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The Griffin

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Community non-profit groups provide greatest hope of preserving discarded lighthouses *by Kathy Brown*

Our series continues with news from the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, provided by Kathy Brown, the past president. It's a delight to read of such an active organisation, and we wish them well in their efforts to protect and preserve these beautiful symbols of our maritime heritage.

We would love to hear from other special interest groups within the heritage family, whether your concerns be for a particular area or a particular type of building. Publicity for your volunteer group will put you in touch with those who share your interests, and may increase your membership, so send your news to Joan.dawson@ns.sympatico.ca

The Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society (NSLPS) was founded in 1993 by lighthouse enthusiasts after a visit to Sambro Island. The Sambro Island Lighthouse, which guards the approaches to Halifax Harbour, is a National Historic Site and the oldest working lighthouse in North America. The visitors were concerned about the condition of the lighthouse and the keeper's houses. They set up the non-profit society to benefit Sambro and all the 150 lighthouses in Nova Scotia. Electronic navigation meant that lighthouses were no longer needed in the same way as they were in the past. So the Coast Guard was planning to down-grade many and to turn some off.

Since 1993 the situation has worsened. Now, in 2002, the Coast Guard is reviewing all the "navigation aids" and has already made some lighthouses redundant. They are actively working to dispose of many. Some have been put up for sale by tender to the highest bidder. NSLPS is trying to keep as many lighthouses as possible in the care of local communities because of their heritage value, their symbolic and social meaning to the nearby communities, and the environmental value of the open coastal land where many of them are situated.

How we save lighthouses

We support non-profit community groups through giving information and advice, writing letters to the

appropriate authorities, developing guidelines and policies, carrying out historical research, including proper identification of buildings, lobbying the federal and provincial governments for heritage status for lighthouses, monitoring the methods used for disposal, raising public awareness of the importance of these structures, and alerting the media about crisis situations.

We believe that non-profit community groups are the most suitable to preserve lighthouses for the future because these are the people whose ancestors kept the lights and who care deeply about their preservation for future generations. They are the most likely to develop the sites in a sensitive and appropriate manner. In parts of Nova



The Sambro Island Lighthouse guards the approach to Halifax Harbour. It's the oldest working lighthouse in North America. Concern for its condition inspired the founding of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Continued overleaf

Scotia much coastal land is now privately owned and public access to the shore is a significant issue. Ownership by community groups keeps the coastal land on which lighthouses are built available for public access.

Over the past eight years NSLPS Volunteers have obtained Federal Heritage Building listing for Sambro Lighthouse and lobbied successfully for repairs to Sambro Lighthouse; helped to save Coffin Island Lighthouse and to restore Port Greville Lighthouse to the community; supported transfer of Cape Forchu Light to the community; lobbied for repairs to Seal Island Lighthouse; helped Port Bickerton, Hampton, Mabou, Cape George, Paddy's Head, Queensport, Port Medway and other community groups. They have had much correspondence, meetings, and many conversations with Department of Fisheries and Oceans concerning lighthouse divestiture.

They established the Lighthouse Protection Act Committee, leading to the introduction of federal legislation in the Canadian Senate. They have also been responsible for establishing one of the largest sites devoted to lighthouses on the internet at (www.nslps.com), a comprehensive database of Nova Scotian lighthouses and a base of research guidelines and photo indexes.

Research has been carried out on many lighthouses, as well as an in-depth project of oral history interviews with former lightkeepers and lightkeeping families of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Guidelines have been developed for buildings on heritage lighthouse sites and for moving lighthouse buildings.

In co-operation with Tourism Nova Scotia, 61,000 copies of the interpretative brochure "Nova Scotia: Visit Our Lighthouses" were published in 1999 (to be revised in 2002). Over twenty-eight issues of the newsletter "The Lightkeeper" were produced, featuring profiles of lighthouses,

reminiscences by lighthouse people, current lighthouse news, events and doings around Nova Scotia.

Encouragement and information have been provided to lighthouse groups across Nova Scotia, as well as to other provinces in the process of starting lighthouse groups. Workshop weekends have been held for lighthouse groups, as well as trips, programmes and children's workshops.

The group has participated in every Atlantic Lighthouse Conference and been responsible for the inauguration of Nova Scotia Lighthouse Day. Booths have been maintained at the Halifax International Boat Show, Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Festival, Maritime Museum for Lighthouse Day, and other locations.

NSLPS are members of the Atlantic Lighthouse Council, Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage, HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA, and the Heritage Canada Foundation. The President was a member of the Regional Advisory Committee on Lighthouse Alternative Use (RACLAU).

Registered in 1994 as a non-profit society under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia, the NSLPS is governed by a Board of between 12 and 14 directors who are elected each year by the membership. The Board of Directors meets at least fourteen times a year, has four general meetings, and an AGM at which reports are made to the membership. A completely voluntary group, funding is received from membership fees, donations and grants. Of the 230 members, 30 are Affiliate groups that are running lighthouses, attempting to save a lighthouse, or are particularly interested in lighthouses. Individual memberships are \$15.00, and a family membership \$20.00. The Society received charitable status under the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency in 2000. Receipts for income tax purposes are given for memberships and donators.

