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The Griffin

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From residence to museum, Admiralty House boasts a varied and storied past *by Marilyn Gurney*

Currently the home of the Maritime Command Museum, Admiralty House has had a long and varied life. Admiralty House was built between 1814 and 1819 on a hill overlooking the Dockyard as the official residence for the Commander in Chief of the North American and West Indies Station.

Throughout the eighteenth century, the Admiral had been renting a house in town, but this was proving to be inconvenient and impractical, as a suitable residence was not always available. Several requests for the construction of a residence had previously gone unheeded by the Admiralty in London. However, in 1811, Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren not only requested that a house be built, he also suggested that it be built in a field between Gottingen and Lockman Streets. Not only was this location handy to the Dockyard, but the harbour approaches beyond McNab's Island were clearly visible, an ideal vantage point for the Commander in charge of an impressive fleet.

In 1813, John Plow submitted house plans for a wooden house to the Admiralty. Legend has it that the plans never came back from London, but the house progressed regardless. Similarities between the Plow plans and the actual house are few. Where the plans used for the construction came from is unknown. However, Admiralty House does bear a strong resemblance to many houses of the period.

In March of 1814, the Admiralty instructed the Navy Board to begin the construction of a wooden house. Three thousand pounds were allotted to this project. Up the hill to the west of the

Naval Hospital, Admiral Warren purchased 10 acres of land from the butcher Andrew Bauer at a cost of 1000 pounds.

The work was begun in 1815, and when the ground level stone structure was nearly finished, work came to a halt, as the Admiralty had instructed the construction of a wooden house as was the nature of the community, and not a stone one. After much discussion, Rear Admiral Edward Griffith decided to continue the construction of a stone house. In an effort to cut costs, only three masons and one carpenter were hired. The remaining manpower was drawn from the Dockyard and the Garrison.

Continued overleaf



Georgian-styled Admiralty House was originally built as a residence for the British Admiral in command of the North American station. Photo by Gauvin and Gentzel, 1928, Nova Scotia Museum.

Admiralty: *Continued from Page 1*

Stone was quarried near the Arm and brought round to the Dockyard by barge, and then moved to Gottingen Street by horse and cart. Eventually money ran out, and Admiral Griffith appealed to the Provincial House of Assembly for assistance. With the addition of 1500 pounds, work began again and in the spring of 1818 the first occupant, Rear Admiral Sir David Milne, moved into the not-quite-complete house.

Unfortunately, the glory days of an official residence were short lived, as an Admiralty decision in 1819 saw the removal of the headquarters to Bermuda, leaving the Halifax Dockyard nothing more than a depot. While the removal was rooted in the politics of the day, a rather humorous story has been promulgated as to the original cause of the removal.

According to this unsubstantiated story, the Admiral in residence was raising Berkshire boars in his rear garden, and both the neighbours and the local health board complained vehemently. The Admiral was steadfast and stated that if the pigs went, so would he! While entertaining, this story lacks credibility as the neighbourhood was seriously undeveloped with few neighbours, and just five short years previously, the butcher Andrew Bauer was raising cattle on the same property. More importantly though, the Admiral could not sufficiently justify the removal of the Dockyard facilities on the basis of pig rearing. Nevertheless, Admiralty House became a summer residence, as the Royal Navy Fleet wintered in Bermuda and summered in Halifax.

Admiralty House soon became the centre of social events. While some, such as cock fighting in the drawing room, were not worthy of public note in the newspapers, many others were. The first such event was a spectacular ball for 600 guests, held on the 19th of September 1848 by the Right Honourable Earl of Dundonald.

Admiralty House was not without its Royal Visitors, and the children of Queen Victoria visited frequently. While Albert, the Prince of Wales, landed in Halifax in 1860, there is no record of his visit to Admiralty House. The visit of Prince Alfred in 1861 is well documented, as Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Milne entertained him with a great ball. Similarly, Vice Admiral Sir Rodney Mundy entertained the Queen's third son and later Governor General, Prince Arthur, on the 28th August 1869. In 1873 Lord Dufferin, Governor General of Canada, and Lady Dufferin were entertained by Vice Admiral and Mrs. Fanshawe.

The visit to garner the most public interest was, perhaps, that of Princess Louise and her husband, the Marquis of Lorne, newly appointed Governor General of Canada, in November 1878. Vice Admiral Sir E.A. Inglefield and Lady Inglefield entertained.

The 20th century did not lack for royal guests as the Duke of Kent visited Admiralty House in 1941. This visit was followed by that of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 1951.

The latter half of the 19th century was idyllic, as the Royal Navy's primary function was to show the flag and remind the United States that there was a military presence in Canada. By 1904, however, the political situation in Europe was changing and the face of Halifax was about to change forever. The British Government recalled the Royal Navy from the Dockyard and the British Army from the Garrison. In January 1905, Admiralty House was closed and all the furnishings sold at a public auction. By 1906, the British presence was gone and the defence of Canada left to the Canadians.

In 1910, the Naval Act of Canada passed through Parliament, and the Royal Canadian Navy came into being. All the Royal Navy property, including Admiralty House, was

transferred to Canada.

