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The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Now open—Brookfield Railway Station Museum

By Gordon Burnett, with Kathy Putnam
Congratulations to the community of Brookfield and the members of the Brookfield Railway Station & Heritage Society, on the July 1 official opening of the Brookfield Railway Station Museum!

Located in the Ed Creelman Memorial Park, on route 289, (just off Exit 12, on Highway 102), the station is just 50 yards from its original location. Mr. Creelman was a local businessman whose family still operates the Brookfield Lumber Company. The park was created in 1984 by the Brookfield Men's Club to honour Mr. Creelman for his support of the community.

This local initiative to save the station began in 1997, when CN announced they no longer had a use for the building. Just three years later, thanks to the society, and support from local individuals and businesses, the building has been moved, a new roof put on, and the exterior and interior refinished to reflect the atmosphere of the original station.

The museum is now open for functions and was part of the annual July "Coming Home to Brookfield" activities. In June, it was a stopping point for the Trans-Canada Trail Walk, and it was also the focal point for Canada Day activities.

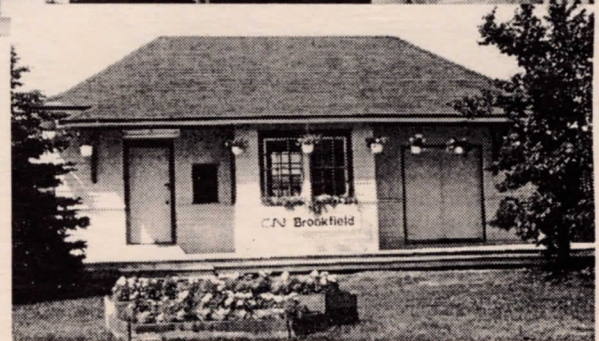
During the summer, Brookfield Ice Cream was sold on Saturdays as a fund raiser. Future plans include enhancing the park grounds and providing parking facilities. Also planned are shelves and cabinets to



Above: July 1, 2000, Ex-railway Brookfielders (l to r): Danny MacDonald, maintenance, Ed. Harvey, conductor, Don Locke, stationmaster, Vic Burroughs, engineer. Right: the station.

house a permanent exhibition of the railroad memorabilia, and a canteen to provide much-needed financial support. The intent is to make the museum available to the public on a regular basis some time in the future.

The original CN station was built to support the N.S. Railroad, with the Halifax to Truro portion completed in 1858. In 1938, the present station was built to replace the earlier one, where the Stationmaster and his family had lived. Many Brookfielders can recall travelling by train to Truro to attend school. From the 1930s through the



1950s, the station was a focal point for shipping into the Stewiacke Valley. After the 1950s, the building was declared obsolete, as the train no longer stopped in Brookfield, and it was used for storage until 1997, when CN decided it was no longer needed.

Readers wishing to provide support (time, information, \$), or to donate railroad-related items, are invited to contact the Society through Gordon Burnett, (902) 673-3334.



Heritage Canada Foundation

Brenda Shannon, the Nova Scotia Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation, gives us a regular update on the concerns she is dealing with.



Given the rapid decline of the stock of heritage buildings in Canada, and the indifference or outright hostility towards them displayed by some of those in positions to do much to influence change, the theme of this year's Heritage Canada's annual meeting "Towards a National Trust", might be considered a myopic exercise by the cynical or as anticipatory brilliance by the optimists. And we already know that to be a heritage supporter you have to be an optimist!

The conference, being held in Calgary September 14-16, will address questions such as:

- Is Canada ready for a national heritage trust?
- What tools are needed to encourage donation, education, and wider public and private participation?
- What kind of made-in-Canada model could we build?
- What should the role of Heritage Canada Foundation be?

The remarks of the keynote speaker, the CEO of the Australian Council of National Trusts, will be of great interest because Australia has already dealt with many of these questions.

Conference speakers will address the stewardship of our built heritage, both public and private, inclu-

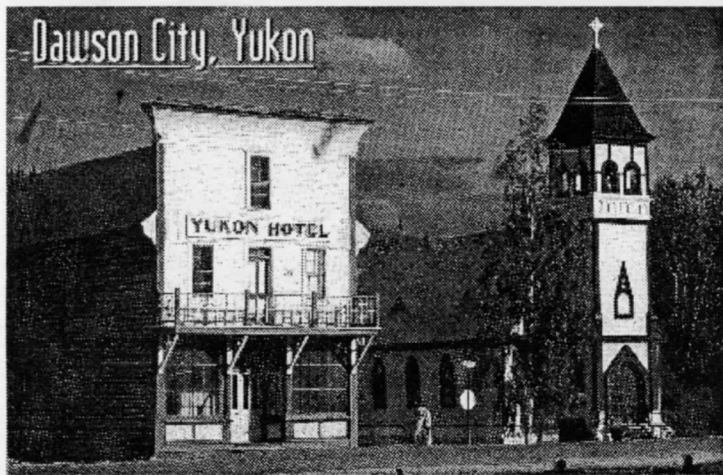
ding the present pattern of heritage funding from all levels of government; review present legislation which, evolving as it has over twenty five years, is a patchwork of things that work and others that clearly don't.

There will be discussions on how to involve an informed and supportive public, with access to up-to-date technical information and advice, the current state of private and corporate philanthropy and the development of effective strategies, nationally and locally, to encourage support for conservation.

Altogether a challenging agenda and one which, it is anticipated, will lead to a much clearer picture of where we stand and what are the realistic possibilities for moving forward.

The June meeting of the Heritage Canada board, held in Dawson City in the Yukon, was a wonderful opportunity to see the strong involvement of the federal government, through Parks Canada, in the conservation of our built heritage.

We enjoyed seeing many buildings, including the 1901 Post Office, the 1899 Palace Grand Theatre—a turn-of-the-century magnet for entertainment-starved miners—and the Commissioner's Residence. Altogether a positive use of our tax dollars and an impressive example of the cultural and economic value and importance of our built heritage.



Left: The Yukon Hotel, 1898, the first building restored by Heritage Canada, acted as a catalyst for further involvement by Parks Canada. It is still in use as an hotel annex. St. Paul's Anglican Church next door was built in 1902.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Anne,
The Griffin declared in the past issue that the Public Archives of Nova Scotia had changed its name. This is just not so. While the bureaucrats have messed about with their bureaucratic structures, and have created the "Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management" as a new bureaucratic level of the "Public Archives of Nova Scotia" (PANS), PANS still exists, both enshrined in the official Nova Scotia legislation and in the physical fact of the structure at 6016 University Avenue.

Now if you want to buy into the

new "site" jargon of the government bureaucrats (e.g. Victoria General Site, New Infirmary Site), then one can refer to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia 'Site', but let's be clear when Heritage Trust holds a meeting or display at 6016 University Avenue—look at the wall as you enter—it is the "Public Archives of Nova Scotia."

And that is an important name to retain and remember for all of us. Not only has it got long and honourable history and heritage, but it says something to both us and to the bureaucrats who might consier

putting it through an incomprehensible and unnecessary trans-mogrification. It's a PUBLIC Archives of Nova Scotia, and as such it should be available to the public as much as possible, and it should be responsive to the public. It should not become a petty fiefdom of bureaucrats who have been allowed to forget the public and the public function of a "Public Archives of Nova Scotia."

Regards,
Alan Ruffman



Earliest known photo of the building, 1896

City Rambles:

Kenny-Dennis Building

By Garry D. Shutlak

In my last ramble, I wrote about one of the surviving homes of the Kenny family. This article deals with one of the surviving business establishments of the T. & E. Kenny dry goods business.

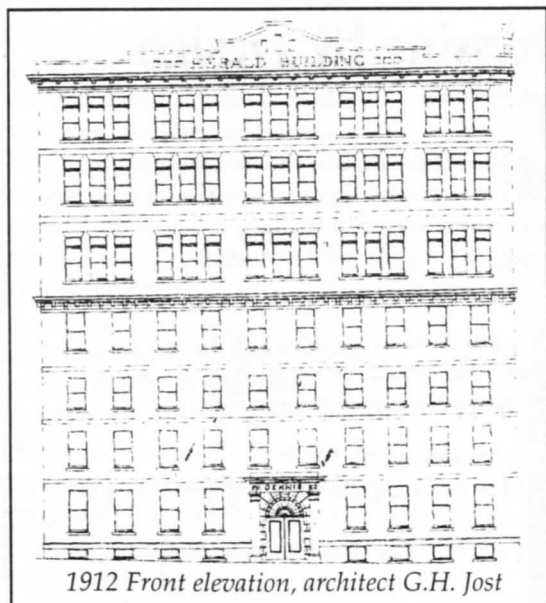
The firm dates from 1828, when Edward Kenny and James Lyons dissolved their partnership and T. & E. Kenny was founded. It was first located on Hollis Street opposite Province House and later on Barrington Street. In 1842, they built themselves a sturdy hip-roofed, four-storey, 40-ft. by 60-ft. granite warehouse on the corner of Granville and George streets.