Address is: Nova Scotia
Lighthouse Preservation Society,
c/o The Maritime Museum of the
Atlantic, 1875 Lower Water Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3J 1S3 ☒



The Griffin

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Unless otherwise indicated,
the opinions expressed in
these pages are those of the
contributors and do not
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Submissions are welcomed.
Deadline for the next issue:

November 1, 2002

Please send your submissions to
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St. John's Lutheran Church, one of the three signature spires of Mahone Bay, struggles for survival *by Robert Hirtle*

"We love the beauty around us and welcome you to share it." Those words greet visitors as they enter Mahone Bay, an historic town of just under 1000 people on Nova Scotia's south shore. Once a prosperous shipbuilding centre, the town's appearance has changed dramatically over the past half century. Prompted by the slow death of the wooden boat industry, the town gradually fell into disarray.

As little as twenty-five years ago, people moving into the area shunned Mahone Bay as a place of potential residence. A rundown waterfront and excruciatingly high taxes were the main turnoffs for prospective real estate buyers. Many homes in the town remained on the market seemingly forever before they were sold, often at bargain basement prices. Around 1980, however, fortunes in the town started to change. Many of the houses and businesses began being snapped up by buyers from out of the area.

Some were seeking to run a cottage industry or small business while in semi-retirement, others were simply speculators who saw the potential of a beautiful little seaside town sitting less than 50 minutes from the urban sprawl of Halifax. Either way, in a short period of time, properties which could not be given away in the 1970s were now fetching prices which boggled the minds of the local citizens. With this influx of new blood came a startling upswing in the number of tourists visiting in the town.

A number of festivals were invented in an effort to promote local businesses, the most popular being an early August event that pays tribute to Mahone Bay's wooden boat building heritage. As word of the town's newfound popularity spread so, too, did appreciation for what, in reality, is the major attraction of the area.

Nestled at the head of the bay, in what has most often been described as a "picture post card setting," are three churches: St. James Anglican, Trinity United, and St. John's Lutheran.

Collectively, they represent one of the most photographed sites in all of Canada, and have led Mahone Bay to become known the world over for its serenity and beauty. St. John's Lutheran, the oldest of the three structures, is the centre-piece of the group.

Originally constructed in 1866, then renovated in 1903, the building endured without serious incident for 130 years. Then, in August of 1996, the congregation and, indeed, the town of Mahone

Bay itself, was shaken to the core when the church was accidentally set ablaze by a group of summer students who had been hired to repaint the front of the structure. Fortunately, the building was saved through the efforts of local fire departments and the quick thinking of an employee of the town's public works department.

Using a garden hose to pour water through a hole burned in the wall, he was able to keep the blaze at bay until firemen arrived on the scene. The church required fairly major renovations due to damage from smoke and water. Fortunately, the fire was confined to the back of the building, and

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St. John's Lutheran Church, Mahone Bay, recovered from a 1996 fire. Now its aging and shrinking congregation is looking for ways to revitalize its membership and ensure the survival of the picturesque church, a house of worship since 1866.

Church: *Continued from Page 3*

the congregation was able to hold services while repairs were completed.

Insurance covered most of the cost, and it wasn't long before day-to-day activities at the church returned to normal.

Unfortunately, the calm didn't last. It took only five years for St. John's to experience its second major tragedy.

The congregation's property committee knew that restoration work was required on the bell tower of the old church. They were, however, unaware of just how extensive the repairs would be until their contractor began to remove shingles from the face of structure.

The committee had hoped that damage to the tower would be superficial, and that costs would be in the \$20,000 range, or perhaps even less. That figure would still represent a substantial amount of money for the church to come up with, and would require a concerted effort by the congregation to raise the funds.

They were stunned by what the contractor discovered. Dry rot had penetrated into the tower. Exterior shingles and boards would definitely have to be replaced. It was possible that the beams supporting the church's steeple might also be rotten, in which case the spire would have to be removed in order to perform the restoration. Preliminary estimates for completion of such

work were ten times the figure that the church originally had estimated. St. John's Lutheran Church was facing a bill that could possibly go as high as a quarter of a million dollars. Word of the church's predicament quickly spread throughout the community, the country, and - thanks to the wonders of electronic communications - the world. It wasn't long before financial assistance began pouring in, some of it from unlikely sources.

Members of St. John's organized a variety of fundraisers to help finance the project, putting an air of truth in the saying that God helps those who help themselves. A number of highly successful yard sales were held at the church, one raising over \$7,000. Special concerts were performed by a variety of groups and individuals which raised even more money. The provincial government, through the perseverance of local cabinet minister and MLA Michael Baker, chipped in with a donation of \$10,000. And of course, there were donations from private citizens, some of them members of the congregation, others people who, somehow, some way, had a remote connection to the church.

Sadly, neither the Town of Mahone Bay itself, nor its business association as a group, gave as much as a dime toward the restoration of the structure, although some businesses did contribute individually. Ironically,

it is those two groups, who, through tourism dollars generated by people visiting the area to simply photograph the famous Three Churches, stood to lose the most financially should the structure collapse from rot.

