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The Griffin

A PUBLICATION OF HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Trust helps move Great Village outhouse

This article contributed by Ann Marie Duggan, architect and board member of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia

Yes, you've read correctly! The outhouse which once belonged to the Great Village School in Great Village, N.S., has been moved to the property of the Bulmer-Bowers-Tingley residence, thus saving it from a doubtful future.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has donated \$200 towards the expense of moving and upgrading this unique and significant structure.

Great Village School, opened in 1904, is now a provincially registered heritage property. Its outhouse was positioned to the left of the school as one views it from the main road and sat there until sometime in the 60s. When the school received plumbing, the outhouse was moved to the Mahon cemetery on the other side of the village. Until recently, it was used to store landscaping equipment.

This year, the cemetery committee decided that the "shed" needed a fair amount of upgrading and perhaps it was time to replace it. The outhouse was offered to a new owner, provided that they would move it to a new site.

Well, through the grapevine, Paul Tingley, resident of Great Village, heard of the offer. He had been contemplating building a shed to store equipment for his expanding garden but was concerned that it be in keeping with his house. Paul lives in no ordinary house. He is the proud



Great Village School outhouse, before the move. The centre door on the right was added while it did shed duty.

owner of the house where the renowned poet and writer Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) lived for a time as a child. She later visited her maternal grandparents there many times.

The house is a provincially registered heritage property. Its style is Classical Revival, in vernacular form. The main building is a rectangular, gable-roofed structure though it has become more complex as a result of extensions, porches, and dormers. It is clad in white clapboard and has a tin shingled roof.

The village and the house are featured in many of Bishop's writings and every year Bishop scholars from all over the world make pilgrimages to see them. Paul knew he couldn't put just any shed in his garden. He thought the outhouse, with its historical significance, would be a fitting complement to the house.

And so, in September, the outhouse was moved on a low flatbed truck to Paul's garden, where he had prepared a special spot.

The wooden structure has exterior dimensions of 11 ft. x 17ft. At one time, it was divided into three sections: one for boys, one for girls, and one for teachers. The boys' and girls' sections were further subdivided into big boys/little boys and big girls/little girls. These divisions account for its three doors and six windows. Some members of the Great Village Historical Society and the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia remember two holes for the teachers, five for the girls, and five for the boys plus a sort of galvanized urinal. (No one would admit to being in both sides!) It sat up on a foundation and had a clean-out tray

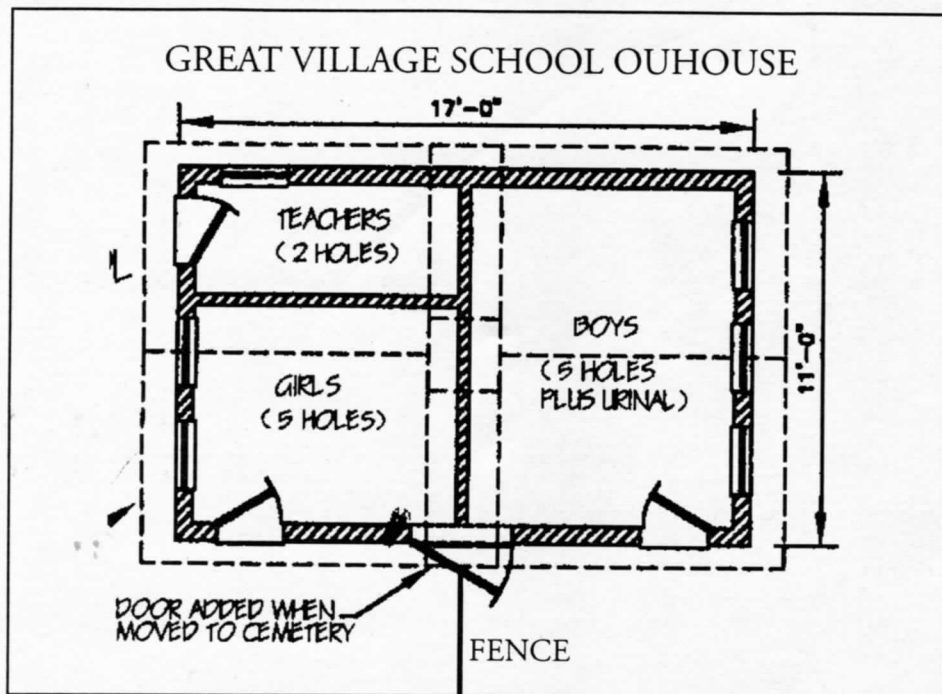
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underneath. A fence extended from the outhouse almost connecting to the side of the school, separated the boys from the girls.

The outhouse was well built. The exterior is clad in white clapboard and the interior walls are of horizontal tongue and groove boards, complete with a suspended ceiling. The windows have decorative trim. Currently, the gable roof has asphalt shingles but Paul plans to put back wood shingles. The rotten floor has already been replaced. An old photo, supplied by Meredyth and Robert Layton (owners of Layton's General Store, a registered heritage property), shows a cupola for decorative and ventilation purposes, which Paul may recreate. And, of course, there is a lot of graffiti and signed names which only add to its character.

Both Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia gratefully acknowledge Paul Tingley's efforts to save the outhouse, which will strengthen the heritage of Bishop, the school and the village as a whole.

Paul Tingley is even considering becoming a member of the Outhouse Preservation Society. Who knows, maybe someday the Outhouse will be a registered heritage property? For Bishop scholars, it will be another reason to visit, especially considering that Elizabeth Bishop would have used the outhouse. Though she never wrote about the building, she did write a comical poem about a toilet.



Living Next To The Toilet

By Elizabeth Bishop, recollected by Mary McCarthy

Ladies and Gents,
Ladies and Gents,
Flushing away your
excrements,
I sit and hear beyond the
wall,
A sad continual waterfall,
That sanitary pipes can give,
To still our actions primitive.

EDITOR'S PS:

Travelling in Tunisia recently, Chris and I visited the site of ancient

Carthage and several of the cities subsequently built by the conquering Romans.

We never cease to marvel at the civil engineering and architecture created by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago. At the city of Dougga we enjoyed seeing what is left of their remarkable public buildings, whose walls and pillars still dominate the landscape.

But best of all were the remains of the large horseshoe-shaped public toilet where the Romans communed with nature and each other. And the Romans had what Great Village did not—running water!

HTNS repairs Forman headstone

In last December's *Griffin* we reported that the Trust was having Robert Forman's fallen headstone in Camp Hill Cemetery repaired. Forman was the grandfather of Helen Macdonald, who bequeathed Richmond Hill Farm and a generous maintenance endowment to the Trust in 1976. In the same issue of the *Griffin*, there was an article on Heather Lawson, a very talented stonemason from Bass River. Heather agreed to undertake the work. She found that the plinth had not been installed correctly in the '20s, when the shiny new headstone

replaced the old grave. Heather reinstalled it, reattached the obelisk, and the stone is now back on its feet.

*Below: Forman's headstone bites the dust
Right: Back on its feet, straighter than ever.*



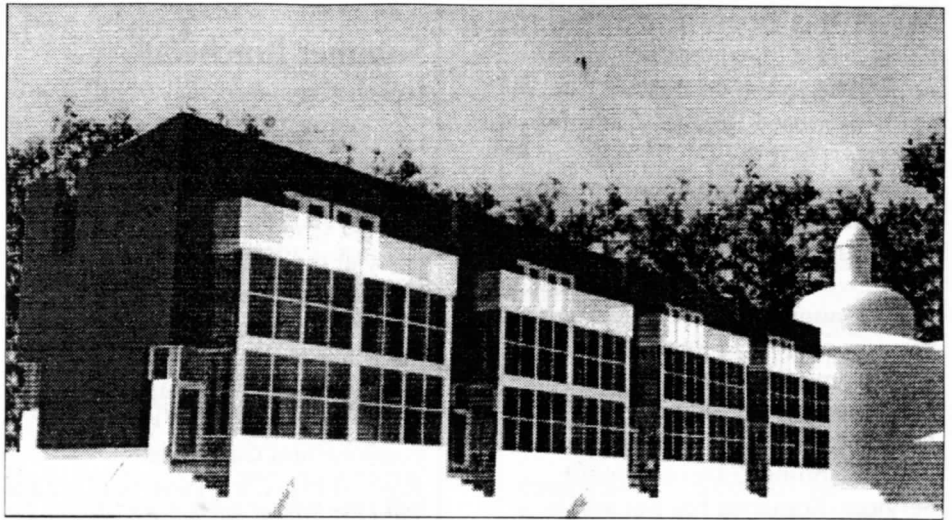
Saint George's Place?

By Mia Nishi Rankin

Many local area residents were taken aback by real estate advertisements that appeared in local papers last summer for Saint George's Place: a proposed development to be located at the site of the former Alexandra School, between Brunswick, Cornwallis and Maitland streets. The site is a 1.68 acre municipally owned lot adjacent to Saint George's Church, in the heart of the Brunswick Heritage Area, which contains a high concentration of heritage properties. The developer, Romanza Custom Homes, proposes to construct 48 freehold townhouse units designed by Brian MacKay-Lyons Architecture and Urban Design. While the community would like the property to be developed for residential use, there is concern that the architectural design and density of the units does not harmonize with the heritage nature of the area. In fact, many aspects of the design violate the special zoning restrictions for the area.

