



March, 2000

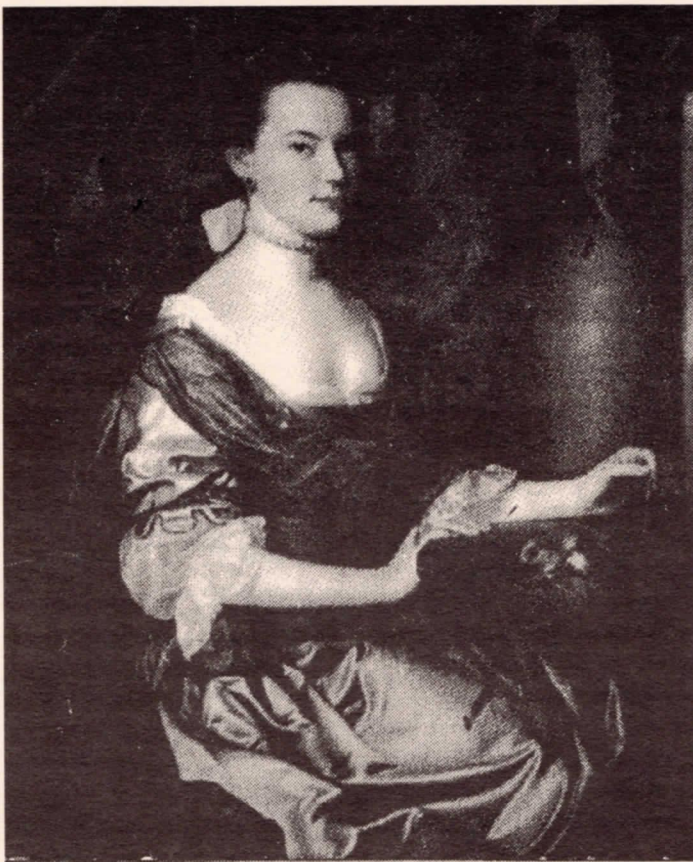
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# The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

## Kinleys bring Frances Wentworth to Government House

*At the request of the Honourable J. James Kinley, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, a copy of a portrait of Lady Frances Wentworth was unveiled by Her Honour Mrs. Grace E. Kinley, Chatelaine of Government House, and Mrs. Elo-kaj Ojamaa, wife of the Consul General of the United States of America in Halifax. What follows is extracted from the Lieutenant Governor's speech:*



*Mrs. Theodore Atkinson, later Lady Frances Wentworth, painted by John Singleton Copley in 1765*

When Grace and I arrived in Government House over five years ago, to be residents here on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in the Province of Nova Scotia, we knew that the first Lieutenant Governor, John Wentworth, had been previously Governor of New Hampshire. We also knew that he had a wife, Lady Frances Wentworth, but not much more than that. We soon learned that this Government House was built during his term, and that its estimated

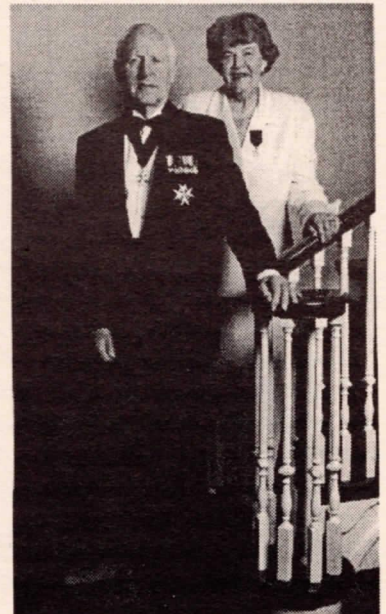
cost of £30,000 was exceeded by more than three times that amount. This caused Governor Wentworth trouble with the Legislature and eventually his term of office was terminated.

Grace had read Thomas Raddall's novel *The Governor's Lady* as one of her first actions when she arrived at Government House. I am not a great reader of fiction, but I am fascinated by history and have become very interested in the history of Government House and of Governor Wentworth and his Chatelaine, Lady Frances. Thomas Raddall's novel, which was based on the life of Lady Wentworth, was written for sale throughout North America, and the author made the most of Lady Wentworth, who was presented as a handsome lady, an elegant hostess and a lady of great political acumen.

I am no authority on the accuracy of these appraisals, but I am endeavouring to become knowledgeable about their activities and accomplishments. I am of the opinion that both Governor Wentworth and Lady Wentworth made a great contribution in both their New Hampshire office and in their Nova Scotia office. Not only did they provide the major driving force to have this Government House built, but they made sure that it

*Continued overleaf*

*His Honour J. James Kinley,  
Lieut. Governor of N.S., and Her  
Honour, Mrs. Grace Kinley*



was the centre of both the government and the social life of the province.

However, while Governor Wentworth's portrait by Hardy has been displayed in Government House throughout the years, no such recognition has been given to Lady Wentworth. We consider this an omission that should be corrected.

John Wentworth was a very active governor and was particularly interested in Nova Scotia's natural resources. This is not surprising, because the Wentworth family was heavily involved in forestry operations and land development for generations in New Hampshire. John Wentworth himself had an arrangement to provide masts for the Royal Navy which was not only lucrative but placed the family in a preferred position in the development of the Colony. We read that Governor Wentworth spent much of his time travelling the province as a surveyor. As you know, the name Wentworth appears in many places in Nova Scotia to this day. He was away from Halifax for long periods of time, during which we read that Lady Wentworth was the leader of society in the Colony and entertained accordingly at Government House. This may have led to her reputation as a 'party girl'. Certainly, this is the way she is represented in Raddall's novel.

John Wentworth's uncle was the Governor of New Hampshire before him, and the family had relations in England with both government and business. This was in the period when problems were arising through rapid development in the American colonies, in population and in industry. At a young age, John Wentworth was sent to England to be a moderating force in political discussions there, as well as to undertake business dealings on behalf of his family. Upon his return from England, he was appointed surveyor of His Majesty's wood and forests in all the colonies of North America. At the same time, he was appointed Governor of New Hampshire.

While in England, Wentworth developed a close relationship with Lord Rockingham, leader of the Whig party in the British Parliament.

In both Britain and America, the opinion is that he played a significant part in the repeal of the hated Stamp Acts. On his return to America, he continued to strive to keep good relations between Britain and the colonists in New Hampshire. However, during his time in England, opinions in America had changed drastically. Wentworth pictured America as the greatest development of the British Empire, while the general feeling in America was that they could do better on their own. Accordingly, Wentworth was forced to leave the Colony, as he thought temporarily, but he never returned.

During our second year in office, a group from the Society of American Colonial Wars visited Government House. They were *en route* to Louisbourg to participate in a re-enactment of the first siege of Louisbourg, when the French fortress was taken by an army from the American colonies led by Massachusetts. This group expressed surprise to see Wentworth's portrait, which they had not seen before, and which they did not know existed. They told us, however, that a portrait of Wentworth's wife hangs in the gallery of the New York Public Library. Our interest was aroused in viewing the portrait of Lady Wentworth. We made two visits to the New York Library, and on the second we saw the portrait of Lady Wentworth painted when she was Mrs. Atkinson. We were impressed not only by the quality of the portrait and the beauty of the subject, but also by the portrait's position in the gallery. It hangs very close to the entrance and only one portrait away from that of General George Washington. Alongside the portrait is posted the provenance of the painting:

*John Singleton Copley (1738-1815) b. America, is indisputably America's first outstanding painter and this portrait of Mrs. Theodore Atkinson is a superb example of his work. A resident of Boston, Copley painted his first portrait at fifteen, one of the 350 he produced before his departure for England in 1774. His clients were well-to-do and Copley's portraits are noted for their frank celebration of the sitter's wealth*

*and social status. Although Copley frequently borrowed poses and costumes from popular engravings, he was a master of line, colour and shape. Through his technical abilities, he created an immediate 'living' presence on the canvas. The daughter of a Boston merchant, Frances Ewing, married her cousin, Theodore Atkinson Jr., Secretary of the Province of New Hampshire in 1761. Widowed at age 24, she married another cousin, John Wentworth, then Governor of New Hampshire. Together they fled to England at the outbreak of the American Revolution. The portrait was acquired in 1872, from a descendant, by John Shufe for his brother-in-law, James Lenox.*

I was immediately convinced that Lady Wentworth's portrait as Mrs. Atkinson was part of Nova Scotian heritage, and that we should have at least a copy of it in Nova Scotia. The gallery in New York provides a copy service, but not to the dimensions of the portrait, which we wanted to be comparable with those of the portrait of her husband.

A correspondence began between myself and the American Consul here, and with Consul General Elo-Kai Ojamaa. At first it seemed that it would be impossible to have some-

*Continued on page 18*



## The Griffin

A quarterly newsletter published by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Deadline for the next issue:

**May 1, 2000**

Submissions to:  
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1333 South Park Street, Halifax,  
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422-6286.  
e-mail: awest@ns.sympatico.ca

The Griffin - Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

# Cobb house at risk

By Carole A. Hartzmann

*Rich in Interest and Charm* not only serves as the title of a book on the architecture of Andrew Randall Cobb, but also describes the lovely setting around Parker's Brook and Cove on Shore Drive, Bedford, in which a cluster of Cobb homes are found.

One of these homes was built in 1912 for J.H. Winfield, who rose through the ranks at MT&T to become both president of the company and of the Telephone Pioneers of America (Acadia Chapter 49), the community service branch of the telephone company established by Alexander Graham Bell.