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the RCN needed a suitable building to use as a hospital, and as Admiralty House was empty, it became a logical choice. The rooms on the first and second floors were used as ward space, and the kitchen on the ground floor was used as the operating room. Storage rooms were used as temporary morgues.

Admiralty House did not remain unscathed during the Halifax Explosion of 6 December, 1917. The outer roof was blown off, the windows blew out, and

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The Griffin

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Unless otherwise indicated,
the opinions expressed in
these pages are those of the
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Submissions are welcomed.
Deadline for the next issue:
May 1, 2003

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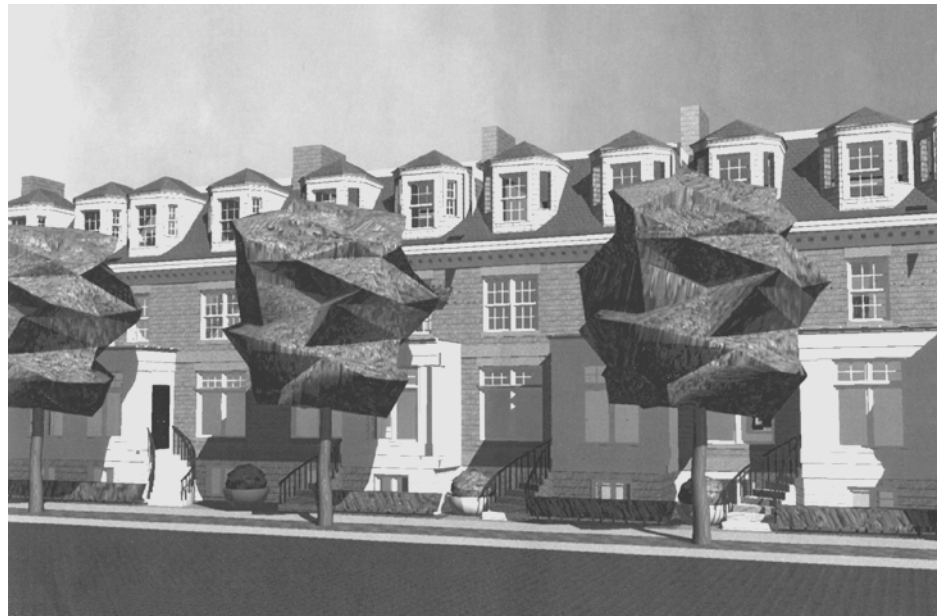
Candidate for Round Church neighbourhood promises to blend nicely with period surroundings *by Anne West*

Architect Bill Anwyll, working for the developer Cantwell & Company, has produced plans for a delightful period village to sit next door to Saint George's Round Church. This sensitive development will occupy the former Alexandra School site, which is bounded by Brunswick, Cornwallis and Maitland streets in north-end Halifax. Several earlier proposals for this important site were strongly contested by neighbours and HTNS, but this one is meeting with enthusiastic approval.

The development consists of four rows of buildings, two of townhouses and two of condominiums. Half of the site will be green space and 20 per cent parking for the townhouses, while the condominiums have underground parking.

Bill Anwyll explains that the north-south orientation of the buildings was dictated by the slope of the land, which falls just over twenty feet between Maitland and Brunswick. This slope is cleverly used to give the townhouses garden apartments which can be rented.

But it is the architectural style of these homes which gives them the edge. Built of red brick and none more than four stories high, these charming row houses are a perfect complement to the existing buildings on the block, including Trust member Janet Morris's lovely conversion on Portland Place (*Griffin*, June 2000). These are not modern houses with period features added; their proportions are right, the materials are right and the windows and doors are exactly right. They contain a variety of architectural features already present in the area, including quoining, several styles of dormers, gothic windows and storm porches. Cantwell & Company has already upgraded the fine Victorian building on the



corner of Maitland Street and Portland Place and also owns the Kidston Glass site. This bodes well for a city block that could become a wonderful place to live.

The development is now going through HRM's Development

Permit process. The city undertook an exhaustive community planning exercise before setting the guidelines for this property, and the care it has taken to ensure compatible development seems to be paying off. ☒



Above, an architectural drawing of the Maitland Street townhouses with Scottish dormers proposed for the site, formerly occupied by Alexandra School. The architectural design is by Bill Anwyll for the developer, Cantwell & Company. Below, the view facing north from Maitland St., across the development site now filled with parked cars. St. George's and the spire of St. Patrick's are in the background. The area is bounded by Brunswick, Cornwallis and Maitland streets.

Admiralty: *Continued from Page 2*

the ceilings and walls collapsed. A small furnace in the front foyer tipped over and started a fire. Fortunately, it was extinguished quickly. The patients were evacuated to the south end of the city and the house was closed.

In 1919, Admiralty House was repaired and reopened as the Massachusetts Halifax Health Centre Number One serving as a public health facility for the north suburbs. In 1924, the RCN asked for the house back and the following year, it opened as the Wardroom or Officers' Mess. It served this function until 1954 when the new Wardroom was constructed on Lorne Terrace. Admiralty House was again closed, and remained so, except for occasional use as a Ship's Office. Gone were the glory days of the 19th century.