Zoning regulations

The zoning regulations in effect for this site are set forth in the Brunswick



Artist's impression of "...New York Style loft homes with floor to ceiling windows and modern open interiors while respecting the historical significance of the area"

Comprehensive Development District (BCDD) Planning Policy which were developed jointly by Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff and the community. The consultative process included area residents, the Brunswick Heritage Area Residents Association (BHARA), Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia (HTNS) and Saint George's Church. It consisted of a series of workshops and meetings which took place over the course of 15 months beginning in February 1997. The BCDD Planning Policy has been lauded as a fine example of community and municipal co-operation, and is one that clearly

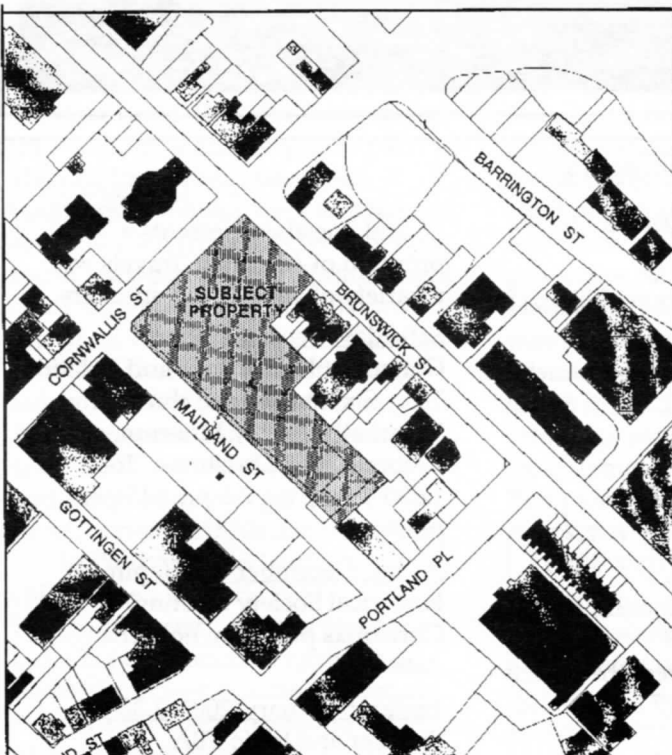
carries a strong jointly supported mandate to protect the heritage nature of the area.

At a special BHARA meeting held on September 5, there was consensus that the proposed townhouse design does not fit in with the heritage nature of the area and that the density of the 48 townhouse units is too high.

Based on information provided by the developer, the Romanza plan does not conform to the BCDD Planning

Policy Document and Zoning regulations for the following reasons:

- i) It does not reflect the heritage character of the existing structures on Brunswick Street [Section 9.5]
- ii) It does not complement the surrounding heritage buildings and heritage streetscape of Brunswick Street [Section 9.7.2 (3)], nor does it promote a variety of building forms and designs [Section 9.7.2 (4)]
- iii) It does not specify that there is a minimum of 25 per cent set aside for private open space and landscaped areas [Section A (ii)]
- iv) Based on the site plan, the setback on the Cornwallis Street side of the site is not consistent with the existing setback of the Akins Court townhouse development [Section C (iii)]
- v) Based on the site plan, the side- and rear-yard setbacks are not consistent with the existing residential buildings, particularly registered buildings, in the district [Section C (v)]
- vi) It is not in keeping with the Colonial, Georgian and Victorian styles of architecture found in the Peninsula North area of Halifax [Section F (iv)]. The Planning Policy specifically states that the building design "...shall only contain elements common to this particular design. Such elements shall include but not be limited to roofs, windows, doors, dormers, porches, building materials and colours." (Cont. on next page)



What has been done to date

Because of widespread community opposition to the design and density of the proposed Romanza development, last month both BHARA and HTNS sent letters to the owner of Romanza Custom Homes, Mr. J.P. Felix, outlining their concerns. These letters were copied to HRM Council, HRM Planning and Development Services and HRM Real Estate Development Services. To date, no reply has been received from Mr. Felix. According to Kevin Barrett of HRM Planning & Development Services, Romanza has not yet applied for a development agreement. A representative from the firm of Brian MacKay-Lyons has confirmed that they have re-designed the project, but that it is on hold at present. At press time, they were not authorized to provide additional information.

Community objectives

BHARA's mandate is to promote and protect the quality of life in the neighbourhood, which includes the protection of the heritage character of the area. The community would ultimately like to see the Brunswick Heritage Area designated as a national historic area. Since the Alexandra Centre site is located in the heart of the Brunswick Heritage Area, the design of any development on the site must be in accordance with the letter and spirit of the BCDD Planning Policy and Zoning Regulations. BHARA and HTNS are interested in working with any potential developers toward the creation of residential units that are complementary to the heritage nature of the area and consistent with community goals outlined in the BCDD Planning Policy.

Heritage preservation is important not only for Brunswick Street but for all of Halifax. We must preserve the integrity of our heritage areas through careful conservation and heritage-friendly new development. Ultimately this will have a direct impact on tourism revenue and the quality of life for the citizens of Halifax.

Info: Craig Walkington, BHARA
(902)422-6968/ cwalk@hfx.eastlink.ca

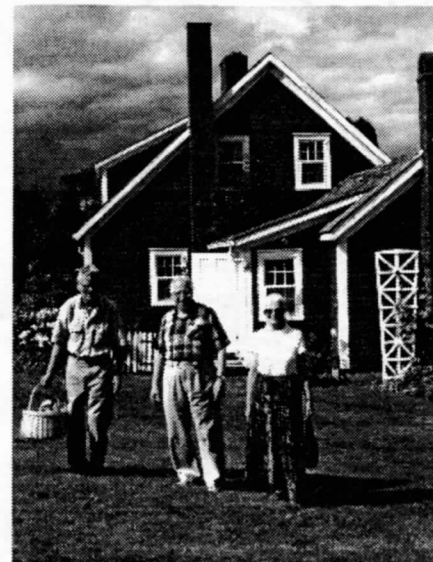
Summer luncheon by the sea

Past president John Lazier and his wife Catherine offered Trust members a taste of paradise in August when they hosted a lunch party at their Mahone Bay home; a Loyalist farmhouse built in 1800.

The sun shone, a breeze ruffled the water, the flowers bloomed, the food and wine were superb and a good time was had by all. Thank you John and Catherine.

Right: (l to r) Chris West, Jim Lotz and Pat Lotz behind the house.

Below: Trust members doing what they do best: enjoying themselves.



Events: *Continued from page 15*

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society

Ottawa House, Parrsboro, NS.

Sunday, December 10

Christmas House Tour and Lunch.
\$10. Details: 902-254-2376, or Susan
Clarke, 902-392-2051

Yarmouth County Historical Society and Museum

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS.

Contact: 902-742-5539

Unless otherwise stated, the Society
meets first Fridays at 7.30 pm. and

on 2nd Tuesdays presents a
program of Armchair Travels with
a variety of venues and speakers.

Saturday, December 2.

Christmas House Tour and Yuletide
Tea. Six houses, one church and
Yarmouth County Museum, all
decorated for Christmas. Tour
12.30-4 pm; tea 2-5 pm \$15 per
person.

Friday, December 8, 7.30 pm

Historical Society meeting.
Christmas program, note change of
date

Friday, 5 January, 2001, 7.30 pm

Speaker and topic TBA

Letter from our new president



As the new president of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, I look forward to working with the board and members, to pursue the principal aim of the Trust—

the preservation of built heritage in this Province.

In my former life as a school teacher and principal, I endeavoured to instil in my students an abiding interest in local history and in the significance of heritage buildings. As the MLA (1998-99) for Halifax Citadel, I lent my efforts to those attempting to save the little Irving gas station on Sackville Street from demolition. I also supported citizens concerned about development along the Halifax waterfront in the Lower Water Street area. We wanted to ensure that the waterfront district was developed in a pedestrian-friendly manner and that any new development was consistent with the heritage of the area.

I am proud to be associated with Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, an organization which, during the last 40 years, has been a much-respected voice for heritage conservation in the province. In Halifax, the Trust was in the forefront of efforts to save the Historic Properties waterfront buildings. It lobbied long and hard to save the view from Citadel Hill. As a result, viewplanes, or building height controls, are in the Zoning By-law. The Trust worked hard to achieve provincial heritage protection legislation, now the Heritage Property Act. Forty-nine municipalities have taken advantage of the legislation and enacted by-laws giving protection to their heritage buildings.

In Wolfville, the Trust collaborated with the Wolfville Historical Society and the Heritage Canada Foundation to have the Ladies Seminary Building (1878) at Acadia University made into a National Historic Site. This was the
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site of the earliest higher education program for women in Canada. In recent months, through the Communities Committee, we have helped move and restore the Lent House in Freeport, Digby County.

The Trust has also arranged for a heritage assessment of the Putnam House in Brookfield, to assist the owners who wish to preserve and rehabilitate this historic building.

Since the late 1980s, Heritage Trust has prepared research reports on buildings in the Halifax area and in other parts of the Province. This information has assisted the process of achieving municipal and provincial heritage registration for many buildings.

There are on-going concerns which will require our diligence in the months and years ahead. As well as preventing heritage buildings from succumbing to the wrecker's ball, we also want to ensure that where preservation efforts are undertaken they are done in an authentic way. Our registered heritage buildings should not depict a confusing array of features through renovation or 'remuddling', but should retain their indigenous character as authentically as possible.

We want the registration of heritage buildings to continue throughout the province. In the Halifax Regional Municipality, one of Canada's most historic cities, we do not have enough historic buildings registered so that they receive some legal protection. The recent loss of two municipally registered heritage properties, the Irving gas station in Halifax and the Starr Manufacturing plant in Dartmouth, indicate that we have to do more to assure that municipally designated heritage buildings have greater protection from demolition.

Peter Delefos

Trust supports station

At its September meeting, the Board awarded \$200 to the Brookfield Railway Station and Heritage Society for display shelving in the station. See *Griffin* Sept. 2000.

OBITUARY

Elsie Churchill Tolson (1911-2000)

Elsie Churchill Tolson, who died in July, was a good friend to heritage in Nova Scotia. A member of the Churchill family of Hantsport, Nova Scotia, she began assembling an archive of Bedford and Sackville history shortly after marrying Richard Tolson of Bedford in 1934.

She early recognized and combatted the threat to the Sackville River and orchestrated the purchase of the property which is now preserved as Fort Sackville and the Scott Manor House.

Elsie Tolson was an early member of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, taking part in the epic fight to prevent demolition of Historic Properties. She was a member of the Book Committee which produced *Founded Upon a Rock* and other publications, and herself restored a building on Dresden Row, where she established the Sea Chest, reputed to be the first boutique in the province.

She was an influential member of the Sackville Heritage Society and the Hantsport Heritage Society. In 1981, she was appointed to the Bedford Task Force Advisory Committee and in 1983, became a director of the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation.

Her articles on local history appeared in every edition of the *Bedford-Sackville News* (now the *Daily News*) and were later published in book form as *The Captain, The Colonel and Me*. She was published in many other magazines in the region.

Elsie Tolson's contribution to raising awareness of and saving heritage in many of its forms is well recognized. Her extensive collection of papers and her library will be shared among institutions throughout Nova Scotia.