The building suffered its first fire in 1851. It began in one of the chimneys in the western end of the building which had become clogged with soot, and was speedily put out by the fire brigade and units from the garrison. Minimum damage was done to the building, but the extensive and valuable stock of the firm was badly damaged by water. About the same time, the firm, which had been both a retailer and wholesaler, became an exclusively wholesale enterprise.

Increasing business led the Kennys to engage architect David Stirling to double the size of the building and contractor

George Blaiklock to build it in 1863. Completed in 1864, the premises now had an 80-ft. facade on Granville Street.

With the dawning of the new century, what was by now called



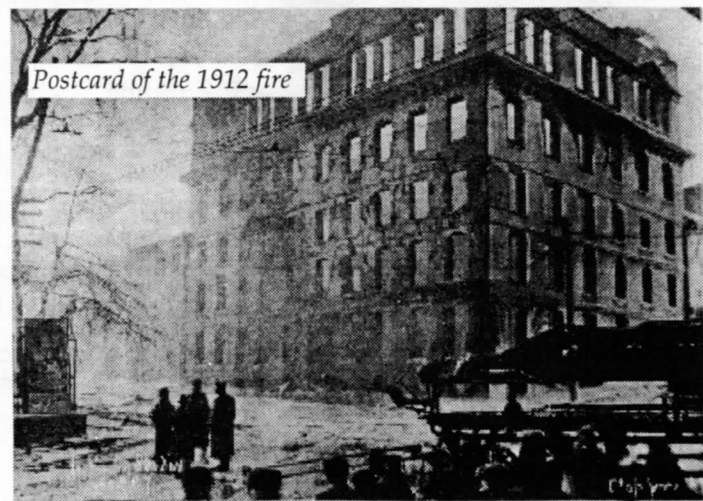
1912 Front elevation, architect G.H. Jost

Kenny & Company decided to build a new "business stand" on Barrington Street and sold their warehouse to The Herald Publishing Company. J.J. Stewart and William Dennis added an additional brick storey to the building by removing the hip roof, and made interior changes to house the newspaper plant and offices. These alterations were carried out by the firm of S.M. Brookfield Limited, but the architect is unknown. According to newspaper accounts, the building was ready for occupancy on May 1, 1901. Among the tenants were four law firms including Borden, Ritchie and Chisholm (Robert L. Borden, KC; W.B. Almon Ritchie, KC; Joseph A. Chisholm; T. Reginald Robertson and Henry C. Borden), seven insurance companies, the offices of the United States Consul General and the firm of F.B. McCurdy & Company, stock and investment brokers.

On January 12, 1912, the area suffered a catastrophic fire which took 17 hours to quench and razed 12 buildings. Left among the ruins was the shell of this building. The Herald Publishing Company's losses were estimated at \$200,000, excluding insurance held by the various tenants. Robert L. Borden lost his law library, considered to be one of the finest in Canada. This library had survived a fire at his home *Pinehurst* in 1904. The company decided to rebuild, repairing the granite facade, and adding behind it a seven-storey steel and reinforced concrete building with wire-glass windows and steel sashes. The building was to be devoted solely to office purposes and was renamed the *Dennis Building*. It cost \$75,000 and was designed by architect G.H. Jost and built by S.M. Brookfield Limited. When the building re-opened, returning tenants included the United States Consul General, and new ones, the architect H.E. Gates and the offices of the Halifax County Liberal-Conservative Club and the Nova Scotia Liberal-Conservative Association.

In 1946 or 1947, the building was sold to its present owner, the Province of Nova Scotia. In 1948, \$25,000 was spent on renovating the interior. The changes were designed by government architects and work was carried out by contractor H. Hemmings.

In the early 1990s, the building was almost sold to developers who had already demolished all the surrounding structures built after the 1912 fire. Today, the 158-year-old building, having survived two fire and three major renovations, is a fine example of adaptive re-use.



Postcard of the 1912 fire

Fish Feathers: some Titanic lore

Alan Ruffman's notes of a 1998 conversation with Walter M. Piers, Walter M. Piers was a founding and life member of the Armdale Yacht Club, which was incorporated in 1937. He is the oldest living charter member of the club, and is the brother of Rear-Admiral Desmond Piers.

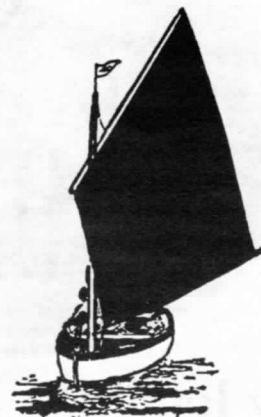
Walter Piers knew Captain Frederick Harold Larnder of the *Mackay-Bennett* cableship. Captain Larnder was later captain of the *John W. Mackay* which replaced the *Mackay-Bennett*, and which was on occasion berthed between Brookfield Bros. and T.A. DeWolfe and Sons wharves on the Halifax waterfront to unload used cable. The *Mackay-Bennett* was chartered on April 17, 1912. by the White Star Line to recover the bodies of *Titanic* victims. She ultimately recovered 306 bodies and returned with 190 of them to Halifax on Tuesday, April 30, 1912; the rest had been buried at sea.

Alan Ruffman is the author of *TITANIC REMEMBERED: The Unsinkable Ship and Halifax*, recently published by Formac. Alan wonders if there might be a photograph of *Fish Feathers* among the collections of members to allow this worthy craft's memory to be preserved as part of our *Titanic* lore.

Desmond and Walter Piers owned *Fish Feathers*, one of the first three boats at the Armdale Yacht Club. Their father, William H. Piers, got this boat in the mid-1920s from Captain Larnder. It was one of the boats that brought in the bodies to the *Mackay-Bennett*. Larnder described how it hauled two to four bodies at a time back to the *Mackay-Bennett* or to its cutters; two inside the boat and two in the water at the stern on either side. *Fish Feathers* hauled two bodies with hooks through the victims' collars, a port hook and a starboard hook. The crews of the cutters then hauled the victims aboard and were then themselves raised by the *Mackay-Bennett's* davits to the level of the rail, at which point the victims were moved to the deck of the cableship and the cutter was lowered to continue the search.

Fish Feathers was 12 feet long, had a 12-inch freeboard, and was broad and stable. She had a bright red Egyptian cloth sail. She was frequently seen sailing in the North West Arm, Halifax, from the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s. A brass plate on her stern indicated that she was built by John Etherington of Shelburne in or after 1906.

In 1937, the first boats at Armdale Yacht Club were largely replaced by a fleet of Snipe class dinghies. *Fish Feathers* was taken down to the



Arthur Ransome's charming end drawing of *Swallow*, one of the nautical heroines of his 1930 children's classic *Swallows and Amazons*. This little boat would have been of similar dimensions and design to *Fish Feathers*.

Brookfield Brothers' wharf on the Halifax waterfront at 129-131 Upper Water Street (at the foot of the former Hurd Street) in the mid- to late-1940s. It was used to get in under the wharf to repair "spiles" (piles) destroyed by toredos (boring worms).

The Brookfield Brothers' buildings were expropriated by the City of Halifax and around 1968, were bulldozed to make way for Scotia Square and the Cogswell Street Interchange along the water's edge. *Fish Feathers* was bulldozed inside one of the large buildings and was thus forever lost.



Workshop: Dressing by Design

Mon., Sept. 18, Mahone Bay Settlers Museum, 578 Main Street, Mahone Bay
As part of the South Shore Festival of the Arts, the museum presents a two-part workshop by Faith Wallace, a graduate of the Dalhousie University Costume Studies Program. It is ideal for people who create museum exhibits, period displays, costumes for museum or restaurant staff, or house tour guides. Estimated cost \$30. Please register ASAP. (902) 464-6263

Part 1: 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

To Dress or not to Dress (or if you are going to do it, do it right) Using costume in interpretation. Developing a program to dress staff or displays in period clothing. Research resources and bibliographies provided.

Part 2: 12-noon to 4 p.m. (with lunch break)

Mannequin Display: An overview of the mannequin-dressing process and how to create paper hair.

You can attend the morning session, or the whole day. Registration limited to 15 in the morning and eight in the afternoon.



Doris's Column: *New France, N.S. Extracted from Electric City by Paul H. Stehelin*

In a forest area about 25 km east of Weymouth in Digby County on the bank of the Silver River between

Langford and Tusket lakes are the remains of "New France", a once-thriving sawmill settlement, founded in the 1890s by the Stehelin family. When the settlement had electricity installed to operate from the mill's power, long before such comforts were known in the rest of the county, New France became known as "Electric City". Nothing is left of the settlement today but stone foundations, which can be seen in an attractive park created by J. D. Irving Limited as one of their Unique Area Programs.