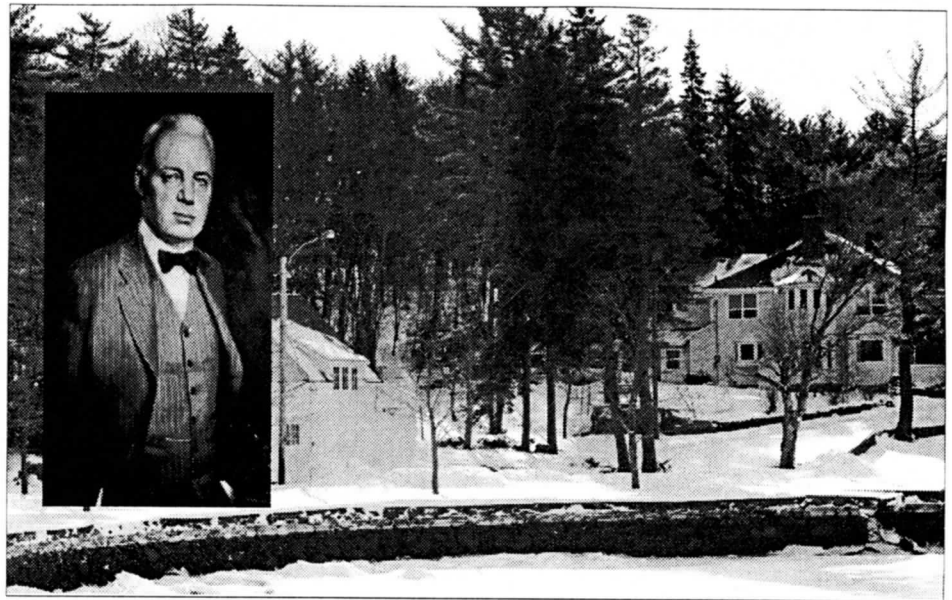
Today, this house is more often referred to as the home of Charles MacCulloch, who founded MacCulloch's Building Supplies, and is featured in Peter C. Newman's, *The Canadian Establishment*.

Andrew Cobb's homes are described by Dr. Jean Muir, who guest curated the 1990 Cobb exhibit at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, as "human structures that any family could move into and live." She adds that "they have stood the test of time both structurally and from a design point of view: Cobb was a craftsman who built good solid structures. That is why they are still in such good condition." Allen Penney, who writes a column on historic homes for the *Sunday Herald*, says that "no other architect in this province has left a body of work like Andrew Cobb."

Cobb's own residences, the first built in 1912 when Bedford was barely a community, are located on Shore Drive. In addition to these, Cobwebs I, II, and III, he designed four other homes on Shore Drive and three nearby.

The first professionally trained architect in Nova Scotia, educated at MIT in Boston and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Cobb was also the first architect east of Montreal to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Today, according to Jean Muir, Cobb homes are in sufficient demand that they seldom come on the open market. Yet, Laurie Stevens, the current owner of the Winfield /  
*March 2000*



141 Shore Drive, Bedford. Inset: J.H. Winfield

MacCulloch home at 141 Shore Drive at Parker's Brook, appears to have been unable to find a buyer for this particular Cobb home with its trademark oak staircase leading to a mezzanine. Instead, he has sold it to developer Peter Ryan, who proposes to raze the house and adjacent buildings, construct a municipal road, and subdivide the 4.6-acre property into 18 lots, half of which are only slightly in excess of the minimum lot size requirement: 6,000 square feet.

The proposed road will enter Shore Drive at a precarious angle creating a four-way intersection at Golf Links Road and adding to existing concerns about blind curves and driveways. Car and truck traffic will be affected, and walkers and runners will be at far greater peril. Half the houses will back on Parker's Cove, a less pleasant view than that found on Long Cove further along the Drive, where three new homes on large, well-treed lots are similarly oriented. Parker's Cove itself, the natural habitat of birds, ducks, swans and other wildlife, including mating seals, will be disturbed by the blasting and potential infilling of water lots which may or may not occur legally. Recent history on Shore Drive shows that once the infill trucks start rolling, the HRM is unable to stop them, permit or no permit.

Councillor Peter Kelly presided over a public information session about this proposed high-density subdivision. on February 9 At it, -

150 concerned residents of Bedford heard representatives of the Development and Planning departments of HRM explain that they were at a preliminary stage in their evaluation of this tentative application for an as-of-right subdivision, but that minimum requirements appear to have been met. The concerns raised at the meeting will, we were told, be addressed before a final decision is made.

Will this application, tentative or otherwise, be approved? We shall soon find out. As-of-right, unfortunately, gives the developer tremendous latitude and very few controls. Preserving heritage properties and old-growth forests as well as conforming with the nature and character of established neighbourhoods are not factored into this equation. Nonetheless, we are encouraged by the support of individuals like Graeme Duffus and the Nova Scotia Association of Architects, who oppose the first (of what we fear may be other) demolitions in this Cobb Home Heritage District.

What means are still available to us to influence this decision? The law, perhaps, but more importantly: public opinion. We need the support of Heritage Trust and the readership of *The Griffin* who share our concern that when the first Cobb home in Bedford is demolished, others will soon follow. Please share your opinions on this matter with Councillor Peter Kelly at 490-4050.

# City Rambles:

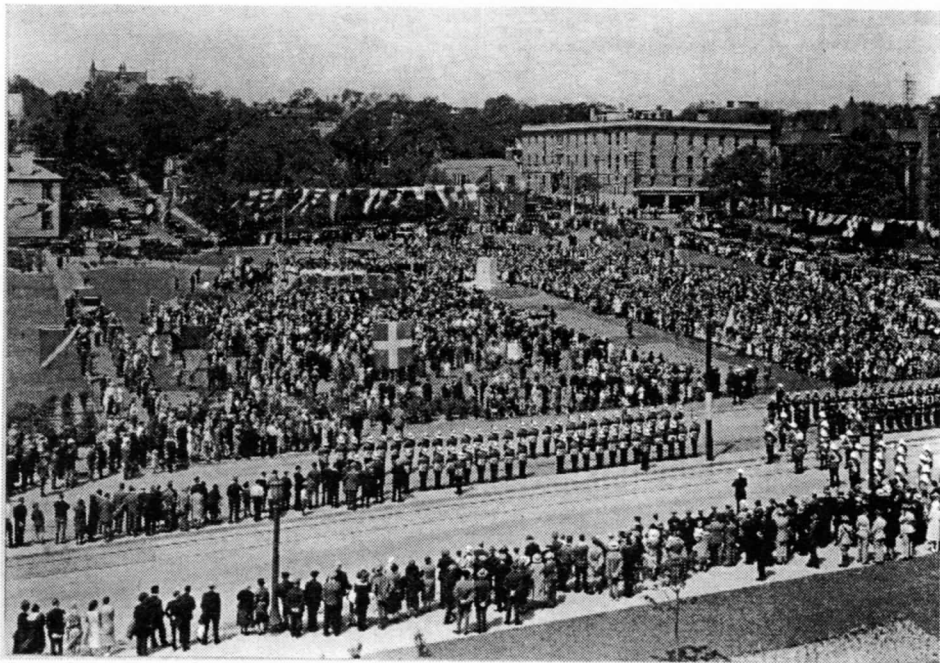
## Cornwallis Square: a park at risk

By Garry Shutlak

In 1929, the Canadian National Railways built the Nova Scotian Hotel (now the Westin) at the south end of Hollis Street, adjoining the railway station, which had been opened in 1916. To insure the visibility of its handsome new structure, the CNR demolished all the buildings on the south side of South Street and the east side of Barrington Street and created Station Park (now known as Cornwallis Square). To complete the park they extended Hollis Street south.

In 1931, the city was in the throes of the Depression. It was decided that a public project should be carried out which, though modest in scale, would have maximum visibility and boost city pride and confidence. It was decided to honour the founder of the city. With this in mind a committee was struck including the Honourable Gordon S. Harrington, Premier of Nova Scotia, honorary chairman; Dougald MacGillivray, chairman; Dr. Archibald MacMechan; Charles H. Wright, treasurer; Mayors Louis A. Gastonguay (1928-1930) and George E. Ritchie (1931); Peter R. Jack, William R. Fitzmaurice and W. U. Appleton. They were assisted and encouraged in their endeavour by Sir Henry W. Thornton, President of the Canadian National Railway. The committee appealed to the institutions and citizens of Halifax and to former citizens living elsewhere. In all they received more than \$20,000 in subscriptions.

With the money in hand, the committee commissioned noted sculptor Massey Rhind (1880-1936) to produce the statue. Mr. Rhind summered in Chester, N.S. and was responsible for the War Memorials at Chester, Halifax and New Glasgow. The statue is a nine-foot bronze of the Honourable Edward Cornwallis on a Nova Scotia granite base. It was unveiled with great fanfare at 11 a.m. on Natal Day, June 22, 1931, by Sir Joseph Chisholm, Chief Justice and Administrator of the province during



*Crowds gathered for the unveiling of the Honourable Edward Cornwallis monument, June 22, 1931e*

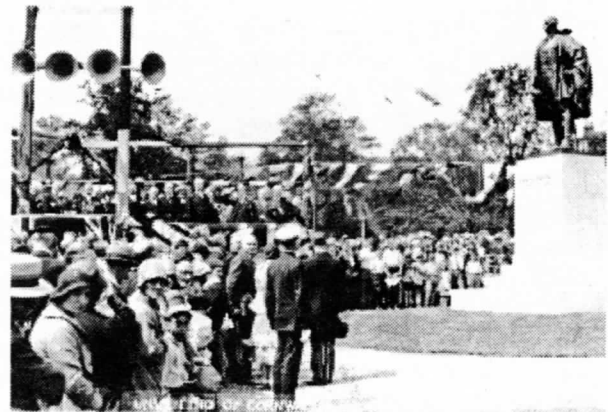
the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Frank Stanfield. The monument was subsequently made a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

In 1968, the railway gave permission to the Morris Project to use a portion of the park as a playground for underprivileged children. This guaranteed that all children living in the district had a playground near at hand.