In 1961, Admiralty House underwent a general facelift (upgrades in electrical, plumbing, new flooring and paint), and reopened as the Command Libraries and Educational Facility. In 1973, the Maritime Command Museum began its collection on the third floor. Eventually, the museum took over the entire house.



This pencil and paper drawing of Admiralty House was done from the Flag Ship Vindictive by Captain M. Seymour, June 19, 1845. Print courtesy of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Admiralty House was originally designed in the traditional Georgian style and, fortunately, has retained all of its original symmetry. Over the years, more modern features were added. While building records are difficult to locate, Admiralty House underwent a period of upgrades and modernization in the 1870s, and then again following the Halifax Explosion. Most of the decorative features on the exterior

have been removed, and the most dramatic change has been the front porch. The interior remains much the same. Fortunately, there was never a requirement to undertake major changes, and this, coupled with a lack of money, has preserved its integrity. In 1979, Admiralty House was declared a National Historic Site.

Marilyn Gurney is the historian at the Maritime Command Museum, Admiralty House. ☐

HRM offers modest help to RHP owners *by Anthony Lamplugh*

Heritage is created by a recognition of the value in what our ancestors left behind, in terms of the natural environment, community traditions, and built heritage. HRM is now on board with modest assistance to the owners of Registered Heritage Properties to keep them in good repair and appearance. Of the 250 owners of RHPs, about 100 have applied for grants. Fifty percent of the cost up to \$5000 is available for external repairs of porches, windows, walls, roofs and restoring damaged or missing historic features.

Two groups of applicants are being considered. The first is for retroactive grants for work which

has been approved from 1997-2002. Thirty applications have been received, of which 28 have been approved or are pending. The average request is for \$2500. During February, 66 applications for new work are being considered.

In the past, only the City of Halifax had assistance for heritage buildings. Residential, commercial and religious properties were covered. This ceased with amalgamation. HRM is aware of the economics of heritage conservation, that preservation pays with income benefits to the tourist community and taxation benefits to the government. A new propos-

al is being submitted to council regarding further grants. A partnership of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia with the Department of Culture and Tourism is being explored. Topics being considered are future heritage grants and ways to encourage restoration rather than demolition. Culture and tourism are being explored, as well as awards for restoration, development of Heritage Districts and a Heritage Home Owners' association. Further details about the current programme are available from Dan Norris (Department of Culture and Tourism) 490-4339. ☐

Founders and Pioneers (series continued)

The Yorkshire Immigration to Nova Scotia 1772-1776

The audience of the Trust's public lecture series had a wonderful evening's education this autumn about another of our founding groups — English, "the least studied" — namely the small but significant number of Yorkshiremen who came in the early 1770s. They left their mark, a cultural "accent", which persists to this day. Jim Snowdon, the speaker, is descended from one of the Chignecto area families. He shared with us lists of well-known Yorkshire family names of the Chignecto area, Colchester, Granville, and the Planter townships of King's County.

What influenced so many Yorkshire families to emigrate to Nova Scotia between 1772 and 1776? Jim Snowdon pointed out that the British Province was desperate for a hardworking, knowledgeable, rural population to restore productivity to fallow agricultural lands left by the expulsion of the Acadians, a void not filled by the recruitment of German Protestant settlers or the influx of the New England Planters who had virtually re-created the communities along the Bay of Fundy, the Saint John River and the South Shore. By the late 1760s there was little good agricultural land left to encourage new settlers and too few people to develop and manage lands already granted. Under-populated and struggling to develop agricultural and fishery resources just when the British military presence was being withdrawn in 1768, Nova Scotia was falling into a recession. Faced with a shortage of labour, with inflation and fewer markets as the soldiers left, some New Englanders, too, left for their old homes or moved elsewhere in search of the dream that had eluded them in Nova Scotia.

These circumstances caused some men of influence to look to

Great Britain for a solution.

Politician and landowner Michael Franklin took the lead in encouraging a surplus population in North Britain to consider emigration by hiring, between 1769 and 1772, agents to recruit suitable persons among the tenants of Yorkshire's wealthy gentry. Lured by the promise of buying their own land, many responded, particularly as their English landlords were then attempting to squeeze higher rents from the yeomanry. They studied reports of weather, settlements and farms that could be bought reasonably, farms on land they would own and not be beholden to landlords. To own land is of vital importance to the Yorkshireman.

Few left journals or papers, so their story is gathered from fragmentary evidence: genealogies, land records, legal transactions, and some written references in the *Memoirs* of Charles Dixon and letters of Nathaniel Smith and Harrison. The materials, houses, farm buildings and accessories of the era are also a resource for our understanding of the age.

Only some 1200 souls in all

succumbed to the efforts of the agents. Most came in family groups with a few single men and women, the average age about 32 years. Several boatloads of North British settlers a year arrived in Halifax between 1772 and 1776, when gathering war clouds and British concerns about losing farmers halted the movement. Some went overland to Windsor, then west to the Annapolis Valley or to the Chignecto and Petitcodiac areas. Others sailed directly from England to their Bay of Fundy destinations.