In the Wake of the Alderney

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, 1750-2000



Harry Chapman

Watch for Dartmouth History

As part of Dartmouth's 250th anniversary celebrations, author and historian Harry Chapman has produced *In the Wake of the Alderney*, which covers the history of the community from 1750 to 2000. It is a production of the Dartmouth Historical Association and HRM's Millennium Committee

Millennium funding for Saint George's interpretation site



The Millennium Bureau of Canada provided one-third of the \$45,000 cost of installing outdoor interpretation sites at Saint George's Round Church and the Little Dutch Church in Halifax. Panel one describes the arrival of the Foreign Protestants in 1750; panel two, the design and construction of the Round Church; panel three, its mission over 200 years and panel four, the 1994 fire and subsequent restoration. One third of the cost came in the shape of professional services donated by friends of Saint George's and the remaining cost was paid for out of general restoration funds. Under the terms of its restoration grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Saint George's is required to present the building and its history to the public.

Academic conference or family gathering



So many of the 100-plus people who attended a one-day conference on the Foreign Protestants who came to Nova Scotia in the 1750s were descended from these hardy souls that the event had more the air of a family gathering. The family atmosphere of this September 30 event was increased by the home made German cookies presented to the speakers and distribution of the traditional recipe to one and all.

Organized by Dr. Allen Robertson, president of the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes, the conference touched on many aspects

of the influx of German settlers who influenced the growth of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Speakers included Dr. Gertrude Waseem, who described the recruiting literature used by the British to attract the settlers; Dr. Paul Erickson, who spoke of research into the burials under the Little Dutch (Deutsch) Church; Dr. Terrence Punch, who focussed on the role played by the tiny European state of Montbeliard in so many of the journeys; and Dr. Robertson himself, who described the German Jewish settlers of 1750s Halifax. Folklorist Clary Croft rounded off the conference by singing some of the German songs collected in Lunenburg Co. by Dr. Helen Creighton.

The final event on Sunday was a well-attended commemorative service in the Little Dutch Church.

Many participants expressed the hope that this conference marked the beginning of an active phase in the study of the Foreign Protestants.



The Griffin

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Deadline for the next issue:

February 1, 2000

Submissions to:
Doris Butters, Apartment 2211,
1333 South Park Street, Halifax,
N.S., B3H 2K9.
or to the Heritage Trust office, P.O.
Box 36111, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3S9
Tel: (902) 423-480, e-mail material
to heritage.trust@ns.sympatico.ca

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City Rambles:

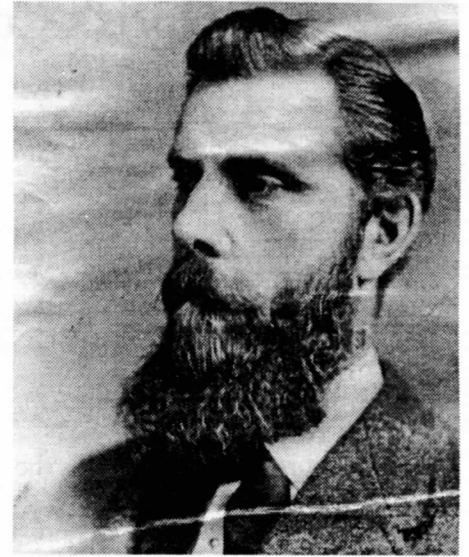
Heritage lost: The Starr Manufacturing Company

By Garry D. Shutlak

As we mourn the lost of another heritage structure in the Halifax Regional Municipality, I thought it appropriate to write a few words about the Starr Manufacturing Company of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia's first internationally known business. It exported its products, particularly skates, around the world. The company owes its fame to the invention by John Forbes (1834-1915) of the Acme spring skate which easily clamped onto regular boots. This invention revolutionized skating in general and hockey and figure skating in particular.

About 1863, John Forbes invented his skate and joined with D. Starr & Sons to produce them. In 1866, Mr Forbes patented his skates in all the British provinces as well as the United States. The new enterprise was incorporated in 1868 as the Starr Manufacturing Company. At first, the company only produced iron nails of

all descriptions and the skates, which could be electroplated in gold, silver, copper, nickel or any metal you desired. But over the years the firm diversified into steel scabbard joints or clip rail joints, other kinds of joints and rivets, and built coal and mineral cars and iron bridges. It built the first truss iron railway bridge in the province at Elmsdale in 1876 and the first swing bridge over the Narrows at Halifax. Its best known and most photographed creations were the 1886 "Golden Gates" designed by Edward Elliot for Point Pleasant Park. However, skates remained their major export and were crated and sent to other parts of Canada as well as to the United States, Great Britain and her dominions (especially Australia), Europe and Russia. The skates once won first prize at the Philadelphia, Chicago and Berlin international exhibitions and were multiple first place winners at



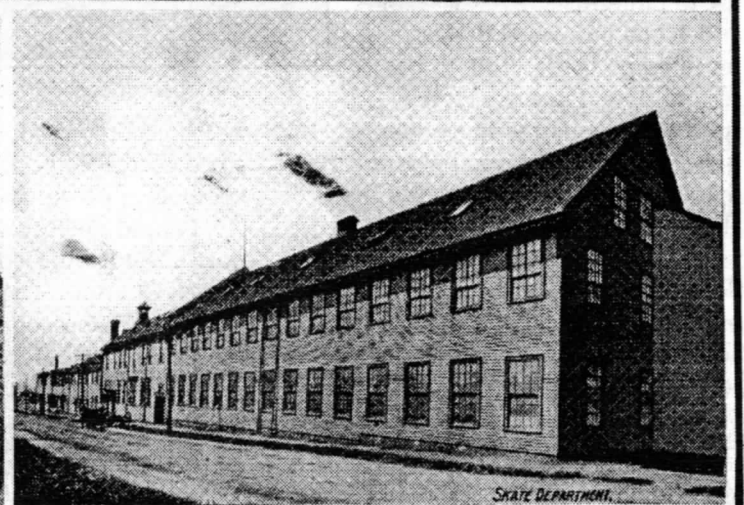
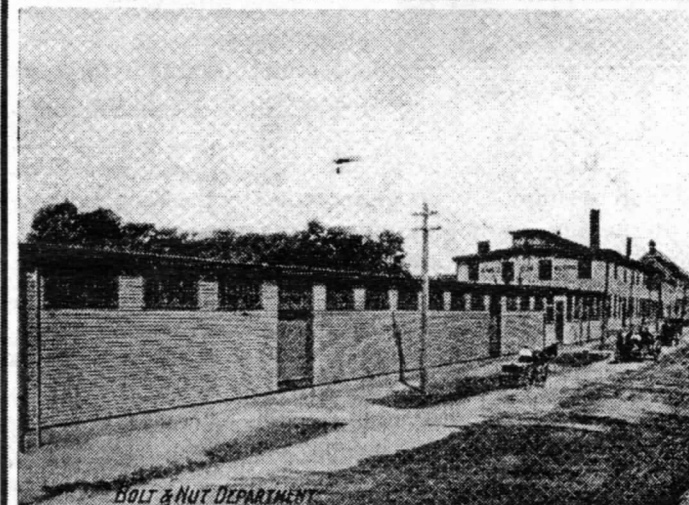
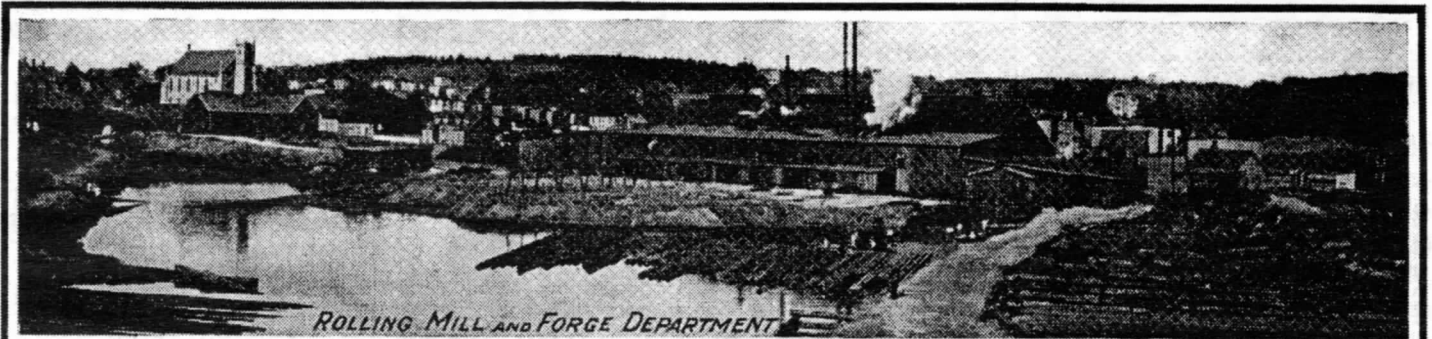
John Forbes various Paris and London exhibitions. Among Starr's clientele were the Governors-General of Canada, the Prince of Wales and continental royalty.

In 1911 the company was appointed skate makers to the Royal house of Spain by King Alphonso XIII. With the expiry or loss of their various patents and increasing competition from other

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Pictures of the Starr Manufacturing Company from the 1913 publication Evidences of the Industrial Ascendency of Nova Scotia. Top: Rolling Mill and Forge Department; Below left: Bolt and Nut Department; Below right: Skate Department.





Doris's Column: *A Heritage Trust lecture with a difference*

Fall 2000's opening program was presented on September 21 by Dr. Marie Elwood, former Chief Curator of

History, Nova Scotia Museum, and held at Province House—a Palladian stone gem overlooked, but undiminished by, the nearby clutter of glass and concrete towers. Marie Elwood's approach to showing us the building was at each stop to point out three items of the building's art and architecture.

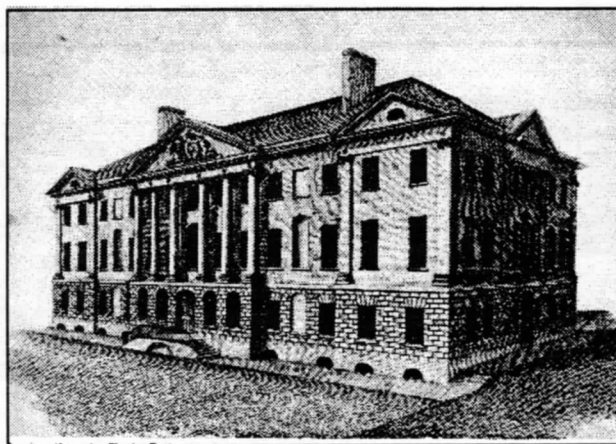
Sir George Prevost laid the cornerstone of the new home of the legislature on August 12, 1811, just before he left Nova Scotia to become Governor of Lower Canada. Richard Scott was appointed architect to construct Province House "according to a plan and elevation made by John Merrick." The result is a perfectly proportioned building, with a wealth of fine architectural detail, strongly influenced by the designs of the Adam brothers, Robert and James. When the Legislature met for the first time on February 11, 1819, the Speech from the Throne was read by the Lieutenant Governor, the Earl of Dalhousie.

