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The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

HTNS Vice-President new Heritage Canada governor

Heritage Trust's Vice-President (Heritage) Brenda Shannon was recently elected the Nova Scotia governor of the Heritage Canada Foundation. She takes over from our own Betty Pacey, who served with passion, conviction and determination for six years. "Betty has done a wonderful job," says Brenda. "She is a hard act to follow."

Brenda is a graduate of Dalhousie Law School and has devoted more than 20 years to preservation activities, including a wide range of projects with all three levels of government.

As alderman and deputy mayor of the City of Halifax, Brenda served on the Landmarks Commission. As first chair of the City's non-profit housing corporation she worked to ensure that a priceless inventory of heritage homes on Brunswick Street was stabilized, funded and renovated to provide family housing.

She believes that the province's built heritage fosters pride in their history amongst Nova Scotians, and says heritage buildings are key players in the province's burgeoning tourist industry.

As a member of the Heritage Canada Foundation board, Brenda has committed herself to work to ensure that the inherent and economic value of built heritage is recognized by the public and all levels of government.

We congratulate Brenda on her election and wish her all success in her new and challenging position.

Go for it Brenda!
December 1999



First Board Meeting held in Liverpool

Board members on the steps of the Zion United Church, Liverpool, where the first meeting of the year was held September 25. L to r: Back: Paul Brodie, guest, guest, John Lazier (President), Middle: Ian McKee (Treasurer), Ann Marie Duggan, Elizabeth Adamson, Carol Nauss, Brenda Shannon, Molly Titus, Anthony Lamplugh. Front: Pat Lotz, Sandra Sackett, Pauline Hildesheim, Mia Nishi-Rankin, Meredyth Rochman, Michelle Raymond, Joyce McCulloch.



Christmas Greetings and Millennium Good Wishes to all Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia members from your President, Executive and Board of Governors

American Expert brings clear message

This report kindly prepared for us by Peter McCurdy

Donovan Rypkema is a consultant specializing in inner-city development, who is affiliated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. He was recently in Halifax at the invitation of the Downtown Business Association. While here he delivered a public lecture at the Westin Hotel. He told a capacity audience that he approaches his topic from a background of private enterprise and property development and made it clear that he is at the far end of the spectrum from the "tree-hugging environmentalist".

Mr. Rypkema's point of view was straightforward and clear. "Things the same have no value. The success of downtowns depends on their being differentiated from other downtowns." He emphasized that a well-planned downtown that includes the preservation of heritage buildings, history and tradition is vital to the future financial viability of cities in the twenty-first century. His rationale for this is fairly simple: globally, projections of commercial trends clearly indicate that the geographical location of a business is becoming less and less important. The knowledge revolution enables global industries to operate from wherever their owners and employees choose to live. In this new situation it is the people who run the business who become the strategic focus for attracting business.

Heritage preservation and good quality of life in the community become vital factors in deciding where businesses locate. Where these factors are present, the economic viability of the community is enhanced.

Mr. Rypkema, who describes himself as a dedicated maker of lists, continued during his talk to review the lists of characteristics that a community must have in order to attract entrepreneurs and businesses.



A look at the past. Barrington Street, Halifax, teeming with people, traffic and businesses around 1950. Archives of Nova Scotia

His review began with a consideration of what people don't want: for example, "Generica", that endless modern-day sprawl of fast food outlets, franchises and commercial "hodgepodge" that characterises much of North America today. This unplanned, commercially directed, cheaply built chaos provides no sense of community. People need something more substantial: the sense of evolution, place, ownership, identity that comprise community. He discussed in detail a number of components that lead people to choose to live in an area. The presence of these components, he maintains, will identify communities that work. In any review of cities that work, the list of these components would include a large measure of preservation and stewardship of heritage buildings. Preservation can be accomplished by making these buildings as useful and financially viable as possible; dwelling places for people and industry.

In concluding his talk, Mr. Rypkema offered advice on ways to initiate heritage preservation movements, especially in areas where local councillors "don't get it". One of his suggestions was to provide incentives for preserving old buildings as well as penalties for failing to do so.

His final point was that since attempting to instil a philosophy of preserving the past is a slow and time-consuming process, it was better to start small. Take one small section of a heritage area and work on it and when it is finished you have something to show.



The Griffin

A quarterly newsletter published by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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Above: one of Heather's standing stones with a design derived from runes of early civilizations

Below left: Heather in the Little Dutch Church graveyard reading the text of a stone she has just finished placing upright.

Below right: Heather and her assistant Lisa Fulton packing fill round a stone that has just been placed upright.



From stonemason to sculptor by Anne West

Heather Lawson was recommended to Saint George's as the best person to conserve the stones in the Little Dutch Church headstones, many of which were leaning dangerously. In September Heather did this work. It was great to meet her and I thought you might like to know more about this unusual stonemason. Later, an interview revealed that restoring graveyards is just one of her talents.

Heather Lawson's childhood was spent moving around Nova Scotia because her father was a forest ranger. But despite this, family life for Heather and her brother and sister was stable. Her father was interested in wildlife. "He used to bring home a turtle, or an owl, and take it back the next day." When time came to choose a career, Heather says, "Like most young girls I wanted to be a vet." She planned to take wildlife biology at Acadia or enter the pre-veterinary program at the Agricultural College in Truro. But her friends enrolled in the recreation program at Acadia, and Heather tagged along. She liked the program, but only stayed for a year. "I was not ready for university, I had a hard time with authority."

So she left and used her four summers of working in youth camps to get a job with the Boys' Club in Dartmouth. "I had experience working with youth; in a lot of cases, youth with challenging lives" she says. After a few months, she was made director of the Caledonia Boys' Club in East End Dartmouth where

she stayed for three years. But she burned out: "Working with youth. you never see an end result. You cannot see the rewards until they reach 30 or 40, then maybe you can reflect back and know that something you said or did may have had an effect."

By now aged 24, Heather decided to make a change. "I thought, if I am going to switch jobs...I could go somewhere out of town." She began exploring the province and was reading the paper in a coffee shop in Truro when fate struck. She spotted an advertisement for a training as a stonemason. Set up by the Province of Nova Scotia, this course was designed to train local stonemasons to restore the many aging stone buildings in the province. Training was to take place during the restoration of Province House. A number of highly qualified stonemasons were brought in from England, and a workshop was set up in the old power station on Terminal Road; this was 1986.

Heather was one of 12 people

accepted for the program and the only woman. This fact did not bother her. "My father never distinguished between male and female roles, we all did the washing up." One thing that appealed to her was the manual aspect of the job. "We had always done things with our hands. My mother and father were making things; my grandmother made things."

So she began a four-year apprenticeship program, at the end of which she could proudly say, "I am a certified restoration stonemason." It was hard work, with 40-hour weeks, but "It was a phenomenal program. We went out right away and cut stones for Province House. If a new skill was needed, we would go into the lunch room for a couple of hours to learn the skill, then go out and do it."