Most were farmers, artisans or labourers, and able to afford the £50 passage. Many were well off after selling their property and bought land at once. A few received land grants, some worked for years to buy their own farms, others remained as tenants. Franklin had some as tenants on his River Hebert and Avon River estates. Some hired out for five or ten years with families like the DesBarres. The circumstances of these Yorkshire settlers were quite unlike those of the 18th century Scots and Irish immigrants who

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The William Chapman House (c.1770), Fort Lawrence, N.S.

Yorkshire: *Continued from Page 5*

suffered the most appalling hardships.

Land ownership, material possessions and family inheritance were of prime importance to the Yorkshireman. Home, land, farm and family signified economic and social independence. Thrifty and hard working, they helped restore productivity and prosperity to the Bay of Fundy marshlands. It was the first organized agricultural move from Britain to this province. Merchants built on the economic foundation of their communities and by the third generation, wealthy farmers were putting money into a merchantman. Encouraged by the Wesleyans to emigrate, they sowed the seeds of Maritime Methodism and liberalism. William Black was one of them. A Bible in Amherst was signed by John Wesley. There were good storytellers among them; they sang in church but austere Methodism permitted no other music or dancing.

Surviving architectural records of buildings, furnishings and personal items, along with traditional sources, reinforce the themes of cultural persistence, variation and adaptation that characterize the Yorkshire community in the Maritimes. With time and distance from the Old World, cultural forms evolved in the new social conditions, using local materials, which blended with others in the region. Where their descendants are today, a Yorkshire "accent" persists in both language and material culture.

A Journey Through Nova Scotia, by Robinson and Rispin, 1774, describes the region and its potential, with accounts of farms for sale and descriptions of house construction: "They (the New England style house in Nova Scotia) are built with post and pan; when they get about three yards high they take it in a little; about two yards higher they fix their chamber windows, and above them their roofs; some

build a story higher. After being boarded they appear very neat and compleat houses".

William Chapman, seeing wooden houses sheathed in clapboard and shingles on his first visit in 1772, was not impressed. Yorkshiremen were used to brick and stone. Chapman, the Trueman and others of the more affluent groups, bought farms and built new homes soon after arrival. Snowdon observed that they must have had construction plans before leaving England or, like Chapman, went back to buy necessary materials. We saw slides of several early houses including the substantial Keillor house in Dorchester, compared with their counterparts in Yorkshire. These illustrate the cultural persistence of the first generation, who brought the Old World to the New.

Nathaniel Smith's *Letters* referring to those who bought houses and farms at inflated prices said, "the man of money is the man for Nova Scotia. Those may do extremely well. Some of those have already made purchases of excellent homes and fine lands which some of them now and the rest in a little time will be as compact and elegant as the most gentlemen's house in England". Christopher Harper, he wrote, "from near New Malton...hath purchased since we came for £550 a very pleasantly situated gentlemen's manor with all the household furniture, livestock which is no little, utensils of husbandry, garden, orchard, etc."

Smith, unlike Chapman, was more ready to relinquish old ways for new. He saw merit in his Yankee neighbours' methods: "You may I doubt not set light by a wooden house in England but sincerely tell you if I were again in Old England I would choose a wooden ...one as some I have seen before any other. They are very alligant, comfortable and durable".

The numerous gambrel-roofed and Cape Cod style houses throughout the region previously settled by New England Planters

"seemed a curiosity to those who had lived in or aspired to own the familiar Vale or York housing models described by Ennals & Holdsworth in their study of vernacular housing in Canada", Snowdon observed.

Items brought here are connected to their place of origin, then combine with the new environment and local materials to produce distinctive forms or "accent". Among the slides Jim showed of rural furniture with Planter adaptations was one of the Harper long-case clock—its works purchased from England, its case of local pine painted to resemble mahogany.

In the head of the Bay of Fundy area, items of British origin can still be found, brought here on *The Duke of York* or the *Albion*, vessels which brought the earlier waves of Yorkshire migrants to the Maritimes. The newcomers and the Planter community had a complex but close-knit relationship during the 18th century, Snowdon says, expressed in their material objects. Predominantly loyalist during the American Revolution, the Yorkshiremen contributed much to the growth and development of Nova Scotia, and later, the newly created New Brunswick.

In Chignecto this lineage is well recognized, especially following the highly successful Yorkshire 2000 celebration held in August 2000, when over 3000 descendants from as far afield as Germany, New Zealand and Mexico, attended the festivities.

(With thanks to Jim Snowdon for sharing his lecture notes.) D.B. ☒



'Save our heritage' has become the daily mantra of The Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage *by Jessica Peddle*

Save the whales. Save the rain forest. Familiar slogans. What about "Save our heritage"?

At the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage (FNSH) office, located in the historic Immigration Annex near Pier 21, this is the daily mantra. As a non-profit, private sector umbrella organization, it supports and promotes heritage for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.