The central door from Hollis Street opens into a lofty pillared hall from which the main staircase rises to the beautifully embellished State rooms above. Marie pointed out how this inner space had been lightened by the use of fanlights above the door and side windows, a pattern repeated on the landing to the second floor. Province House staircases, elegant with slender, patterned wrought iron balusters, rise seemingly unsupported to the floors above.

The Red Chamber on the second floor lies on the north side of the building, balanced by the green-accented Assembly Chamber on the south side. Why those colours? Status indicators: red for the Upper House, green for the lower Legislative Assembly. Marie had

served as consultant during redecoration, and ensured that the colours used in restoration of woodwork and walls conformed to the original. It was she who made the choice of red and green in the narrow banding of the diamond-shaped design in the carpeting of landings and stairs. Tiny cross sections of chips taken from woodwork, walls and columns showed that layers of different colours had been applied over the years. The original shades have been well matched, and today plaster, woodwork and columns are in pale stone shades ranging from greyish to a yellow-tinged cream.

In the Red Chamber she drew our attention to the classical details of this lofty 'double cube' room with its marble columns, exquisite ceiling plaster work, and garlanded wall panels reflecting our maritime heritage in moulded sea and plant life details. Pastoral scenes and architectural fantasies decorate windows, door surrounds and chimney pieces. The corner mouldings on the ceiling, believed to



Province House by Charles Torbett, 1826

be Prince of Wales feathers, are in fact a trio of Acanthus leaves, classical symbols of power and high position.

Behind the Royal thrones are portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte. The regal stance, rich heavy robes, one hand resting on the sceptre indicate the kingly power of His Majesty. Slightly diminished in size but with fingers touching the crown, Charlotte shows that she is Queen. The elaborately carved thrones of mahogany and red velvet

have crowns atop their backs. The King's chair dates to the mid-1800s, the Queen's—an exact replica made in Nova Scotia for the 1939 visit of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The elegant red upholstered arm chairs around the long table were for the male-only members of the Council and would never have accommodated the crinolined lady of the 1800s, whose gown was usually as wide as the length of her body! The long, weighty oak ex-Navy table had been toted up the hill from the waterfront by a body of sturdy seamen.

Full-length portraits of two of Nova Scotia's military heroes, Major-General Sir John E.W. Inglis and Sir William Fenwick Williams of Kars, flank the centre door. Marie regaled us with details of the fee structure of the often-itinerant portrait painters of the past: top price for full length; proportionately less for knee length, waist, or head and shoulders; miniatures the least expensive. One painter in Maine charged extra for hands!

We moved to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, originally a larger room. In 1886, to improve the heating, changes in layout were made, including the introduction of a low colonnaded balcony for public and press.

At the far end of the room is the partially-canopied Speaker's Chair, flanked by three rows of MLA's chairs behind plain wood desks fitted with microphones. On the Recorder's table, and brought out for our special benefit, stood the

Ceremonial Mace, ancient symbol of Royal authority. Originally a battle weapon carried by the King's bodyguard, the mace became the emblem of the transfer of power to the English parliament. Nova Scotia's four-foot-long, 25-lb. mace of silver gilt is richly decorated. Above the ball head the Royal Crown and on the ball itself, the provincial crest and arms, and the Great Seal. A tiny stamp at the base, we learned, indicated that it

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The Griffin - Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Part 1: A National Trust for Canada *by Brenda Shannon*



It is estimated that over the last 30 years Canada has lost 25 per cent of its pre-1940 buildings to neglect and the wrecker's ball—an attrition rate

unthinkable in other developed countries, most of which have national trust-like bodies. So does this make the case for a national trust in Canada? In a federal state such as ours what should this animal look like, what should its role be, how should it be structured and financed?

This year's Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF) conference titled "Towards a National Trust" discussed some of these questions.

The idea of a national trust is not new. In fact when the federal government created the Foundation in 1973, the idea was the creation of a national trust. But a number of difficulties, including an unsympathetic tax system, precluded its full development.

The idea surfaced again in the 1990s, triggered in part by the federal government's growing awareness of the importance of built heritage and concern about the number of its own heritage buildings becoming surplus to requirements. This led the HCF, which was already working with the federal government on taxation policies, (Griffin Vol.25#2) to cooperate on a policy package for the preservation of historic places, a key component of which would be a national trust.

Speakers at the conference looking at the possible role of a trust, examined stewardship, information, fund raising, education and legal advocacy in this context.

Stewardship

Stewardship of our built heritage will demand any number of models from ownership by a trust to creative partnerships with local, private or public sector bodies and the use of tools such as protective covenants. A supportive tax regime is essential.

Information

Information on heritage abounds on the Internet but much of it is costly to
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access or its credibility is suspect. On the flip side, the heritage community itself has much information which should be easily available to the public. A trust could provide free access for heritage information as well as being a clearing house.

Fundraising

Philanthropy in general and government grants were discussed. What came out most strongly was that without a supportive tax regime neither private giving or government grants could meet the demands of an ever-increasing inventory of significant buildings.

Education

Speakers noted the need for heritage enthusiasts to go beyond their usual



A four-part feature on the proceedings of the annual conference of The Heritage Canada Foundation.

contacts, and become flexible and open in involving the widest possible audience including youth, native people and new Canadians. The relationship between preserving our heritage and the needs of poor neighbourhoods is a pressing issue that must be addressed.

Legal advocacy

Panelists spoke to the frustration of finding the right balance; as one noted, "There seems to be a correlation between the strength of designation legislation and a reluctance by the said jurisdiction to use it." A key to successful advocacy is often finding and working with the right constituencies in a community. A national trust should also be prepared to launch test cases as the

National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U.S. has done.

While the conference was taking place, HCF was conducting a Canada-wide survey of its own members and the general public to find out their opinions on a number of heritage issues including support for a national trust. Results showed strong support from members and the general public for a national trust and for HCF adopting this role.

The conference proceedings and the national survey have made a strong case for a national trust. The Foundation has presented a summary of the conference discussion and findings to the Department of Canadian Heritage for action. The key to moving forward will be what steps the federal government might take, including improved tax laws, policies and programs to encourage preservation of heritage buildings, as well as developing a blueprint for a national trust.



Part 2: Editor gets medal

At the end of the HCF conference, Griffin editor Anne West was presented with the Gabrielle Léger Award for exemplary lifetime achievement in the preservation of heritage in Canada. This award was given in recognition of her work as campaign chair for Saint George's Restoration. The award was inaugurated by Madama Gabrielle Léger in 1978, when it was presented to Hartland MacDougall, founding president of HCF, who is seen above presenting it to Anne.

Part 3: Saving the heritage

Calgary is an intoxicating city of dramatic skyscrapers and imposing public buildings: a monument to the hard-working entrepreneurs of the farming and oil and gas industries.

But through the heart of this leviathan runs one human-scale street: a street lined with heritage buildings from the early 20th century. Here trees flourish, buskers perform and people stroll, and shop and eat in an eclectic array of shops and restaurants. The five blocks of the Stephen Street Mall are a joy to eye and heart. Did this just happen? No, it did not.

By the end of the 19th century, Stephen Avenue was a frontier main street built mainly of wood. But early in the 20th century, fire and development had removed many of these buildings and increasing financial maturity led to the construction of imposing new structures. Banks and merchants vied to express their success in brick and stone. Architectural styles ranging from classical to art deco announced, "We are important." By 1920, there were six stone banks on the street. Merchants included the Hudson's Bay Company, a hardware store, a jewellery company, a produce supplier and many more. Lawyers, milling company, oil companies and real estate developers had their headquarters there. A fine theatre was part of a commercial building built in 1911, and in 1921 a spectacular cinema opened. The street was the hub of a burgeoning city.

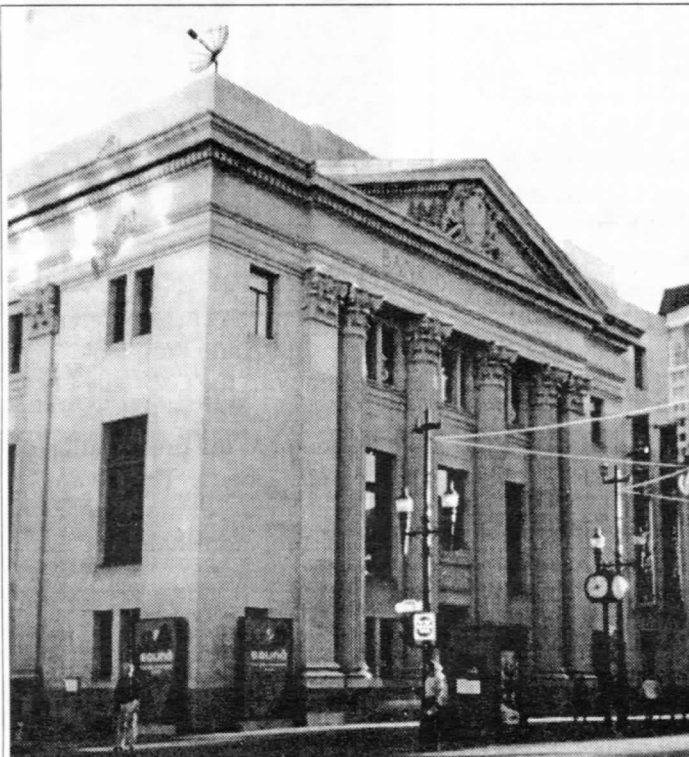
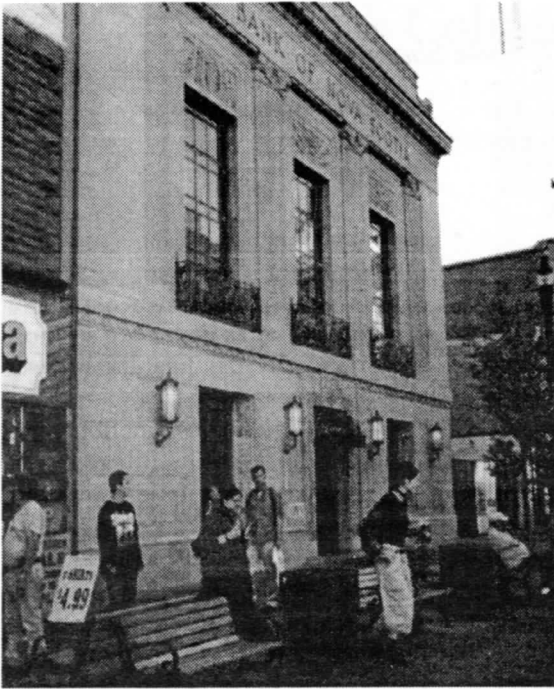
But time moved on and the commercial life of the city moved into the dramatic highrises that now soar out of the prairie and shopping moved to malls and other indoor locations. By the mid-80s, Stephen Avenue was derelict and many of the buildings had been crudely altered or had deteriorated badly. Crime and the drug scene took over and rock bottom was reached at the end of the '80s when two murders took place. The street had become a