The students spent two years doing banker work—working at a stonemason's bench to cut and carve the stone for installation—then spent two more years out on the site removing the worn stones and installing new ones. After two years on Province House, they moved to the new Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (the former Custom House). This really caught Heather's imagination and she recalls, "It was so ornate that there is every architectural order in it. Every time a new piece of stone came up on your banker, it was a piece of stone you had not done before." She says, "On Province House, I do not know where anything is. On the Art Gallery...I know exactly where I worked on the building." Explaining the evolution of stone restoration in Canada, she says, "Europe is on its second or third restoration, but Canada is younger and only restoring stone buildings for the first time."

What is the fascination of stonework? "Stone cutting is one of those trades or crafts that people romanticize," says Heather. "We all have a connection with stone; we like to touch it."

One of her teachers, Robert Morrison, who now works with Maritime Canstone Limited, left a strong impression on Heather. "He is a phenomenal banker mason. He had such high standards. This is the



Before and after. Heather finishes one gravestone at the Little Dutch Church, while another awaits her ministrations.

standard I aspire to." Robert remembers her as a student and the respect is reciprocated: "She was always very attentive and very interested in what she was doing" He adds, "She is very good...she is a lot more capable than she thinks she is."

After finishing her apprenticeship, Heather and four others were invited to stay with the company. But on the last day of work at the art gallery, she fell off the staging and was unable to work for a year. She had just purchased a cottage in Bass River, so there she lived until she was allowed to go back to work in October 1991. By this time, the company was working on the Bank of Nova Scotia building on Hollis Street "That was extremely boring by comparison with the Gallery. It is beautiful in its own right, but by that time banker work was my interest. The Bank of Nova Scotia was non-challenging."

So time for another change; Heather decided to start her own business, which she calls Raspberry Bay Stone. She turned her parents cottage, which is next to her own, into a retail store, her family rallied round to help and she started selling what she describes as "garden accents", bird baths, sundials or decorative standing stones. Now she added her own imagination to her stonemason's skills and began to accept commissions. She says, "It built as fast as I could handle." She joined the

Nova Scotia Designer Crafts Council and began to exhibit at craft shows and take part in the annual Studio Rally. Her creations included a stone table, a large water sprite and many other pieces. For these she uses local stone, her favourite being Wallace north shore sandstone, which she describes as "very fine ground, high quality, very clear so you can make anything out of it and not get distracted by the colour."

Heather is building a name as a sculptor, and Susan Hanrahan, executive director of the N.S. Designer Crafts Council says, "Her work is very forceful and clean her lines are very clearly incised. She works a lot with images derived from runes of old civilizations. There are Mayan and Celtic influences in here." She adds, "I find it very soothing but exciting at the same time...it has a completeness, a finished quality to it that I find very satisfying." Susan also jokes, "To see her handle her work is amazing. [At craft shows] you find men carrying in little suitcases of jewelry and then you see Heather lugging massive pieces of stone."

At the same time, she began to work in graveyards. A heritage organization in Truro asked her to restore 10 stones, and other commissions followed. She became known to Parks Canada and to the Nova

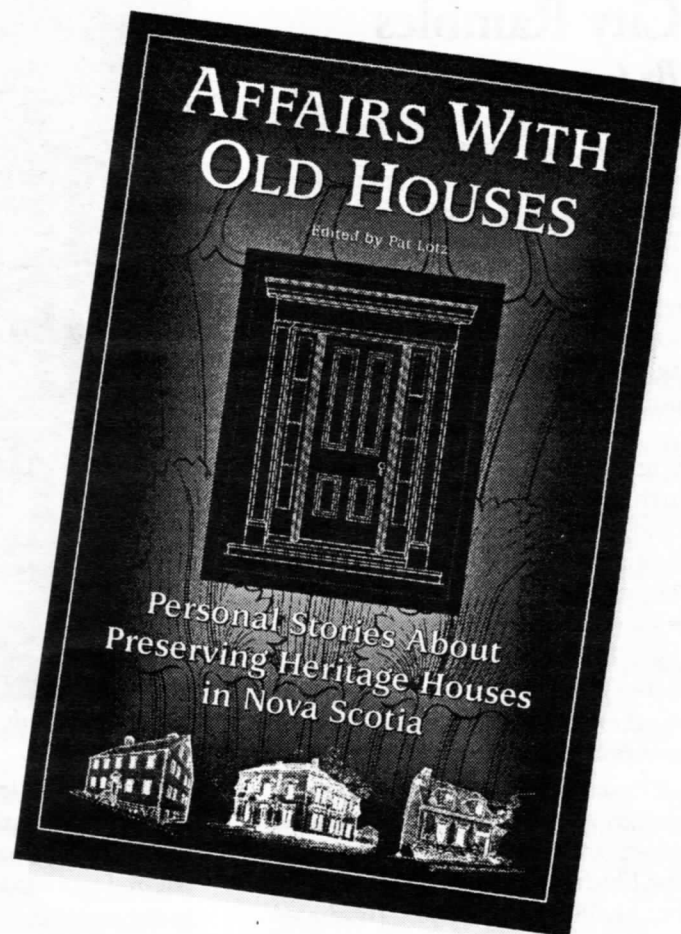
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HERITAGE PRESERVATION IN ACTION

Affairs with Old Houses, to be published in November, is the second book to appear under the joint imprint of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and Nimbus Publishing Limited. Subtitled *Personal Stories About Preserving Heritage Houses in Nova Scotia*, it presents heritage preservation from the perspective of an articulate group of Nova Scotian heritage home owners, who relate how they acquired and restored their old houses. *Affairs with Old Houses* moves beyond details of architecture, history and restoration to also reveal the relationship the owner has with the building.

Old houses have their own personalities. They possess an ability to attract that does not necessarily have anything to do with their physical condition. How else could a dilapidated Georgian stone house in Cape Breton so endear itself to a young couple that, despite the fact the husband was a naval officer due to be transferred to the west coast, they decided to buy it? In addition to the fifteen buildings owned by individuals, included in the book is a chapter on Richmond Hill Farm, an old house in Windsor bequeathed to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia by the late Helen Macdonald.

The houses featured in these personal accounts represent a wide range in architectural style, age, historic background and size: from the mansion of a shipbuilder in Maitland (1870) to a fisherman's cottage in Halfway Cove, Guysborough County (1811); a prominent Amherst family's elegant Second Empire home (1870) to a modest house near Halifax's Citadel (1857); a Pictou stone house built by a Presbyterian Scot(1832), and a Port Hood stone house built by a



Irish Catholic (1860). Three of the buildings date back to the eighteenth-century: the de Gannes House in Annapolis Royal (1708); the White-Irwin House in Shelburne (1784); the Lennox Tavern in Lunenburg (1791). While the authors of these stories represent as diverse a group as the houses they describe, they are all bound by a common thread: an abiding affection for the old buildings they own.