Thankfully, when the dust had settled, the damage to the church, though still serious, was not as bad as was previously feared. Most of the main beams supporting the tower were sound, and those that needed replacing could be done without removing the steeple. Boards and shingles comprising the structure of the tower were replaced, and the area containing the bell itself was covered in fiberglass in an effort to prolong its life. The final bill amounted to just under \$100,000. By the time Michael Pryse, Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada arrived from Ontario in November to re-dedicate the tower, the church had amazingly raised almost enough money to pay off the debt. However, a month later, the furnace in the main section of the building broke down and was deemed unrepairable. The congregation is now diligently working to pay off the \$13,000 required to install a replacement, plus a loan taken out to pay the final bill on the tower restoration. In an effort to develop a reserve fund to guard against future inevitable repairs, the council at St. John's has decided to keep the building

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The church spires of St. James Anglican, St. John's Lutheran and Trinity United signal the approach to Mahone Bay. This unmistakable vista is one of the most photographed in the province. Together, the churches have come to symbolize the town they serve.

Stepping Back in Time: Reconstructing Built Heritage

Sherbrooke Village reclaimed

by Craig MacDonald

Sherbrooke Village, on St. Mary's River on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia, represents the reconstitution not just of a few buildings but of an entire streetscape and way of life. Craig MacDonald, Director of the Sherbrooke Restoration Commission, tells us how this was achieved.

The restoration of Sherbrooke Village has a history almost as interesting as the development of Sherbrooke as a community. It is a story of one community's refusal to die and its determination to capitalize on the landscape, physical structures and the stories of inhabitants of the past to provide a stable economic future.

The first European settlers to the St. Mary's area were the French. A French fur trader named LaGiraudiere built Fort Sainte Marie about 1665 at the present location of Sherbrooke. It was a small fort with four bastions, constructed of pickets or stakes, protected by two brass cannon and a number of swivel guns. The French traded with the natives and dyked the land to grow a few crops to supplement their diet of wild game and fish. This continued until the fort was captured by the British in 1669. The French were forced to leave and the fort was burned.

The area was not settled again for about 140 years. Around 1800, settlers from the Truro and Pictou areas arrived, attracted by the stands of timber that lined the banks of the St. Mary's River. Early settlers had names such as MacLean, McKeen, MacDonald, Archibald, Cumming, and others still familiar in the area today. Over time the area developed to include a thriving lumber processing and export trade. Ships were built in various locations along the river that would carry lumber to domestic and foreign markets. Because of its location, the sea became the main transportation

route for moving people and goods to and from the Sherbrooke area. The timber trade and associated industries such as shipbuilding became the mainstay of the local economy.

During the summer of 1861, gold was discovered near Sherbrooke, in Goldenville. This had a major impact on the development of Sherbrooke and the surrounding area. People flocked to the area, and by 1896 19 companies had set up in Goldenville to search for the yellow treasure.

Other businesses, such as blacksmiths and carpenters, were kept busy meeting the needs of those involved in mining. Houses, stores and other buildings were constructed to meet the demands of this new industry. Not only did this have an impact upon the economic life of Sherbrooke, but it also affected the social aspect of life. The local Temperance Society petitioned the House of Assembly to pass laws that would allow the punishment of those who would traffic in alcohol, so that "the character of the District for Sobriety and Temperance which we value more than gold may be preserved."

Later years saw the decline of the area as gold mining tapered off, the lumber industry dwindled after the best stands of timber were cut, and other economic activity failed to take hold in Sherbrooke. As people left the area in search of employment, the prominence which Sherbrooke had enjoyed during 1860 to 1880, when gold was a major economic



The store, before work began.



The store today, after restoration in Sherbrooke Village

stimulus, faded.

In the early 1960s Mr. Harold Verge, who at the time was employed with the Province of Nova Scotia in a planning capacity, was in Sherbrooke on business. Driving through the village, he was struck by the number of original buildings that still existed and believed that this area held promise as a historic restoration. He discussed this with a number of local residents, and on December 29, 1964, a meeting of local citizens was held, with Mr. Verge in attendance. As he described his thoughts on what could be done in Sherbrooke, residents present became enthused with the idea. A local committee was formed to pursue turning Sherbrooke into a restoration similar to Upper Canada Village, capitalizing on the unique strengths Sherbrooke possessed, such as buildings on their original locations.

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City Rambles: “The Oaks,” nestled in wooded southend Halifax, was once part of the Bower estate *by Garry D. Shutlak*

“The Oaks” was the former home of the Hon. Robert Stanfield, Lawyer, President of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party, 1947, Leader of Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition, 1950, Premier of Nova Scotia, 1956 and National Leader of the PC Party of Canada, 1967.

He sold the property to St. Mary’s University in 1968.

The seven-acre property was part of the original “Bower” estate purchased in 1860 by the father of Isabella Ellis Cogswell. She married Lt. John Hicks of H.M.S. Royal Alfred in September 1872. The house was built using her marriage settlement.

The Hicks family lived there till 1888, then in London and at “The Moorings” in Sevenoaks, Kent. During this time Mrs Hicks died. “The Oaks” was rented to military officers till 1910 when Captain John Hicks was appointed secretary to the Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia.