In 1992, a monument was erected in the northeast section of the park by the Ukrainian Congress of Canada to commemorate the Ukrainians who began coming to Canada in 1891/92 looking for a better life. Bread, salt and an embroidered towel are held by a female figure, and depict part of a traditional Ukrainian welcome representing life. The two draped Canadian flags of 1891 and 1991 represent the marriage of the past and present in their new country, Canada.

Last year the park was offered to the City at fair market value by Canada Lands, the real estate arm of Public Works Canada. The City declined the offer. All citizens should be concerned in case this property is

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*Cornwallis unveiled*



*Lord and Lady Cornwallis on a visit to Halifax, October 8, 1931  
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# Halifax home of printers and publishers

by Joan Dawson

One of the lesser known features of Halifax's past is that it was the site of the first printing press established in what is now Canada. Joseph Howe's name is familiar to all of us, but he was by no means the first of the many printers and publishers who established themselves in Halifax before the end of the 19th century.

In August 1751, barely two years after the foundation of Halifax, Bartholomew Green came here from Boston bringing with him a wooden press and some type. Unfortunately, Green died only six weeks after arriving in Halifax, but his place was taken immediately by his former partner in Boston, John Bushell. His printing office was located on Grafton Street, just north of Duke, and was chiefly supported by work for the government, together with the publication of a newspaper for the citizens of the new settlement. The *Halifax Gazette*, the first newspaper to be published in Canada, appeared on March 23, 1752.

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

The 19th century saw a rapid growth in printing, publishing and related trades in Halifax. Local writers and organizations were producing books and periodicals, and the public was buying them. This

activity seems to have peaked at about the time of Confederation, and in 1868-69, Halifax's heyday in the book trades, there were 19 printing and publishing offices, 12 booksellers and stationers, seven bookbinders, two engravers and one lithographer in downtown Halifax. This activity dwindled towards the end of the century, when firms in Montreal and Toronto began to take much of the publishing trade away from the Maritimes, as authors sought distribution to a wider audience.

Most of this productivity was taking place between the Grand Parade and the harbour, along Barrington, Granville and Hollis streets, and on Sackville, George and Prince. Joseph Howe's *Novascotian* was printed on Lower Prince Street, where a plaque on the historic Chronicle Building commemorates his career as a printer and publisher as well as politician. Over the years, some 60 downtown sites were occupied—not all at the same time, of course—by printers, publishers, bookbinders and related businesses, before the end of the 19th century.

These 19th-century printers used equipment and methods which had changed relatively little since the days of Gutenberg. Wooden presses were replaced by iron ones, and their design became more efficient. But type was still set by hand, one letter at a time, and transferred to presses into which paper was fed one sheet at a time and imprinted. Technological changes gradually came about towards the end of the century, with the invention of rotary presses and mechanical typesetting. These were chiefly used for newspaper production, but most Halifax printers continued to set type by hand and print on traditional presses until well into the second half of the 20th century.

It was at this time that new developments such as offset lithography and, later, computerized printing became widespread in the industry. Printers gradually replaced their old equipment in the interest of efficiency, but were often reluctant to scrap it. This is how a collection of

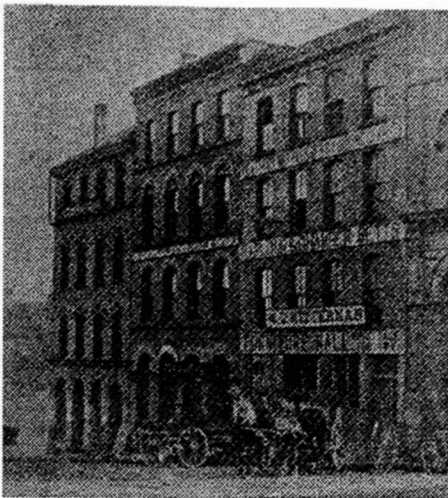


The first issue of The Halifax Gazette, the first newspaper printed in Canada, March 23, 1752

traditional presses and many cases of type generously provided by Halifax printers ended up in the printshop established by Professor Robert Dawson, of Dalhousie's English Department, in the basement of the Killam library.

Here the equipment has been used since the 1970s by students from Dalhousie, NSCAD and elsewhere to study traditional typesetting and printing methods. Bob Dawson and Fred Matthews constructed a replica

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DAWSON PRINTSHOP

*The Dawson Printshop is a centre  
for practical and artistic  
printing and bookbinding*

*To join this group and/or receive  
information about courses and  
workshops, contact*

Joan Dawson  
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e-mail address  
jdawson@chebucto.ns.ca



## Heritage Canada Foundation

*Brenda Shannon, the new Nova Scotia Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation, has kindly agreed to give us a regular update on the concerns she is dealing with.*



### Heritage needs tax break

In recent years, The Heritage Canada Foundation has been pressing for more favourable tax treatment of our built heritage by all levels of government, but in particular the federal government which it is felt should lead the way. There are two measures the Foundation would like to see adopted federally. The first is more favourable tax treatment of the costs associated with the restoration of heritage buildings. This would serve as an incentive to encourage responsible restoration activities. Examples of such tax incentives are in effect elsewhere. Surely it is time for Canada to adopt such measures nationwide.

The second measure Heritage Canada is seeking is the elimination of capital gains payable on the donation of a heritage property to the state or one of its designated institutions. As it stands, the donor of a heritage property could be given a tax receipt for the value of the property to be applied against income, but would then be hit with a capital gains tax on the amount the value of the property had increased during the period of ownership. This obviously is a major disincentive to the donation of heritage property. Its removal would encourage the preservation of heritage buildings by way of donation to suitable organisations. Donations of works of art and artifacts are eligible for complete exemption from capital gains if approved by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board. It is, then, encouraging that this fiscal year the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, in its pre-budget report to the Minister of Finance, recommended that gifts of both ecologically sensitive lands and heritage properties be deemed eligible for a reduction to fifty per cent of the rate for capital gains. This is an encouraging step in the right direction. A complete

exemption would of course have been more persuasive and Heritage Canada will continue to press the federal government to treat donations of works of art, artifacts and heritage property equally for capital gains purposes.

### Thornvale for sale?

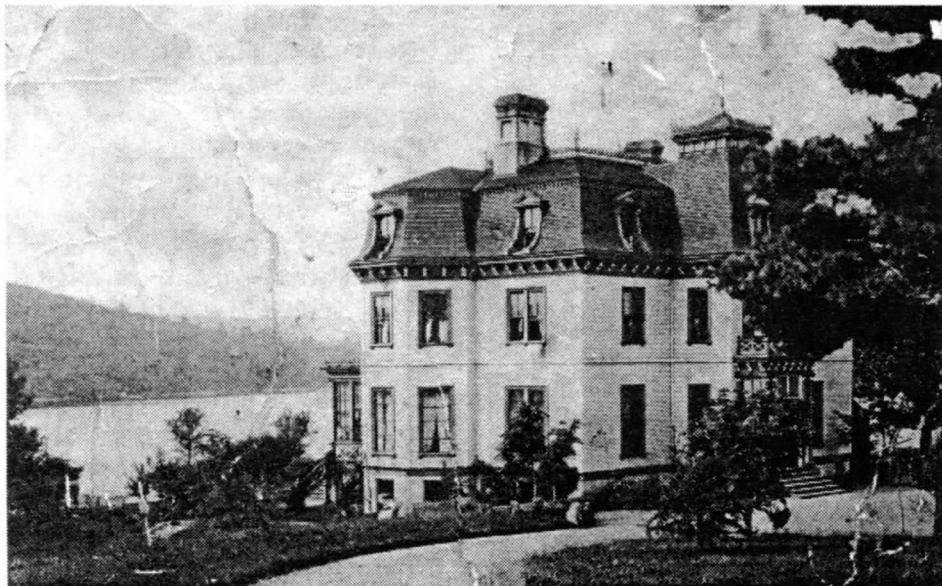
Thornvale, a federally-owned heritage property in Halifax, is an imposing Second Empire style house on the shores of the North West Arm and is one of the earliest examples of its kind in Canada. It was built in 1868-69 by T. E. Kenny, a prominent businessman, Member of Parliament and advisor on financial matters to the Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. It is recognised as a rare example of its type owned by the federal government. Although it has been altered over the years, the house is in generally sound condition and could be restored to its former splendour. In later years the property was purchased by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and in 1984 was given Recognised status by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office. Unfortunately this status provides very little protection for the building if it is sold. Now that

the federal government is considering selling the property, the Heritage Canada Foundation and Heritage Trust and others strongly believe that the house should be given continued heritage protection in the event it is sold to private interests. If the lands were to be subdivided, any future development should be sympathetic to the heritage character of the house.

Last November, The Heritage Canada Foundation wrote to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and the Commissioner of the RCMP urging federal action to secure Thornvale as a heritage property. Public Works in its reply has said that officials of its Atlantic Regional office would work with RCMP "H" division to explore various options for heritage protection of this important house and assured the Foundation that its concerns about the property would be recognised in these discussions. In her reply, the Minister of Canadian Heritage said that should the property be sold, the federal government could impose heritage protection on the house itself, but not the entire property. This is an issue we will continue to monitor.

### Working together

I would like to thank the editor of *The Griffin* for providing this space for Heritage Canada to keep its readers up to date on the organization's work in the interests of built heritage in Nova Scotia and nationally.