The first member of the family to arrive was Jean Jacques, a younger son of Emile Charles Adolph Stehelin, a wealthy French industrialist. The 21-year-old had heard about the wonders of Nova Scotia, and his father had reluctantly agreed to let him go to Canada, provided he stayed with the Eudist Brothers who were building an academy for Acadian boys at Church Point. Fathers Blanche and Morin were old family friends and had been Jean Jacques's teachers in France.

He arrived in Weymouth in 1892. From there he made his way to Church Point by horse-drawn mail carrier driven by Johnie-a-Marc, whose Acadian-French Jean barely understood. Jean stayed there for a few months, learning English, helping tutor, supervising study and teaching violin. He also spent time in the woods, watching and learning from everything he saw of logging and sawmill operations. On a visit to the Sissiboo River pulp mill and its 60-foot falls, he realized that such energy could be harnessed to produce goods and wealth. He decided to try his luck in the lumber business, and wrote to his father proposing they buy timber land in Digby County. When his father agreed, Jean bought land and assembled a workforce of rough-and-

ready, hardworking Acadians. Dams were constructed and a trail improved by blasting boulders and laying hardwood across marshy spots.

Before the year was out, Jean decided to marry an Acadian girl without asking the customary permission of his father! Katie Thiboudeau was a nice, hardworking, loving, sensible lass, but could hardly read or write. Despite strong opposition from his father, and from Fathers Blanche and Morin, Jean wed Katie.

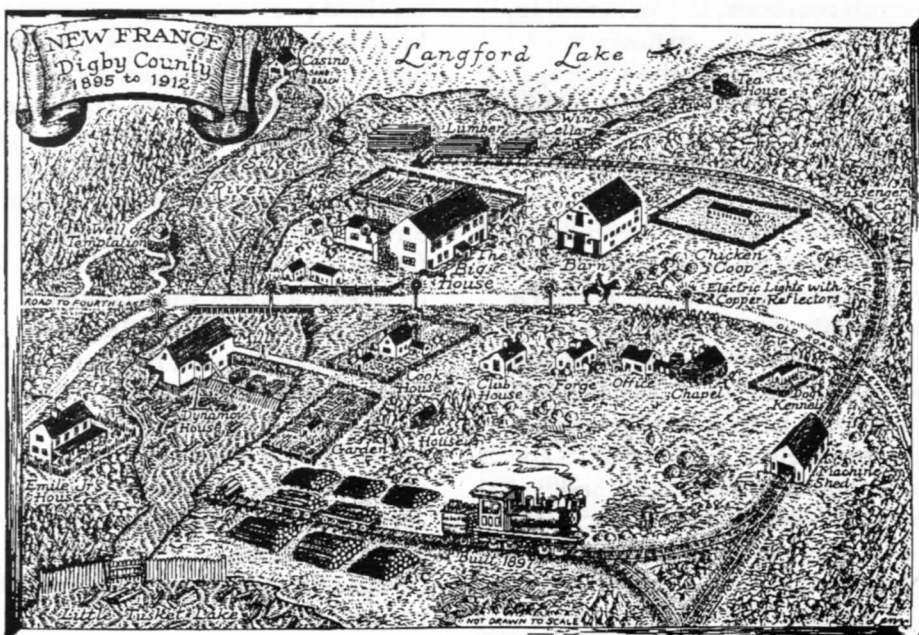
In 1893 Emile sent his eldest son, 24-year-old Emile Jean, to Canada. When the two younger lads, Roger, 18, and Paul, 16, begged their father to let them go too, he agreed on condition they finished their education at Church Point in the care of their father's old friends. They reached Weymouth in the New Year. Travelling inland to Silver River, where Jean was building a sawmill, they saw their first snow. For the rest of the winter, when they were not at Church Point, Roger and Paul spent their time at Silver River camp, where they soon learned to enjoy life in the woods.

Before the frost in 1893, a dam had been built to raise the water level 15 feet. It would power the mill, form a storage pond for logs, and a pool stocked with trout in the spring

and eels in winter. Three turbines were installed to power the machinery. The largest, manufactured at Salmon River near Yarmouth, had been hauled the 30 miles by two yokes of oxen; a 4-day trip. The two smaller turbines, mill and machinery needed for the whole factory, from debarking to edging and trimming the planks, were made on the spot by workmen who could neither read nor write. Jean's overseer and right-hand man was Boss Blinn, a master craftsman, who became a respected and stalwart support to the whole family.

Life was strict and devoid of comfort, but the young men found pioneering an adventure. They became good woodsmen, learned to build a camp with whatever was available, and helped Jean. They learned to appreciate land, and to evaluate the timber standing on it. Emile Jean eventually became a surveyor, helped by Roger and Paul, while Jean stayed with the milling operation.

Emile in France closely followed his sons' operations and directed as much as possible from a distance. In 1895, he decided that he and his wife, Marie Therese, would visit Nova Scotia that summer. Work on building Jean's house and the cookhouse was speeded up so that they would be ready by June.



When the Stehelin parents landed in Nova Scotia after a comfortable trip on the *SS Normandy*, they found a very different journey awaiting them: A slow, uncomfortable trip by coastal boat, then by train and after an overnight stay at Church Point, by carriage to the inland junction known as "The Corner". The problem of transporting Mama over the final six miles was solved by the ever-resourceful Boss Blinn. He took a 10-foot-long sleigh with wide hardwood runners and equipped it with a 6-foot platform covered with carpet and surrounded by a 2-foot-high railing with an opening at the back. In the middle he fastened an armchair and hitched a yoke of oxen to the rig. Progress over the atrocious road was slow, but gradually the visitors fell under the spell of the woods. Mama had the boys pick wild flowers along the way, and in an atmosphere of gaiety the sleigh, laden with flowers, branches and ferns, pulled into the square overlooking the lake with deep forest all around. When Papa and Mama met Katie they were impressed by her manner and natural grace, and in the years ahead came to accept and love her.

Emile marvelled at his young sons' accomplishment, and at the technical intricacies of dam and mill considering the little they had had to work with. The indomitable Marie Therese, however, was not prepared to live on dried fish, salt meat and beans. She had brought with her a French cookbook, taught herself to cook and managed to turn out excellent meals with the aid of spices and hard-to-find ingredients, which turned every trip the boys made to Weymouth into a foraging expedition!

By August, Emile was fully immersed in the enterprise. He considered the purchase of about a thousand acres of magnificent timberland, surveyed by Emile Jean, a good investment. Building started on a house large enough for the parents, their 11 children and Katie. It took in Jean's small house, and incorporated several architectural features of the home back in Normandy.

An important addition to the

settlement that summer was a plant to generate electricity—something Weymouth didn't get until 1925. A water-run dynamo was incorporated into the mill with a small watergate which could be opened at night when the main sluice gate was closed. With the Canadian General Electric Company dynamo came an expert, who stayed one day showing Boss Blinn how to set up the plant and the wiring of house and light poles. By summer's end the mill, the Big House, the cookhouse and barn were lit by electricity and the settlement illuminated by lights in copper reflectors.

With the presence of dynamic Emile, business prospered. But a better method of transporting lumber to Weymouth was needed. During a visit to industrial areas in the province, Emile and Jean saw a railroad run on a log track, and brought back a small boiler, wheels and other parts to get started on a railway. Boss Blinn took charge of the project and put together a small engine which they named *La Mouche a Feu* (Firefly). A simple boiler and the engine were set on a four-wheeled truck with a tender to carry hardwood fuel and haul a few flat cars. Construction on a roadbed and track came next, and a mile of the railroad had been laid by the time Emile and Marie Therese left.

Before Emile and Marie Therese returned to France in the fall, the customary public religious service was held to bless the new enterprise. Invitations passed by word of mouth brought people from surrounding villages, on horseback, by cart and by water. Chief Peter Paul with a band of Mi-kmaq set up camp on the beach below the house, and Father Blanche arrived on horseback in time for a formal dinner on Saturday. At 10 o'clock on a bright, calm Sunday morning, resplendent in the green vestments of that day, Father Blanche conducted a special Mass.

It was not long before Emile and Marie Therese were back, this time with the rest of the family. By the spring of 1896 the adults were busy adding property, clearing land and constructing additional buildings, all painted grey with maroon trim. All

the children had a job: The two youngest sons, Maurice and Bernard, learned to lay rabbit snares until old enough to hunt; during fall and winter when there was no logging done, Paul and Roger became dedicated hunters keeping the family in game and venison. Therese, the eldest daughter, tended the chickens until they all got broody at once, and there were not enough nests to accommodate them. To solve the problem, Boss Blinn made a nest for each bird by using empty barrels cut in half, with square holes in the sides and sawdust in the bottom.