The house has a basement and two floors with twelve-foot ceilings. Reception rooms and a large dining room are on the ground floor, three bedrooms upstairs with two small rooms by the back



A.W. Syperek’s 1983 pen and ink drawing of The Oaks, owned by St Mary’s University.

stairs, presumably for servants. Captain Hicks rented the house again in 1919. In 1921, after the death of his second wife Frances Mary, he lived at the Halifax Club and reserved the “building annexed to the main house on the western side thereof known as the ‘playroom’ to himself”. He returned to England after 1923 and died in 1934.

Mr. W. Bertram Proctor, of Smith and Proctor, dealers in

wholesale butter and cheese, bought the house in 1922 and sold it to Mr. Stanfield in 1945.

The building became the home of the Maritime Conservatory of Music and now the Gorsebrook Research Institute occupies the basement. Captain Hicks’s playroom is a conference room and International Activities uses the rest of the house. ☒

Church: *continued from Page 4*

fund open to continue to accept donations. Having survived two major calamities in five years is a lot to bear for any organization, much less the congregation of a church in a community of under 1000 people with four other such institutions within its boundaries.

Unfortunately, St. John’s Church, like the others in town, is facing a dilemma far more serious than even fire or rot. Aging memberships and dwindling attendance figures are starting to take their toll on most of the five churches in Mahone Bay. The area’s recently found popularity

as a retirement destination has significantly reduced the population of the town, particularly the number of young people. Newcomers moving into the area are usually “empty nesters”, reducing the size of the average family.

The numbers of those born and raised in the community is growing smaller as people are forced to move away as they get older. Most are unable to find employment in the area with sufficient income to support purchasing a home within the town. Also, many of the new residents are what ministers describe as “fair weather” church goers, who only

attend on the bigger festivals such as Christmas and Easter, and their financial contributions are, at best, minimal.

It is a problem that all the ministers in town have been trying to address, albeit without much success. If the trend in declining memberships persists, and the cost of maintaining buildings and ministries continues to rise, it is extremely possible that one or all of the three beautiful churches may be forced to close its doors. Should that happen, it would be a blow not only to the community of faith in Mahone Bay, but to the entire population of the town. ☒

Communities Committee reports an inventory of built heritage is under way in Digby area

by Janice R. Zann

This summer, the heritage spotlight is on Digby Municipality Heritage Department where Robert Hersey, assisted by Derek Thurber, has been diligently researching and creating an inventory of the built heritage of the region. This area of Nova Scotia was relatively “unheralded and unsung” until their work began. The official launching of the database and web site took place on July 17th; 350 properties were recorded and 25 registered – an astounding achievement! This is a great step toward preserving the unique built heritage of the area which includes Weymouth, Bear River, Digby Neck, Long Island, and Brier Island. The recording of the history and architectural features of each structure is very important, as are the histories of the families who lived there. Both men have at their fingertips a wealth of interesting stories about the earliest inhabitants. Another aspect of their work has been the involvement in a project to collect oral histories from the older members of these communities. These “Elder Transcripts” can be accessed at www.municipalities.com/elders. The web site is www.municipalities.com/digby. It will be updated every month. Congratulations to Digby Municipality for hiring such valuable, dedicated heritage enthusiasts, and for leading the way for other municipalities.

Communities Committee member, Mary Lynyak of Little River, a picturesque village on Digby Neck, would like to see her small community, along with Sandy Cove, the nearby village, become designated as Heritage Districts. The well-preserved 18th and 19th century homes and churches, the fascinating history of these Loyalist settlements and their struggle for survival warrant such designation. In fact, Brier Island, Long Island, Digby Neck,

and Digby Gut could all qualify. Not only are there numerous well-preserved heritage homes here, but also unique species of plant and animal life, especially birds. Of particular interest and importance are the outstanding geological features. The bedrock is Triassic basalt rock that weathers into fantastic columnar formations, most notable of which is the “balancing rock” located on the St. Mary’s Bay side of Digby Neck. Other striking views of black columnar basalt can be found in many locations, including the once-thriving fishing village of Gullivers Cove and along the shores of Brier Island. These formations are similar to those of the Giant’s Causeway in Ireland. This area has the potential to attract tourists interested in whale watching, as well as built heritage, history, geology, and ecology.

Sad to say, the silence of this pristine paradise is to be shattered by the establishment of a large

quarry to be located in Little River. Now that environmental groups in the U.S. have tightened regulations concerning the location of such quarries, companies which need rock for road building, etc., have begun to look elsewhere. Particularly vulnerable are areas of low population density where there is little likelihood of complaint. Apparently it is large companies such as Clayton of New Jersey, who do road work in New York, and Ross Patterson Engineering from North Carolina, together with some local Nova Scotian companies, that have somehow managed to get permission to quarry a four-hectare area where already test holes have been drilled very close to a heritage home. At a meeting in May, organised by local residents infuriated by the proposal and attended by 150 people, indications were that a much larger area is envisaged for open-cut mining of this Canadian resource - valuable

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The Allen Tupper House, Milton, Queen’s County, 1860. Photograph by Jan Zann.