Top left: The 1930 Bank of Nova Scotia, once a murder scene, but its banking hall and vault now a very elegant restaurant

Centre left: Stephen Avenue is a pedestrian precinct except for very limited access hours. With its trees and outdoor cafés, it is popular with Calgarians and visitors alike

Bottom left: Now a music store, the 1929 Bank of Montreal on what was the busiest corner in the city, is classical revival architecture in its purest form. It was preceded by a more modest branch built in 1889

Left: Gilded banking hall into music store. The massive vault under the bank can be visited on request



heart of Calgary *By Anne West*

headache for city council.

At this point a plan to rehabilitate Stephen Avenue was conceived. The city found a pot of gold of \$2.45 million which it invested as a trust fund, the interest from which would provide incentives to save the street. In a private-public partnership which included the City of Calgary and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, owners of the properties were offered 50 per cent of the cost of restoring their buildings. In 1992, under the guidance of Heritage Planner Rob Graham, work began to save the 34 most significant buildings. Just eight years later, the street is vibrant again and there are only four buildings to go.

But the challenges have not just been in restoration. What do you do with six redundant bank buildings? The largest, the 1930s Bank of Montreal, is now a music store, its gilded banking hall full of CDs and eager shoppers. The Bank of Nova Scotia is an elegant restaurant, complete with vault room, and Merchant Bank is a store. The cinema is a valued social, another building houses a discount fashion store and many others serve ingenious new purposes. There are holdouts, of course, including one building bizarrely painted by its owner in protest.

The two blocks at the eastern end are not quite such a success story. The historic buildings here were reduced to mere facades in the construction of a gigantic conference centre and some entirely new facades have been built to fill spaces. But it works, and means that the mall continues up to Calgary's dramatic new City Hall.

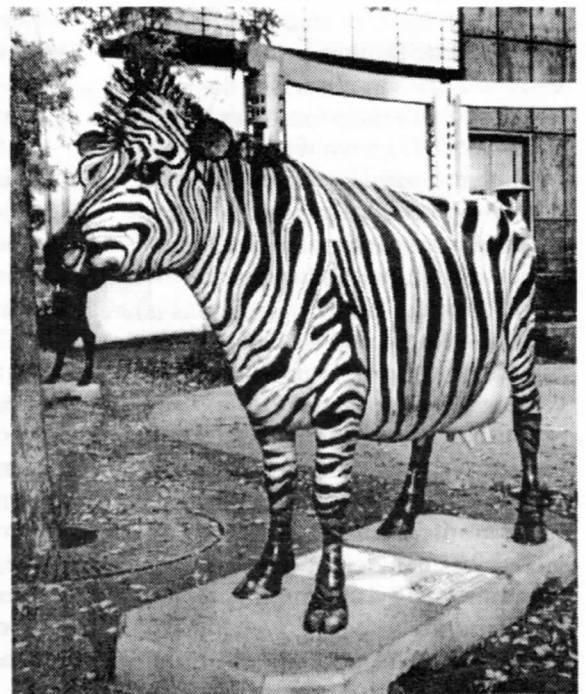
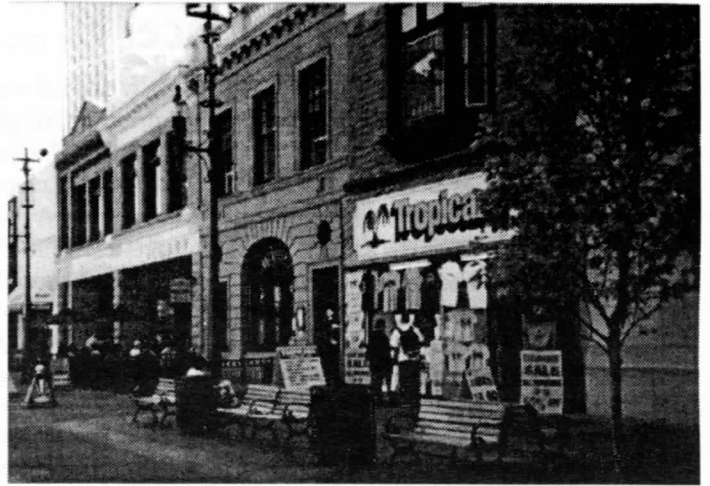
Could there be a lesson here for main streets in Nova Scotia? Pots of gold are hard to come by, but not impossible to find.

Top: L to R: In 1901, the Calgary Milling Company built its headquarters. In 1902, the Merchant Bank spent \$9,000 to remodel an existing building and add a fine classical facade. Next comes a vulgar statement of defiance by a holdout owner. This building, originally Jacques Jewellery, is painted garish colours.

Centre: The last remaining 19th century wooden storefront, now a popular T-shirt vendor

Bottom right: The excitement of Calgary is summed up by the 100 crazily decorated cows, part of a city-wide fundraising scheme, which meet you at every turn

Right: Eastern end of Stephen Avenue: just facades old and new fronting a huge convention centre but capturing the essence of the age



Part 4: Not the fireplace! *The art and science of the heritage easement*

Vice-President (Heritage) Michele Raymond, who wrote this article, is enthusiastic about the subject and would be delighted to talk to anyone interested. See back cover for her telephone/e-mail.

The Calgary Civic Trust is a relatively new heritage organization in a relatively new city, but we should all be grateful for its foresight in setting up a two-day workshop on covenanting, just before the Heritage Canada Foundation conference.

A covenant or easement on a heritage resource is a legally binding document attached to the deeds of a property which mandates protection of a part of the property which has heritage significance. It is agreed between the owner and some organization like the Heritage Trust or national trust. Such easements are potentially a more flexible tool than statutory protection, and a less expensive one than outright ownership.

I was the only Atlantic Canadian at the workshop, but I wish I hadn't been. What emerged from it was a working knowledge of a heritage protection technique widely used by the national trusts in the United States and the United Kingdom, but largely unknown here. Speakers Tim Butler of Britain's National Trust (NT), Paul Edmonson of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) in the U.S. and Canadian tax lawyer Marc Denhez briefed us on each country's approach to the rights afforded by heritage easements and covenants. Then we were given case studies and turned loose to draft easements on five Calgary properties ranging from a mere facade to an intact, fully-furnished estate.

We learned that ownership is no more than legal possession of a bundle of rights over property. A covenant can be created by identifying, separating and granting (selling off) any of those rights. Historically, a restrictive covenant is a right, granted or sold off by one landowner to a neighbour, guaranteeing that the landowner would not do anything which would interfere with the grantee's right, whether it was to cross the other's

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land, use his well, look at his landscape, or graze cattle on his land.

In 1937, however, the U.K. Parliament created a new variant of the common law easement, specifically for the protection of heritage sites. These statutory easements, created under the National Trust Act, allowed the NT to receive and hold easements requiring positive acts by a landowner, whether or not the NT owned adjacent land. Since then, the NT has acquired hundreds of easements over natural and built heritage sites.

Easements are an excellent way to ensure that a property owner's heritage vision is transmitted to all subsequent owners; they also provide a framework in which that vision can be monitored. The NT maintains contact with landowners, assigning a contact person to each covenanted property and ensuring that printed information on the easement is given to subsequent purchasers. It also holds regular meetings involving property owners and the public.

Ironically, these covenants can be almost too successful. Tim Butler described Hambleton, a 1600-hectare estate in Berkshire which includes two villages, numerous farms and three historic houses. NT covenants have maintained it in such a desirable state that now its land is very expensive, and appeals to buyers who want rustic cottages, but with three-car garages, atriums and swimming pools!

Most covenants contain provisions for relaxation or release (particularly for socially worthy reasons), and such decisions are an important part of easement administration.

The American situation differs from the British in two important respects. Firstly, it includes a financial incentive to donate easements over heritage properties. Although granting an easement is assumed to diminish the property's value, the US federal government has chosen to ensure that it is a financially rewarding transaction. When a heritage covenant is created and granted, it is considered a

charitable donation, valued at the difference between the property's value before and after the easement is taken. As a donation, it is deductible from the property-owner's income. The same consideration applies at the state and municipal taxation levels, and in establishing estate taxes.

Secondly, the NTHP prefers not to hold and administer covenants itself, but to broker them for local or state bodies closer to the property in question. The only exceptions are when no local body can hold the easement, or when the entire property has been given to the NTHP so that easements can be created and reserved, and the rest of the property then sold. The NTHP is careful in evaluating offers of easements, and in accepting them. It requires a donation of the right itself, and of an endowment to fund monitoring activities. Both are tax-deductible.

Flexibility

Heritage covenants create a private, contractual relationship between two parties. They can be drawn up to protect any aspect of a given property, regardless of the statutory scheme of regulation. Tim Butler described the protection of boulders on the Cornish estate of Zennor, and Paul Edmonson detailed the protection of the viewsheds of Montpelier, VA., and Lindhurst in New York city. (Viewshed protection involves taking covenants over lands adjacent to heritage properties, analogous to Halifax's viewplane legislation.)

The Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act, and the protection for municipal and provincial heritage properties flowing from it cannot protect interior features. Yet an easement might protect an interior wall painted by a particular craftsman in a paint no longer used, a fireplace with an unusual amethyst mantelpiece, or rare mouldings created by a particular craftsman. Easements might have protected the Dumaresq Theatre which stood at the heart of the Navy League building at the corner of Barrington and South streets in Halifax. (*Cont. next page*)

A visit to Chester

Heritage House and Harbour Tour 2000, held on a fine sunny August 26, was a great success. Twenty five Heritage Trusters and friends had the tour boat to themselves, with a guide who gave an excellent commentary on the Harbour with its many islands and spectacular summer estates, best seen from the water. In Chester, seven homes and one church were visited and the group enjoyed a satisfying lunch at The Rope Loft overlooking the Harbour. The tour concluded with afternoon tea at Chester United Baptist Church. Hilary Grant, now operating Foremost Tours, Bedford, arranged the tour. Thanks to Helen Robb, who sent in her official program and a copy of the history of 'Over The Way', we have the following details of places visited:

Ditchley Park, 107 Duke Street, built in the 1890s by carpenter John Etter, and now owned by Evelyn Van Scoyk. The original building has been enlarged with additions to the front to create today's two-storey building. Its most well-known owner, Fred Butler the village postman who

bought the house in 1929, founded the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion which held its early meetings there.

The Metzger Office, 98 Duke, a storey and a half, pitched-roof store front, was constructed circa 1918 by James Stanford, and served for a while as the post office run by Annie Stanford. Subsequent owners were Chester Light & Power Co., Nova Scotia Light & Power Co., Canada Customs, and Anne Flinn who used it as an annex of the Warp & Wool Gift Shop. Now Chester resident Frank Metzger has renovated the interior and it is once again office space.

Over the Way (c. 1905) is located at Pleasant and Duke streets. Current owner Jon Dimick is the great grandson of Dr. Andrew Anderson of St. Augustine, Florida who first came to Chester in 1905. The Andersons arrived by schooner early in July, landing at the then Hackmatack Wharf. They promptly fell in love with this 'rustic fishing and farming village', and immediately bought the property 'over the way' from the wharf. By November 1, an army of

workmen had constructed an imposing three-storey house with three dormers in its pitched roof, and the family moved in. But with only fire places to heat the 18 rooms and a coal stove to provide hot water for 5 bathrooms, with minimal insulation, no storm windows—and the onset of cold weather—the Andersons were on their way south within a week!

However, they returned each summer to become avid sailors and keen sail-boat racers. In the 1940s, Jon's father, John M. Dimock, served as Rear Commodore and Vice Commodore of the Chester Yacht Club. A copy of the Anderson family story is available in the Trust office.

Calderstones, a modern home located on Freda's Point Extension, has a view as far as Blandford Peninsula. The house was built 1985 in traditional Cape Cod style to designs by architect Syd Dumaresq as a year-round home for the Hughes family from England. The present owners, the Tidswells, redesigned the kitchen/dining room, and added deciduous trees and perennial

Continued on page 19

The cost of easements

The granting of easements over property is currently regarded solely in the context of the property, and as such, is assumed to diminish the economic value of the property. However, some studies show property values increase most rapidly in areas subject to some form of heritage protection, for instance, where its benefits are shared by all neighbours alike.

Heritage easements have been used in Ontario and Western Canada, and Revenue Canada allowed tax deductions for donations of easements over cultural and natural resources until 1997, when it restricted this to ecological resources. With luck and lobbying, this should be expanded again to allow donations for heritage conservation and preservation easements.

I hope we will hear more about covenanting heritage easements here in Nova Scotia. Covenants are

flexible and permanent and allow protection of important features, rather than demanding full ownership of the property, or mandating protection of insignificant elements of it. They require some money for purchase, documentation

and monitoring. I hope that Revenue Canada resumes its tax deductions for donors of heritage easements. Covenants also need research, imagination and informed judgment in their drafting, and resources worthy of protection. These we have in plenty.

Starr: *Continued from page 7* manufacturers, there began a slow decline from being the pre-eminent manufacturer of skates to being just one of many. After 73 years and the sale of 11 million pairs of skates, the firm left the field in 1939. In that year, the company was reorganized and continued the manufacture of iron, steel and hardware goods, finally closing its doors in 1996. In 1977, part of the plant was razed, after which the buildings were in limbo for a number of years. In 1998, preservationists attempted to salvage the site and in the same year an arsonist attempted to destroy the building. Firefighters saved the historic structure with one wall and

part of the roof being destroyed. This year our Mayor and Council allowed this most historic structure to be demolished. Undoubtedly it will be replaced by a supermarket or box store and the increased noise of traffic and trucks. Just ask anyone who lives near a supermarket or business with tractor trailers roaring along the streets at all hours of the day and night. Unfortunately, Dartmouthians, who complain that tourists do not visit the east side of the harbour, have lost another opportunity to create a unique site, the birth place of the modern skate, which would have brought tourists to the area and maintained and enhanced adjacent neighbourhoods.

Programs sponsored by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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

Thursday, December 7, 3 pm
The 21st Century Views the Past. Government House and its Contents. Lecture/tour by Dr. Marie Elwood, former Chief Curator of History, Nova Scotia Museum. See page 15 for special information on this tour.

Thursday, January 19, 7.30 p.m.
The Glass Industry in Nova Scotia. Illustrated lecture by Deborah Trask of N.S. Museum. Bring glass objects of possible N.S. provenance for identification. One piece per person.

Future lectures to be announced

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.

Acadian Historical Society of West Pubnico

Sunday, 17 December, 1 - 4 pm
Christmas House Tour of five decorated West Pubnico houses, followed by afternoon tea in the Acadian Museum. Tickets \$10 each, available at Museum 902-762-3380.

Acadian families are already preparing for the Third World Acadian Congress to be held in Nova Scotia in 2004. Reunions will be held by the LeBlanc, d'Entremont, Comeau, Bourque and other families.

Amherst Township Historical Society

Regular monthly meetings, fourth Tuesdays at Cumberland Co. Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst. Details/meeting times: 902-667-2561.

Bedford Heritage Society

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

Calligraphy Guild of N.S.

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

Canadian Authors Association - N.S. Branch

Meets 2 pm fourth Saturdays at NSARM, 6106 University Avenue,

Halifax. Contacts: Evelyn Brown, 466-2558, or Mary Ann Monnon, 902-542-2726, Wolfville

Charles Macdonald Concrete House

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

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Old Chester Train Station, Chester, Box 629, NS, B0J 1J0. For winter programs contact Duncan McNeill, 902-275-3172

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth. Contact: 434-0222

Wednesday, February 14

Valentine's Day Tea.. Info: 465-1032 or 434-0222

Cumberland County Museum

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

Friday, December 8, 3 pm:

Christmas Celebration - Open House, entertainment, refreshments etc.

January 13 to February 10, 2001

Exhibition of works by budding artists from around the province.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth. For Winter hours and programs contact: 464-2300

December 8 - 23

Teddy bear display in aid of Dartmouth Heritage Foundation

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

2001 - Year of the Costume. For details of Workshops and Programs phone: 800-355-6873

Fort Sackville Foundation/ Scott Manor House

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford. Contact: 832-2336

Thursday, January 25, 2001, 7.30 pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 22, 7.30 pm
General meeting - open to the public.

Fultz House Museum

33 Sackville Drive, Lwr Sackville.

December ?

Christmas Tree Lighting hosted by the Brownies. For details: 865-3794

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Regular public meetings, NSARM, 6016 University Ave., Halifax. Details: 454-0322

Le Musée acadien de Pubnico-Ouest

Sunday, December 2, 7 pm
Special Christmas Concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Holy Family Church, Amirault's Hill, in the church. Singers of the Chorale Acadienne du Sud-Ouest and Chorale de la Baie Ste.-Mary. Adults - \$6; Students - \$3. (Same concert Nov. 26, Meteghan Stella Maris Church).

ROYAL NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Schedule of Meetings
Winter 2001

Wed., January 17, 7.30 p.m. (Nova Scotia Archives)
**"I will not pin my heart to his sleeve": Joseph
Howe, Beamish Murdoch and Responsible
Government Revisited**
Speaker: Philip Girard

Wed., February 21, 7.30 p.m. (Nova Scotia Archives)
**From Intimacy to Detachment: The History of
Relations Between St. Francis Xavier University
and the Diocese of Antigonish to 1970**
Speaker: James Cameron

Wed., March 21, 6 for 6.30 p.m. (Dalhousie
University Club)
Annual Dinner Meeting
**Frederick William Wallace: The Making of an Iron
Man**
Speaker: M. Brook Taylor
(Reservations required: call 423-6894 or 422-5052)

Wed., April 18, 7.30 p.m. (Nova Scotia Archives)
**For the People's Health: Public Health in Nova
Scotia 1900-1945**
Speaker: Peter L. Twohig
(Joint meeting with Genealogical Assoc. of N.S.)

Wed., May 16, 7.30 p.m. (Legislative Council
Chamber, Province House)
Annual Meeting
**A Tale of Two Preachers: Henry Hartley, Francis
Robinson & the Black Churches of the Maritimes**
Speaker: Judith Fingard

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Final Lecture of Series

The 21st century views the past

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



Final Lecture of Series

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Saint George's Anglican Church, 1756-2000

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

Pubnico Community Access Program
(CAP) - public access to Internet has
been launched. For programs and
activities: 902-762-3380 or check:
musee.acadien@ns.sympatico.ca

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

5163 Duke Street, Halifax, NS.
A series of Friday Public Lectures in
the Bell Auditorium. Seating is
limited. Lectures followed by a public
reception in D241

Friday, January 19, 2001, 7-9pm

Subject: Recent works of Stan
Douglas. Introduction by Bob Bean,

Assistant Professor and Chair of
Media Arts

Friday, February 9, 7-9 pm

Subject: Dr. Jonathan Weinberg: The
Rake's Progresses. David Hockney
and Late Modernism. Introduction
by Dr. Marilyn McKay, Associate
Professor, Art History.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Unless otherwise stated, regular
monthly meetings are held Sept. to
July, Maritime Museum of the
Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street,
Halifax. Contact: 424-7490.

Wednesday, February 28, 7.30 pm.
Speaker: Chris Mills, author of *The
Vanishing Light*, editor NSLPS
newsletter, *The Lightkeeper*, former
lightkeeper and freelance reporter.

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum

Barss Corner, Lunenburg County.
Contact: 902-644-2375, or 644-2893.

Monday, December 18, 5pm

Christmas Party

Monday, February 19, 2001, 9 am

Heritage Day Quilting Party to be
held at Wendy Looke's residence.