Emile was determined to tackle the unfinished problem of transportation. He approached the provincial government and offered, at his own expense, to build a railway all the way to Weymouth to serve lumber operators in summer, in turn the government would build a year-round road. Early in 1897, he got permission to build the railway, but the road did not materialize. Work on the track progressed well, and by early fall of 1897 *La Mouche a feu* was hauling logs at 10 miles per hour to the mill at Riverdale. It worked perfectly and gave many years of service.

Next, a small passenger car was



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Halifax, N.S., B3H 2K9, or Phone/
Fax 422-6286.
e-mail: awest@ns.sympatico.ca

carefully constructed—a miniature of a rail coach of the day, with a rounded black roof and painted maroon with white trim, and large enough for four or five passengers. There were windows on each side with a door and a covered platform at the back. Eventually a more powerful locomotive was purchased and a 20-foot long coach. This coach was divided into two compartments: one at the front for workmen had wooden seats; the rear one was for the family, and when they used it easy chairs were brought from the house. The new locomotive had a brass bell and oil lantern in front of the smoke stack and a whistle. She was christened 'Marie Therese' and ran well until 1907 when an inebriated engineer, driving at speed during a period of drought, set fire to the wooden tracks and nearby woods.

A strict employer, but just and fairminded, Emile had no trouble getting workmen, partly because he paid his men in cash every week instead of giving credit notes for purchases, as most employers did. The cookhouse now accommodated 45 men, with a place to eat, sleep and relax. Later a Club House was added, where men and boys could read and talk in comfort. In 1898 a little log church was built, dedicated to "Our Lady of the Forest". It had small side windows of coloured glass and an altar flanked by statues to the Infant of Prague and St. Therese. New France became virtually self-sufficient: with game from the forest, fish from pond, lakes and rivers, and vegetables and herbs from their own garden. Nasturtium flowers were added to summer salads, their seeds pickled for fish sauces, and each summer children and maids spent a week picking and preserving blueberries at the Cariboo Plains farm.

In 1897, Emile Jean married, and a separate house was built for him and his wife, Anne Baldwin, an English girl he had met in France, a pupil at the same school as his sisters. Her parents were horrified at the thought of their daughter living in the wilds of Canada, but she insisted on having her way. Despite a November ocean crossing, jolting

slowly over a rough track in a cart pulled by oxen goaded on by old Johnie-a-Marc, and the discomforts of starting married life in a Nova Scotia winter, she stayed. She endured three life-threatening labours, attended only by a midwife in the depth of the woods, when her children were born. Her son Paul was the author of the fascinating Stehelin family story.

It was a hard-working, well-ordered, pleasant life, though with 13 young people, at times must have been tumultuous. But it wasn't all work. Evenings were spent quietly at home: reading, talking, playing music (they were all accomplished musicians) and singing, at times even dancing. The family especially enjoyed the winters. There were sleigh rides on Sunday afternoons and bright moonlight evenings, horse racing on frozen Tusket Lake, and for the more daring, ice-boat racing at incredible speeds on Langford Lake. Ice fishing for trout proved popular during February and March, when the fish were in the lake. Often during the winter with its freedom from biting insects, visitors from town and countryside would arrive in family sleds—sometimes several together. A huge bonfire would be lit in the square and the doors of the big barn opened for dancing. They also joined in the social life in Weymouth Bridge. There was a winter club for young people in Sissiboo Hall, and a literary society for married ladies where they discussed contemporary literature and social problems; at one meeting the topic was "How Best to Manage Husbands". The IOF Men's club held ceremonies and High Court at their regular meetings.

Despite having borne 12 children, at 36 years of age Mama was still a very beautiful and youthful looking woman. She had always run a well-ordered household, with servants well-trained in the duties to be performed for a large family. In New France she had no such staff, but soon trained her Acadian girls to run the household her way, and with the French cookbook from which she herself had learned to cook, she taught Rosie—young but willing—French cuisine. As the years passed, the business thrived, but gradually

the family scattered. Germaine Stehelin married Captain Nevius Kay and sailed with him in wooden schooners for 17 years, until steel ships were built and wives not allowed aboard. The Kays made their home in Brooklyn, New York. Roger also went to sea. Jacqueline became a nun. At the turn of the century, Jean Jacques left for New York to develop a thriving business manufacturing silk tassels and trims. Katie never joined him, and eventually they divorced.

But when Mama, the heart of the family, died in 1910, Papa, two sons and daughter Therese moved out of New France to Weymouth, where they conducted business on a reduced scale. When the First World War broke out, five of the sons left for France, while the old gentleman went every day to the post office for news of his boys. All five returned safely, but things were never the same. Emile Charles Adolph Stehelin passed away in 1918, and soon the remaining members with their families moved away—some remaining in Canada, the rest returning to Normandy to the old home in St. Charles.

For some years the Big House continued to be used as a summer place, but eventually the settlement was completely abandoned to decay and vandalism, until in 1950 it was torn down by Bowater Mersey.

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,
This edition of *The Griffin* has been rushed through before I travel to Kingston for a family wedding. This means you will have to wait until the December issue for several important items, including news of Cornwallis Park and a list of the new executive and board members. The deadline for that issue is November 1 PLEASE!!

Thanks as ever to my faithful team of Doris Butters and Pat Lotz, without whom there would be no *Griffin*.

Anne West

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 phone.

Amherst Township Historical Society

Cumberland County Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst. Contact: 902-667-2561 for times of meetings.

Saturday, September 30

Dinner meeting. After dinner speakers: Dr. Jock and Janet Murray on Sir Charles Tupper

Tuesday, October 24

Meeting. Speaker: Charles Rhindress. Topic: The Great Amherst Mystery.

Tuesday, November 28

Speaker: Major Harold Ettinger. CD. Topic: Brief look at military past and present

Bedford Heritage Society

9 Spring Street, Bedford, NS, B4A 1Y4
For dates of meetings/programs contact Marvin Silver ph: 835-0317

Calligraphy Guild of N.S.

Meets from 7-9 pm third Monday.
Details: Les de Wit, 835-0508 or John Peake, 425-4128

Canadian Authors

Association - N.S. Branch

2 pm fourth Saturday NSARM 6106 University Avenue, Halifax. Contact: Mary Ann Monnon, 902-542-2726, Wolfville, Evelyn Brown, 466-2558

Charles Macdonald Concrete House

19 Saxon Street, Centreville, NS. For Fall and Winter Program contact: Stephen Slipp, 455-0133

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Old Chester Train Station, Chester, Box 629, NS, B0J 1J0. For Fall and Winter program contact Duncan McNeill, 902-275-3172

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth.

Contact: 434-0222

Saturday, September 9 - 4.30/6.30pm

Corn Boil & Ceilidh. Music and songs. Local corn, salads, biscuits and beverages. Adults \$7; Children \$5. Outdoors. Tearoom in case of rain.

Saturday, September 16 - 4.30/6.30pm

Sauerkraut and Sausage Supper. Home-cooked Nova Scotian meal. German-style sausages, sauerkraut, potatoes, pickles, dessert and beverage. Adults: \$9. Children \$6.50

Sun., Oct. 15, 5.30 & 7 pm (2 sittings)

Traditional Harvest Dinner. Thanksgiving meal of ham and turkey, vegetables and all the trimmings; gingerbread and pumpkin pie. Adults \$14; Children \$10. Reservations.

Rose and Kettle Tearoom closes for season Oct. 15. Available year-round for events/catering. Ph: 462-0154

Cumberland County Museum

150 Church Street, Amherst, NS.
Contact: Ph - 902-667-2561

Friday, September 8 - 7pm:

Opening Reception, Exhibit "Industry, Then and Now". From September 11-November 25.

Monday, October 16/21

Exhibit: Bobbin and Baymists Quilt Show. Also Mi-kmaq Heritage Month.

Saturday, November 4.

Auction

Wednesday, November 22.

Deadline for Poinsettia orders.

Friday, December 8

Christmas Event (phone for details)

Wednesday, December 13

Poinsettia pickup

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth. Contact: 464-2300 for Fall and Winter hours

Sunday, September 3

Closing - Exhib: Dartmouth: Shaped by Water—Founded on a Rock

September 7 to 28

Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia.

September 30/October 1

Ship Modellers Guild

October 5 to 29.

Women's Work Wear from the 19th Century to Present Day. (Costume Society of Nova Scotia museum collection).

November 2 to 26

Lew Billard Photography

November 30 to January 6

Teddy Bear Display and Christmas Sale (to be confirmed)

Thursday, November 30

Raffle for Mayflower Quilters Guild quilt in 'Island Choice' pattern. Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2 available at the museum, or by ph: 902-464-2300

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

Phone: 800-355-6873 for details of fall and winter workshops and programs

Fort Sackville Foundation/ Scott Manor House

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford. For Winter programs and library hours, contact: 832-2336

Monday, September 11 - 1 pm

Celebration of the 250th Founding of Fort Sackville, with parade, military band, town criers, and cake for all.