Further meetings of the committee took place in the following weeks and months. Encouraged by a petition with 185 names in favour of the idea, the committee met with private consultants to determine how this project could proceed. Another citizens' meeting was held June 3, 1966, at which some early ideas on what the restoration of Sherbrooke might look like were unveiled. Residents were encouraged to start looking at artifacts they might have that would be of interest to visitors, and all were optimistic that Sherbrooke could once again regain some of its former economic prosperity.

As with any worthwhile project, however, many frustrations lay in the way of success. Years of meetings and attempts to get provincial and federal funding for the project were finally rewarded in May of 1969, when word was received that the provincial government had committed funds for the project. Things progressed quickly after that. In 1969, the Sherbrooke Restoration Act was passed in the Nova Scotia Legislature. This Act appointed the Sherbrooke Restoration Commission as the body responsible for administering regulations on the orderly restoration and development of a large area that included Sherbrooke Village as we know it today. The Commission became a "development body", responsible for making decisions on any and all development issues in the area. Their decisions, based on the powers provided by the Sherbrooke Restoration Commission Act, superseded any provincial or municipal law within the designated area.

Finally, in 1970, work actually started on the buildings. In that year work was done on the exterior of Cumminger Brothers General Store and the Jail, the sewer and water systems were being worked on, and plans were made to purchase additional properties and move residents to

a sub-division at the head of Sherbrooke. Over the next couple of years, a number of properties were purchased and development of the Restoration proceeded. It was not without its problems and delays, including considerable problems with the installation of the water and sewer system. A petition signed in June 1971, stated that the residents of Sherbrooke "... are concerned about the future of the Sherbrooke Village Project. We do not want to see it 'go down the drain' and take along with it our only chance for economic development in this area. Our request is that the project be continued, and to have work commence immediately on a full scale".

On January 26, 1972, an "open house" was held on Restoration Drive at the head of Sherbrooke to mark completion of the homes for people moved out of the restoration area. Ongoing work on the restoration project included building a replica water-powered, up-and-down sawmill, along with associated control dams. Dykes and dams were also constructed to protect the area from spring flooding due to ice build-up in the river.

Some of the residents did not want to sell the properties they owned within the Restoration Area. Because it was important that all buildings within that area should maintain a historic appearance, the Commission developed "live-in" agreements with residents who chose to remain there. The Commission would maintain the exterior of the house for the owner, as long as no modern items like oil tanks or aluminum siding were visible to the visiting public. These agreements were made with quite a number of property owners, whose homes were then purchased over the years for Sherbrooke Village as the owners decided to sell them. In 2002, only three private residences remain within the Restoration Area.

In 1985, the area controlled by the Sherbrooke Restoration

Commission was reduced to include only the restored area occupied by Sherbrooke Village. When the Act was first implemented, the Planning Area under the control of the Commission was divided into four areas: the Restoration Area, the General Development Area, the Park Area, and the Watershed Area, a large area surrounding the village of Sherbrooke. Over the years, this was found to be unmanageable, and the Commission's responsibility was reduced to the immediate Restoration Area of about 55 acres. In 1989, the Commission reached an agreement with the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's to take over ownership of the sewer and water system, which by that time had been extended to residents outside the restoration area.

Today, Sherbrooke Village is one of Nova Scotia's prime tourist attractions. Attracting over 55,000 visitors in 2001, Sherbrooke Village employs 17 full-time and up to 85 seasonal employees. Over the last few years, the staff has become quite well known for their reproduction of historic doors and windows, with their work being used for various churches, public buildings and homes around the province. The Sherbrooke Restoration Commission is presently responsible for 82 buildings or structures, including 3 water dams and 7857 feet of fencing. Approximately 27 buildings are open to the public, portraying life during one of the most exciting periods of development for Sherbrooke and the area, from 1860-1914. We invite you to visit Sherbrooke and take a step back in time. ☒

Historical information taken from The Development of Sherbrooke to 1880, by John N. Grant. Published by the Nova Scotia Museum as a part of The Cultural Services Program of the Department of Education, 1972.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Assembly Petitions, 1862.

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Datebook

Thursday, September 19

Public Lecture

Speaker: Terry Punch, historian and genealogist

Topic: The Irish: Halifax's Largest Minority

Place: Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Thursday September 26-28

Heritage Canada Foundation Annual Conference

Theme: Discovering Heritage Tourism

Place: The Westin Nova Scotia Hotel, Halifax

Events: Conference sessions, the Foundation's Annual General Meeting, walking tours of the city and guided tours of the Lunenburg Heritage site.