The book, which has a charming foreword by His Honour Lt.-Gov. J. James Kinley, is attractively illustrated with line drawings and includes a comprehensive glossary. It costs \$19.95 and can be ordered by using the printed form below.

✂

ORDER FORM

Make your cheque payable to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. Mail your order to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, c/o 5680 Inglis Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 1K3. Cost of *Affairs with Old Houses* is \$19.95; please add \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

Name

Address

Postal Code

Phone

Number of books required

Total Cost

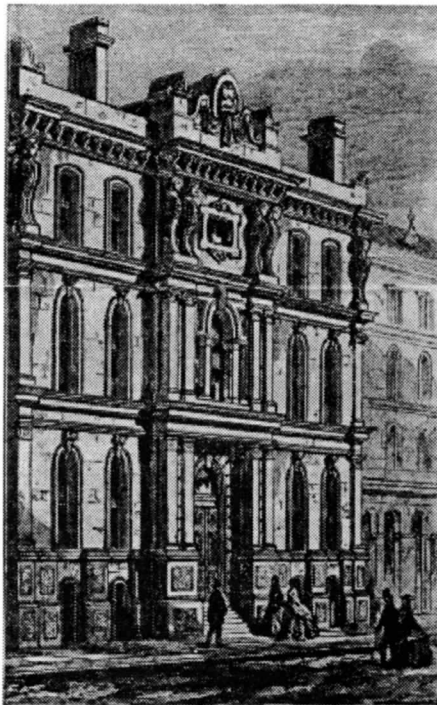
City Rambles

By Garry Shutlak

On Hollis Street, just south of Prince Street, is the Halifax Club, which has recently been rehabilitated under the supervision of architect and Heritage Trust member, Graeme Duffus. In 1966 over a century of grime was removed, and now Graeme has supervised the restoration of damaged stonework, returning the building to its former glory.

It was designed by David Stirling (1822-1877), a Scottish born architect who worked in Newfoundland, Upper Canada (Ontario), Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The style used for the building was Italian Palazzo. The November 3, 1863, issue of the *Halifax Reporter* noted that it "was designed with the most exquisite taste, being graceful and noble in every proportion and carried out with good effect." The design was much acclaimed and an engraving and article appeared in the *Illustrated London News* November 14, 1863. Mr. Stirling produced 16 plans of the building, but only the floor plans have survived in the hands of a private collector. George Lang (c 1821-1884), mason and builder, was awarded the contract and "the mallet and chisel were plied with good effect...[adding] fresh laurels to his already well-earned reputation."

When it was first built, the



The Halifax Club, from the Illustrated London News

Halifax Club's interior arrangements were similar to those of clubs in England. The basement, which was entered from the street, was devoted to the servants' hall, the kitchen, a pantry, the boiler room, etc. Access from the street was by a small vestibule, on the right hand side of which was a room for the porter. The hall was spacious and handsomely furnished. On the left of the hall was a large coffee room, with a butler's pantry behind. On the right was the morning or lounging room, heated by fire grates with marble mantelpieces.

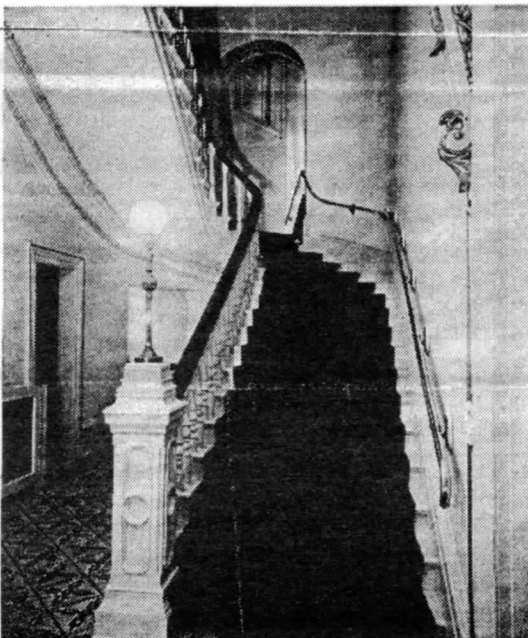
The central staircase took you from the grand hall to the first floor, which was lighted from the top of the building by a very fine cupola, filled with embossed figured glass. Branching off from the hall were a number of well-lit airy rooms used for billiards, cards and writing. There were also private dining rooms.

A spiral staircase ran up on the back part of the building from the basement to the servants' rooms in the upper storey, which were well finished and commodious. There was also a stair leading from the grand hall to the washrooms, etc.

Most of the rooms are heated by fireplaces, but in the hall, writing rooms and private dining rooms there was a hot air system.

The idea for a social club like those in England came from a group of prominent Halifax gentlemen, who agreed to contribute shares of \$250 to purchase land and erect a building. A committee was formed and at its first meeting, Colonel W.J. Myers was the unanimous choice for chairman. Edward Binney agreed to act as treasurer. Edward Kenney, who was about to make a trip to England, was asked to seek a managing steward for the club. It was agreed that there would be an annual subscription rate with a membership fee. Officers of the army and navy, who were liable to be called away at any time, would not have to pay the initial

Continued on page 14



Left: The central entrance hall and staircase. Right: The smoking and card room





Doris's Column: *A tour of Scotland*

Scotland was unusually lush for mid-May, following an almost snow-free winter and an early spring.

Trees were in full leaf, and vine and flowering shrubs were covered in bloom. Gardens were bright with early summer flowers, and beyond the town, fields glowed with rape, woods were misty with bluebells, and hillsides patched with golden gorse, the greens of conifers and the brown of last year's heather.

We travelled from Glasgow to John-o-Groats and west through the mountains to Lochalsh and the Isle of Skye. For two weeks wallowing gloriously in the long and turbulent history of a country which had battled Vikings, Romans, Picts, Gauls, and each other, and fought long and valiantly against the English. Picturesque ruins of Craigmillar, Edzell, Farquhar, and countless other castles bear witness to a long-past need for protection against the English and often their own warring clans. We were enthralled by stories reaching back hundreds of years about the Prestons, Dundas', Homes, Dalryells, Erskines, and Somervilles, the Macleods of Dunvegan and 'the lightsome Lindsays'. Tales of men of culture and talent, of patriots and gallant fighters, of courage and weakness, brutality, treachery, love and hate. Still standing in the north and on the Isle of Skye, we saw the ruins of burned-out cottages: sorry reminders of the Highland Clearances that drove thousands of poor crofters to the barren shoreline, or on to the New World.