Fultz House Museum

33 Sackville Drive, Lwr, Sackville, NS.

Saturday, October 14 -

OCTOBERFEST - Sauerkraut, sausage and apple pie. (865-3794 for details)

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Holds regular public meetings at NSARM, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax. For details, times, etc., call 454-0322

Le Musee acadien de Pubnico-Ouest

Pubnico Community Access Program (CAP) - public access to Internet has been launched. For programs and activities: 903-762-3380 or check: musee.acadien@ns.sympatico.ca

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Regular monthly meetings
September to July, at the Maritime
Museum of the Atlantic, 1679 Lwr.
Water Street, Halifax. General
meeting; - 7pm; Program with
speaker - 7.45pm. Contact: 424-7490

Saturday, September 9 - 11 am

From Liverpool. (weather date Sept
10) Guided trip to Coffin Island,
Liverpool Bay. Co-sponsored by
Coffin Island Lighthouse Heritage
Society. Boat ride to the island where
chowder and hot dogs available;
hike to the tower along shore or
through forest; climb the 85-year-old
tower. \$25, space limited, call Doro-
thy MacLeod 423-8034 by Sept. 1.

Sat., Sept. 23 - 10 am to 12 noon.

Chebucto Head, Halifax Harbour.
Meet at lighthouse; continuous tours
of tower and facility as far as engine
room and vessel traffic radar. Led by
Jim Guptill; cost: donation to NSLPS.

Sat., Oct. 14. (weather date Oct.15).

Maugher's Beach Lighthouse,
McNabs Island, Halifax Harbour.
Joint trip with Friends of McNabs
Island. Details 424-7490 or 422-1045

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum

Barss Corner, Lunenburg County.
Contact: 902-644-2893

Sat., September 9 - 12 noon to 6pm
Heritage Blueberry Festival. Lunen-
burg sausage/sauerkraut; Solo-mon
Gundy; smeltz potatoes, hodge-
podge, blueberry grunt; blueberry
pie, etc. Adults \$9; Children \$4.50;
Under 5 free. Craft demos, enter-
tainment, mini-market etc.

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society

Ottawa House, Parrsboro, NS.

Saturday, September 9

Annual Blueberry Pancake Breakfast
\$5 per person - contact 902-254-2376

Sunday, December 10

Christmas House Tour and Lunch
\$10 per person. Details: Susan
Clarke, 902-392-2051

The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

For details of Fall and Winter
September 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 Scotia are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Parking in museum parking lots and across Bell Road at the Vocational School. Info: 423-4807. Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on CBC Radio 1 and Radio 2. If in doubt call Nina Konczacki at 443-2631.

Thursday, September 21

Inside Province House: Its Art and Architecture. Speaker, Dr. Marie Elwood. Note: Starts at 7.30 pm sharp and is open only to members of HTNS. Members are asked to gather in the entrance hall on Hollis Street. Access is restricted to 60 per group, so those wishing to attend are advised to contact the HTNS office to make reservations. Phone: (902) 423-4807 or Fax: (902) 423-3977.

Thursday, October 19, 7.30 p.m.

Round Revelations: the Architecture of Saint George's Church. Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Pacey, author of *Landmarks: Historic Buildings of Nova Scotia*. This lecture is presented in conjunction with Saint George's Round Church where it will be delivered.

Thursday, November 9, 6.30 p.m.

Annual Dinner to be held at Royal Artillery Park, corner Queen and Sackville streets. Guest speaker Dr. Paul Erickson, Professor, Saint Mary's University. Subject: Anthropological Mysteries at the Little Dutch Church. Registration and further information on separate sheet.

Thursday, December 7, 3 p.m SHARP.

Government House and its Contents. Lecture/tour by Dr. Marie Elwood, former Chief Curator of History, Nova Scotia Museum.
NOTE: Members are asked to gather in the entrance hall of Government House on Barrington Street. As access is restricted to 60 persons per group, those wishing to participate are advised to contact the Heritage Trust office to make reservations. Ph: 423-4807; Fax: 423-3977. Admission is free, and all are cordially invited.

programs contact: Bob Harvey - 864-8666 (h) or 423-8666 (cell)

Yarmouth County Historical Society

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS.
Contact: 902-742-5539. Unless
otherwise stated, meets first Fridays,
7.30 pm., Armchair Travels 2nd
Tuesdays. NOTE: First meeting of
Fall season Friday September 8.

Halifax Events

Sunday, September 24

Word on the Street. Giant book and
magazine fair with family-oriented
activities on Spring Garden Road.
Contact: 423-7399 for details.

October 31 to November 5

Do you remember the Capitol
Theatre? A special event will be held
in Maritime Centre to commemorate
the opening of the theatre 70 years
ago. Do you have any souvenirs,
programs, photos, etc. that you could
loan for the display of memorabilia?
If so, contact: 422-3388.

Brookfield home's link with Canada's transportation history

By Janice R. Zann

With the recent passing of a long time resident of the small, but vibrant, village of Brookfield, about 20 kilometres south of Truro, a delightful old home has gained the attention of the Heritage Canada Foundation and Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

The brother and sister who inherited the home have long since left their birthplace. However, the loss of their mother has given them an opportunity to look at the old home and its familiar contents in a new light: the task of sorting and making an inventory of the possessions and memorabilia of 100 years of habitation by one family has been an interesting journey back into time.

During this time, very little alteration has taken place. "Look at this wooden sofa! My great grandfather built this - not a nail in it. And see these wide hand-hewn floorboards," points out the daughter. She pauses for a few moments from sorting through a box containing a lifetime of memories - of past birthdays, anniversaries, and family celebrations." My mother really treasured these cards and letters ... they are part of her life," she says.

The Cape Cod-style timber home has been in the Putnam family for at least three generations. Originally from Middle Stewiacke, they purchased the property almost 100 years ago, when it was part of a farm that featured an enormous barn, long since removed. They were told that the house was used as a stopover for changing horses when the Hiram Hyde stagecoaches travelled from



The Putnam House in Brookfield

Pictou through Truro to Halifax. It is believed that the house was built long before that.

Early settlers to Brookfield, who began arriving in 1783, chose the name because of the numerous brooks crisscrossing the wooded flat land. Lumbering and iron mining became the major industries. With the completion of the Halifax to Truro section of the Nova Scotia Railroad in 1858, the village was a central point for shipping goods into the Stewiacke and Musquodoboit Valleys.

From the type of construction, the house is considered to have been built around the 1790s. One of the clues is the eaves which are close to the house with no overhang. In the cellar is still the earthen floor, hand-hewn 9 x 9 inch crossbeams, 2-foot thick stone walls, and log joists 6 inches in diameter.

Until his death in 1990, the last

male member of the family to occupy the house worked for Canadian National Railways. Some of his belongings, including his switchman's lantern, trainman's hat and jacket, have been lent by the Putnams to the group responsible for the restoration of the Brookfield Train Station. These will be displayed when sufficient funds are raised to provide permanent storage facilities in this newly opened museum. (See page 1)

Sadly, the Putnam house is located close to commercial development. It is a sound structure built by skilled carpenters who made buildings that have withstood the test of time. This house has been standing for over 200 years. How wonderful it would be if a way could be found to preserve it for at least another century to serve as a reminder of the role that early settlers played in Canada's transportation history.

Around the Province

Rockingham Heritage Society

The Rockingham Heritage Society calendars for the year 2001 are now available at \$5 each including tax. Contact: Carroll Worrall ph: 443-7043 or e-mail iworrall@navnet.net In the Fall, the Society is planning to erect an historic interpretive panel

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across from the Rotunda. For details of the Society's fall and winter program contact Carol MacAskill, 28 Dakin Drive, Halifax, NS B3M 2C8

Friends of the Public Gardens

With a municipal election slated for October, this might be a good time to

question candidates on their position regarding a heritage precinct around the Public Gardens, and funding for renovating the old Horticultural Hall (now housing the canteen). Proposed renovations will be a major undertaking requiring cost-sharing among several levels of government. It remains to be seen where this

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capital project sits in HRM's budget next year.

Yarmouth County Historical Society

Two of the Society's memorial sites are in urgent need of repair or replacement. The memorial on VanCortlandt Square in Tusket, erected in August 1964, and repaired over the years, is again in need of restoration. The society is grateful for two donations totalling \$1,200. towards the \$18,000 estimated cost. The monument at Fish Point erected in August 1961 in memory of the seafaring sons of Yarmouth County also needs restoration. Two donations totalling \$100 were also received with thanks.