For all the details, check the Heritage Canada Foundation's web site:

www.heritagecanada.org

Thursday, October 17

Public Lecture

Speaker: Jim Snowdon, historian and antique dealer

Topic: Yorkshire Immigration to Nova Scotia

Place: Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21

ANNUAL DINNER, HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Speaker: Joan Dawson, historian

Topic: Champlain in Nova Scotia

Place: R.A. Park, 1575 Queen Street, Halifax

Time: 6 p.m. for 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: Contact the office, HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Third Thursday of the Month

Unless otherwise stated, a public lecture, part of an ongoing program sponsored by the HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm, September to June, in the Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Parking is available in the two museum parking lots and across Bell Road at the Vocational School. For information, telephone 423-4807.

watching excursions fearful of damage to the Right whale by these ships, and wildlife experts who've already witnessed the disappearance of nesting owls since the clearcutting of land in preparation for the quarry, are all describing this project as an ecological and ecotourism disaster. It is to be hoped that our federal Departments of Fisheries and Oceans, the Environment, and Transportation, and our local politicians will act to prevent this from happening. The few jobs created by such a project will not make up for the loss of tourism, the destruction of a valuable fishing industry, and the desecration of what could well become a heritage site of world importance.

Two other members of the Communities Committee, Christine Callaghan and Andy Moir, operate a Bed and Breakfast in an historic old home in Freeport. The magnificent view, the homey atmosphere, and the wealth of knowledge these people can impart make this the ideal stopover en route to Brier Island. This industrious couple have been active participants in the Elder Transcripts project and produce a publication for residents of the Digby Neck and Islands entitled "Passages". Residents outside the area will find it most interesting and informative. Both are actively involved in the local community association and expected the Lent house to be officially handed over to the local community by the Bank of Nova Scotia (finally!) in June. The e-mail address for Freeport house is freeport.house@tartannet.ns.ca.

Molly Titus of Port Medway is another member of this committee who is committed to helping maintain the built heritage of her area. Molly has recently been successful in helping to retain the old school in Mill Village, a picturesque little settlement with a long history. At least five mills were operating here during its heyday in the early 19th century. Many heritage homes from this era of

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Communities: *Continued from Page 7*
basalt rock! A very large wharf on the Fundy side would be constructed to enable bulk carriers to carry the crushed rock down to the U.S. Imagine the dismay of the local inhabitants, many of them

elderly, having to be subjected to the constant noise of explosives and the drone of the rock-crushing equipment, as well as the pollution! Fishermen dependent on the lobster whose feeding grounds are in this area, operators of whale

prosperity are still in fine shape. One attractive one belonging to Ed Anthony and his wife is "the Doctor's House." The beautifully preserved home features the former surgery and the room set aside for patients too ill to return home. This quiet beauty spot is usually overlooked by tourists; it may be that its present inhabitants prefer it to remain so. In Church Square there are many outstanding heritage homes set in the midst of green fields through which tiny brooks meander. As it flows alongside the main road, the restless Medway River is enclosed by magenta and gold maples in the fall, with scarlet wild rose hips in masses hugging its banks. It is a pity the village has not received some form of heritage award, or that its homes have not been given heritage designation. It is too beautiful to remain hidden from the public eye.

Another delightful Nova Scotian town is Liverpool - a Loyalist town steeped in history. Its main street is certainly worthy of a Heritage District designation. It was pleasing to see that the town recognises its early Mi'kmaq heritage, as indicated by a beautifully painted mural on a building on the Main street. With Heritage Tourism increasingly popular, publicity highlighting the wonderful old structures here should attract many newcomers to this town. There is a wide variety of architectural styles represented, and each structure has a fascinating history. One could easily spend a few days here observing the buildings and studying their histories. The Captain Bartlett Bradford cottage on Main Street, for example, was built in 1767 and was the home of Liverpool's first privateer, "The Lucy". Dexter's Tavern, believed to be the location of the first meeting of the proprietors of Liverpool township, is also still standing. Its foundations are thought to have been built from stone brought from the remnants of Fortress

Louisbourg. The Perkins House Museum is well worth a visit.

No visitor should miss seeing the village of Milton, a few kilometres west of Liverpool which, as the name suggests, was a mill town, since lumbering and wooden shipbuilding were once its major industries. It is on the banks of the mighty Mersey River, known in the 1780s as the Liverpool River. Most of the homes here have been carefully researched in an excellent publication by Harley Walker, published by Queens County Historical Society, Liverpool, in 1996, and available at the Museum. Mr. Walker recounts how by the 1850s this village was thriving, with nine sawmills along the banks of the Mersey, and shipyards on both sides of the river producing the sailing vessels to carry the lumber to world markets - the time of "wooden ships and iron men". Many of the early homes still survive. It was interesting, for example, to discover that the Allen Tupper house, built in 1860, close to the main road along the Mersey River, was the setting for the novel "Wings of Night" by Thomas Raddall, based on the life of this family. To study the architectural features of a building is interesting, but a glimpse into the life of its early inhabitants is what makes many heritage buildings so fascinating.

By strange coincidence, Kathy Putnam, who last summer began opening her mother's old home as "Maud's Place Museum" in Brookfield, just outside Truro, heard on her radio about the "Elder Transcripts Programme" in Digby. She quickly realized the importance of such a programme for the entire province and, in particular, her own community. She contacted Andy Moir and Christine Callaghan who agreed to conduct a workshop in methods of collecting oral history, for interested members of her community, together with a few high school students. The collected videotapes will be converted to CD ROM and a web site set up.