Founded in 1976, FNSH is dedicated to the preservation of Nova Scotia's heritage. It serves a diverse membership made up of approximately 140 organizations including museums, historical and genealogical societies, archives, universities, galleries, preservation groups, and individuals. Staff, volunteers, and trustees alike are encouraged to avail themselves of the Federation's services. FNSH is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing all regions of Nova Scotia and the Federation office is staffed by a small but enthusiastic team, all of whom are dedicated to the preservation of Nova Scotia's heritage through education, advocacy and networking.

FNSH members are working to save our heritage, research the past, operate museums, and acquaint the public with the past and its significance in today's society. The Federation supports their efforts by offering professional development opportunities, such as workshops and conferences, and networking opportunities through regional meetings and an Atlantic provinces listserv. Leading by example, FNSH encourages partnerships amongst its members and celebrates all of their successes.

"We are committed to assisting museums and historical societies achieve a standard of excellence," says Susan Charles, FNSH executive director. "Our goal is to

share our 'passion for heritage' with the public and to help our members do the same."

In 2002-2003, FNSH will continue to build upon its exceptional training program and will be offering numerous workshops and seminars across the province, including a three-day conference on the topics of commemoration and management to be held in Amherst in May. The "Heritage In The Schools" program continues to forge a link between museums and students. In the spring, the Federation will embark on an ambitious initiative called "Ideas Into Action," a four-part project that includes an on-site consultation and a reviewed action plan. Also set for spring 2003, is the launch of "Heritage Contacts and Connections," a web-based heritage resource directory.

In the future, museums and historical societies must play a crucial role in their communities. Relevance to the community, and the world at large, is an issue of utmost importance. Regional collaboration continues to be a goal for many FNSH members. Making tangible community con-

nections and building sustainable museums go hand-in-hand. Funding is an ever-present concern and FNSH advocates the diversification of funding sources as a way to address cuts in government funding. Human resources also continues to be an issue for museums and historical societies. The work involved in recruiting and retaining both volunteers and staff is considerable and many wonder if it can be done successfully. All of these issues are also on the minds of Federation staff and trustees and will be on the 2003-04 agenda.

While some may take their heritage for granted, for the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage and its members, the daily battle is to protect and preserve the varied and intriguing stories of Nova Scotia.

For more information about the Federation, please visit their website www.fnshe.ns.ca or call 423-9677 or 1-800-355-6873.

Jessica Peddle is Communications Coordinator for the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage. ☒



Working together and exchanging ideas draw participants, like those above, to workshops sponsored by the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage. Photo courtesy of FNSH.

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Datebook

Thursday, March 20

Public Lecture 7:30 pm

Speaker: Katie Cottreau-Robins, Archaeologist

Topic: Domestic Architecture of the Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia 1783-1800

Thursday, April 17

Public Lecture 7:30 pm

Speaker: Professor John Grant, Historian, St. F.X. History Department

Topic: The Maroons in Nova Scotia

Thursday, May 15

Public Lecture 7:30 pm

Speaker: Kevin Robins, Curator, The Army Museum, Halifax Citadel

Topic: Life Under Canvas, 18th Century Military Encampments in the Halifax Area

Thursday, June 19

Annual General Meeting 7:00 pm

Lecture at 8 pm

Speaker: Anne Marie Lane Jonah, M.A., Historian

Topic: Liverpool: Home town of the privateers

About this season's talks:

Archaeologist **Katie Cottreau** worked on the Birchtown project in Shelburne and at several other sites in the province, and is currently occupied at the dig under way at the foot of Cornwallis St. in Halifax. She has just completed the Masters program at TUNS. **John N. Grant** recently published an updated scholarly account of the 18th century "Maroons" of Jamaica, Halifax and Sierra Leone (Christmas Book List). Finally we'll get it straight exactly where the Hessians camped in Point Pleasant. And if you have an antique carved powder-horn or piece of scrimshaw showing rows of tents in Halifax, bring it to the May talk for **Kevin Robins** to see. All the talks in the forthcoming series are illustrated. Bring your friends and encourage them to join Heritage Trust.

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 in the two museum parking lots is now "Pay-and-Display." Parking is also available across Bell Road at the Vocational School. For information, telephone 423-4807. ☒

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President's Update: Truro Civic Building lost but HRM seeks Heritage Conservation Districts

by Peter Delefes

For this issue of *The Griffin* I would like to inform members of two important heritage developments since my last report. The first pertains to the Truro Civic Building and the second to the establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts in the HRM.

Despite a strong campaign over the past seven months to save the Truro Civic Building by heritage activists in Truro, assisted by the Heritage Trust of Nova

Scotia, I am sad to have to report that the Civic Building's demolition appears imminent. The Truro Town Council's 5-2 vote in favour of demolishing the building has not yet been rescinded. In January, I contacted the Truro Town Council indicating the Trust's willingness to obtain a firm price from contractors for the restoration of the building. At the January meeting of the Heritage Trust Board, financial assistance was provided to the Heritage Advisory Committee of Truro to take out a half page ad in the *Truro Daily News* requesting that the Town Council reconsider its decision to demolish the building. Reasons were cited as to how taxpayers' money could be saved by restoring and reusing the Civic Building rather than demolishing it and the adjacent historic fire station and erecting a new Civic Building. The Truro Town Council has not listened to (a) the 800 people who signed a petition against destroying the Civic Building; (b) the 250 taxpayers who showed up at the public meeting opposing this move; (c) the many business people with proposals who value the civic Building as a key to downtown revitalization; (d) the restoration experts who proposed a sensitive and financially viable plan to renovate the Civic Building; and (e) the Truro Heritage Advisory Committee which put forth a number of proposals to save money—and save the downtown Civic Block. The Truro heritage community has done a splendid job of trying to save the important Civic Building and is still lobbying hard in this regard. The winter issue of *Heritage*, the magazine of Heritage Canada, has an article on efforts to save the Civic Building. The article is entitled, "Once Truro's Symbol of Civic Pride—Now Threatened with Demolition."