## Doris's Column: *Memories of summer—1999 Chester house and garden tour*

We began our tour with the boat trip around spectacular Mahone Bay to get a close-up look at some of

the many islands and a glimpse of Chester's secluded summer estates spreading along the slopes above the water, unseen from the landward side. Several of the islands now privately owned are no longer accessible to local people. The early morning fog had cleared, the sun shone and a cheerful host pointed out the homes of 'the rich and famous'.

After the Harbour Tour, we set off for our first stop—the **Mills-Zinck House**, 60 Central Street. The neat little map in the Tour area program with every street named and house position shown, would have been more productive if the streets themselves had been named. Hilary asked directions of several people: two were strangers themselves, two weren't certain, the fifth knew the right road but didn't direct us far enough up the hill.

The Mills-Zinck House, a one-and-a-half storey pitched roof, Cape style home, was built c.1840 by Charles Saunders, a farmer. Since then the house has changed hands several times to owners from all walks of life. In 1875 when John Webber added the rear ell it was found that the back wall of the original structure was constructed of solid timbers laid down horizontally—a solid wall of wood! During the time of Captain David Mills, (1890-1923) the upstairs floor of the ell was used as a sail loft. Recent restoration includes many of the original features, such as the hand-adzed ceiling beams in the living room, nicely offset by pale woodwork and white paint. A very elegant home.

Caught in a short, sharp, squall shower just as we finished our brown bag lunch, we headed for the car and **Our Haven**, 66 Tremont Street, a single-storey log cabin built c.1933 by Windsor carpenters for Ida McNeil as a summer cottage for the entertain-

*March 2000*

ment of her friends. The present owner, Brad Armstrong, bought the house in 1977 and has filled it and the yard with an eclectic assortment of memorabilia from the 1930s-40s, including several Macaskill photographs. Although the window and door are over-shadowed by an extended roof above an open deck, the living room receives plenty of natural light from a large window in the roof. Warmth is provided by a huge cast iron stove in the centre of the room.

Among the memorabilia are old framed photographs of the bay before houses crowded the shoreline. Fading sepia snapshots commemorate four Norwegian sailors wrecked off the coast during the Second World War, who stayed at "Our Haven" to recuperate. One snap shows the four men outside the cabin, one with an accordion. In 1997, the accordion player, then 89 years old, came to Brad's looking for the 'right house'—hard to find as the once-solitary cabin on a bare hillside pasture is now surrounded by nice homes with manicured lawns on heavily treed lots. The visitor, who brought his accordion with him, wanted to see the place one more time.

**Gray Gables**, 19 Graves Island Road, is a recent addition to the area, an attractive B.& B. built and owned by Jeanette and David Tomsett. Decor throughout is silver grey and maroon. Originally planned as a small retirement home, it seems, like Topsy, to have 'just growned'. It started from scratch in 1991 with trees cut from the property, and milled in the sawmill specially constructed to do the job. Much of the work was done by the Tomsetts themselves, resulting five years later in a two-storey building featuring a central gable flanked by smaller inset gables, and a wrap-around verandah supported by distinctive wooden pillars extending from ground level to the Dutch colonial sloped roof. The centre core and stairs are open space, and every room has a stunning view over Graves Island and Mahone Bay.

Anecdotal history claims that the **Marriet-Kirby House**, 165 Marriott's

Cove Road East, was built in Maine, c1775, and brought to Marriott's Cove by United Empire Loyalists in 1796. It is now owned by Maggie Mullally, lover of pretty things and antique furniture. An arched alcove above the trap door to the cellar provides lighted shelf space for treasures; the trap door itself is now a table top which can be raised horizontally to provide extra space for party fare.

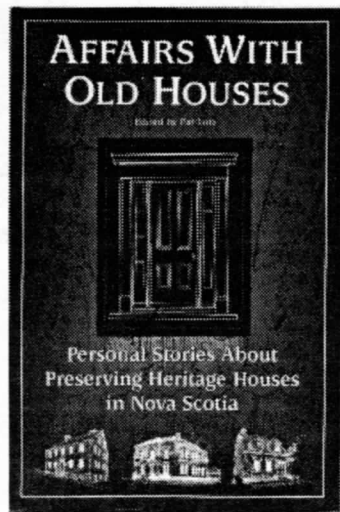
During the early 1980s, extensive restoration was carried out by then owner, Bonita Kirby, and in the mid-80s a kitchen was built conforming in style and scale to the original house. Typical of 18th-century settlers' homes are the wide-plank pine wainscoting in the living and dining rooms, the pine floors and open-hearth fireplace. The original plaster has been preserved, as have many blown-glass window panes and the transom light above a 'Christian door'. The 6-over-6 windows are small and uncurtained.

Just beyond the house is an interesting old barn, converted in the 1960s into a studio and loft bedroom by Emily Cook, who also designed the English-style country garden. The house on its large landscaped lot is quite a long walk up from the road; on our way back we found it easier and quicker to cut through the garden and a hole in the hedge.

**Calm Waters**, the Grove House at 24 Freda's Hill Road on the Peninsula is a low, two-storey country house with three dormer windows lighting the bedrooms. It was built about the turn of the century by George Zell of Baltimore, Maryland. The Grove family first came to Chester from St. Louis, Missouri, in the 1920s and decided to build a summer house on Big Gooseberry Island. After renting for several years, in 1928 they purchased "Calm Waters" with the intention of selling it once the island home was completed. When Mr. Grove died suddenly in 1934, Mrs. Grove decided to remain at "Calm Waters", which has been the Grove family summer home ever since.

The original house probably comprised the portion facing Back

*Continued overleaf*  
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### Heritage: a personal perspective

Have you purchased your copy of *Affairs with Old Houses*, the Trust's most recent publication? Edited by Pat Lotz, and 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. In addition to 15 buildings owned by individuals, the book includes a chapter on Richmond Hill Farm, the old house in Windsor bequeathed to Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia by the late Helen Macdonald. Available from bookstores, or phone the trust office: 423-4807/

## Heritage Trust Launches Website

by Ann Marie Duggan

Since we are now into the year 2000, we felt it important to keep up with today's technology. And so, with the help of website designer Dean Collier, we are now on-line. It is hoped that the Website will help us reach more people around the province and beyond.

The site has various pages, including a membership page with mail-in membership form and a book list with mail-in order form. The "Contact Us" page allows people to E-mail directly to the Trust Office. The schedule for our ongoing "Lecture series" as well as a brief outline of the Trust's "Recent Activities" should keep us all informed. The site will be continuously updated.

The Website address is

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/heritage.trust>

### Doris: cont. from page 7

Harbour, and according to a 1910 photograph, included the kitchen wing. The downstairs bedroom was added as a maid's quarters in the 1930s, and the main boathouse converted to a guest cottage in 1960.

A large comfortable room off the back entrance has an open hearth fireplace, and across the centre of the room placed back to back, four wide wooden armchairs and footstools. The living room has gaily striped curtains and cushions of primrose yellow and bright blue. The dining room table was set with blue-edged white china, and in the kitchen, blue kitchenware decorate the white shelves. In an adjoining room wallpaper sprinkled with mauvy-blue convolvulus has a matching frieze. The white and pale blue theme continues through the bedrooms with

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their snowy quilts and pretty touches like the blue/white china on a breakfast tray placed casually on the bed in the master bedroom.

The old boathouse, now a cosy guest room, colourful with white, yellow and blue curtains and cushions, is a little gem. The gardens, designed by Mrs. E.W.Grove were maintained by Mr. Scott Rutherford of Chester until his retirement in 1978. Although the kitchen and cutting gardens are no longer there, the basic design and many original plantings can still be seen. Sadly, the towering spruce trees which once framed the property succumbed to disease and were removed some years ago. In 1992, after raccoons had inhabited the attic for several years, the second storey walls and wiring were completely rebuilt on the

original plan.

James and Dudley Grove are a friendly, energetic, welcoming couple who willingly answered our many questions. Dudley was responsible for the decor and artistic touches. James hospitably offered drives up and down the long path to the mainland and our parked cars. "Calm Waters" is a happy house, and our favourite of this tour.

Time ran out, and although we managed to squeeze in much needed refreshment of afternoon tea in Saint Stephen's Anglican Church Hall, this time we were not able to take in the tour of the church itself before heading back to Halifax. A most enjoyable day, thanks to Hilary who gathered and organized us.

The Griffin - Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia



## Book presentation at Government House

On November 30, members of HTNS' Publications Committee visited Government House to present a copy of *Affairs with Old Houses* to His Honour J. James Kinley, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Mr. Kinley wrote the introduction to the book, which is the Trust's most recent publication.

During the visit, the Kinleys gave committee members an extensive tour of the house, including the royal suite and many other areas not normally shown to the public.

The building is the oldest government house in North America. It is also one of the oldest residences in Halifax. Its cornerstone was laid in September 1800 and HTNS has asked that the 200th anniversary of this date be marked.



L to R: Pat Lotz, Chair, Arthur Carter, Barbara Watt, Joan Dawson, Her Honour, Mrs. Grace Kinley, John Crace, His Honour, J. James Kinley, John Lazier, HTNS President

# Thank you!



Remember June 2, 1994

With your help, the fund to restore Saint George's Round church has reached \$4.6 million. We can now complete the restoration and install a fine new organ in the Round church.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and its members have been among the most faithful and generous supporters of this enormous project. How can we ever thank you enough?

Anne West, Campaign Chair



## This Old House

*David and Barb Schofield tell the saga of restoring their dream home in Truro*

In 1982 we purchased a huge Victorian building on Queen Street in Truro. Built around 1880, this gracious house adds much to the beauty of one of Truro's oldest streets. The builder was William J. Kent, owner of a lucrative wood and coal business in the 1890s.