This is a useful way to broaden students' knowledge of history, and a great experience for both collectors and elderly participants. Maud's Place is open from June 15th to September 14th, Monday to Saturday, from 10 to 5. A craft shop operates at those times (closed Sundays). Members of Heritage Trust are invited to visit.

My Community of Truro - One Step Forward, One Step Back

One Step Forward? The designation of three Heritage Districts. One Step Back? It is with great distress that I have to report that the Mayor and Town Council at their May meeting voted four to two to reject an offer by respected structural forensic engineers Malcolm Pinto and Michael Bourke to carry out, for \$12,000, a structural analysis of the Town Hall (Civic Building). This would be in order to make an informed opinion as to its soundness and to indicate what measures they felt necessary to correct the roof truss problem, stabilize the walls, and provide measures for fire prevention. These engineers came at the request of the Trust, and at their own expense, to do a brief on-site assessment, as the Town was unwilling to pay the constantly escalating fees charged by Cowie Engineering for total restoration. The amount submitted in April for full restoration was well over \$2 million. Cowie's suggestion was that a new building to include a Town Hall and Fire Hall be built for less. This would certainly not replicate the Romanesque Revival features of the 90-year-old building and would end up costing far more. However, this was the option that the town chose. Truro's Heritage Advisory Committee disagrees, as does our Society For Protection of Truro Heritage Properties. Both groups would prefer Council revoke its decision and allow a second opinion on the soundness of the building and the costs of restoration. If new buildings are to be erected, it means the demise of the 1912 Fair-designed Civic Building, along

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New book lifts veil on embezzler who shocked Halifax's social elite

Banker, Builder, Blockade Runner: A Victorian Embezzler and his Circle

By Pat Lotz

Gaspereau Press, October 2002

On July 28, 1870, Mather Byles Almon, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia, announced that the cashier, James Forman "has been guilty of making many fraudulent entries in the books of the bank, by which he has abstracted a large amount of its funds." In this unusual biography, Pat Lotz profiles James Forman – a man who "left no letters." Accused of embezzling over \$300,000 dollars from the Bank of Nova Scotia, Forman resigned his post in disgrace before leaving Nova Scotia for England. The crime shocked Victorian Halifax, bumping the Franco-Prussian war from the front page of the local newspapers. The crime seemed out of character with the quiet, respected banker whose friends and associ-

ates included some of the leading businessmen, politicians and religious figures of the period. In this unique book, Lotz traces the life of a man who left very little personal information, in letters or otherwise, about his life and work.

Pat Lotz is the editor of *Affairs with Old Houses*, a collection of personal stories about heritage homes in Nova Scotia. She has worked as a writer and editor since 1979, acting as associate editor at Atlantic Insight and the editor of *The Southender*. Since 1987, she has worked as a freelance writer and consultant.

Book Launch

Thursday, Nov. 7

7:30 pm, Women's Council House
989 Young Avenue, Halifax

Reading & talk, co-sponsored with
the Wolfville Historical Society
Thursday, Nov. 14,

7:00 pm, Wolfville Library
21 Elm Avenue, Wolfville ☒

Communities: *Continued from Page 10*

with the 1899 Fire Station. Both are in the prominent downtown core of the town and are landmarks, the Civic Building being one of ten of the first Town Halls in the Province built expressly for the purpose of local administration. The Civic Building is a municipally-registered heritage building, and to demolish it would set a poor example for heritage owners in the recently designated Heritage Districts. Admittedly, renovations carried out in the fifties and early nineties were of poor quality and costly. However, the Civic Building and the Fire Station help provide the character which makes this town special. If these two can so easily be dispensed with, which one will be next? The old Normal College,

hidden behind the Public Library? or the wonderful original Post Office?

UPDATE

Council later agreed to let Heritage Trust pay for the second opinion. Peter Delefos did an excellent and convincing presentation of reasons for preserving these civic buildings. They are assets, not liabilities! Mr. Pinto told Council the site could be revitalized for much less than anticipated. In August, Peter and I again went to Council where Peter urged the meeting to take advantage of the talents of this fine team of restoration experts, including Graeme Duffus, our vice-president. The decision is not yet final. My sincere thanks to Peter Delefos and Elizabeth Pacey for their active help in this crisis. ☒



The St. Paul Building, at Barrington and Prince streets, Halifax, is across from historic St. Paul's Anglican Church. No longer crowned by the clock tower shown here, the building continues nonetheless, these days as a temple of commerce. The main floor is home to John W. Doull, Bookseller.



The old Bank of Montreal building on Hollis Street, in Halifax.

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

Regular meetings last Tuesdays in month, 7:30 pm in Cumberland County Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst, contact 667-2561.

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

1723 Hollis Street, Halifax.
Until mid-October, "An expression of Faith" in Alice Hoskin's Gallery.
Contact Nancy Keating, 424-8935.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth.
Contact: 434-0222.

Sunday, October 13, 5:30 pm to 7 pm
Harvest Dinner, Reservations required.
Adults \$15, Children \$10.

Sunday, November 24, 11 am to 4 pm
Craft and Bake Sale in the tearoom.

Tuesday, December 10
Christmas Party in the Giles House - by invitation.