As usual, Nina's itinerary included some of the finest 18th century work of Palladian architects, William Adam and sons John and Robert. Despite similarities, each building possesses distinct characteristics, each is a unique treasure house of beautiful artefacts: plasterwork, carvings, fine furniture paintings, porcelain, etc. In sharp contrast to the Adam's classics was the pioneer

work of Glasgow architect Charles Rennie Macintosh (1868-1928) we encountered when Hilary took us on a short visit to Glasgow School of Art, Henderson's Jewelry Shop and Kate Cranston's Cafe, and Queen's Cross Church. Influenced by symbolism and Art Nouveau, Macintosh moved away from ornate Victorian fussiness to clean, spare, straight lines. His stylized carvings, leaded glass panels and wrought ironwork were based on the flowing lines in nature. From an egg-shaped seed, slender stems rise in graceful curves to a stylized flower or simplified head of a woman with long flowing hair. Sometimes a bird with long downturned wings shelters the flower.

The tour included the magnificent Drummond Castle Gardens, the picturesque 17th-century garden surrounding the ruins of Edzell, and Aberdeen's fascinating Winter Gardens. Among the churches we visited were St. Machar's in Aberdeen and Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian, with its beautifully detailed Apprentice's Pillar, carved during the absence of the master and which proved better than the work of the master-carver himself! In Edinburgh we went on an evening Literary Pub Crawl, reflecting the work of well-known Scottish men of letters and their connections

with some of the town's ancient and one-time dirty and dissolute taverns. We lunched at the Edinburgh School of Cookery in a restored and converted William Adam stables at Newliston, had a lesson on the creating of single malt whisky at Fettercairn Distillery and paid a quick visit to the Berryhill Strathnaver Museum of the Highland Clearances. As we travelled north, every turn in the road opened up a stunning vista of hill and vale, sandy beaches, rocky shores with creaming surf, lochs and firths. High on a rocky crag, or tucked away in a sheltered valley were the ruins of ancient forts or grand old homes. Massive oil rigs in for maintenance studded the harbour near Aberdeen. Before leaving Edinburgh some of the group paid a visit to the *Britannia*.

A most unusual experience was our visit to **The Drum**, a sumptuous Italian-style villa attached to a 15th-century Tower House on a drumlin. Once the home of the Somervilles, The Drum passed through several hands, suffering years of neglect until the present owner's grandfather bought the estate in 1860. The Drum is now the home of Charles and Patria Nisbett, an entertaining couple with a quirky sense of humour: Patria, a tall, angular, Joyce Grenfell



Here the group is seen on the steps of *The Drum*, a fine but quirky Palladian mansion near Edinburgh which was a highlight of the tour

Heather Lawson, continued from page 4

Scotia Museum, both of which recommend her work to people who need graveyards restored. She has worked at Fort Anne in Annapolis, in the Loyalist cemetery in Westchester Mountain and, most recently, the Little Dutch Church graveyard on Brunswick Street, Halifax. She also teaches seminars on graveyard restoration with Deborah Traske of the Nova Scotia Museum.

Heather also accepts commissions for new headstones and has designed several for people who are terminally ill, which she finds easier than work-ing with bereaved families. "Once people have come to accept where they are, they are a lot of fun to design with because you are able to joke and laugh and come up with something really great." One

client wanted a stone with a bird bath on it and roses growing over it, so Heather's imagination ran riot. Another wanted a small spire with a double barreled shotgun leaning against it, and brought her the shotgun to copy.

These days her life seems to consist of graveyards in summer and sculpture commissions in winter. Word of mouth is her primary marketing tool and she says, "I have 18 months worth of commissions. My next is a four-foot high bird house which is going to New Brunswick".

I asked Heather which piece of stonework she was most proud of. She describes the carved finials on one of the four spires around the tower on Saint Mathews Church on Barrington Street, Halifax. She

carved a replacement for one of them and says, "I wanted it to be exactly the same, not close. I was quite pleased and if I look up I can tell which one is mine".

Running her own business is not all roses, however, and juggling all the demands of clients means long days and not much time for herself. "I want to build a stone home" says Heather, "but I'm having a hard time getting a stone barbecue done".

Thinking of you!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to member Millie Rogers and also to Kate Camichael, Executive Director of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission

Doris' Diary, continued from page 7

type, Charles a sort of laid-back John Cleese. Their repartee would do justice to a stage cross-talk act.

The impoverished 12th Lord Somerville found an English heiress to restore family fortunes. Hoping for job preferment or even a Royal Visit, he commissioned young William Adam to build a grand mansion on a small scale and modest budget. Adam's solution to including a suite of Royal Rooms was to stack them! While Somerville was in London William was given a pretty free hand and, as we were told by the Nesbitts as they pointed out some of the anomalies of this very early work of William Adam, "He tried out everything...if he did it, we have it."

The poorly-designed front steps collapsed twice and have been replaced by the present better-balanced, double-sided flight, but with balustrades ending in the middle of two windows instead of on either side of the main entrance. Inside, magnificent pillars of every sort, support nothing. On the frieze around the walls of one room, beautiful plasterwork medallions all face one way instead of towards each other. "In this house," says Patria, "nothing is symmetrical." Pointing to the small marble diamonds connect-

ing the square sandstone slabs in the main hall, Charles tells us: "An Italian villa should have a marble hall...but either Somerville's Scottishness showed through or he ran out of money at this point and considered sandstone good enough." Not content with one image of a Green Man over the entrance, Adam provided at least 50 throughout the house. No one seems to know whether this allegorical Wiltshire pagan figure with vine leaf hair was meant to keep away evil, symbolize Man and Nature, or promote fertility.

Behind the slight irreverance the Nisbetts have towards the Adam anomalies, they have an obvious pride in their home. Plasterwork on ceiling and walls is exquisite—some with details extending outside the frame, like the swords and shields in the panel of Mars, God of War. Because the knack of supporting extending pieces has been lost, restorers from all over Britain, who had been using fibreglass to replace such extensions, have visited The Drum to investigate techniques. A previous owner covered all deficiencies by painting everything white, and our hosts gave us a highly diverting account of their own efforts at restoring the paintwork, and

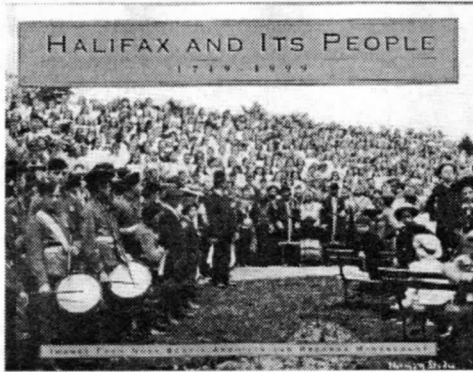
fascinating details of the intricate art of gilding performed by a craftsman, "in rather formal dress". The couple have spent over £36,000 (pounds sterling) on restoring the gilding. "Actually, an overdraft," says Charles. They prefer this to government help, which often means an official say in the future of the house.