Some time in 1927, the house was converted to a set of flats. When we first saw it, the roof was leaking, the stone foundation crumbling, letting in both water and mice. Plumbing, heating and electrical systems were outdated and the chimneys falling apart. We were charmed, however, by the spacious rooms with high ceilings and wide mouldings, patterned hardwood floors, golden oak finish work, three ornate fireplaces, seven sunny bay windows, a pressed tin ceiling, and original bath features.

It was when we found, hidden in the attic, numerous photos of the house taken around 1900 that we seriously decided to restore it. The photos showed the original narrow clapboards, fancy trim work and a lovely wrap-around verandah.

The initial years were spent doing necessary maintenance and extensive research on Victorian architecture. We subscribed to the *Old House Journal* and immersed ourselves in various publications and magazines, looking for ideas and materials. We visited historic homes in the Maritimes and in the United States, from Cape May, N.J., to San Francisco.

We knew that to restore, maintain and heat 3,900 square feet of living space, we would have to derive some income from it, so the upstairs apartment was redone first. Walls were plastered, woodwork repaired and floors refinished. Various young couples and singles have occupied the apartment over the years. In 1998, we redecorated, and furnished the apartment in period furniture and now rent it as an executive house-keeping suite.

The foundation came next. We had intended to repair the old one,

*The Griffin - Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*

## Two heritage plaques in Digby County

### Cheney-Lynyak house

On November 23, 1999, Trust member Mary Lynyak's 90-year-old home in Little River, Digby Neck, received a plaque as part of the Municipality of the District of Digby's Heritage Property Program. Taking part in the ceremony were municipal warden Dave Irvine, deputy warden Helen Robinson and councillor Jim Thurber.

The only remaining grand Victorian house left in the village of Little River, Mary's home is a fine example of wealth resulting from the prosperous shipping trade that once existed along the Neck shoreline. It was built in 1910 by Captain Darryl Cheney, who moved to the area from Grand Manan and married a local woman named Gertrude Trask (an event recorded in the Genealogy book of Deborah Trask, a curator at Nova Scotia Museum).

Captain Cheney made his living as a merchant buying and selling fish to the United States and Maritime markets. All the materials for the house were brought from across the Bay of Fundy, but the style of the house and materials used suggest to Mary that its inspiration was from Portland, Maine, rather than Saint John, New Brunswick.

The Captain, "a Yankee trader who never lost out on a deal," was admired and highly respected for his trading ability, but by some accounts not always loved, at least according to three speakers at the ceremony

Page 10

who had known him or heard stories about him!



### Oddfellows Hall

The Westport Community Hall was also plaqued in 1999. The hall was built in 1909 by the Independent Order of Oddfellows to serve Juanita Lodge 81.

It was built from lumber salvaged from the Norwegian barque *Aurora*, which struck a ledge off Cow Cove, Brier Island. She was carrying one million feet of lumber bound from Saint John for Buenos Aires. Captain and crew were saved, and most of the cargo was salvaged and sold to the Oddfellows for \$1,300. The upper floor still has the original collapsible wooden chairs bolted to the floor in a horseshoe formation.

In 1981, the hall was sold by the Oddfellows to the village commissioners of Westport and has since been used as a community centre.

but found that the rear ell, which houses the kitchen, had a six-inch sag and was pulling away from the main structure. The bay windows, built with no foundations, were also moving. Harold Hiltz, his crew and heavy equipment moved in November 1, 1986, and just days before Christmas we had a new nine-foot concrete foundation with 26 corners, an outside entrance and a poured floor. We also had a new chimney, one having fallen apart during the construction, a completely destroyed yard and huge piles of mud everywhere.

Old flowering shrubs and ferns were moved to the side yard and could only be replanted after the original brick that faced the old foundation was removed, cleaned and re-applied to the new foundation. Miraculously, they now thrive in their original location.

The new basement now provided much-needed work space in which to assemble and paint the verandah components, clapboards and exterior trim work. It also housed the architectural antiques we had collected for this project, including 50 eave brackets. Doug had rescued the brackets from a lovely Queen Street house that was demolished for a parking lot. They were exact copies of those removed from our home.

The exterior work was completed in 1997. This included removal of the asbestos siding and installation of new pine clapboard. All original trim work had been removed or damaged when siding was installed, so each piece had to be reproduced, painted and installed. The front door pediment, carved and painted by local artist Bruce Wood, was the crowning glory!

The interior restoration has presented its own challenges. The kitchen needed major work. Researching early kitchens, we found cupboards as we know them today did not exist until 1925 (similar to those in our old kitchen). Using these as a model, Doug built custom cabinets with five-piece doors, china cupboards, and wood counter tops.

The front hallway was the next  
March 2000



*The house in 1999, lovingly restored*



*1910 photograph*



*As the Schofields bought it in 1982. Note the lack of verandah*



*High Victorian dining room*

largest interior project. The non-original walls were removed and replastered. The stairs, railings, trim work and intricate hardwood floor-

ing were repaired and refinished. Doors and woodwork were given a new *faux* finish. The original newel

*Continued on page 18*

# Programs sponsored by other societies

Many of the following organizations have fax or e-mail. To obtain numbers or addresses, please contact the group concerned by telephone.

## **Amherst Township Historical Society**

Meets monthly at Cumberland Co. Museum, 150 Church St., Amherst. Times/details: (902) 667-2561

### Tuesday, March 28

Days of the Stagecoach  
Speaker: E. Thompson

### Tuesday, April 25

To be confirmed. Historic Homes of Nova Scotia

### Tuesday, May 30

Annual General Meeting  
Program: Pressed Glass and Royal Memorabilia.  
Speaker: John Moss  
Launching of Millenium Book

## **Bedford Heritage Society**

Meets alternate months, Saturdays, 7.30 p.m. at The Teachery, 9 Spring Street, Bedford. Contact Marvin Silver: 835-0317

### Saturday, March 25

Program by residents of the Town of Bedford

### Saturday, May 13

Annual General Meeting and election of officers. Program TBA

## **Calligraphy Guild of Nova Scotia**

Meets 7 to 9 p.m., third Monday of the month. Details, venue: Les de Wit, 835-0508 or John Peake, 425-4128

## **Canadian Authors Association, N.S. Branch**

Meets 2 p.m. fourth Saturday of the month, September to June, at PANS, 6106 University Avenue, Halifax  
Contact: Evelyn Isaacs 466-2558

## **Charles Macdonald Concrete House**

19 Saxon Street, Centreville, N.S.  
Contact Stephen Slipp, 455-0133

### Sunday, March 19, 2-4 p.m.

Gardening in Nova Scotia  
Seaker: Tim Amos

### Tuesday, March 21, 7.30 p.m.

Centreville Community Hall  
AGM and election of officers

### Sunday, March 26, 12-noon to 3 p.m.

Admirals Brunch, fundraiser, at The Press Gang restaurant, Prince Street, Halifax, \$50 plate, music entertainment, silent auction

### Sunday, April 23

Kentville Sanatorium  
Speaker: Don Ripley

### Sunday, May 28

Apple Blossom Weekend Open House

## **Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum**

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth  
Special March break programs for school children aged 9-12 years.  
Cost: \$75 for the week. Contact: Elizabeth Courser, 434-0222

### Sunday, May 14, 2-4 p.m.

Mothers Day tea, contact 434-0222

## **Costume Society of Nova Scotia**

Meets 7.30 p.m. third Monday of the month, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax

### Monday, March 20

Unreasonable dress in the age of reason. Speaker: Dr. Janina Konczacki, Professor of History (Ret.)

### Saturday, May 6

Annual General Meeting  
Time and program TBA.  
Contact: Estelle Lalonde, 429-0790

### Spring rummage sale.

If you have any unwanted items that you would be willing to donate, phone 429-0790

## **Cumberland County Museum**

150 Church Street, Amherst, N.S.  
Contact: (902) 667-2561

### Saturday, March 4

Mardi Gras Dinner

### Friday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Opening of exhibit *Picture This*, photographers of Tantramar Marsh  
Runs March 17 to May 1

### Friday, May 12, 7 p.m.

Opening of exhibit *Open Art*. Runs May 15 to July 1

### Saturday, May 20

Plant sale

## **Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society**

Museum winter hours, Wednesday through Saturday, 1.30 to 5 p.m.

### Feb. 17 to March 19

George Craig: The Entrepreneurial Artist. Works depicting Dartmouth and beyond

### March 23 to April 23

Mayflower Quilters

### April 27 to May 21

Alderney Stitchers and Rainbow Needlecraft

## **Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage**

For details of workshops and training sessions, contact 423-4677

## **Fort Sackville Foundation/ Scott Manor House**

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford.  
Programs, exhibitions, special events, contact: 832-2336 or Ann McVicar 835-5368

## **Genealogy Association of Nova Scotia**

Meets 7.30 to 9.30 p.m., Akins Room, PANS, 6106 University Avenue, Halifax.

### Tuesday, March 21

Touring 250 years of architecture in Halifax. Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Pacey

### Tuesday, April 25

Camp Norway: A Nova Scotian-Norwegian WWII History  
Speakers: Victor and Berit Pittman, translators of the book *Somewhere on the Coast of Canada*, by Jostein Kjelsrud

## **Lunenburg World Heritage Site**

Saturday/Sunday, March 25/26  
Lunenburg Heritage Home Show at  
Community Centre. Details page 14

## **Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society**

Meets 7 p.m., fourth Wednesday of  
the month, Maritime Museum of the  
Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street,  
Halifax. Contact 424-7490

### Wednesday, March 22

Saving Coffin Island Lighthouse. Its  
history and how a small community  
worked to save it

### Wednesday, April 26

7 p.m. Annual General Meeting  
8.15 p.m. Program:

Lighthouses of Newfoundland.  
Speaker: David J. Molloy, author *First  
Landfall: Historic Lighthouses of  
Newfoundland and Labrador*.