The Heritage Farm Rose and Kettle Tea Room will be open from mid-May to mid-October, from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Saturday; noon-4 pm, Sundays and holidays; offering an all-day menu, luncheon menu and afternoon tea. The Tea Room also offers personalized catering services for Sunday brunches, dinners, parties, receptions, showers, etc., for groups of 40 or less. Details: 462-0154.

Costume Society of Nova Scotia

c/o Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7
Meets 7:30 pm third Monday of the month, September to May. For venue and programs, contact 826-2506 or 429-0790.

Cumberland County Museum

150 Church Street, Amherst, NS.
Fall/Winter hours, Tuesday to Saturday, October to April, 9 am to 5 pm;
contact 667-2561.

Until Sunday, September 15

Exhibition of Antique Dolls and Bears
Monday, October 7 to Saturday, November 30
Exhibition of photographs, Debbie Emslie – special opening October 5.

Saturday, October 19

Edwardian Dinner

Saturday, November 2

Auction

Saturday, December 7

Christmas Events

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, contact 464-2300.

Until late October

Exhibit; The Portrait in Photography

Thursday, September 26, 6 for 6:30 pm

Fund Raising Buffet Dinner, \$50 per person at Brightwood Golf and Country Club. Silent auction plus entertainment by Dartmouth City of Lakes Barbershop Chorus. Tickets: Museum, 464-2300; Brightwood, 466-7588; Clint Schofield, 469-0018; Betty Montgomery, 466-5907; Lorna Huestis, 469-9904.
Meeting Space for Rent: suitable for meetings, presentations, workshops and classes. Seats up to 50, depending on room use. Ground floor space, wheelchair accessible, washrooms, kitchenette, parking. Equipment available by arrangement - includes tables, chairs, audio-visual, presentation easel, select catering supplies. Fee: \$10.00 per hour - minimum 3 hours rental; weekends and evenings included. Call ahead to arrange room viewing, 464-2300.

Friends of McNabs Island Society

Saturday, September 14 (rain date September 21) Paddle/clean up of McNabs and Lawlor, contact 422-1045

Sunday, October 20, 10 am to 4 pm (rain date October 27)

McNabs Fall Foliage Tour - \$6.50 members and children; others \$8.50, contact 434-2254

Fultz House Museum

33 Sackville Drive, Lr, Sackville, NS, contact 865-3794

Tuesdays in September, 12 pm – 2 pm, Tea.

Wednesday, September 18, 6 pm

Annual Heritage Dinner.

Saturday, September 28, 12 noon

Chili Luncheon, served by Sackville Volunteer Fire Department with Fire Truck Display.

Saturday, October 5, 4 – 6 pm

Octoberfest.

Saturday/Sunday, November 9/10, 12 noon to 6 pm

Community Craft Crawl, Fultz House and Museum Craft Shop

Monday, November 11, 11:30 am to 2 pm

Remembrance Day Display.

Saturday/Sunday, November 30/ December 1, 1 pm to 3:30 pm

Old Fashioned Christmas Tour.

Admission; donation of non-perishable food for Beacon House.

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Program information: 454-0322.

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 pm

Lecture: Annapolis Valley in the 1850s: A Woman's Perspective.

Speaker: Dr. Carolyn McGrath, Providence, Rhode Island

Saturday, October 19, 1:30-4:30 pm

Panel: Finding the Ancestors Nobody Talked About: A Presentation on Locating and Using Institutional Records. Panelists: Robert Haley, Joan Parks-Hubley and others.

Tuesday, November 26, 7:30 pm

Lecture: Dutch Immigrant Children in Canada – The experience of People who came to Canada from Holland after WWII. Speaker: Anne van Arragon Hutten. All lectures open to public: In the Akins Room, Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management, 6016 University Ave. Halifax.

Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum

Barss Corner, Lunenburg County, contact 644-2033.

Parrsborough Shore Historical Society

Ottawa House, Parrsboro, NS., contact 254-2376
Until Sunday, September 15
Rug show.

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

For times, venue, programs, contact Bob Harvey, 864-8666; cell ph.: 483-8666.

Fall Program

18 September (Phyllis R.Blakeley Lecture): Jennifer Smith, "Provincial Social Policy During the Stanfield Era"

16 October: David R. Jones, "Acadians and British Policy: Politics in a Military Borderland"

20 November: Malcolm MacLeod and Cameron MacLeod Gibson, "Heaven is Herds and Crops: The Life and Career of Malcolm MacLeod, Regional Farm Editor, 1878-1935"

11 December: Brian Cuthbertson, "The Melville Island Prison"

Scott Manor House/Fort Sackville Foundation

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford.
contact, 835-8497 or 835-5368

Saturday, September 14

Wine Tasting Festival with Richard Tolson

Thursday, September 26, 7:30 pm

Candlelight Walk to grave of Joseph Scott Esq., followed by Reading of the will.

Yarmouth County Historical Society and Museum

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS

Unless otherwise stated, the Historical Society meets the 1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm; and during the winter at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday presents a program of Armchair Travels with a variety of speakers and places. Attendance at Society meetings is free, but there is a charge of \$3.00 for the Travel Series. For details of activities, exhibits, and use of research facilities, contact 742-5539.