In December, our Heritage

Conservation Districts Committee met with members of the HRM Planning Department regarding the establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts in the HRM. Several Nova Scotian communities (Yarmouth, Lunenburg, Truro, Grand Pré, Maitland) have established such districts which protect an entire district from substantial alteration and demolition and establish design guidelines for any new buildings erected within the district. With the blessing of the Planning Department, Betty Pacey, Joyce McCulloch and I, addressed the HRM Heritage Advisory Committee in January to request that the Committee recommend to Council that Conservation Districts be established in the HRM and that the first area to be so considered should be the Brunswick St. area where many of the buildings are already researched and registered. The Heritage Advisory Committee was very receptive to our proposal and passed a motion recommending the establishment of the HRM's first Conservation District. The process of designating Conservation Districts will require time, effort and resources as the residents in prospective Districts have to be willing to have their properties registered. The establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts in the HRM is a very exciting development and will certainly advance the cause of heritage preservation in the municipality.

The City of Saint John, N.B., this year's recipient of the coveted Prince of Wales Prize awarded by Heritage Canada for heritage conservation efforts, has a number of conservation areas including a 21-block district called the Trinity Royal Heritage Preservation Area featuring the most intact collection of 19th century commercial architecture in the country. Congratulations, Saint John! ☑

Board: *Continued from Page 8*

N.S. Governor, Heritage Canada
Brenda Shannon, Halifax

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The Nominating Committee invites members to forward the names of people they feel would be suitable members of the Trust's Board of Trustees. Please send suggestions to John Lazier, 429-5063 or jlazier@hfx.andara.com

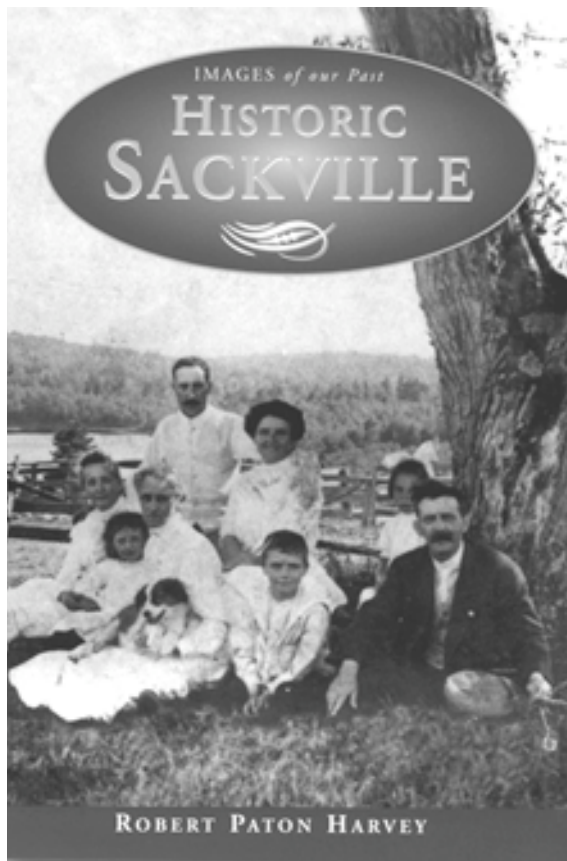
Book Review

Historic Sackville: a loving historical record

Historic Sackville, by Robert Paton Harvey, Halifax, Nimbus, 2002. 139 pp. Illus. \$19.95

As those members know who attended his excellent Heritage Trust lecture in January, Bob Harvey is passionate about the history of Sackville, where he has lived for 30 years. His book, *Historic Sackville*, is part of Nimbus's series, Images of Our Past, and tells the story of Sackville from its beginnings in 1749, as an outpost of the fortifications of Halifax, to the present day. It is lavishly illustrated with old pictures of people, buildings and activities which made up the daily life of the settlement from early days. The people are for the most part gone, but not forgotten, and many of the buildings – but not all – have been demolished, as Sackville has changed from a discrete community to a dormitory suburb of Halifax, and part of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Harvey looks at the development of the settlement at the inland end of the Great Harbour from the early establishment of a small fort manned by Gorham's Rangers, and shows how the roads, particularly the road to Windsor, opened up the area for civilian settlement. From the original 32 "farm lots" sprang the interestingly mixed community about which Harvey writes in loving detail. The visual record begins at the beginning of the nineteenth century with John Elliott Woolford's sketches and maps of the area, pinpointing the homes of many of the early settlers, and continues with photographs which range from important buildings such as the Scott Manor House, the inns, churches and schools, to smaller dwelling houses, stores and farm buildings, and the roads which linked them all together. The pictures of buildings cover a wide

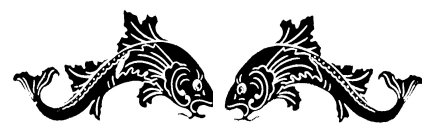


range of styles and states of repair, and while many of them have now been demolished, they convey a good idea of how the appearance of this community of pioneer settlers developed over nearly 200 years.