The Nisbett family history includes a grandmother described as "a bit of a tearaway". A suffragette, who agitated for a Women's Police Force, tried her hand at writing novels and lived under the same roof with her husband in amicable estrangement. A riding school she founded for the mentally or physically handicapped has proved of great therapeutic value. As we stood on the steps after tea, coffee and cake, and an astonishingly interesting visit, a group of mounted people with handicaps rode slowly by. On foot, leading a rider, was one young woman, also handicapped, who had benefited enormously from the program.

Again a memorable tour, thanks to Nina and Hilary.



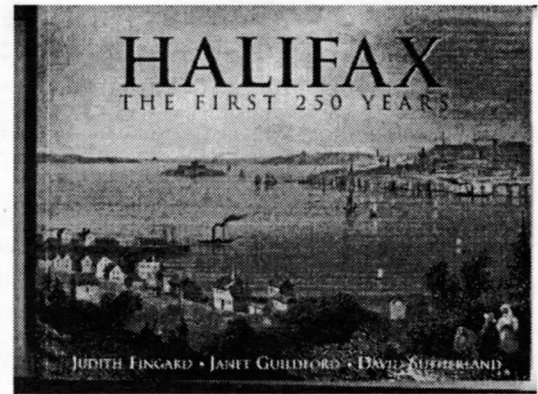
Gifts for Christmas



Halifax and Its People: 1749-1999

Images from Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management. Published by Nimbus, \$19.95

This wonderful collection of images and their accompanying captions, selected from the holdings of Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management, illuminates Halifax's past by providing glimpses of the personal, human side of the city's life stories, with the changing community as a back drop. Subjects range from celebrated disasters to royal visits, Halifax at war and sport and the great outdoors. It has an introduction by Brian Cuthbertson.



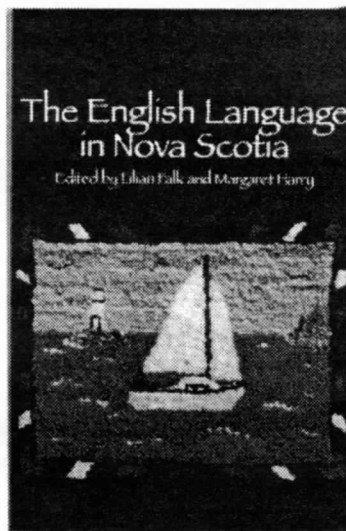
Halifax: The First 250 Years

By Judith Fingard, Janet Guildford and David Sutherland. Published by Formac. \$29.95

This sumptuous illustrated history of Halifax will make the perfect souvenir of the city's 250th birthday. Its three distinguished authors tell Halifax's story from its beginnings as a British settlement to counteract the French establishment at Louisbourg to its present-day status as one of Canada's most appealing cities.

All Trust members are invited to the book launch, 2-5 pm, Sunday, December 5, Cambridge Military Library, Halifax.

Don't forget *Affairs with Old Houses*, edited by Pat Lotz and Published by Nimbus in conjunction with Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. See page 5



The English Language in Nova Scotia

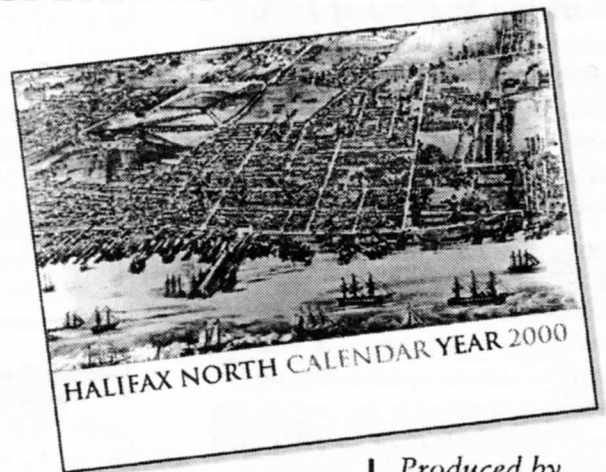
Edited by Lilian Falk and Margaret Harry.

A collection of essays on the development and use of English in Nova Scotia, including an historical introduction and 12 chapters covering such topics as pronunciation, semantics, grammatical structures, language contact, dialect features, nicknames and

place names. By gathering together both previously published papers and new works, the book provides a good general introduction to a distinctive and, until now, relatively neglected branch of Canadian English

Price: \$22.95
Roseway Publishing, Lockeport, NS., B0T 1L0.

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Programs sponsored by other societies

NOTE: Many of the following organizations now have Fax or Email. To obtain numbers or addresses, please contact the group concerned by phone.

Calligraphy Guild of N.S.

Meets 7-9 pm third Monday of the Month. Details/venue: Les de Wit, 835-0508 or John Peake, 425-4128

Poetry Society of N.S.

Meets 2.00 pm third Saturday of the month from September to June, in PANS, 6106 University Ave., Halifax. Contact: Daphne Faulkner, 423-5330

Canadian Authors Association, N.S. Branch

Meets 2.00 pm fourth Saturday of the month Sept. to June in PANS, 6106 University Ave., Halifax. Contact: Evelyn Brown 466-2558 or Mary Ann Monnon 902-542-2726, Wolfville

N.S. Lighthouse Preservation Society

Meets Fourth Wednesday each month at Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lwr. Water Street, Halifax. Business Meeting: 7.00 pm; Program: 7.30 pm. Contact: 424-7490

Costume Society of N.S.

Meets third Monday of the month, September to April at 7.30 pm in Maritime Museum, 1675 Lwr. Water Street, Halifax. Contacts: Faith Wallace 826-2506 or Estelle Lalonde 429-0790

Monday, January 1, 7.30 pm

Preceding the monthly program (weather and Y2K permitting) a vote to ratify the election held at last spring's Annual General Meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Exec. Committee is welcome to step forward that evening. Questions? Contact the above numbers.

Monday, February 21, 7.30 pm

Heritage Day. Program: TBA.

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Meets at PANS, 6106 University Ave., Halifax, unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday, December 8, 7.30 pm

Speaker: Janet Chute Topic: The Rise of the 'New' South End and its parkland legacy on the North West Arm

January and February 2000

For program details Contact David Flemming 455-2400

Federation of N.S. Heritage

Marginal Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7. Contact: 423-4677.

Wednesday, December 8

Cultural Federations and Federation of N.S. Heritage Open House at FNSH new location

Thursday, December 16

Heritage Awards Nomination deadline.

Thurs. Dec. 23 1999 to Jan. 4, 2000

FNSH Closed.