The Society was proud to accept the Carmen V. Carroll Award for Outstanding Achievement in Archival Preservation, presented in Halifax last May, by Nova Scotia Archives. This is the most significant award for preservation in archives in Nova Scotia.

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society

Last year, Ottawa House Museum went through its second evaluation since 1996 for Community Museum Assistance Program conducted by the Nova Scotia Museum. Their score rose from 40.1 percent to 69.99 percent, confirming an operating grant of \$6,400 for the following year.

At a discussion on the Museum's future, the Board of Directors met with Harry Jost, architect for historical conservation, Ray Pierce, professional fund raiser, and Betty Matheson from CREDA. The various tasks to be undertaken are now being addressed, with a progress report hoped for in time for inclusion in the Society's next 'Ancestral' newsletter.

Cumberland County Museum

This museum's millennium publication, *Our Architectural Heritage: A Celebration of Amherst's Architecture*, draws its inspiration from Amherst's more than 200 restored or refurbished 19th- and early 20th-century buildings. The



Public Lecture Series

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Saint George's Anglican Church, 1756-2000

The year 2000 marks the bi-centenary of the construction of Saint George's Round Church. The parish is marking this date by sponsoring a lecture series to bring the historic contribution of Saint George's into clearer focus.

Lectures start at 7.30 p.m. in the Round Church (Brunswick Street, Halifax) or the Church Hall as indicated.

Wednesday, 20 September: Henry Roper (Church)

Church and Community, 1756-1827.

Until his retirement in 1998, Dr. Roper was professor of humanities at the University of King's College, where he also served as registrar, vice-president and director of the King's Foundation Year Programme. He has published extensively and is parish historian at Saint George's Church.

Wednesday, 4 October: Paul Williams (Church Hall)

Retrieving History: The Archaeological Investigation of the Little Dutch Church. (Paul Williams is a geographer and archeologist who played a major role in the excavations at the Little Dutch Church in 1996 and 1998. He is currently pursuing a doctorate at Queen's University.

Thursday, 19 October: Elizabeth Pacey (Church Hall)

Round Revelations: The Architecture of Saint George's Church (With HTNS) Dr. Pacey has played an important role in preserving the province's architectural heritage. Her books include *Georgian Halifax* and *Landmarks: Historic Buildings of Nova Scotia*. She is writing a history of Saint George's Church.

Wednesday, 8 November: Julie Morris (Church)

Neighbours for Two Hundred Years: A Historical Perspective of Saint George's Physical and Cultural Surroundings

Julie Morris is private sector archivist at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management and archivist of Saint George's Church. She serves on the board of the Council of Nova Scotia Archives and is a member of the Archives Committee of the Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia.

Wednesday, 22 November: Brian Cuthbertson (Church)

Robert Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Uniacke at Saint George's: Evangelical Fervour and Good Works, 1825-1870 (In association with RNSHS)

Dr. Cuthbertson is archivist for the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and formerly head of heritage for the province of N.S. His several books include *The First Bishop: A Biography of Charles Inglis*.

Wednesday, 6 December: Gary Thorne (Church)

Church and Community: Saint George's at the beginning of the 21st century Canon Thorne is rector of Saint George's, where he has served since 1990. He holds graduate degrees in theology and classics and is currently completing a doctorate in theology at Durham University, England.

book unites the best of 100-year-old photos with a new text written and researched by local author Leslie Childs and Museum curator Barb Thompson.

As most of the buildings featured—churches, factories, schools and Victorian mansions—are still standing, Ms. Childs has taken care to identify their present day locations. The local tourist bureau offers a free colour coded tour map to use either alone or with the book.

The text mentions the various architectural styles from Queen Anne Revival and Richardson Romanesque to Tudor Gothic, and points out design features of particular interest. The book also contains references to designers like John R. Hall and William Harris, builders such as Rhodes and Curry Company and suppliers like Amherst Sandstone Quarry.

This compact 64-page book sells at \$15 copy and may be obtained from the Cumberland County Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst, Nova Scotia, B4N 3C4; or

ordered by phone: 902-667-2561; E-mail: ccmuseum@istar.ca

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Senators Michael Forrestal and Pat Carney introduced Lighthouse Protection Act Bill S-21 in the Senate on April 12, 2000. The bill passed second reading on June 1, and has been referred to the Senate Fisheries Committee for consideration. The NSLPS has heard that Parks Canada and Canadian Heritage staff are taking the Act seriously and reviewing their lighthouse work.

The Society's newsletter "Lightkeeper" reports that many NSLPS members received replies from federal cabinet ministers to their letters in support of the Act. Replies indicate Federal Heritage and Coast Guard staff were compelled to come up with some answers, but it is felt that pressure should still be kept up.

According to Sheila Copps' staff, 14 lighthouses have been made national historic sites and over 100 given federal heritage status. This

represents only 29 percent of Canada's heritage lighthouses—far below the more than 70 percent of American lighthouses with similar protection.

The Canadian Coast Guard is negotiating transfer of lights in Cape Breton to local groups. Neil's Harbour, Mabou and Kidston (Baddeck) lights will be handed over.

Prints of lighthouse paintings for sale. NSLPS member E. Jane Carson of Sydney, has for the past three years been painting lighthouses. Following an exhibition in Cape Breton, limited edition prints of Low Point and Louisbourg lights are now for sale for \$48 each, including tax. Available at her home: 26 Rennett Street, Sydney, NS, B1L 1C8; ph:902-567-2661. \$10 from the sale of each print will be donated to the NSLPS.

Member Joyce Mitchell of Tantallon also has watercolour prints of lighthouses for sale. Contact: P.O.B.183, Tantallon, NS B0J 3T0

Committee Reports: *From page 16* organizer's expectations. I would like to thank the speakers for their excellent presentations, which contributed to the success of the Programme. My thanks go also to Dr. John Lazier for his witty thank-yous at the end of the lectures. Each speaker was presented by the President with our latest excellent publication edited by Ms. Pat Lotz entitled *Affairs With Old Houses*. My thanks also go to Anne West and Pat Lotz for taking care of the refreshments.

As of January 2000, a new series of lectures was introduced entitled *The 21st Century Views the Past*. Once again the roster of speakers was most impressive and the lectures continued to attract sizeable audiences.

In November the Programme Committee organized a dinner at the Royal Artillery Park, which, according to all accounts was a success. Our guest speaker was Commander Paul McCulloch, who in a very informative as well as witty way, presented his and his wife

Joyce's problems in restoring to its former glory their beautiful historic house in Port Hood. The dinner attracted 70 participants.

Janina M. Konczacki

Publicity Committee

In the absence of a chairperson of the Publicity Committee, Prof. J.M. Konczacki continued to fulfill this function. Posters were printed and distributed by the Chair with the help of the following members of Heritage Trust, to whom I extend my sincere thanks: Dr. John Lazier, President; Mrs. M. Dunbar; Ms. B. Watt; and Miss P. Hildesheim, Vice-President.

My special thanks go to Doris Butters, who took care at all times of the public service announcements and helped in the distribution of the posters to places around her area of domicile, the Heritage Trust Office and the Museum.

Between April and June, on the recommendation of the President at the suggestion of Ms. Michelle Raymond, the committee hired Mr. Walton to help in the distribution of

the posters around Halifax and Dartmouth, while J.M. Konczacki continued to distribute posters in the areas not covered by Mr. Walton.

In January, the lecture given by Dr. Charles Armour, entitled 'Sailing Ships of Nova Scotia 1750-1929' was videotaped by Dr. Marek Mieczowski.
Janina M. Konczacki

Research Committee

During the past year, legal, architectural and historical research was carried out on some of our most significant historic buildings. During the summer of 1999, the legalities of the federal conservation agreement for St. Paul's Anglican Church on the Grand Parade in Halifax were investigated; both Heritage Trust and Heritage Canada strongly objected to proposed alterations which would have seriously damaged the interior historic appearance and fabric of this national historic site. By the early and late fall of 1999, another national historic site, the Covenanter Church in Grand Pre, was being considered for

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Dartmouth Heritage Museum alive and well!

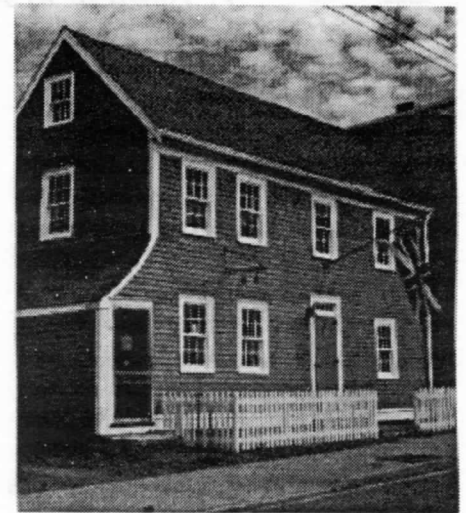
The Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society (which in recent years has been threatened with closure) had a busy summer. As part of the 250th anniversary of the Founding of Dartmouth, it mounted an exhibition entitled *Dartmouth: Shaped by Water, Founded on Rock*. This exhibition, which was the brain child of Curator Anita Price, took visitors on a journey through Dartmouth's past created with material from the Museum's bountiful permanent collection. Items from the collection were augmented by specially commissioned panels painted by artists Michalle Nowazek and Alan Syliboy.