The people, about whom Harvey writes as if recalling an extended family, appear in many photographs, from a formal group in their front parlour to local businessmen and artisans at work, school children and old people, black and white, soldiers and schoolmarmes, all part of the texture of the community. A former agricultural settlement, Sackville's visual record includes pictures of farms, with horses and oxen, while more recently vintage cars and trucks and even an airplane appear on the scene. Mid-twentieth-century features such as the Drive-In Theatre, Sackville Downs Raceway and Sackville Speedway proved to be

as transitory as many of the earlier buildings and have taken their places with other vanished structures in this record.

Many Sackville families are represented in this book: their homes, their businesses, their labours and their relationships are all recorded. This book is an invaluable source of information for anyone looking for family history in the area, as well as for social historians studying life in a rural yet bustling Nova Scotia community since its foundation. Although the book is part of Nimbus's pictorial history series, it is crammed with factual information about the people and institutions of the area. Harvey's text is more than an accompaniment to the images; it is a rich repository of community history and genealogical research. It is both a good read and a good reference book. In the latter capacity an index would have been useful, but that is a minor complaint by comparison with the pleasure this book brings. J.D. ☒



Living on the Edge

Many sites in Nova Scotia, especially in the HRM, are historically defined by their water's edge location. This year's Dalhousie School of Planning annual public event is "A Coastal Planning Forum," March 17–19 at Pier 21. Imported and local panelists include Professor Frank Palermo and Heritage Trust Vice-President Michèle Raymond. Free admission. Info 494-3260 ☒

Burial Grounds Care Society seeks help in tending neglected cemeteries

by Wendy Elliott (with thanks to The Kentville Advertiser)

The poor farm cemetery in Greenwich, Kings County, was finally marked in December when a memorial stone was set. Within 90 minutes, another stone was placed on the site of the poor farm in Northville. Heritage Monuments of Windsor carved both stones and two area firms worked cooperatively to put them in place. The Horton Township poor farm, which was started in the 1880s, was located across the road from the Greenwich fire hall on land now owned by Lafarge Canada Inc. It was sold in 1922 after the county home was built in Waterville. Although deeds to the cemeteries were reserved by the county, the sites became overgrown and were unmarked, with some attempts at care of the Greenwich site.

The Burial Grounds Care Society was formed to preserve these and other unmaintained cemeteries. With the backing of county council, about three years ago some society members erected a stone in Waterville because the county home was long closed. Then in 2001, according to society spokesman Richard Skinner, "one of our members, Kim Troop, a youth worker, and two young men from the Nova Scotia Youth

Centre" worked on the Coldwell family cemetery on the South Mountain. In Greenwich the volunteers were pleasantly surprised to discover in December that Lafarge had laid crusher dust on the traditional right of way. Adjacent farmer Avarad Bishop transported fence posts to the site. Society members and several Lafarge employees were on hand for the establishment of the stone "as it was their last day for the season". Troop had arranged two more temporary absences for youths at detention. The centre provided transportation and food. Skinner says the Society appreciates not only the labour but also the cooperation of the youth centre authorities. "On all these trips the four boys worked hard and cooperated, doing a great job". Recently this crew dug holes and set fenceposts in place.

Kings County Council has approved expenditures for the memorial stones, posts, chain and hardware for the Northville and Greenwich cemeteries. At Northville the procedure was repeated. This time the Swetnam family, who own Dominion Produce on the Rockwell Mt.Rd., helped. One of their staff drove the tractor. "All of them pulled

together to make the care of these cemeteries more permanent", says Skinner. The Cornwallis Township cemetery was a bigger project and "a very good job was done". Over the last year the Society has grown to 30 members and about 10 are hands-on workers who are caring for the poor farm sites and clearing the rights of way. They wonder if there are other neglected burial sites in Kings County. Volunteers who would like to contribute hands-on labour should contact Linda Card at 678-7214. ☐

News from Heritage Societies:

This issue contains information from two very different Heritage groups: The Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage (FNSH), which encourages and coordinates heritage activities throughout the province, and the Burial Grounds Care Society, which identifies abandoned and neglected cemeteries in King's County and restores their dignity. We would love to hear from other organisations who are actively keeping alive Nova Scotia's heritage. Please send your society's news to Joan Dawson: joan.dawson@ns.sympatico.ns.ca ☐

Lunenburg's 250th anniversary: Foreign Protestants Grand Family Reunion July 10-14

Events include a 100 km Sunday drive through an area including 400 of the original settlers 300 acre lots; seminars with noted genealogists (Terry Punch, Ken Paulsen); displays at the Lunenburg Academy. For more information surf to www.seawhy.com/L250.html

Note that the lot maps from the *Register of Foreign Protestants* have been reproduced in a separate booklet and are included in the registration kit. To pre-register, send \$20 to Carol Skidmore,

828 Marley Court, Burlington, ON, L7T 3S5

Available in July

The Register of the Foreign Protestants of Nova Scotia (ca 1749-1770) by Winthrop Pickard Bell to be published by J. Christopher Young.