### Monday-Friday, May 29-June 2

International Lighthouse Conference  
Hosted by South Shore Tourist  
Association, White Point Lodge near  
Liverpool, N.S. Internationally  
recognized speakers, panel discuss-  
ions, trade show, keeper's evening  
with story-telling, lighthouse tours,  
and *Light Along the Shore*, festival  
activities at lighthouses along  
Lighthouse Route. Details: 424-7490.

## **Poetry Society of N.S.**

Meets 2 p.m., third Saturday of the  
month, September to June, at PANS,  
6106 University Avenue, Halifax.  
Contact: Daphne Faulkner, 423-5330

## **Rockingham Heritage Society**

For details of monthly meetings,  
programs and events, contact:  
Caroline Macdonald, 443-4812.

## **Royal N.S. Historical Soc.**

### Thurs., March 23, 6 for 6.30 p.m.

Annual Dinner Meeting, St George's  
Church Hall, Maitland St., Halifax.  
Reservations please. Contact David  
Flemming, 455-2400. Program: Robert  
Falconer, Sidney Smith and Kathleen  
Russell. Conflict among three Nova  
Scotians at the University of Toronto  
over Rockefeller money.  
Speaker: John Farley

March 2000

# **The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia**

## **Special lecture series**

### *The 21st century views the past*

Unless otherwise stated, meetings of Heritage Trust of Nova  
Scoti are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m.  
in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Sum-  
mer Street, Halifax. Parking in the two museum parking lots and  
across Bell Road at the Vocational School. Info: 423-4807.

### Thursday, March 16

#### **Dougheads and Damn Fools; A.C. Hawkings as Mayor of Halifax, 1918-1919**

Speaker: Dr. Henry Roper, King's College (Ret.)

### Thursday, April 13 (Note change of date and venue)

#### **Fort Massey United Church, corner of Queen and Tobin streets Fashions and Fantasies in Nova Scotia's Historic Buildings**

Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Pacey, author *Landmarks: Historic Build-  
ings of Nova Scotia*. Refreshments courtesy the Minister and  
Board of the Church

### Thursday, May 18

#### **Silver in Nova Scotia**

Speaker: Mr. Scott Robson, Curator, History Collection, Nova  
Scotia Museum

### Thursday, June 22, (Note change of time and venue)

7 p.m.: Annual General Meeting, venue to be announced

#### **8 p.m. Wedgewood in Nova Scotia**

Speaker: Dr. Marie Elwood, former Curator of History, Nova  
Scotia Museum.

### Wednesday, April 19, 7.30 p.m.

PANS, 6106 University Ave., Halifax  
"Horte ich Dass..." Travels of a  
Rhineland in Nova Scotia in 1807  
Speaker: Terry Punch

### Wednesday, May 24, 7.30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting. Legislative  
Council Chambers, Province House  
Program: Yorkshire Settlement  
Beyond Chignecto  
Speaker: William Hamilton

## **Society for the Protection of Truro Heritage Properties**

Meets second Wednesday of the  
month, Ryans IGA Building on Inglis  
Place. Contact John MacElhiney, (902)  
895-0444

## **Yarmouth County Historical Society**

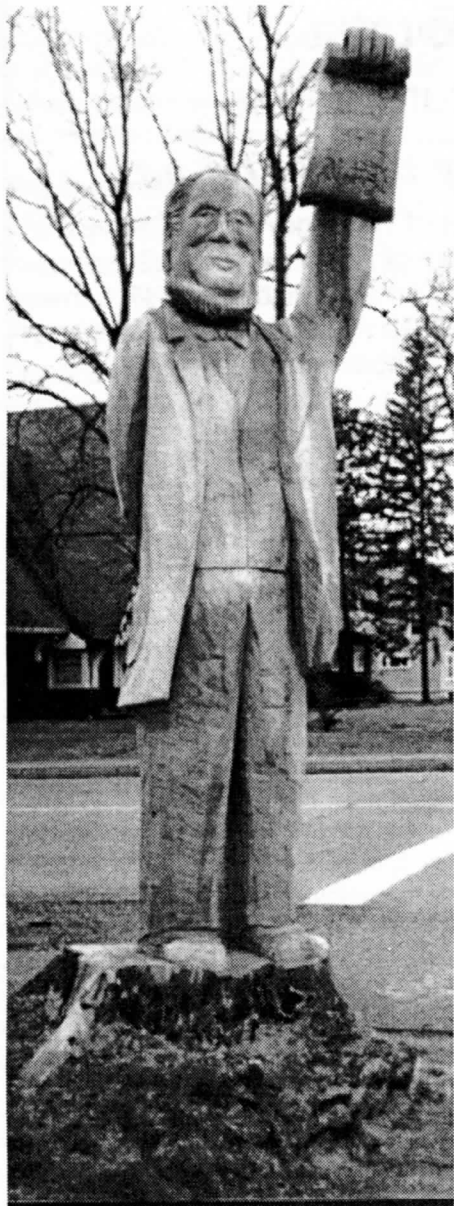
22 Collins Street, Yarmoth, contact  
(902) 742-5539. Meetings 7.30 p.m.,  
first Friday of the month. Visitors  
welcome. Armchair Travel Programs  
7 p.m., second Tuesdays of the  
month. Admission \$3  
For information on Yarmouth County  
Museum and Archives events,  
exhibitions, etc. contact Eric Ruff,  
(902) 742-5539.

### Saturday, March 4, 7.30 p.m.

Teatime theatre, *When Shakespeare's  
Ladies Meet*. A benefit performance  
for the museum expansion fund.  
Admission \$8 includes tea. For details  
see page 15.

# New life out of dead trees

Extracted from an article in the Truro Daily News by Don Cameron, with permission



Due to an unusual increase in Dutch Elm Disease in Truro during 1999, and in an effort to decrease the chance of further spread of the disease, a total of 270 elms throughout the town will be cut this winter. In an average year, the Town of Truro has 40 to 70 diseased trees which must be cut and disposed of. The dramatic increase in trees lost this year is believed to be due to the unusually mild 1998-99 winter, and three dry years causing drought stress. Also, this past year a new, more virulent strain of the disease has appeared, which has had a more immediate and dramatic effect on infected elms.

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So, to turn a negative situation into a more positive one, and at the same time celebrate the rich heritage of Truro, the Tree Committee approached Town Council with the idea of creating a series of large tree sculptures to commemorate some aspect of Truro's past. The idea was supported by Town Council, and an inaugural sculpture was created in front of Town Hall: the figure of Sir Adams Archibald, a Truro native with a colourful and historically significant past.

Archibald served as Lieutenant Governor in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories under Sir John A. Macdonald; represented Nova Scotia in formulating the British North America Act; was Truro's Father of Confederation and, in 1867, Secretary of State in Macdonald's first Dominion government. Also, it is thought that his skill and tact helped in settling the Red River uprisings of 1869, which resulted in the creation of the Province of Manitoba.

Sculptor Albert Deveau has created, with a simple chain saw, over a thousand sculptures in North America and Europe. He researched the background and available photographs of Archibald to gain an understanding and image of the man he would 'release' from the tree stem. He transformed the tree into the likeness of Sir Archibald in four days. If it had not been for delays due to dozens of hidden nails and spikes struck during the cutting process, the work would have been completed in three days. Mr. Deveau will return in the summer to do fine sanding and finishing work, fill any cracks that may occur during the drying process and cover the entire surface with an oil stain.

Depending on size and complexity, prices of these statues vary from \$1500 to \$2500; the projected cost for 10 to 12 such sculptures has been estimated at \$30,000, and Council has applied for financial support from the Federal Millennium Partnership Fund. If the application is successful, this would pay one third of the cost.



Sir Adams Archibald in court attire

The recent Archibald project was a co-operative effort made possible by many helpful and generous patrons. Fred Bitar, owner of the Stonehouse Motel and Restaurant, provided free room and meals to Mr. Deveau; Central Rentals provided free scaffolding, and Sproule Lumber (J.D. Irving) donated the necessary rough lumber for the job. Truro tree technician Andrew Williams assisted by providing the necessary traffic engineering and any other assistance needed to make Deveau's job easier during the four days.

Public response has been very positive and several businesses and organizations are now seriously considering the sponsorship of another tree sculpture.

Suggestions for future sculptures within the heritage theme include a railroad engineer or conductor representing the Town's railroad history; giant tulip(s) for the International Tulip Festival; a soldier at the Cenotaph or Legion; an early-era Mountie in front of the RCMP office; a firefighter near the fire hall and a police officer near the new police station; a mail carrier in front of the former post office building; founding peoples; and students and athletes near schools and athletic facilities that represent past successes.

The Griffin - Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

# Saving the Lent House, Freeport, N.S.

Last fall, the Lent House, one of the finer old homes in Freeport, became a Building at Risk when the owners decided to demolish it to use the site as a carpark.

Freeport is a small fishing village located at the western tip of Long Island. It and Brier Island lie a short ferry trip off the end of Digby Neck in the Bay of Fundy. Although Champlain noted their existence in 1605, settlement of the two islands did not begin until the 1780s. Bates, MacNeill, Welch and other descendants of some of the early settlers still live in the area:

The villages thrived on fishing, shipbuilding and trading until, like many coastal communities, they suffered a decline in this century, and now the total population of the two islands is under 1,000. Once there were more than a dozen fish plants, now only one remains in operation. It and the lobster fishery are the major employers on the islands. However, since the mid-1980s the area has become an attraction to tourists and naturalists because in the summer the Bay of Fundy is a major feeding ground for whales: humpbacks, fins, rights, sei and minke.