A busy team of staff and students kept the museum and the houses open for the summer, and a total of

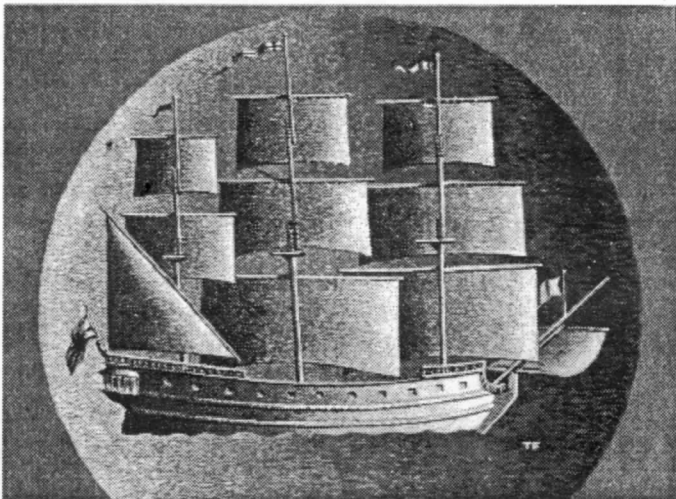
nine young people had an interesting and enjoyable work experience. At *Quaker House* on Ochterloney Street, visitors enjoyed watching demonstrations of spinning, rug hooking, barrel making, embroidery, quilting and carving.

Visitors to *Evergreen House*, folklorist Dr. Helen Creighton's former home, were able to listen to recordings of Songs of the Sea collected by her.

Also during the summer, the society signed a management agreement with the Halifax Regional Municipality, which owns the museum, its two heritage homes and the collection. Managing the museum means finding considerably more funding than the HRM can spare for the purpose, so the society's



fundraising team began its work by selling raffle tickets on a fine quilt, selling Millennium Medallions designed by Dartmouth artist Tom Forestall and hosting a very successful strawberry tea at *Evergreen House*. Quilt tickets and medallions are still available. Contact the museum at 464-2300.



Above right: Quaker House on Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth. Left: Part of Tom Forestall's original painting of the Alderney (which brought the first settlers to Dartmouth in 1750) which is on one side of the medallion. The other side shows Evergreen House.

Get your medallion now, while supplies last

Medallions are on sale at the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, 100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, N.S., B3A 1M1. Tel: (902) 464-2300

- Silver Medallion \$40
- Bronze Medallion \$5

maintenance and restoration.

Meetings to discuss the appropriate restoration standards were held with Bill Hockey, Parks Canada's regional architect, and with a committee of St. Andrew's United Church in Wolfville, who were drafting a schedule of repairs for the Covenanter Church. At its late November meeting, the Board of Heritage Trust called for historical and architectural research to be conducted on three threatened buildings:

1. Thornvale, an impressive Victorian mansion, designed as a large-scale example of the Second Empire style, on the Northwest Arm
2. The neighbouring, early 20th-century Roman Catholic Archbishop's Palace

century Roman Catholic Archbishop's Palace

3. The Dennis Building at the corner of George and Granville streets in downtown Halifax.

Researcher Irene Fennell produced informative documentation on the three structures, which were found to be connected through historical personages. Irene also prepared a preliminary report on Thornvale, and federal documentation, used for Thornvale's federal classification, was obtained by the chair. The chair also had discussions about restoration standards with the headmaster of the Halifax Grammar School and their architect after the Grammar School purchased Tower Road School, a

municipally registered heritage building, in the spring of 2000.

Elizabeth Pacey

Membership

As of May 17, 2000, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has 409 members, broken down as follows:

- 331 paid up individual members
- 61 unpaid members (57 individuals, 4 organizations)
- 24 life members
- 30 complimentary memberships (20 councillors, 10 others)
- 21 organizations/societies

There are:

- 55 new individual memberships
- 1 new organization

Ann Marie Duggan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Review of Activities and Accomplishments, 1999-2000

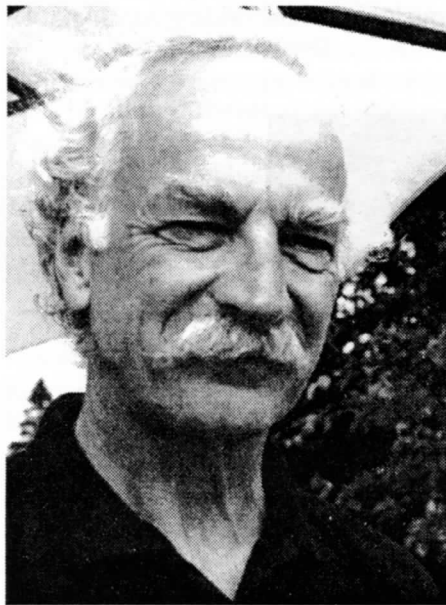
As in other years, the Board of the Trust met five times on the last Saturday of every second month between September and May. The most notable from a heritage point of view was the one arranged by Molly Titus in the Zion United Church in Liverpool in September. Near the end of the business part of the meeting we were visited by Wayne Henley of the Queen's Region Heritage Committee and Craig Chandler of the Mersey Heritage Society who both gave short informative presentations describing their activities. Following the meeting we were served a charming church lunch and had a chance to talk to the visitors and wander in the Church graveyard, which includes the grave of Simeon Perkins. The November Board meeting was held in the Superstore on Barrington Street in Halifax. This venue has the advantage of a stove, refrigerator, coffee maker, etc., but the noise from the circulation fans made it difficult for the participants to hear each other. The final three board meetings were held in the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. At the March meeting, two by-law changes were proposed that were eventually accepted by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The first changed the wording of by-law 7(5) concerning the Nova Scotia Governor of Heritage Canada sitting on the Trust's Board and the second change moved the responsibility of property management from an independent standing committee to the Finance Committee.

In looking over the accomplishments of the Trust for the year, I think the one deserving the most acclaim is the publication of the book *Affairs With Old Houses*. Pat Lotz and her committee of Barbara Watt, Joan Dawson, Arthur Carter and John Crace, over the past three years, came up with the concept, recruited the contributors, gathered and edited the manuscripts and finally produced the book which has been very well received. It was a difficult project which required creativity, determination and hard work. The

result is a wonderful addition to the series of books published by the Trust. Pat and her committee deserve great applause.

In the past three years, Pat has also organized and attended a booth to sell the Trust's books at the Word on the Street book fair in Halifax. A fine and welcome contribution to the Trust in reduced book inventory.

Brenda Shannon, the Heritage Vice-President of the Trust, guided us through a typically high number of heritage issues this past year. The Federal Government, which has owned *Thornvale* on the North West Arm in Halifax for a number of years,



Retiring HTNS President, Dr. John Lazier

now intends to sell it. Through a research program and letters to the Minister of Heritage and Public Works the Trust is gaining information about the property and making the responsible authorities aware of our concerns about its disposition. The Starr Manufacturing Building in Dartmouth has been threatened for a number of years. There were public meetings this year and attempts through the Mayor's office and approaches to MPs and Senators to lend a hand, but at the end of the year a demolition contract had been let and it sadly appears that the building will be lost. Deadman's Island has been a special concern of

Michelle Raymond's and the North West Arm Heritage Committee for the past 3 years. This year pressures against a proposed development on the island increased and eventually led the City to buy the property from the developers and thus save the island and the prisoner's graves from future disturbance.

The Garden Crest Apartments, a problem from the past, resurfaced this year. In the early 1990s Brenhold Developments and the City of Halifax entered into a development agreement that would allow Brenhold to build two apartment towers plus other smaller buildings in return for saving the facade of the Garden Crest. The Trust opposed the development on a number of grounds and took it to higher authority but lost at the Utility Review Board and the Appeals Court of N.S. The proposed development did not proceed as planned because the economy turned down. However, Westwood developments bought the land with the development agreement in early 1999 and renewed the agreement which was to expire in December 1999. Westwood now has the right to build the towers, etc. at a time when the agreement in hand would probably not be possible. It is not clear at the present time when the development will go ahead but there are a number of people keeping close watch.