At last, in book form, Dr. Bell's extensive notes, formerly accessible only in the Archives, with a contribution from T. Punch who completed some of Bell's notes on families. Included are a biography of Winthrop Bell, a summary of

the early history, information enabling searchers to go to sources of the documentation, Dr. Bell's actual notes (in facsimile), hundreds of pages about the families, passenger lists from the ten known ships, the indebtedness list (of the hundreds who owed their passage cost), the census of 1770 (indexed by T. Punch), names on the original grant list, 1760, (indexed) and lot maps, and an index to the whole huge book.

Copies can be reserved from Chris young: thewiz@sentex.net. ☐

Programs sponsored by other societies

Amherst Township Historical Society

Cumberland County Museum, 150
Church Street, Amherst.
Contact: 902-667-2561

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 pm
Topic: Lumbering in Cumberland
County

Speaker: Diane Blenkhorn
Saturday, April 12, 1:30 pm
Acadian Costume Workshop

Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 pm
Topic: Chignecto Ship Railway
Speaker: John McKay

May 5 – June 21, "Annual Open Art",
Opening reception May 2.

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth.
Contact: 434-0222

Saturday, March 29, 10 am – 4 pm
Antiques Road Show, Penhorn Mall,
\$15 for 3 items.

Sunday, May 11, 1 to 3pm Mother's
Day Tea. Adults \$7/ children \$5. No
reservations

Thursday, May 15, Museum and Rose
& Kettle Tearoom open.

Costume Society of Nova Scotia

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
1675 Lower Water St., Halifax.
Contact: 826-2506 or 429-0790

Monday, March 17, 7:30 pm
Topic: Port Royal Habitation:
Researching the Early 17th Century
French Gentleman
Speaker: Meg Carignan

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Events in Akins Room, Public
Archives of Nova Scotia.
Contact: 454-0322

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 pm
Topic: 100 years of the Akins Prize
Essay Competition

Speaker: Brian Cuthbertson
Saturday, May 10, 12.30 pm AGM
Topic: Winthrop Bell and his Register
Speaker: Terry Punch

Mainland South Historical Society

Events at Captain William Spry
Community Centre, 10 Kidston Road,
Spryfield, Halifax.
Contact: 479-3505.

Medway Area Heritage Society

"The Port Medway 2003 Summer
Readers' Festival" will feature read-
ings by Jane Urquhart, July 5, Robert
MacNeil, July 26, and Howard
Norman, August 16, in the Port
Medway Meeting House (1832).
Times and admission, TBA.



Nova Scotia Archaeology Society

Meets at NS Museum, Summer St.
Contact: 455-1425

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 pm
Topic: 2002 Archaeological Field
Schools: The Student's Experience.

Speakers: Various Participants, Saint
Mary's Field Schools

Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 pm
Topic: Charlesfort at Fort Anne
National Historical Site

Speaker: Becki Duggan, Archaeologist
with Parks Canada

Tuesday, May 28, 7.30 pm
Fabulous Finds: Annual Show &
Tell(Bring artifacts to be identified)

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Contact: Bob Harvey 864-4160; cell
488-4820

Wednesday, March 19, 6 for 6.30 pm
125th Anniversary Dinner Meeting,
Great Hall, Dalhousie University
Faculty Club, Tickets \$30, call 422-5052.

Speaker: Judith Fingard
Topic: Historical Society Women; from
Eliza Frame to Phyllis R. Blakeley
Wednesday, April 16, 7.30 pm Joint
meeting with Genealogical
Association of Nova Scotia at Public
Archives, University Ave., Halifax.
Topic: The Destruction of the
Efficiency of the Hospital Through
Jobbery and City Hospital Dispute,
1885-1887.

Speaker: Allan Marble.

Wednesday, May 21, 7.30 pm
Annual Meeting, in Legislative
Council Chamber, Province House.

Speaker: Joan Payzant.
Topic: Strange Connections: Alexander
Croke, Peter Nordbeck, Robert
Harper Murray

Yarmouth County Historical Society

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS,
contact 742-5539,
ycmuseum@ns.sympatico.ca.

Tuesday, March 11, 7 pm, Travel Series
Topic: The Moselle River Area

Speaker: Don Pothier
Friday, April 4, 7:30 pm, Society
Meeting

Topic: The South American Nitrate
Trade

Speaker: Conrad Byers
Tuesdays, April 8 and May 13, 7 pm,
Travel Series, TBA

Friday, May 2, 7:30 pm, Society
Meeting, TBA

Friday, June 6, 7:30 pm, Society
Meeting, Heritage Awards. ☒