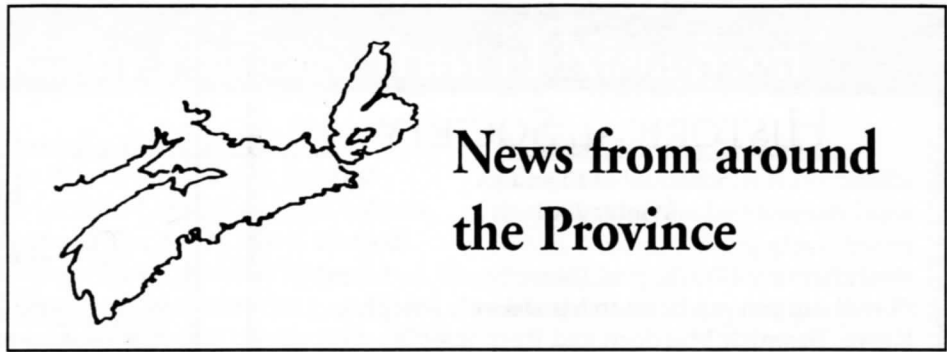
Doris: *continued from page 8*
was manufactured in Birmingham, England, by the Elkington brothers, inventors of a method of electroplating a layer of gold over silver. The silver was from Britain, and the gold from Nova Scotia mines. The mace was a gift to the House of Assembly in 1930 from the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Robert E. Harris and Mrs. Harris.

For our final stop we were divided into two groups, While one visited the Legislative Library, the other would take coffee in the Members' Lounge; then the two groups switched.

On a table outside the Library stood an intricately carved Document Box of maple, presented to Sir Hastings Doyle beneath whose portrait the box had been placed, brought down specially for the Trust members. Sir Hastings, in full military dress, rests his hand beside the box on a beflagged campaign table. Dr. Harry Piers, director of the Nova Scotia Museum during the 1930s and 40s, heard about the box, at that time in the hands of a dealer, purchased it and brought it back to Nova Scotia. But something is missing. The painting shows the box with a 2-inch-deep disc of rough silver surmounted by the figure of a moose. What happened to that remains a mystery to this day.

The Legislative Library is a charming little room, made more 'comfortable' when the ceiling was lowered to provide room space above. It was the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia until 1862, when the the Court was transferred to Spring Garden Road. Of the many famous trials held here, the first was that of Richard John Uniacke, Jr., charged in the death of William Bowie, whom he had killed in a duel. Both Uniacke, who was the son of the Attorney General, and his second, Edward M'Swiny, were acquitted, after a parade of witnesses for the defence convinced the jury that the duel had been carried out "in fairness and correctness." Joseph Howe's well-known defence against a charge of criminal libel was also held here. He acted as his own attorney and spoke

Continued on page 17



News from around the Province

Celebrating Truro's Victorian heritage

Truro has one of the largest and best preserved collections of Victorian homes of any community in Nova Scotia. The Society for Protection of Truro Heritage Properties is preparing to mount an exhibition at Colchester Historical Museum from January 17 to April 21, 2001 entitled "Celebrating Truro's Victorian Heritage—Architecture, Culture, Industry." This exhibit is made possible by the support of Nova Scotia's Department of Tourism and Culture and Truro's Heritage Advisory Committee. The public and all school children in the immediate area will be invited to view the exhibition. It will attempt to create awareness of the variety of architectural styles of the town's built heritage and an appreciation of its beauty. Featured will be homes from three downtown residential neighbourhoods which will be designated heritage conservation districts in the spring of 2001. In addition, an interesting display will describe the importance of the railway in Truro's history. A Victorian parlour will be recreated, complete with an original Gates' Organ manufactured by the Truro company, which also produced fine pianos.

All are invited to attend the official opening at 7.30 pm on January 17. Meredyth Rochman will give an illustrated talk on "Elements of Victorian Interior Design", after which refreshments will be served. On February 28th, at 7.30, Hal Forbes will give an illustrated talk on "Architectural Details". Hal's company designs, manufacture and

installs all types of external trim. Homeowners intending to repaint their homes or to restore missing architectural features will find this program very useful.

Jan Zann

Le village historique Acadien de la Nouvelle-Ecosse

At the end of September, the Acadian Village in Lower West Pubnico, wrapped up a successful second summer of operation. Director Paul d'Entremont said that about 6,200 people visited this year. The Village is a long-term, multi-faceted project to be developed gradually over time—a showcase of Acadian history and culture through old houses, a blacksmith shop and fish sheds, relocated from elsewhere in the West Pubnico area.

In front of the administration centre is a statue of Philippe Mius-d'Entremont who founded Pubnico in 1653 carved by Albert Deveau of Edmunston, New Brunswick. In 2004, Nova Scotia will host the third World Acadian Congress.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

At a tax sale on July 28, the Municipality of Queens purchased the Port Medway harbour lighthouse which is situated on the property of a bankrupt fish plant and wharf. Property and structures sold for \$25,000, and the municipality has budgeted another \$50,000 to demolish the fish plant, restore the light and landscape a small park on the site.

Built in 1899, the light was decommissioned in 1989. Although badly neglected, the tower has

survived intact and is little altered except for vinyl siding.

Cape Forchu lighthouse is to receive a major facelift, through a funding partnership between the federal government and the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, who will provide \$200,000 to upgrade the property and buildings. The federal contribution includes \$100,000 from a fisheries restructuring program managed by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and Yarmouth Municipality will pay \$68,000 to complete the environmental clean-up of the station. This includes removal of lead-based paint from station buildings, repainting, renovation of the interior of the shop and other buildings on site, landscaping, and the construction of fences and sidewalks to accommodate tourist traffic.

We hope that Forchu Light will soon get a fully operational, new, 'old blast and grunt' F-type diaphone foghorn, Rip Irwin and Chris Mills donated to the Friends of Yarmouth Light a diaphone resonator (cast iron horn), a timer and a large operating air valve, and are now looking for diaphone parts and anyone interested in helping towards the restoration. Interested? Contact the editor of *The Lightkeeper* at (902) 868-2313.

The Seal Island Light Museum in Barrington has the only installed Fresnel lens in Nova Scotia. Along with Seal Island's third order lens it also has the old fourth order lens from the Bon Portage (Outer Island) Lighthouse. The latter is usually lit, and at Christmas the Big Seal Island lens in the lantern atop the museum is lit; a situation not likely to last much longer—the museum is almost out of light bulbs.

Like the lenses themselves, the lighting apparatus is historic, and as the Coast Guard no longer uses the apparatus they have no bulbs. These '2N lighthouse' bulbs are GE200 watt with a push-and-turn base, not a screw-in. If anyone knows where to get such items, please contact Brenda Maxwell, Seal Island Light Museum, Cape Sable Historical Society, Barrington, NS B0W 1E0.

Friends of the Public Gardens

What follows was extracted from the Friends' fall newsletter: How will HRM's new Council act in regard to the proposed creation of a heritage precinct around Halifax Public Gardens? Will Council continue to consider funding for the restoration of the Horticultural Hall? Now that former Manager of Parks, Stephen King, has moved to an advisory role and been replaced by Peter Bigelow, former manager of recreation facilities, will HRM's commitment to the Garden's quality of care and stewardship be adversely affected?

A Peninsula Community Council has been re-established which should provide an important venue for concerns about the Gardens, such as: the creation of a heritage precinct; restoration of the old Horticultural Hall; zoning; development planning; by-law development and enforcement; protection/restoration of the plants and artifacts in the Gardens; interpretation and signage; promotional resources such as a tour guide, maps, bandstand concert schedules; bicycles in the Gardens, etc.

The Council comprises: Jerry Blumenthal District 11, Halifax North End; Dawn Sloane District 12, Halifax Downtown; Sue Uteck District 13, Northwest Arm-South End; and Sheila Fougere District 14, Connaught-Quinpool.

The reason given for the lapse in the previous Community Council was lack of public participation. A valuable forum has been created—it is up to us to use it.

Yarmouth Co. Historical Society

The \$1.8 million Yarmouth County Museum expansion was officially opened on August 4 by Senator Jane Cordy, who represented the federal government and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Around 150 people, including Yarmouth MLA Richard Hurlburt, attended the opening. The Yarmouth County Historical Society used \$1.2 million in provincial and federal funding to expand the museum. About \$600,000

has been raised locally through municipal government, corporate sponsorships and the general public. Fundraising to pay down the remainder continues with concerts and special events.

The expansion will house the museum's fine collection of ship portraits, newspapers dating from the 1830s, and artifacts previously stored in the basement.

This winter, the expansion may be toured by arrangement on Friday or Saturday afternoons. Museum Winter hours are: Tuesday to Saturday 2-5 pm and until further notice, Sunday also 2-5 pm. The Archives will be open from Tuesday to Saturday from 2-4 pm. Further information contact Eric Ruff: 902-742-5539.

Doris: *continued from page 16* for six hours. After a not-guilty verdict by the jury, Howe was carried out of the courtroom on the shoulders of his supporters.

Beneath a mezzanine balcony, reached by a gracefully curving cast iron stairway, black wrought-iron framed alcoves and shelving had been constructed. Marie had the house staffer switch on the alcove lights to illuminate designs cut into the metal stair risers and silhouette the tracery of leaves and mayflowers around the curved archways. Several portraits hang on the balcony railing, including a small full-length painting of the Duke of Kent in full dress uniform. The other three are waist length portraits: one is of Malachi Salter, his hand resting on a legal document; beside it his wife Susannah, with a rose held in her fingers. The rose signified that she had a daughter; a second daughter would have been indicated by a rose bud. The third portrait is that of an elderly man in a plain dark suit, head inclined, eyes intent on the book in his hands; this is of retired naval surgeon, Dr. Matthias Hoffman, and was painted by John Hoppner.

Before we left, Nina Konczacki made a presentation to Dr. Elwood to thank her for an evocative, informative and thoroughly delightful evening.

A phoenix rising from the ashes

Alan Ruffman

The Nova Scotia tree ring project and Saint George's Round Church

We all know that every tree puts on a new growth ring for every year of its life. In fact, the relative width of the annual tree-ring for any tree growing in a zone of similar climatic conditions becomes an archival record, or a library, of the growing conditions year-by-year. Hence the tree-ring chronology, say, in spruce (*Picea*) from the coast of Nova Scotia can serve as a climatic record for Nova Scotia stretching well back before there was any written history by Europeans.