The Blackadar Cottage (aka 'The Hugo House') also came back into the news this year. This 1834 cottage on North Street had to be moved in 1998 to make way for the new ramp to the widening MacDonald Bridge. The Trust submitted a proposal to take over the building and refurbish it; however, another bidder won. This winner has now left the province, leaving the Cottage on a Barrington St. lot half repaired and abandoned. The city will be buying the property back and paying off the creditors for a sum of \$78,000 which is about \$70,000 more than the Trust's proposal requested from the city. One local paper headed the story 'City to pay \$78k to get shack back'.

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PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE

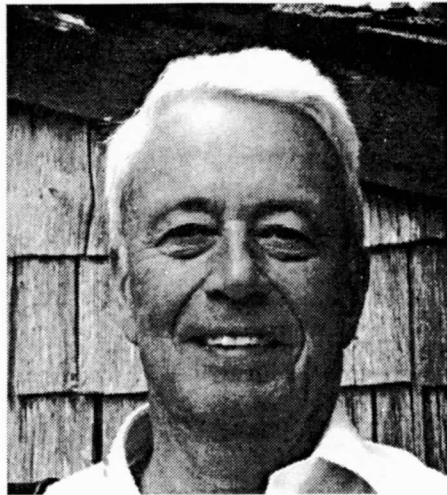
At the Trust's Annual General Meeting in 1997, the outgoing president, Joyce McCulloch, initiated a prize called the President's Tribute. She suggested it was time the Trust had an award to recognize the more important contributors and donated a silver-plated water jug to be engraved with the recipients names. At this years AGM the Tribute was shared by Joyce McCulloch and Ian McKee for two very different contributions.

Ian McKee

Ian has been the Treasurer of the Trust for about the past 15 years. In addition to keeping all the books straight he initiated and managed a sound investment program of the Trust's financial assets. Under his management the assets of the Trust have increased at a rate slightly greater than inflation and produced an income for the upkeep of the Macdonald Farm and the operating budget of the other functions of the Trust. The fact that the Trust's assets today have the same buying power they had when the Trust first received the money from Mrs. Macdonald in 1975 is a tribute to Ian's skill and a wonderful gift to the Trust.

Joyce McCulloch

Joyce's contributions are tied to another essential ingredient of the Trust's success - enthusiasm for heritage. Her 'straight from the heart' infectious enthusiasm for heritage buildings shows up time and again in her verbal presentations which are always passionate, thoughtful, fearless and persuasive. One of the best examples of her enthusiasm is contained in the following letter which she wrote to the *Halifax Mail-Star* 32 years ago about the impending loss of heritage buildings in downtown Halifax.



Ian McKee



Joyce McCulloch

JOYCE'S LETTER

To the Editor:

February 3, 1968

Sir,

Tourist Gold Mine

Obviously the crashing of masonry and roar of pneumatic drills in old Halifax has deafened the ears of our city fathers so that the merry tinkling of cash registers of Vieulle Montreal and other Canadian cities has not penetrated. Cities like Victoria, Perth and Toronto are learning that it pays handsomely to keep some of those old relics of the past standing - that tourist make a bee-line for something like a 167-year-old warehouse once used by privateers.

After an absence of five years my family and I have returned home and, believe me, are appalled at the wholesale flattening that's been going on. What's the matter with Haligonians? Their great-great grandfathers were an imaginative, shrewd lot of traders. Haligonians are literally sitting on an 18th century tourist gold mine. San Diego, Monterey, Sausalito and San Francisco rate their waterfront building property in hundreds of dollars a square foot and if it has any old, solid, picturesque building sitting on it, so much the thousand of dollars better.

Wake up! For goodness sake, save something for the children. How much easier to grasp the dry facts of history with tangible links still present to illustrate that history. This city is absolutely unique in that it is 220 years old and has some very fine old buildings still standing.

Tearing down the waterfront group with the fine old Ordnance yard wall is madness, especially when so close to Scotia Square. It could be part of the master plan. Tourists were never fascinated by an interchange. These roadways usually speed a tourist straight through a city.

It is utterly tragic, it is deplorable that shortsighted men have this power to wipe out 167 years of history. When are the citizens going to step in and safeguard their historic buildings and sites with some legislation that has big, strong teeth

Joyce McCulloch

President: *Continued from page 14*
Although not directly the work of the Trust, it should be recorded that Jan Zann, chair of the Trust's Communities Committee, through *September 2000*

years of hard work, was instrumental in getting three separate areas in Truro designated as heritage districts.

Other buildings that have taken our concern over the past year

include the Dennis Building and the Archbishop's House, for which research reports have been prepared, the Forman-Uniacke House, which the Trust attempted to buy to save it

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee held meetings on November 10, 1999, and May 16, 2000.

The November, 1999, meeting reviewed the year 2000 proposed operating budget which had been developed with input from committee chairs. The budget was subsequently reviewed by the Executive and Board of Trustees prior to final approval by the Board. The year 2000 budget increased the Buildings at Risk account, begun in 1999, from \$1,200 to \$4,000, to ensure the availability of funds in the event of sudden threats to historic buildings.

At the May 16, 2000, meeting, the Treasurer, Ian McKee, reported that the audited financial statements for fiscal 1999 are ready for the Board to approve at its May 27 meeting. The Trust's investments now totalling over \$700,000, are doing well. The Committee endorsed Ian McKee's suggestion of developing a flyer asking Heritage Trust members to consider the Trust in drawing up their wills. The Executive and Board of Trustees supported the development of a single flyer by the Finance Committee.

The Committee welcomed Philip

Hartling as the new secretary. At the invitation of the Chair, Graeme Duffus attended the May meeting as he has been nominated to be the next Finance Committee Chair and Vice-President Finance.

At the end of my three-year term, I want to express my appreciation to all members of the Finance Committee, and in particular, to Ian McKee for his long-term commitment and financial expertise as the Treasurer of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Pauline Hildesheim

Publications Committee

November 1999 saw the publication of the Trust's most recent book, *Affairs With Old Houses*, which presents heritage preservation from the point of view of the preservers themselves. As the result of an organized campaign of marketing by the committee to members of the Trust and related organizations, we are pleased to report that as of August, 2000, we have only 15 copies left of the 300 purchased by the Trust from Nimbus Publishing. They are also available in bookstores. *Affairs* was well reviewed in the Spring 2000 issue of *Atlantic Books Today*, and received attention in the Summer 2000 issue of

Heritage.

In September 1999, the Committee participated for the third time in the annual book and magazine fair, Word On The Street. We have also arranged with Roelland Hakkert, the Nova Scotia Museum's sales and marketing manager, for the Museum to carry three of our backlist books (*Roger's Album; Lakes, Salt Marshes and the Narrow Green Strip* and *Researching a Building in Nova Scotia*) in their wholesale catalogue. A hundred copies of each title were delivered to the Museum January 4, 2000.

I have enjoyed my three and a half years as chair of the Publications Committee. My warmest thanks go to my fellow members Arthur Carter, John Crace, Joan Dawson and Barbara Watt for their enthusiasm and professional skills, and to Carla Mosher, the new chair, I offer my best wishes.

Pat Lotz

Programme Committee

Public lectures commemorating the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Halifax continued between June and December 1999. Attendance at these lectures exceeded the

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from demolition, St. Paul's Church and the Scott-Manor House.

Under the new item in the Trust's budget i.e. Buildings at Risk, \$300 was sent to the Highland Village Outdoor Museum to help with saving the 'little one-and-one-half storey house on MacLean Road, Chisholm Brook, in Long Point, Inverness County'. The Greenvale Art and Cultural Association received a pledge of \$1000 for their efforts to save the Greenvale School in Dartmouth and the group in Freeport which is attempting to rescue the Lent House from demolition received \$2000.

Brenda Shannon was nominated by the Trust to replace Betty Pacey as the Nova Scotia Governor of Heritage Canada. One other hopeful entered

the race but Brenda, with a very persuasive letter to the NS members of Heritage Canada, won the day - much to the Trust's relief and delight. Brenda attended the Annual General Meeting of Heritage Canada in St. John's Nfld as an incoming Governor while John Lazier attended as the outgoing president of the Trust.

The Griffin under the most able editorship of Anne West, celebrated another four superb issues over the past twelve months. The cover story of the March edition was written by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, His Honour J. James Kinley - a most welcome addition by a strong heritage advocate. Another star attraction this year has been the wonderful series of lectures organized by Janina Konczacki. Attendance has

been excellent because of the quality of the lectures and also because of Nina's energetic advertising efforts.

Last September in Lunenburg at the Heritage Home Show and this May at the Old House Exposition at Pier 21, Meredyth Rochman along with some help set up the Trust's 'display' along with books and pamphlets to help keep the Trust's name in front of the general public.

And for people close to home and around the world Ann Marie Duggan designed and set up a Heritage Trust website. I have received a number of very positive comments on the site which Ann Marie's determination and hard work rightly deserve

John Lazier