Friday, January 28

Deadline for story ideas and events for Heritage Day 2000 (Monday, February 21)

Friday, February 18

Associations of Museums NB TelEd Management Workshop (French)

Friday, February 25

Heritage Brainworks Program (Problem solving/brainstorming and ideas on interpretation)

Fort Sackville Foundation and Scott Manor House

Fort Sackville Road, Bedford. Contacts: 835-2394 or 835-5368

Sat., December 4, 10 am to 5 pm

Association of Spinners and Handweavers tea & craft sale. For ASH events, contact Marilyn 861-1425

Thursday, January 20, 7.30 pm

Annual General Meeting of Fort Sackville Foundation. Open to the public. New members welcome. Annual Membership: \$5.00

Rockingham Heritage Soc.

For details of monthly meetings/special events, contact Caroline Macdonald 443-4812

Saturday, February 19

Annual Dinner at Saint Peter's

Anglican Church Hall, Rockingham. Guest Speaker: Alan Ruffman. Topic: Halifax's Involvement with *The Titanic*. For time, cost and registration details contact 443-2064.

Bedford Heritage Society

The Teachery, 9 Spring St., Bedford. Contact: Marvin Silver, 835-0317; or Tony Edwards, 835-3615

Saturday, November 27, 7.30 pm

Continuation of series of programs by old-time members of Bedford community: "The Mitchells".

Sat. Jan. 29, and Feb. 26, 7.30 pm

Programs TBA.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

Poplar Drive, Dartmouth. Contacts: Museum: 434-0222/ 465-1032. Rose and Kettle Tearoom: open year round for catering and special events. Contact 462-0154

Monday, February 14, 7.00 pm

Valentine's Day Dinner. Dine by candlelight to romantic music in the cosy tearoom. Wine available. Cost: \$25 per person. Registration limited. Details and registration: contact above numbers.

Kings Historical Soc. and Old Kings Courthouse Museum

Cornwall Street, Kentville, NS. B4N 2E2. Contact. 902-678-6237

Sunday, December 5

A Merry Millenium Christmas Homes tour and Yuletide Tea. Five homes in Gaspereau, Wolfville, and Port Williams, including the residence of Dr. David Silverburg, artist in residence at Acadia University, and his wife Yvetta. Tea in the Old Kings Courthouse Museum, Kentville, transformed for the occasion by the Annapolis Valley Decorative Artists. Wreaths will be raffled, proceeds to the Kings Historical Society. Tickets for Homes Tour, \$15.00. Details: contact above number.

Mon., Dec. 6 to Wed. Dec. 8
Christmas Display at the Museum
open to the public 10 am to 4.00 pm.

Closing Friday, December 10
Exhibits: Spinning A Yarn: The Story
of Wool, and DAR Silver: Serving the
Public.

Amherst Township Historical Society

Meets each month from Sept.- June in
Cumberland Co. Museum, 150
Church Street, Amherst. Open to the
public. Time and details 902-667-2561

Tuesday, November 30
Speaker: Dr. Edward Charmley.
Topic: Agriculture Through the Years.

Tuesday, January 25
Author's Night, Centennial Villa

Monday, February 28
Speaker: Donna Morse.
Topic: Black History

Cumberland Co. Museum

Church Street, Amherst. Contact:
902-667-2561

Closing Monday, December 20
Exhibit: Christmas in Time

Saturday, December 4, 2 to 7 pm.
Amherst and Area Annual Christmas
House Tour fundraiser, hosted by
Cumberland Co. Museum. The
museum and homes and properties
will be decorated for Christmas. Hot
cider and cookies at the Museum.
Tickets: \$10 each

Monday, December 13
Pick up day for poinsettias ordered in
November.

Friday, January 14 to March 3
Exhibit: Cumberland on Ice.

Monday, February 21
Heritage Day.
Tentative Events: January: Salon
Night; February: Mardi Gras Dinner.
Information: contact above number.

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Old Chester Train Station, Chester,
NS. B0J 1J0 For Christmas program
of events, phone Sylvia 902-275-3254
or Duncan McNeill 902-275-3172.

Town of Lunenburg Spe-

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Presents the conclusion of its special public lecture series to
commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Halifax

*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 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History,
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, unless otherwise stated. Parking in the two
Museum parking lots and across Bell Road at the Vocational School.

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 the Costume
Studies Program at Dalhousie University

*Through this Winter and Spring, Heritage Trust will present a
new series of special lectures to celebrate the year 2000. Mark
your Calendar.*

Thursday, January 20
Sailing Ships of Nova Scotia - 1750 to 1929
Speaker: **Dr. Charles Armour**, Former Dalhousie University Archivist (Rtd)

Thursday, February 17
**"I feel at times like Lazarus in the grave, tied up and bandaged from
head to foot" New perspectives on Anna Leonowens in Halifax, 1878 to
1897**
Speaker: Lois K. Yorke, Archivist of Nova Scotia Archives and Records Mgt.

Monday, February 21.
Heritage Day
A Special Program is being finalized and will be announced as soon as
possible

cial Events 1999

Fri-Sun., December 3-5
Once Upon a Lunenburg Christmas.
Contact: Bev. Cluett 903-634-8156

Fall-Winter 1999
Bluenose II in port. Contact: 902-634-
1963

Yarmouth County Historical Society

Meets at 22 Collins Street, Yarmouth,
at 7.30 pm, first Friday of the month.
Contact 902-742-5539

Friday, December 3 - 7.30 pm

Historical Soc. meets, program TBA.

Fridays, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, 7.30 pm
Program details contact above number

Saturday, December 4 - 1.00 pm
Annual Yuletide House Tour and Tea,
details TBA

Tuesday, December 14, 7 pm
Armchair Travel Series: Speaker and
topic TBA. A fundraising charge of
\$3 at the door. Light refreshments.
Series resumes in the New Year.
Details: Contact Eric Ruff 902-742-
5539.

Cumberland County Museum

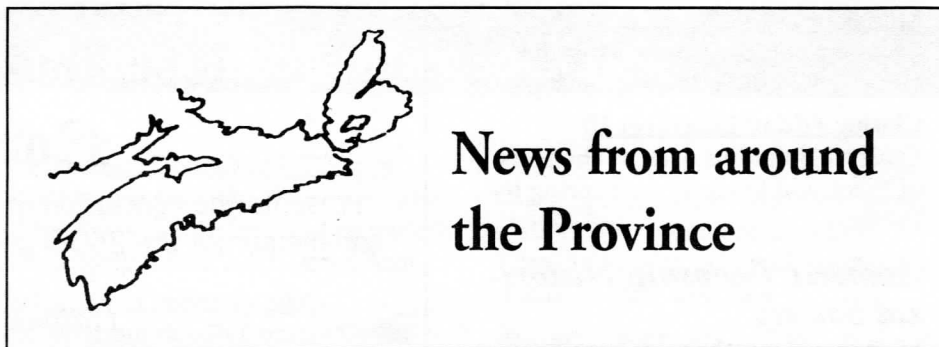
The Museum has received a request from a researcher interested in gathering information from descendants of Scottish settlers in Nova Scotia who may have stories to tell of their ancestors' contributions to the shaping of Amherst and the Cumberland County area. Anyone who could be of help should contact the museum for the gentleman's address. We can be reached at 150 Church Street, Amherst. B4H 3C4. Ph: 902-667-2561; Fax: 902-667-0996

Rockingham Heritage Society

Drive along Dunbrack Street to the Kearney Lake Road intersection and you will notice an attractive addition to the Halifax streetscape: a colourful mural that expresses the essence of Rockingham's heritage. The four-panel mural is the work of Dartmouth artist Tim Watson. The scenes were drawn from heritage calendars published by Rockingham Heritage Society.