Tree-rings can also be a powerful tool to heritage structures. The growth of wood stops immediately a tree is cut down; thus if a beam, rafter, sill, or floorboard in an old structure shows 'the round' or 'the live edge', then the age of that last tree-ring will give one the date, or even the season, that the tree was cut down, often to within three months. Thus if a number of the wood

samples in a heritage building all give the same date of cutting, it is probably safe to assume that all were cut from the same stand, milled together, and that construction using these timbers began in the building season after the tree was cut.

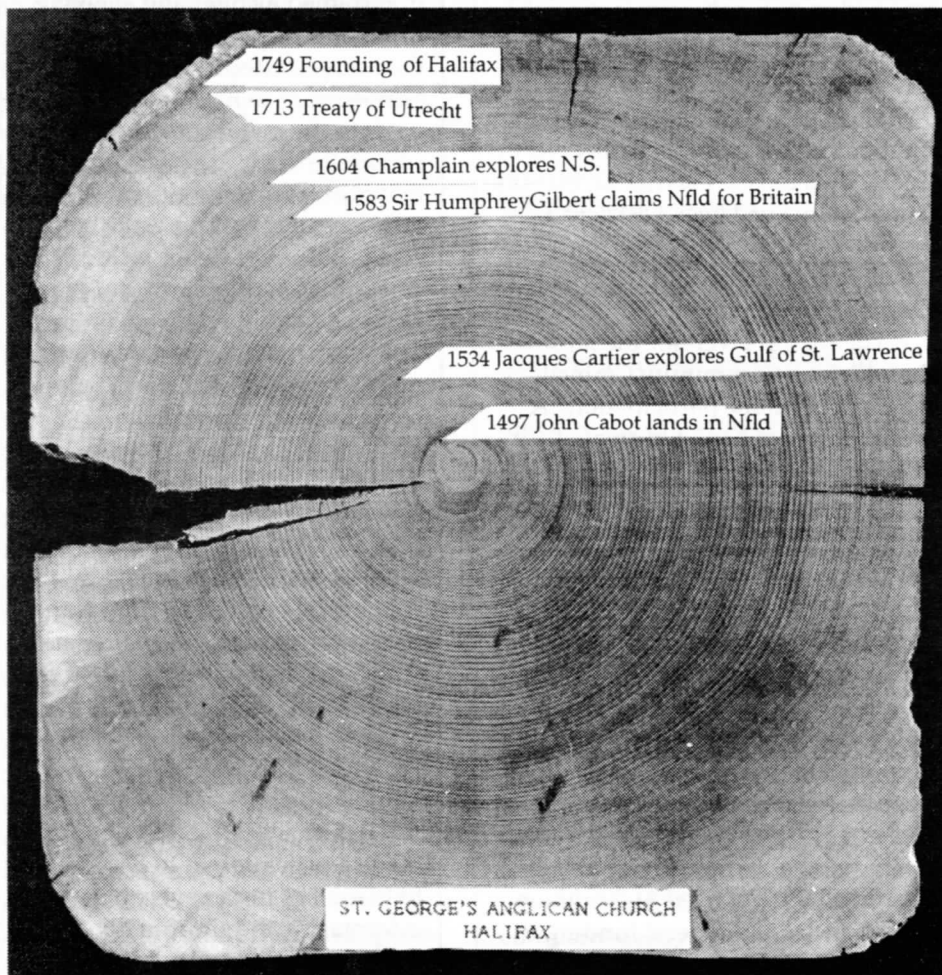
By the same token, if one has a well-founded tree-ring record in the usual softwood building species (Eastern White Pine, spruce, hemlock), then a series of timbers from a building of unknown age showing 'the round' can be sampled using either a corer or four-inch-thick 'cookies' cut from the ends of discarded, or replaced, timbers during a restoration or renovation. These samples are slowly dried, and sanded with progressively finer sandpaper to give an absolutely smooth face. The tree-ring widths are then measured, ideally on three traverses arranged over the polished face, averaged, then the variations in

relative tree-ring widths (or the tree-ring curve) matched, or 'cross-dated', to the master tree-ring curve for the species involved. Think of it as moving your two opposed palms past each other until you get a match. If you get a match, then you know the absolute ages of each tree-ring in the timber from the building. Hence you know when the timber was cut down, and probably the age of construction of the undated heritage structure. If all timbers showing 'the live edge' from the building show the same age, you can be pretty certain of the age of the heritage structure.

The Nova Scotia Tree-ring Project was begun in 1995 with a modest grant from the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. Initially Erik Nielsen and I began with the idea of building a tree-ring chronology or 'dendrochronology' of softwoods in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. A field trip to Newfoundland in 1995 yielded numerous samples, but not living in Newfoundland made the project there more difficult, so we have concentrated on Nova Scotia where I have easier access to samples. At present there are very few tree-ring records in any of the Atlantic Provinces. This does not stem from a lack of trees, but rather a lack of interested researchers. This is perhaps rather surprising, given the current interest in climate change and the great interest in heritage structures in Atlantic Canada. Parks Canada in Halifax is supporting us in the transport of samples out to Erik in Winnipeg, and back to Nova Scotia where the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History will archive the samples.

To build the Nova Scotia tree-ring chronologies, we need tree-ring samples that cover all of the years from the present back as far as one can reach. Living trees will give us the first 150 to 200 years easily, and may reach back even further. In Nova Scotia we have a tremendous resource in the beams and boards of heritage buildings. To date we have

The polished face of the 331-year old Eastern White Pine "cookie" taken from one of the main beams that supported the floor of Saint George's Round Church. It shows the life edge on all four corners.



built a large collection from the charred bones of Saint George's Round Church (trees cut in 1799) and from the Mitchell House (circa 1827), both located in Halifax, from the Anderson Barn on the West Petpeswick Road (circa 1830), the Elisha Clark House in Belmont (circa 1800), and a wonderful collection of samples from the hand-hewn Colonel McHaffey barn in Windsor Forks. Other samples have come from a late 1800s barn in Lower Truro, an 1807 barn near Rose Bay, and a circa mid-1850s barn in Falmouth.

The Saint George's Round Church samples have paid handsome dividends. Here we cut cookies out of charred discarded timbers after the restoration was done, and from five of the huge spoke-like supporting beams, up to 16 x 14 inches on a side, which were replaced under the main church. Thirty-four of these spruce timbers and boards have nicely cross-dated to give us a 225-year-long tree-ring record. Until very recently this was a 'hanging' dendrochronology, but now Scott St. George has discovered a 1572-1982 tree-ring

record in *Tsuga Canadensis* (Eastern Hemlock) from Nova Scotia measured by the Columbia University Tree-Ring Laboratory. This tree-ring record is anchored to a live hemlock tree cut in 1982. The hemlock and the Saint George's Church spruce tree-ring record cross-date, hence we now have an 'anchored' or 'absolute' spruce tree-ring chronology from Saint George's from 1799 back to 1574 ". We are now in a position to try to cross-date timbers from other heritage structures of unknown age from at least the Atlantic coastal regions of Nova Scotia, both to establish their age and to add data to the tree-ring database. We also have three different tree-ring records from Saint George's in Eastern White Pine (*Pinus Strobus L.*) that are up to 331 years long, i.e. 1799 to 1468, which do not appear to cross-date with each other, or with anything that we have in spruce to date.

We are still seeking heritage wood samples from Nova Scotia heritage buildings, especially those undergoing restorations or

renovations. We have worked with firms that are taking down old barns and, in some cases, shipping them out of the province, or reconstructing them as houses. The circa 1830 George Anderson Barn from the West Petpeswick Road has been carefully reconstructed by Gull Rock Builders' Kim Aaboe into a home for a recent European immigrant. In this process, the height of the former barn was lowered by a couple of feet, yielding us a cookie from each vertical timber.

Barns appear to be ideal candidates for building a tree-ring record in the 1600s through to the early 1900s. The wood is most certainly cut locally and probably from one local stand.

Alan Ruffman is associated in this project with Erik Nielsen of the Manitoba Geological Survey and Scott St. George, of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Chester: *continued from page 13* borders to its attractive garden. In the hall is an 18th century grandfather clock with an unusual painted face, which the Tidswells brought with them from England.

The **Sullivan House**, 89 Victoria, built in 1911 for John and Helen Louise Miller was purchased in 1991 by Dr. and Mrs. John A. Sullivan. From 1957 to 1973 it was the home of retired Admiral Jeffrey V. Brock. It has a stucco exterior, a sunken deck off one of the bedrooms, three sunporches and beautiful gardens.

The **Baker House**, 115 Prince Street, is now the home of Colin MacDonald and Carol Hansen. Influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20th century, it was built in 1916 by local carpenter and furniture maker Harry Baker and remained in the family until sold in 1972 by Harry's widow, Bertha. During the Depression, when work was scarce, Baker installed the wood trim and panelling, and scalloped corner cabinets.

Most of the land between Prince, Regent and Victoria was owned by the Bakers, who built a cottage next door and rented the main house to American summer tourists. Except for the kitchen, the original finish has been retained throughout the main floor; solarium and pool were added in 1987 and the garage in 1989.

148 Pig Loop Road is now owned by the Copas family. The house was built in the late 18th or early 19th century, in typical Cape Cod style. A centre chimney existed where the staircase is now, with a steep stair leading up to raw space used for storage and mending fishing nets. The parlour faced southwest with two small bedrooms off it on the north side. The kitchen was on the southeast corner, with a view over the field and brook running down to marshlands and the ocean. Early this century Howard Smith bought the property, adding a verandah on the south side and a long summer kitchen on the north side. In the 40s, a woodshed was added which

included an indoor outhouse. In 1963 the Copas family bought the house with all its furnishings.

Chester United Baptist Church where the afternoon tea was served, dates from 1761 when the Rev. John Seccombe preached the first sermon. The first church was probably constructed during Seccombe's ministry. The second was built in 1872 and torn down in 1947 after serving as barracks and training ground during WWI, and later as a community hall known as Empire Hall. The present church was built in 1914.

The Chester Municipal Heritage Society, founded in the 1980s, is housed in the old Train Station where the Chester town pump and Hawboldt gasoline engines are displayed

The most recent purchase of the Heritage Society, the **Lordly House**, will eventually become part of a park and museum complex in the centre of the village. The museum which was opened this spring, was open during the House Tour.

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