The Lent House was first mentioned in 1864 when owned by George Lent, a 'man of means', a vessel owner and trader. In 1982 the Bank of Nova Scotia acquired the house as a residence for the then manager of the local branch, but it became redundant, as the the current manager has a home in the village. The Bank decided to demolish the house and early last November hired a demolition contractor, and arranged to truck the material away.

When Andy Moir (chair of the Islands Economic Development Association) and his wife, Christine Callaghan, learned of the situation, they were most concerned and phoned the manager of Scotiabank in Digby, who eventually agreed to see what he could do to halt the plan. They followed this up with a call to the local Bank of Nova Scotia's Project Manager, fortunately a woman with a soft spot for historic buildings, and demolition was stayed temporarily while an alternative use and a new site could be sought for the house. Christine and Andy contacted Jan Zann, Heritage Trust's Community Committee Chair in Truro; the ombudsman of the Bank of Nova Scotia; the office of the President of the Bank of Nova Scotia; and CBC Television's *First Edition*. As members of John Lazier's E-mail group, Christine and Andy also contacted John to apprise him of the situation, after a visit to Lent House with Dave Comeau, superintendent of the Department of Transportation for Digby County.

Mr. Comeau confirmed that the building is structurally sound and moveable. He said he believed the NSP wires to be high enough to allow the moving of the building along the road. However, telephone wires would have to come down temporarily.

Concerned community members formed a group to find a new use for the old house and seek financial aid from various sources to help accomplish their aims. At the Heritage Trust Board meeting on November 29, John  
March 2000



*The Lent House*

Lazier raised the matter, and the Board voted unanimously to donate \$2,000 towards financing the project.

After a tour of the building, Christine reported that the house is beautiful inside. Bright and roomy, it has four large rooms upstairs, a small room and a good-sized bathroom. Downstairs there is a huge central room, another with a gorgeous marble fireplace, and to the west end a big room with counters, cupboards and sinks, which Christine believes would be excellent for an animal shelter, badly needed in the area and Christine's personal dream. While demolition was stopped before all the woodwork around doors and big wide baseboards disappeared, the banister and newel post were taken from the stairs, both of which Andy, a very good woodworker, says can be replicated.

Possible uses for the building include an office for the Islands Economic Development Association; headquarters for the Islands Historical Society; headquarters and exhibit space for Arts on 217—the local arts and culture group; a day care; a youth drop-in centre; a general purpose meeting room; a possible retail/craft outlet; an office for the Recreation Association; a Community Access Program (CAP) computer site; and, of course, an animal shelter. There would be no lack of volunteers to spruce up and maintain the building as a centre of the Islands community.

In an article in the December 1, 1999, issue of *Passages: The Long and Brier Island News*, Christine Callaghan brought readers up to date with all the efforts being made to save the Lent House. After announcing the Heritage Trust's decision to contribute \$2,000 to the effort, she noted: "We are looking for other corporate sponsors who will help us turn the historic Lent House into a centre for community activities. And we need your help and participation. If you think this building is important, please give us a call and get involved."

Anyone who would like to get involved can e-mail: [freeporthouse@clan.TartanNET,ns.ca](mailto:freeporthouse@clan.TartanNET,ns.ca) or phone (902)839-2337.

## Rockingham Heritage Society

On Sunday, December 5, 1999, some 40 people gathered at the Rockingham Community Centre for cider and carol singing, to share Christmas fellowship and celebrate 'Heritage'.

This annual event provides an opportunity to view the photographic archives of the group. Also, it allows the archivist to fill in the names of unidentified people in group photos that have been donated. After 10 years of this practice, we have found it to be an informal but important way of building trust within the community, and it results in many further donations to our archives. The event is now eagerly anticipated, and the warmth of the fellowship is well recognized by those attending.

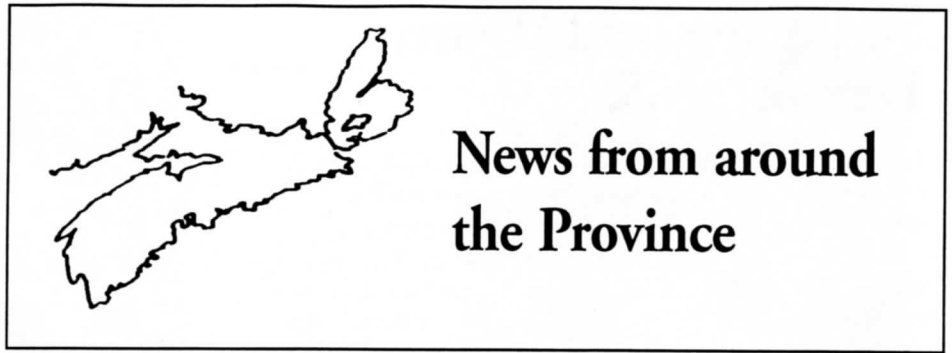
## Town of Lunenburg

The Third Annual Lunenburg Heritage Home Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27, 2000, in the Community Centre. From the experience of the two previous shows, it is clear that the show's blend of product and service promotion with educational seminars addresses a niche-market based on heritage home renovation and restoration. It attracted people interested in this type of construction from all over southwest Nova Scotia, the Metro area and as far away as Antigonish.

Thirty booths, available at a rental fee of \$160.00 + \$24.00 HST, will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone interested in reserving space should contact Robin Scott, Recreation Department, Town of Lunenburg 902-634-4006 as soon as possible.

## Friends of McNabs Island

Two small private properties on McNabs Island—remnants of long-ago attempts to turn the island into cottage country—are on the market. Both are landlocked. The Jones property (asking price \$60,000) is located on Garrison Road across from Fort Hugonin and contains a somewhat decrepit cottage which has been little used in the last several years.



## News from around the Province

The Taylor property (\$74,000) is on the northern tip of the island, near the Matthew Lynch House and the Conrad-Davis House. This property also contains a cottage.

While potential subdivision and development of the two properties is largely precluded now that the entire island is zoned as 'parkland', it would be useful if they were included in the future McNabs Island Provincial Park

The 1998 federal-provincial *Land Use Strategy for McNabs and Lawlor Islands* stated that the "acquisition of the balance of private lands there is seen as the highest priority", but the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is pleading poverty. The Nova Scotia Nature Trust, a private group involved in the purchase of ecologically significant real estate, is also unable to help.

The Board of the Friends of McNabs Island Society is therefore considering alternatives, including a fund raising drive. Potential benefactors considering purchasing one or both of the McNabs Island properties and donating them to Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Nova Scotia (i.e. to the public) could apply for a charitable donation receipt by contacting FOMIS director Colin Stewart: 466-7168/cstewart@chebucto.ns.ca.

A fundraising dinner and silent auction to celebrate the 10th Birthday of FOMIS, was held at Royal Artillery Park Officers' Mess on Saturday, 26 February.

The Officers' Mess, the oldest of four buildings in the Park compound owned by the Department of National Defence, was built in 1814-1816 by the Royal Engineers under the command of Captain William Fenwick. The building contains some of the original window and door

hardware. On display among military memorabilia from Halifax's history is a French 12-inch mortar captured in 1758 at Louisbourg.

## Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

According to a story in the winter issue of *The Lightkeeper*, Coffin Island Lighthouse, near Liverpool, has been saved! Badly undermined, it was expected to fall into the ocean by the summer of 1999 as water lapped at its base. But at a total cost of \$70,000, and a massive effort by the Coffin Island Lighthouse Heritage Society, 150 feet of armour rock has been installed along the shore on each side of the tower, and a wall of huge granite boulders built in front to prevent the ocean from reaching the base of the light. Coffin Island Light, built around 1812, is one of Nova Scotia's oldest lighthouse sites.

Not so lucky was the 1912 pepper-pot at Man of War Point on Bras d'Or Channel, the first light in Nova Scotia to be sold under Treasury Board policy of selling surplus lighthouses to the highest bidder. For a small community, the requirements of the bid were impossible: within three weeks they would have had to post a \$10,000 damage deposit; post a \$1,000 bond, and remove the building within 30 days. However, Art Bray, owner of the surrounding land, who for several years has been interested in acquiring the light, has promised to maintain its heritage character close to its original site.

Also in *The Lightkeeper*, is the story of the eventful life of Canada's first lightkeeper, Jean Grenard Dit Belair (1674-1744). Although Louisbourg's first lighthouse was started in 1730—a massive 70 foot



high rubblestone tower with a sophisticated lantern—it did not begin operation until April 1, 1734, when Jean Grenard was appointed keeper, a post he held until his death. A detailed description of the original cod liver oil fuelled lighting apparatus is included in the article.

## West Hants Historical Society

The 10th Annual Christmas House Tour and Tea was held on Sunday, December 5, 1999. Architecture from the Victorian era to the Colonial Revival period was represented in the homes of Penny and Colin Taylor, Shirley Dorey, Shirley and Bernard Curry and Lindsay's Reception Home. The tour also included the 100-year-old Windsor United Church, decorated with wreaths of apples, lemons, leaves and boughs. For the occasion, the annex was converted into a Victorian Parlour and Dining Room.

The Society thanked not only those who so kindly opened their homes to visitors but also to others who contributed towards the celebration: Tom Haliburton for tabletop trees; Corkum Forest Products for Christmas trees; Lester Swinamer for the wreath and Carlton Cards for tableware and door prizes. Prize winners were A. Keeler, M.L. Bennet, E. Cahoon, S. Dyer and F. Lowther, all of Windsor; K. Harvey, M. Lawrence and V. Murphy of Newport County; M. Stevens, P. Thomas of Hantsport and K. Spence of Bedford.