Councillor for the area, Bill Stone, is to be congratulated for his initiative in bringing this project to completion. He expressed the hope that other communities in Halifax Regional Municipality will choose to support similar projects. The mural was officially unveiled on Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Rockingham heritage mural on Dunbrack Street



News from around the Province

Colchester Historical Museum

This summer, Colchester Historical Society hired a student to develop a heritage walking tour of the Downtown area of Truro. The local Heritage Advisory Committee, which works hard to retain built heritage, is developing heritage regions within the town. The Museum saw this walking tour as a way to emphasize the importance of built heritage and to support the Advisory Committee in its efforts.

As the the participants stroll along, they learn about differences between Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Italianate styles. They also hear about the people who built the houses, their families and their stories. This information answers questions such as: Where did the people of Truro come from? When did they arrive here? Why did they come, and what kept them here?

There are stories of how these early residents felt about the American Revolution, about the Queen of England; how streets got their names and why they don't match as they cross the main street in town. They hear about Truro's Golden Age or Age of Wealth, when the town boomed during the construction of the Nova Scotia Railway. Visitors get to see factories, the remains of factories and industries that played a major role in Truro's development, and learn how these industries affected the development of the rest of the county.

Led by a guide in 1893 period dress, it is not hard for those on the tour to imagine the old days. They hear about the law which stated that (to avoid scaring horses), no one was allowed to drive cars on the streets of Truro on Tuesdays and Saturdays. These were market days, when the rural people came in from the farms with their produce.

Among the buildings included in the walk are the YMCA, Truro's first provincially designated heritage property formerly part of the Normal College; the Doggett family home; police station; post office, businesses, banks and churches.

In tying the built heritage of Truro to the people of Truro, the museum hopes the tour will bring new life to buildings old and new.

To find out more about this new heritage walking tour, contact Penny Ligh Lightall, Curator, Colchester Historical Mus., 29 Young St, Truro, NS. Ph: 902-895-6284, Fax: 895-9530

Yarmouth County Historical Society

Eric Ruff (and beard) were on ASN's *Breakfast TV* show on the November 1. The main objective was for Eric to

feature a couple of Yarmouth Museum's artifacts, but he more than hoped to get in a plug for the beard fund raiser. (In September, we described the society's efforts to raise \$100,000 to persuade Eric to remove his beard). To further promote the expansion project the Society had a booth at the "50+ Expo" early in October to sell raffle tickets for the Mollie (Lewis) Hardy Quilt, advertise memberships, sell a few of their publications and, again, get in a word for the "Beard Project".

Construction of Phase One of the Expansion Program is complete. The storage building is being painted, the interior of the archive building renovated, and the move into the new premises should start by the end of November. The Society hopes to save money by the temporary use of second-hand sheers, drapes, blinds and furniture. Anyone with items which might be useful, is asked to contact Eric Ruff at 22 Collins Street, Yarmouth NS B5A 3C8; by Phone 902-742-5539; Fax: 902-749-1120; or Email: ycn0056@ycn.library.ns.ca

Fort Sackville Foundation & Scott Manor House

On September 11, the Fort Sackville Foundation and the Sackville Millenium Committee co-hosted a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Fort Sackville. Adding a touch of drama and realism to the ceremony was a re-enactment by costumed members of the Nova Scotia Heritage Association of the landing of Captain John Gorham and his ensign. It was a great pleasure to the Foundation to have the two groups from the communities of Sackville and Bedford working together to celebrate the anniversary.

A ceremony was also held to re-open the gates of the manor, which were built around 1887 from the wood of Canada's first warship, *Charybdis*, for retired Fleet Surgeon, J. Ternan. The gates were restored by Mr. Fred Repp and members of the Fort Sackville Foundation with the kind assistance of Barrett Lumber Co. Ltd. and Marwood Ltd. The gates, with their large milled acorns on top and black roses in the centre, are very handsome. Although Scott Manor is
December 1999

Trust to restore headstone



Robert Forman's grave in September, 1999

The Heritge Trust of Nova Scotia will pay for the restoration of the grave of Robert Forman in Camp Hill cemetery. Why?

In 1976, the Trust became the owner of Richmond Hill Farm, a fine old house in Windsor, Nova Scotia, bequeathed to it by Helen Macdonald, widow of Col. Gordon Macdonald. She also left the Trust an endowment of \$346,924 to maintain the house, a sum which has grown over the years. At the September board meeting, Pat Lotz suggested to the members that it would be a nice gesture if the Trust were to pay for repairing the grave in Camp Hill Cemetery belonging to Mrs. Macdonald's grandfather. The obelisk-style gravestone has been sloping for some time and late last year, finally fell (or perhaps was pushed) off its plinth.

Mrs. Macdonald was the daughter of James Forman, a prominent businessman in Victoria.

He was born in Londonderry, Nova Scotia, in 1860, the first child of Robert Forman and his wife, Louisa, who died soon after the birth. In 1862 Robert married Marion Steel and they had seven children. Robert died in 1883 at the age of 54. His old gravestone was replaced in the twenties by this shiny new monument; yet it is the one that fell down, while the old blackened stones of his grandparents James and Mary Foreman (the last generation to use the *e* in the name) are still standing nearby.

The members of the Board agreed to have the gravestone repaired, and Anne West suggested we get in touch with Heather Robertson, who has been doing repairs in the graveyard of the Little Dutch Church. By the next issue of *The Griffin* we should have a photo of Robert Forman's monument back on its feet.

closed for the season, except for special events, the property and the gates are well worth a visit at any time.

The North East Room, part of the Scott Manor House for over 150 years, is being rebuilt this winter.

Work is underway, thanks to the donation of materials and labour by volunteers and a grant from the N.S. Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Included in the

Continued on page 14

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Snippets

Saint Paul's

A proposal to alter the interior of Saint Paul's Church, Halifax to accommodate offices and meeting space was withdrawn after parishioners and members of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia pointed out the importance of conserving the oldest building in Halifax (1749).

Pauline Hildesheim

Trust Vice-President (Finance) is featured in the *Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Journal* because of her generous gift in the form of the designation of an insurance policy to the gallery on her death. This form of planned giving is highly recommended by the AGNS and could benefit other organizations, such as the HTNS.

