.

Finding the decorative woodwork for his houses has always been a problem. To begin he bought it all, but then he began to learn to make it himself. He tried to find ways of streamlining production and reducing costs, but says, "I discovered the only way to make was the way they always made it." And that is what happens today in his Gottingen Street workshop.

It seems a far cry from making costumes for theatre and film to renovating old houses. But Hal believes there are connection. "You do not sew a costume" he says, "you build a costume. It has to be constructed because it goes on stage every night. A costume requires a foundation, it has colour, it has to be built."

Is this it, or will there be more careers for Hal Forbes? "Whenever you wake up too discouraged to go to work, that is the time to switch," There is no sign of that at present, as Hal excitedly shows me a tiny house on Maynard Street which he has just purchased. .

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The Heritage Canada Foundation

Here is a letter recently sent to past-president Joyce McCulloch by the Heritage Canada Foundation:

As you know, Heritage Canada was created by way of endowment, and it is the interest from that endowment that covers our operating costs. Traditionally, however, it has been the practice to spend all the interest earned from the endowment in any given year. While this practice did not reduce the apparent value of the portfolio, it meant, in reality, that the actual value of the portfolio was being reduced annually by the rate of inflation.

Late last year, we commissioned an outside review of our investment policy, and recommendations were made - and implemented - to make our investment practice more fruitful. A recommendation was also made to cap our budgeted expenditures at a fixed percentage of our investment yield in order to provide a cushion against the erository effects of inflation. Last year, for example, our portfolio produced a return of roughly 7.5 per cent, and we budgeted a similar yield this year. The recommendation was that we cap our annual expenditures at the 5 per cent level, providing a 2.5 per cent cushion. In order to provide that cushion, however, it meant reducing annual expenditures by \$500,000.

In contemplating this measure, the Board of Governors felt that....it was important to reverse the erository trend and allow for long-term portfolio growth. It was a difficult decision to take, and, in tasking me with implementing it, the board asked that I do so in a manner that protected core programs and priorities and honoured any outstanding contractual obligations.

In implementing this decision, and in order to arrive at the requisite \$500k expenditure reduction target, I have done the following: reduce, effective immediately, the number of positions in the Ottawa office by five in total, two of which were by attrition; close the Cambridge and Saskatoon regional offices at the end of November, abolishing all four of the positions involved; and finally, close out the Halifax office, which has been unstaffed for some time. As both the Cambridge and Saskatoon offices had outstanding contractual obligations "Street Smarts" in Ontario, for example, and the 1999 CRB "Heritage Fairs" program in Saskatchewan - I will be re-engaging the former directors of those offices as outside consultants in order to honour those commitments.

While these downsizing exercise was a major one, I believe that we cannot only honour existing contracts, but maintain core programs and priorities and continue to provide effective service to the heritage community. I am committed to maintaining this level of service on a business-as-usual basis, and our members and partners, such as you, should notice no tangible change.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you would like further information or clarification.

Yours truly,

Brian Anthony, Executive Director

Heritage Calendar

March 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 FNSH training session C. Breton YCHS 7 pm Meeting	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 CGNS 7:30 pm CSNS 7:30 pm N. Konczacki	16	17	18 HTNS 7:30 pm M. Rochman	19 RNSHS 6 pm Annual Dinner Dr. Henry Roper	20 PSNS 2 pm PANS
21 CMCH 2 pm Louis Comeau	22	23	24 NSLPS 7:30 pm Business meeting WPHS 7 pm Fr M. LeBlanc	25	26	27 BHS 7:30 pm CAA 2 pm PANS
28	29	30 NSLPS 7:30 pm K. Brown	31			

For more detailed information about these events see pages 12.

Heritage Calendar

April 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 HTNS 7:30 pm Scott Robson	16	17 PSNS 2 pm PANS
18 CMCH 2 pm Marven Moore	19 CGNS 7:30 pm	20	21	22	23	24 CAA 2 pm PANS
25 31	26	27	28 WPHS 7 pm R. LeBlanc NSLPS 7:30 pm	29 RNSHS 7:30 pm Julian Gwyn	30	

Heritage Calendar May 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	6	7 YCHS 7 pm Meeting	8 BHS 7:30 pm AGM
9	10	11	12	13	14 RNSHS 7:30 pm AGM Nancy Vogan FNSH Annual Conf. Yarmouth	15 PSNS 2 pm PANS CHHF Museum/tea room opens
16	17 CGNS 7:30 pm	18	19	20 HTNS 7:30 pm Alex Wilson	21	22 CAA 2 pm PANS
23	24	25	26 NSLPS 7:30 pm MMA	27	28	29
30 CMCH 2 pm Open House	31					

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	NSLPS	Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society
CHHF	Cole Harbour Heritage Farm	PANS	Public Archives of Nova Scotia
CGNS	Calligraphy Guild of Nova Scotia	PMCM	Parksdale-Maplewood Community Museum
CMCH	Charles Macdonald Concrete House	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	WPHS	West Pubnico Historical Society
KHS	Kings Historical Society	YCHS	Yarmouth County Historical Society
MBFS	Mahone Bay Founders' Society and Settlers' Museum	YCM	Yarmouth County Museum