At the Historical Society's December meeting *Christmas in Acadie* was shared with members of *Les Amis de Grand Pré*, a celebration highlighted by the sampling of Acadian dishes from different regions.

## Truro Heritage Advisory Committee

Truro's Heritage Advisory Committee, of which Jan Zann is a member, now has quite a good Website featuring a brief history of Truro and two virtual walking tours of the town. Click on each house, and its picture appears with a summary of its history and architectural features. The site is at [www.nsis.com/tthac/](http://www.nsis.com/tthac/)

## Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County

Plans for the rejuvenation of Annapolis Royal's historic Sinclair Inn were unveiled at an official ceremony held on February 23 at Kings Theatre in Annapolis Royal

The Sinclair Inn, built in 1710, is part of a National Historic District of 135 heritage buildings and believed to be the oldest wooden structure in Canada: an architectural treasure. The building not only chronicles the story of its many tenants and owners, but also of the varied building techniques and materials that have gone into it over the years.

Funding for the first phase of the project is in place through a commitment of \$50,000 from the Historic Restoration Society; \$43,500 from the Millennium Bureau of Canada's Partnership Program, and a contribution of \$50,000 from local business, organizations and individuals.

## Yarmouth County Historical Society

Tea Time Theatre of the 70s and 80s is making a comeback this winter on Saturday March 4, at the Yarmouth County Museum, with a performance of *When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet*, an elegant play written by Charles George in 1942. Five Shakespeare heroines—Cleopatra, Portia, Desdemona, Ophelia and Katerina—meet in the garden of a sixth, Juliet, to instruct her in the art of successfully carrying out her romance; the youthful Juliet gives all of them a lesson in love.

The event is a collaboration between the Museum Education Department, under Shirleen Scott, and the Highland Cove Players, a group directed by Linda Coakley. The Players were founded in October 1999 by Linda Coakley and her daughter, Chelsea, to offer creative liaisons for Canadian-American Cultural Communication. Seminars, workshops and lectures are offered at the players' base, the Highland Cove Centre in Milton Highlands. The musical youth groups *Les Jeune Filles* and *Druids Revival*, who are also based at the Centre, have raised almost \$1,000 for the Museum Expan-

sion Fund through their creative performances

*Shakespeare's Ladies...* is also a benefit for the expansion fund; The admission price is \$8 which includes a tea organized by the Museum Education Department.



## GIANT YARD SALE

Saturday, June 10

Yes, we are holding the Giant Sale this year. Although the restoration campaign is over, we need to build a fund to maintain and preserve the building for the future. So, your contributions will be welcome. We shall be receiving goods at the church from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday, May 1 onwards.

You don't need it—we can sell it

Information: 422-9446

**Cornwallis:** *Continued from page 4* sold to developers who undoubtedly will remove the playground and monuments to build their project/s. Anyone who is concerned should contact their municipal councillor and make their opinions known before this park becomes another item in the debit column of heritage statistics.

**Printing:** *Continued from page 5* of a wooden 17th century press to fill out the collection, and a bookbinding area was also established. The collection is now recognized as among the three best in Canada. Joseph Landry has taken over its management and much of the teaching of both printing and bookbinding. Evening courses and weekend workshops in various aspects of the book arts are offered, with instructors from Halifax and elsewhere.

The Dawson Printshop of Dalhousie University, the direct descendant of Halifax's early printing houses, is currently looking for a new home. The University would like to expand its computer facilities into the area where the equipment is housed in the basement of the Killam Library. It is hoped that a new location can be found either elsewhere on the campus, or in downtown Halifax, the home of so many printshops in the past. This would provide an opportunity to make this unique collection of heritage equipment more accessible to the public.

A group of interested supporters, The Friends of the Dawson Printshop, has been formed to assist its development as a centre for practical and artistic printing and bookbinding, and as a teaching facility with a higher public profile than its current location allows. If you are interested in joining this group and/or in receiving information about courses and workshops, please call Joan Dawson at (902)429-5312

**Old House:** *Continued from page 17* post had been destroyed, so a new one was constructed by Doug and a local woodworker.

At last the walls could be hung with reproduction Morris wallpaper. All other rooms required extensive work and decoration. The front parlour is now the only room out of 14 that remains to be done.

Although Doug did most of the  
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**Wentworth:** *Cont. from page 2* thing comparable to the original portrait. However, when I consulted Bernard Riordon and Judy Dietz at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS), I learned that such things are possible. With the assistance of the Consulate General, the gallery in New York and the AGNS, and with the professional services of Image House Digital, who projected a negative supplied by the New York Public Library, we now have what I consider an amazing reproduction of the portrait by Copley.

While these negotiations were proceeding, Grace and I had visitors at Government House with the name of Wentworth from New Hampshire and as far away as Alaska. They are not direct descendants because there were none, but they are present day representatives of the Wentworth family. They expressed their pleasure to see that Governor Wentworth is so well remembered here and their delight that we were working to obtain a copy of Lady Wentworth's portrait for Government House.

One of our visitors, Mrs. Emerson of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, was so kind as to send me a book written in New Hampshire by Paul W. Wilderson, a distinguished historian who is Executive Editor at the Naval Institute Press in Annapolis, Maryland. It is entitled *Governor John Wentworth and the American Revolution*, with the subtitle, *The English Connection*. Wilderson's book presents John Wentworth as generally considered to have been an able, honest and forthright leader caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. I quote from the flyleaf:

"Given his strong personal and business ties to the colony, historians and scholars have long puzzled

work himself, the verandah columns and spindles were made by a local craftsman. We hired a plasterer, a *faux* finisher for the hall woodwork, a carver for the stair rail and, of course, the foundation crew, all local people with excellent skills.

Our house is not extraordinary,

over why, when the American Revolution came, Wentworth broke with his family and native land to become a loyalist." It continues, "Probably no governor in North America took more genuine interest or greater pride in his colony than John Wentworth. His roots were five generations deep in New Hampshire soil. As Governor, he was deeply troubled by the growing rift between the colonies and Great Britain. From 1767, when he became Governor, to 1775, when he left, Wentworth never agreed with colonial policies handed down at Whitehall and did not view himself as a loyalist. Why then did he abandon New Hampshire in support of British authority and imperial policies?"

When he was studying at Harvard, Wentworth was a classmate of Adams, one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence. The book infers that Wentworth had the necessary background and reputation to be accepted among this group. However, he chose otherwise, which they felt was a tragic mistake. As a Nova Scotian, I feel it was a fortunate one for us because he and his wife made a great contribution to this province. He and Lady Wentworth were an effective team, both in the building of Government House, and using it as the centre of the political and social life of the Colony.

Grace and I feel that Lady Wentworth's portrait is equally as worthy of prominence in this very historic Government House as that of her husband. So, we are pleased to present this portrait to Government House, with the hope that both Governor and Lady Wentworth will be displayed here for future generations.

no famous person ever lived here, yet it pleases us to have preserved a bit of local history for future generations, and we encourage owners of other vintage houses to do the same.

## Heritage Calendar

### March 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	YCHS 7.30 pm 3	YCHS 7.30 pm 4 Theatre/tea CCM Mardi Gras
5	6	7	STHP Meeting 8	9	10	11
12	13 March break week at CHHF, 13 to 17	14 YCHS 7 pm Travel program	15	HTNS 7.30 pm 16 Doughheads...	17	PSNS 2 pm 18
CMHCS 2 pm 19 Garden talk	20 CGNS 7-9 pm CSNS 7.30 pm	GANS 7.30 pm 21	NSLPS 7 pm 22 Program 7.45 pm	RNSHS 6 pm 23 Annual Dinner	CCM 7 pm 24 Exhib. opening	CAA 2 pm 25 BHS 7.30 pm LUN Home show 25/26
26	27	28 ATHS meeting	29	30	31	

## Heritage Calendar

### April 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7 YCHS 7.30 pm Meeting	1/8
9	10	11 YCHS 7 pm Travel program	SPTHP Meeting 12	HTNS 7.30 pm 13 at Fort Massey Church	14	PSNS 2 pm 15
16	17 CGNS 7-9 pm	18	19 RNSHS 7.30 pm	20	21	CAA 2 pm 22
23 CMHCS 2 pm	24	25 GANS 7.30 pm ATHS Meeting	26 NSLPS 7 pm AGM	27	28	29
30						

# Heritage Calendar

## May 2000

<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	YCHS 7.30 pm <sup>5</sup> Meeting	6 CSNS AGM
7	8	9 YCHS 7 pm Travel program	10 SPTH Meeting	11	12 CCM 7 pm Exhibition Opening	13 BHS 7.30 pm AGM
14 CHHF 2 pm Tea	15 CGNS 7-9 pm	16	17 RNSHS 7.30 pm AGM	18 HTNS 7.30 pm Silver	19	20 PSNS 2 pm CCM Plant sale
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 CMHCS Open House	29 Int. Lighthouse Conference to June 2	30 ATHS AGM	31			

### Abbreviations used in this calendar

ADLHS	Admiral Digby Library and Historical Society		
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
DHMS	Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society	SPTH	Society for the Protection of Truro Heritage Properties
DHA	Dartmouth Heritage Association	SRM	South Rawdon Museum
FNSH	Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage	THS	Truro Historical Society
FSF	Fort Sackville Foundation	WHHS	West Hants Historical Society
FOMIS	Friends of McNab's Island Society	WHM	Waverley Historical Museum
FHM	Fultz House Museum	WPHS	West Pubnico Historical Society
GANS	Genealogical Association of N.S.	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		
KHS/OKCM	Kings Historical Society and Old Kings		