Saint George's

The end of Saint George's Restoration is in sight. A final Christmas Appeal to people who have already supported this project is

expected to raise the last \$25,000 which will allow the team to complete a modified restoration and order the organ. The organ will be delivered in 2002.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

This society is working hard to create an effective management structure for the museum and its two historic houses, Evergreen and the Quaker House, and is in the process of negotiating a Cultural Tourism Agreement with the Halifax Regional Municipality, which owns the properties and the collection. It has a number of committees in place and a board of directors headed by Carmen Moir. The Collections Management Committee, chaired by Clary Croft, has produced a policy for managing the museum's considerable collection. Among the society's recent activities has been renting Evergreen to a film company for filming a movie with stars Farrah Fawcett and Jean Stapleton.



Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

REMINDER

Please renew your membership
in January

Renewal terms will be mailed out
to current members

Heritage Trust's strength lies in
its membership, individuals and
groups who are committed to the
protection and proper
rehabilitation of Nova Scotia's
rich built heritage

Benefits include:

- Monthly lectures
- *The Griffin* (four issues a year)

Halifax Club *Continued from page 6*
membership fee; they would have to pay the annual dues. They would have no voice in the internal affairs of the establishment.

The club membership included the city and province's most influential men. Among the founders of the club were members of the Cunard, Tobin, Almon, Black, Cogswell, Pryor, Forman, Uniacke, Morrow and Duffus families.

In 1911, the club decided to spend \$50,000 modernizing the building, making it practically a new institution. S. P. Dumaresq was the architect, and Samuel A. Marshall carried out the contract work, beginning in July 1912. While the club was being renovated, the members set up temporary quarters in the Wright Marble Building.

At this time the club building was altered so that the basement included a wine cellar, office, large lavatories, etc. On the main floor is the billiard room, on the first floor, the dining room, and the upper storey, the kitchen. At this time part
Page 14

of the former servants' quarters in the original building was renovated into five "gentlemen's" bedrooms. Captain John Hicks, husband of Isabella Ellis Cogswell, occupied one of the bedrooms at the club during the winter months when he was private secretary to the lieutenant-governors and in summer resided in a section of his home, "The Oaks".

During the last 136 years, the club has had many triumphs; it has hosted royalty. Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, was entered there while an army officer and later when he returned to Canada a governor general. Prince George, Duke of York and Cornwall, later King George V, spent time at the club with each visit to Halifax, and Edward, Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, enjoyed its hospitality during his tour in 1919. Many prominent members of the aristocracy and landed gentry, not only of Great Britain, but other countries have dined and dined there.

The club has also been the site of tragedy and near tragedy. In 1870,

Franz Joseph Mohren, the steward, committed suicide by jumping from the upper storey of the building. In 1995, the club was visited by fire which broke out on the top floor. The fire department was quick on the scene and the building suffered only minor fire and smoke damage.

Fort Sackville Foundation continued from page 13

project will be an expanded wheelchair ramp.

The Foundation has established a new liaison with the Nova Scotia Knitters and Crochet Society as well as the Atlantic Spinners and Handweavers (ASH). During the coming year, both groups will meet, work and provide programs at the Scott Manor House. The AHS has already hosted two three-day workshops with a clinician from Saskatoon and participants from out of province. It will also hold a fundraising Tea and Sale at Scott Manor House on Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 am to 5 pm

Heritage Calendar

December 1999

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	YCHS meet- ing 7.30 LUN Xmas Festival 3/4/5	3 4 FSF/SMH ASH tea/sale CCM house tour YCHS House tour/tea
FHM Xmas Tre Ste Anne Sigogne Lecture KHS/OKCM House tour/tea	KHS/OKCM 6 Xmas exhib. to Dec. 8, 10-4	7	RNSHS 7.30 8 PANS FNSH Open House	9	10	11 KHS/OKCM exhib. closes
12	13 CCM pick up poinsettias	14 YCHS 7 pm Armchair travels	15	16 HTNS Lecture Robert Doyle	17	18
19	CCM Amhers 20 exhib. last day Xmas in Time CGNS 7-9 pm	21	22 NSLPS 7 pm at MMA	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Heritage Calendar

January 2000

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7 YCHS 7.30	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 CCM Cumb. on ice	15
16	17 CGNS 7.30 CSNS 7.30	18	19	HTNS 7.30 20 Charles Ar- mour FSF/SMH 7.30 AGM	21	22 PSNS 2 pm PANS
23	24	25 ATHS Authors night	26 NSLPS 7 pm MMA	27	28	29 CAA-NS 2 pm PANS BHS 7.30
30	31					

Heritage Calendar

February 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
		1	2	3	4 YCHS 7.30	5				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
13	CGNS 7.30 CHHF 7 pm Valentine's Day Dinner	14	15	16	HTNS 7.30 Lois Yorke	17	FNSH workshop	18	PSNS 2 pm RNSHS Annual Dinner	19
20	Heritage Day CCM HD events CSNS 7.30	21	22	23	NSLPs 7 MMA	24	FNSH Brainworks prog.	25	CAA-NS 2 PANS BHS 7.30	26
27	ATHS	28	29							

Abbreviations used in this calendar

ADLHS	Admiral Digby Library and Historical Society	KHS/OKCM	Kings Historical Society and Old Kings Courthouse Museum
AGNS	Art Gallery of Nova Scotia	LUN	Town of Lunenburg and other Lun. groups
AHSWP	Acadian Historical Soc. of West Pubnico	MBFS	Mahone Bay Founders' Society and Settlers' Museum
ARHS	Annapolis Royal Historical Society	MMA	Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
ASHC	Age of Sale Heritage Centre	MSHS	Mainland South Heritage Society
ATHS	Amherst Township Historical Society	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 Soc.
CCM	Cumberland County Museum	PANS	Public Archives of Nova Scotia
CGNS	Calligraphy Guild of Nova Scotia	PMCM	Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum
CHHF	Cole Harbour Heritage Farm	PSNS	Poetry Society of Nova Scotia
CMHCS	Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Soc.	QCM	Queen's County Museum
CHMS	Chester Municipal Heritage Society	RNSHS	Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
CSHS	Cape Sable Historical Society	RHS	Rockingham Heritage Society
CSNS	Costume Society of Nova Scotia	SCC	Shubenacadie Canal Commission
DBM	DeBrisay Museum	SMH	Scott Manor House
DHM	Dartmouth Heritage Museum	SRM	South Rawdon Museum
DHA	Dartmouth Heritage Association	THS	Truro Historical Society
FNSH	Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage	WHHS	West Hants Historical Society
FSF	Fort Sackville Foundation	WHM	Waverley Historical Museum
FOMIS	Friends of McNab's Island Society	WPHS	West Pubnico Historical Society
FHM	Fultz House Museum	YCHS/M	Yarmouth Co. Historical Soc. and Museum
HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality	YCRL	Yarmouth County Research Library/Archives
HCF	Heritage Canada Foundation		
HTNS	Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia		