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The Griffin

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Transplanted timbers *by Mark Wilson*

Sylvanus Cobb packed up his Massachusetts home, quite literally, and made his way across the Gulf of Maine. He dismantled the house in 1760, loaded it on a ship and then re-assembled it when he reached the new town of Liverpool, Nova Scotia. Or so the story goes. Most people, even the historically-minded, think of the house's transfer as a truism. They have for some time now. The problem with this scenario is that there is scant proof to that effect. The Queens County Museum, for example, has virtually nothing on this topic. It is a recurring theme. At some point, you wonder if the conventional wisdom on this matter is more about convention than wisdom. At any rate, it is hardly an isolated case. In the Maritimes today there are a number of homes which are reputedly of New England origin, but for which verification is difficult. Nova Scotia is especially prone to ambiguous claims because the import of

such homes was relatively early, and formal documentation was less than commonplace.

The net result is an interesting dilemma for historian and layman alike, for we are asked to subscribe to a questionable and yet commonly held belief. More importantly, we are directed to something not frequently addressed – the broader relationship between folklore and built heritage. The topic at hand is a good example of two historical interests intersecting, when they usually do not. Questions abound. How much credence do we give to folklore as a means of furthering our knowledge of the province's built heritage? If there is little or no proof as to a certain historical assumption, then where did the claim come from? Does a lack of empirical evidence necessarily preclude an historical proposition or reality? We can easily add to this short list.

Continued overleaf

*Jonathan Seccombe's house
on the outskirts of Chester.*



Timbers: continued from page 1

The example of Sylvanus Cobb is both important and typical. He was an able mariner from Plymouth who usually plied his trade in the waters of the North Atlantic. By all accounts he was an effectual and noteworthy figure. In his later years, and as previously stated, he built a home in Liverpool where he was given a land grant in September of 1759. In James More's *The History of Queens County* (1873), it is noted that, "The house that was built upon this land, the materials of which were brought from New England, was owned by Sylvanus Cobb... ." Further information is provided in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online. Therein, "Tradition states that Captain Cobb demolished a house on Cape Cod and brought the materials on his own vessel to Liverpool where he built his home." This house was eventually destroyed by fire in the 1940s.

The above references are all that could be found on the immediate subject. Well, that and an old picture of the house on the *Images Nova Scotia* website which also references the home's New England roots. Taken in isolation, then, the notion seems a bit of a stretch, and is somewhat frustrating. One would obviously like more. But when you look at this example and compare it to several others throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the idea makes a little more sense. There are certain similarities. Patterns

Erratum



Please note this house, as seen on page 17 of the March issue of *The Griffin*, is the residence of Mayor Robert T. MacIlreith, built in 1906, not that of H. Treadway Jones. ❏

become visible. Strands of information allow a few deductions to be made and certain questions to be answered.

Briefly, those who moved these buildings seemed to be people of means. They either had the ability to do it themselves, like Sylvanus Cobb, or they paid someone to do it for them, as was the case with one settler in New Brunswick. They were often the founding individuals of these new Maritime towns, whether Liverpool, Chester, Shelburne or St. Andrews. Jonathan Seccombe, for example, was a colourful Harvard minister who had moved to Chester shortly after the time of its founding in 1759. By 1763 he had built a house on the outskirts of town. It still sits at the top of a local hill and is said to have come from New England. As stipulated in *Atlantic Hearth* (Mary Byers & Margaret McBurney), "the building's framing was brought from Cape Cod, assembled and pegged." This home, it should be noted, is not unique. There are one or two others in the town of Chester that share a similar story.

As to the question of "why", it seems a matter of convenience and privilege. They did it because it was feasible financially, and because it afforded the settler a greater level of comfort. This was all the more important since milled lumber wasn't always available in these new settlements, especially in the first years. And even if it was, why start a house from scratch? It was easier and quicker to build one that had just been taken down. Besides, many land grants called for the grantee to build his house within a year of acquiring the grant. Time was of the essence, for new grantees, or for anyone arriving in autumn hoping to beat the imminent cold weather.

In Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, there is another home with New England roots. Known locally as the Clements House, it was brought by a master mariner who decided to move to the province.

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The Griffin

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Submissions are welcomed.
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Please send your
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Clements House, Yarmouth County. According to a provincial inventory, the home was built in Marblehead, Mass., before relocation to the present site.

Timbers: *continued from page 2*

According to a provincial Inventory Site Form from 1987, "It was originally built in Marblehead, Massachusetts, but was taken down, towed here on barges, and re-erected on the present site in 1769 by its owner, John Clements." In a brief interview with the owners, this story was graciously recounted. Although the subject at hand is hard to verify, there existed an air of credibility to the story they conveyed. Their sentiments were echoed in a local article from 1969 by Ruth Perry who noted that, "It was built in Massachusetts, and then,...knocked down in sections, and floated here behind a boat, after the fashion of a raft." Though unoccupied and in a compromised state of preservation, it still stands today.

Meanwhile, New Brunswick has several of its own examples, the extent of them situated in St. Andrews. Many of the people that came to the new town were from Castine, Maine (formerly Penobscot). They were escaping the persecution they were likely to endure had they stayed in America after the Revolution. They brought their families, and occasionally, their homes. As the Ohio State University Bulletin states in April, 1914, "Some of the

earliest houses erected in the town had been set up originally at Penobscot, only to be taken down for removal at the evacuation." These people left Castine and headed for St. Andrews. Once there, they did their best to transform a wilderness into a town. As the well-respected journal *Acadiensis* notes, "Several of the first framed houses built at St. Andrews, it is said, were taken down at Castine, Maine, and the frames and materials brought here and rebuilt."

Among the new settlers was Robert Pagan, a prominent merchant and trader from Portland (formerly Falmouth), and later of Castine. Like several others that came to New Brunswick, Pagan brought his house with him. The front part of the house is what remains of the original structure. Little is known of how it got to St. Andrews, but given Mr. Pagan's stature, and his easy access to shipping, moving the house would not have been difficult. Clues about its origins are interesting. According to the owner of this historic home, various parts of the house had numbers or other identifying features inscribed in them. Parts of the frame, for instance, had markings like 1A West or 1A North. This feature was seen in most houses that had been moved, whether

they were in NS or NB. While the presence of this feature isn't conclusive proof of the structure's being moved from New England, it is seen as a possible indication. Further evidence is seen in the framing of the house and in the methods of construction. The direction of the roof boards, for instance, was an indicator of its origins. One author states of Castine houses that the roof boards were likely to run vertically rather than horizontally. The Pagan-O'Neill house is one of several such structures in St. Andrews.

But perhaps the most remarkable building, at least for verification purposes, is one that no longer exists. Known as the St. Andrews Coffee House, this small dwelling was moved to the town and once served as an inn. The structure was purchased in Castine, then dismantled and shipped to St. Andrews by the former owner who produced an invoice for this work. The journal *Acadiensis* produced this bill, which it claims as a true copy, in its July 1907 edition. Such a document, with its itemized breakdown of charges, represents one of the more detailed glimpses of this phenomenon. In most other cases we are not so lucky, despite numerous attempts to locate such

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background information.

Research on the movement of houses was conducted at numerous archives in the US and Canada. One of those places was the Castine Historical Society (Maine), where an interesting analogy presented itself. The archives there seemed like a natural place to go for answers. It was hoped that something of value could be gleaned, even if it related solely to the case of St. Andrews and Castine. But when the search for hard facts proved fruitless, attention then turned to a large quilt at their museum that beautifully crystallizes several historical periods of the town. One of those periods is the American Revolution and the dispersal of Loyalists as they left for New Brunswick and a new life down the coast. Shown quite clearly on one of the quilt's seven panels are the houses that were moved down to the water, and the ships that carried them away.

What the quilt demonstrates, upon reflection, is a tacit belief in the event itself, even if the proof for such a thing is less than overwhelming. It's a powerful example that events can be recorded and conveyed in more than one way. Like the relatives of the Clements House and the story they shared, there can be truth in the spoken word and in the stories that pass from generation to

ANDREW MARTIN TO JOHN MACPHAIL.
DR.

Estimate of the St. Andrews Coffee House, with the expense
of removing it to St. Andrews.

	£	s.	d.
To the House taken down at Penobscot.....	30	0	0
To Freight from here to St. Andrews.....	13	10	0
To taking down Three Thousand Bricks.....	6	0	0
To Freight on do	2	10	0
To 1000 feet Seasoned Boards.....	2	10	0
To Freight on do.	1	10	0
To 4 window frames, cases and sashes glazed,..	4	0	0
To one Pannel Door.....	1	0	0
	£61	0	0



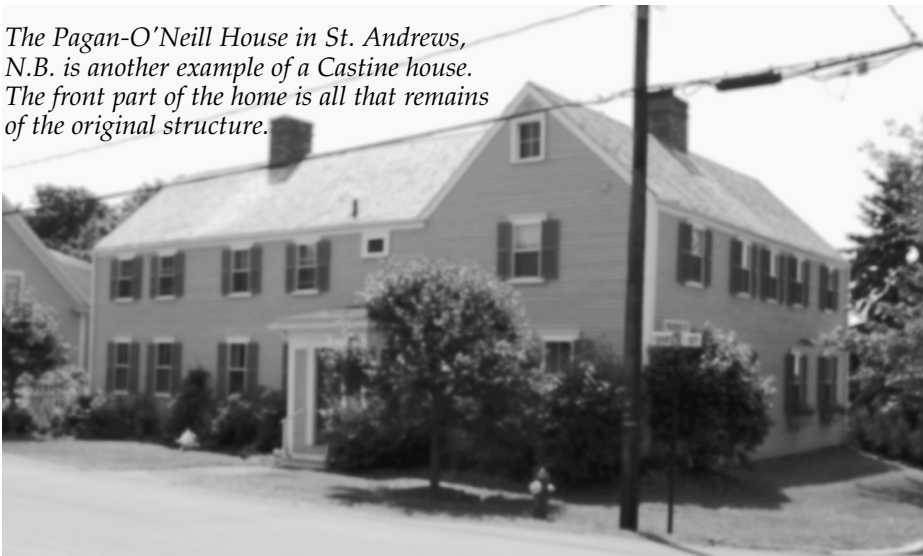
The Old St. Andrew's Coffee House was purchased in Castine, dismantled and shipped to St. Andrews, N.B. by the former owner. The invoice for the operation appears above.

generation. Concrete facts would be nice, but they're not always abundant. Indeed, they can often prove elusive. In the face of this, are we to dismiss everything else beside it? In the end, maybe it's not the *type* of proof that matters, but rather, the integrity of the

story's passage – whether it comes in the form of an invoice, a personal anecdote, an old literary reference or a quilt that hangs on a wall.

Mark Wilson attended the University of Toronto and Dalhousie Law School and is currently living in Oshawa, Ontario. Born and raised in Nova Scotia, he writes that he has "long believed that Nova Scotia is one of the most remarkable places on the continent, and that its built heritage must be protected at all costs." Ed. ☞

The Pagan-O'Neill House in St. Andrews, N.B. is another example of a Castine house. The front part of the home is all that remains of the original structure.



HERITAGE TRUST Public Lecture Series

**8 pm, June 16
(following the AGM, 7:10 pm)**

*"The Royal Legacy: Prince Edward
in Halifax, 1796-1800"*

Bill Naftel, Public Historian
(retired), The Public Archives
of Canada and Parks Canada.



7:30 pm, September 15

*"Restoring an
Old Lunenburg House."*

Mark Stewart, Accountant, Lyle,
Tilley & Davidson

*Auditorium of the Museum of
Natural History, 1747 Summer
Street. All welcome.*

PHPOANS convenes annual meeting by Linda Forbes and Janet Morris

A small but enthusiastic group of heritage property owners met on Saturday, May 14, at Oakwood House, Dartmouth, for their AGM and Workshop. The comfortable early twentieth-century house overlooking Lake Banook on a (cool) bright May day was a superb setting for this meeting.

The AGM included a presentation by Linda Campbell of Yarmouth concerning proposed changes to the Heritage Property Act. Proposals include: (i) that the provincial Heritage Advisory Committee seek expert advice regarding property recommended for registration and some recommendations respecting selection of the Committee; (ii) removal of the clause allowing owners to demolish or alter as-of-right one year after refusal of an application; and (iii) legislation enabling provincial and municipal designation of interior features with the owner's consent.

Highlights of the conference included a "tour" through the Heritage Property Initiative, including a visual of what's happening in the Canadian Register of Historic Places, a brief discussion of Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (and how to get a copy of the complete Guidelines), and a discussion on the Commercial Heritage

Properties Incentive Fund, the source of some monies for commercial heritage projects.

Kevin Barrett presented a cheque in the amount of \$3,000 to establish the L.B. Jenson Award to be presented annually by the Association in co-operation with the Province for a body of work by an individual which has enhanced heritage culture within the province. Kevin even had a heritage quiz for us.

Paul Huestis, of Huestis Commercial Insurance Ltd., addressed the conference on the process of purchasing insurance on a heritage property. He referred to the organization's initiative to establish a bulk-buying program, including the product of insurance, and cautioned that, as the Maritimes makes up only 7% of the business across the country, and heritage buildings are only a fraction of this number, we may not have the "bulk" to succeed in this type of program. He helped explain why some heritage or old-house owners fall within a blanket refusal to insure. The problem is often attributable to "reinsurance", which covers classes of property for the insurance company. If these blanket background policies exclude, for example, houses more than 100 years old, then the insurance agent and company may have to

exclude your property. Another important point made was that the onus is on the insured to prove the value claimed. If you have insured property for less than 80% of its value, then you may find you have no coverage when you wish to make a claim. The onus on the insured to keep his policy up-to-date was clearly illustrated in this talk.

Jim White, of Lake City Paint & Paper and CBC Radio Noon fame, fielded questions respecting paint, varnish and finishes from the audience. He gave us the "straight goods" and was refreshingly direct about the do's and don'ts of paint and paint finishes. There were lots of questions and some very helpful solutions.

The highlight for many was the story of Mark and Marni Stewart's restoration of a small Cape Cod house on a windswept hill in Garden Lots, Lunenburg County. The house would be saved by only one person in a thousand; in fact, the kitchen on the house had been towed away between the time they first inspected the house and the time of their purchase. The story was told through pictures, and the finished product left us speechless. In addition to the restoration of an 1830's charming cottage-style house, Mark has built

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Help comes to Mabou area church to stave off removal



Hillsborough United Church.

Jim St. Clair's "Heritage and Culture" column in *The Oran* may have prompted an unexpected response to the loss of the

Hillsborough United Church, near Mabou.

Plans were underway to dismantle the 1888 church, which first served the area as a Presbyterian church, "the oldest such congregation duly organised on Cape Breton Island", says St. Clair. "The membership has dwindled, attendance is small, the financial situation dismal. We can't afford to maintain the building – so it must be sold to a person who will move it or to a firm which will take it apart." Jim

noted further that the great-grandmother of the Rankin family once served as organist. This church is known to some of us mainlanders as the site of a fabulous *Musique Royale* concert, played and sung there in candlelight, some years ago.

However, help is on the way from a group organised in the wider community, which will maintain the building, 'though it will close as a formal church. The shape of things to come? NO'B

Who? Sir Frederick Fraser School

Charles Frederick Fraser was born in the Township of Windsor, Nova Scotia, on June 4, 1850, the son of Dr. Benjamin Fraser, a medical doctor, and Elizabeth Allison, daughter of Hon. Joseph Allison of Halifax. He was one of 15 children.

At the age of four, Charles Frederick followed his sisters to school and was soon able to read. His first purchase was a copy of the New Testament, which he bought with his pocket money for fourpence. When he was seven and whittling with his new penknife, a chip entered his eye and infection set in. Despite medical treatment from local doctors and doctors in Boston, he eventually lost most of his sight. His education continued at the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston, where he learned the psychology of the blind and, with reliance, patience, and a tenacity of purpose, overcame many of the obstacles associated with blindness so that it did not handicap his life's work.

At 22, Frederick Fraser graduated from Perkins and became Principal of the struggling Halifax Asylum for the Blind in 1873, retiring only in 1923 – giving fifty years of his life to the blind. He received an honorary doctorate from King's College in 1900 in recognition of his service to education and, particularly, to the education of the blind.

In 1910, Dr. Frederick Fraser, now a widower, married Jane

Stevens of Brooklyn, NS. Jane took a great interest in the education of the blind, particularly the kindergarten department. In 1911, Charles Frederick Jr. was born to a man who "regretted he would never see his child".

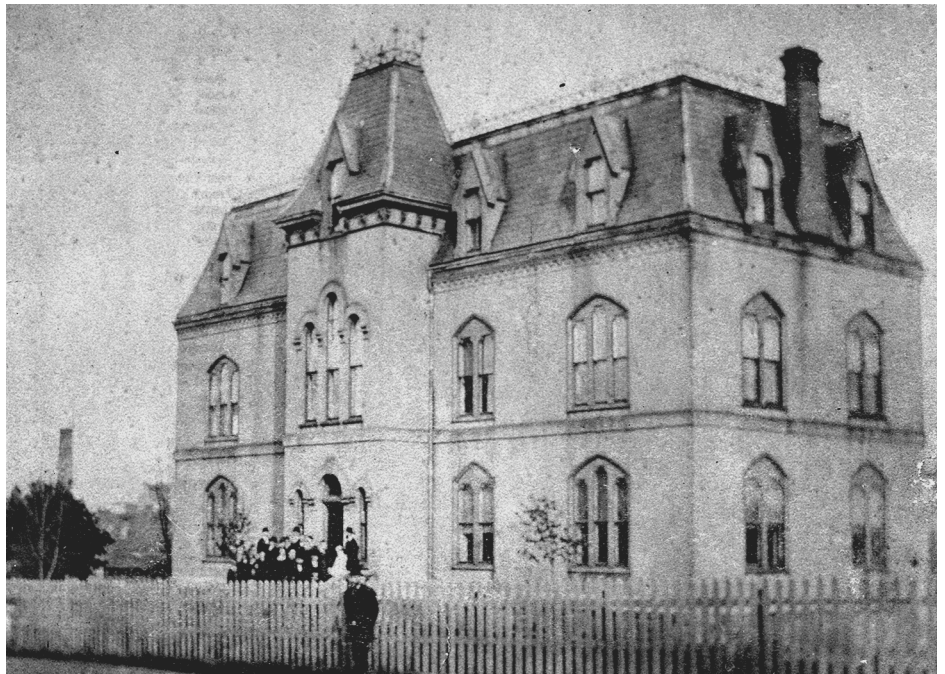
1913 saw the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia thank Dr. Fraser for his outstanding work, and Sir Robert Borden, a lifelong friend, recommended him to the King for a knighthood, which was bestowed on June 3, 1914.

Sir Frederick Fraser died on July 5, 1925. He is buried in Camp Hill Cemetery. A man ahead of his time.

From Reading Hands, The Halifax School for the Blind, by Shirley Burton Trites, Halifax, 2003. ☒



Above, Sir Frederick Fraser and below the Sir Frederick Fraser School in Halifax, once known as the Asylum for the Blind, c. 1873.



PHPOANS: *Continued from page 5*

sympathetic additions, charming outbuildings, and his landscaping elements are almost in the realm of fantasy: a true "Doers and Dreamers" presentation.

Bill Plaskett, a heritage district conservation planner, wrapped up the conference. He walked us through his work in establishing the districts in Maitland, Grand

Pré, Lunenburg and the work-in-progress, Barrington Street, Halifax. The community wanting the designation is what makes these districts happen, not additional rules and regulations imposed by some authority from above; the approach is very much what the people in a district want, to ensure the value of their own properties is protected. The audience was impressed with work

done to define boundaries in each district; the sketches of building types in each area; the analysis of what types of materials, what types of windows and window mass, trim work, roof definition and slope; what setback from the street, what type of in-fill development, and what type of building addition will be suitable to maintain and enhance each dis-

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Message from the President



Alan Parish, president of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Since I wrote to you in the last *Griffin*, the hearings at the Utility and Review Board with respect to the Midtown Tavern Development have commenced. One week of hearings have been completed, which included the presentation

of most of the Trust's evidence. The hearings resume for another week or so in early June. I expect that the decision will be reserved and handed down some time in the summer.

As I have said previously, the decision of the UARB in this case will be a defining moment for the development of properties close to the Citadel. It is our view that future generations of Haligonians and others will thank us if we are successful in this appeal. You, as members, are very important to the Trust's ability to press forward with these positions. A large membership gives us credibility in the eyes of the regulators and the politicians. Donations to the Trust provide us with the financial strength to continue putting forward the heritage message. If you have not yet returned your membership renewal form, please do

so at your earliest opportunity.

As indicated previously, the Trust is embarking on the task of hiring, for the first time, an employee. We are hopeful that in the next issue of *The Griffin* we will be able to introduce our new employee, whose responsibility it will be to assist us in raising the profile of the Trust so that the heritage message is delivered more strongly.

I believe that most of you are aware that the Trust owns a wonderful 1826 estate on the outskirts of Windsor. Most of you have probably never seen it. To give all of you the opportunity to see this fine property, therefore, we are planning a picnic on the grounds for all members and guests on August 14. (See notice on page 15.)

Alan Parish, President, HTNS ☒

March Public Lecture: Old Halifax post offices

The Heritage Trust March meeting welcomed a return visit from Deborah Trask, who gave an illustrated talk about Halifax's old post offices. Deborah began the lecture with a photograph of the plaque on the former Post Office building on Hollis Street which commemorates the beginning of postal service in this city.

In 1754 Benjamin Leigh, a Halifax stationer, initiated an irregular postal service. The following year the first official post office in Canada was established here, and a regular monthly packet service was set up between Great Britain and New York, from which the mail was carried on to Halifax. Postal service was conducted from private premises in the early stages, and remained linked with the stationery and printing business as John Howe Sr., a loyalist printer and newspaper proprietor, was appointed Deputy Post Master General for

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. He was succeeded in this office by his son, John Howe Jr. The Howe premises were at the corner of Sackville and Barrington Streets, but in 1827 a Post Office was set up in the printshop formerly owned by William Minns, below the Grand Parade on Barrington Street near George Street.

John Howe Jr. was succeeded as Deputy Postmaster General by Arthur Woodgate, who leased part of the basement of Dalhousie College on the north end of the Grand Parade in 1844. The lease was initially for three years, but the Post Office remained there for another 30 years. Deborah described the construction of Dalhousie College, a neo-classical building that faced onto the raised surface of the Parade, while the Post Office on the lower level opened onto Barrington Street. It was small, and offered little pro-

tection against the weather for waiting clients. The Province took over responsibility for the postal service in 1851, and subsequently carried out some renovations, but the premises remained inadequate.

The demolition of Dalhousie College in 1867 to make room for City Hall meant another move, this time into provincial premises. The 1860s construction of a fine new Provincial Building (now part of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia) on Hollis Street at Cheapside was expected to provide a home for the Post Office, but wrangling with the new Federal Government over ownership of public buildings delayed the move until 1871. The building included sorting facilities for the whole province as well as the Halifax Post Office, which remained there until the opening of the new Dominion Public

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With many thanks to our generous donors for 2004

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HTNS membership benefits include monthly public lectures at the Nova Scotia Museum, September-June, and a copy of The Griffin, the Trust's quarterly newsletter.

Membership fees:

Student \$5	Senior Couple \$15
Single \$15	Life \$500
Family \$20	Organization \$25
Senior* \$10	*Senior 65 & over ☒

Post offices: continued from page 7

Building on Bedford Row in the mid 1930s. This fine example of Art Deco architecture remained Halifax's main Post Office until 1978, when the major facilities were moved to a new building on Almon Street, leaving only a local postal station in the downtown location.

Deborah showed numerous excellent images of the various buildings, showing their architectural features and describing their construction, and an interesting discussion followed. JD ☒

Heritage for sale: 210 Old Post Road, Grand Pré



The Jeremiah Calkin House, circa 1768, is a registered Heritage Property and one of the earliest known buildings erected by the New England Planters. It has been wonderfully restored and updated by the present owners and retains its four working fireplaces, has five bedrooms and wood floors. The house sits on a full concrete basement and has been reframed, fully insulated and finished to exacting details. Updates and services also include 200 amp electrical, drilled well, municipal sewer and oil heating. This fine home received a Heritage Award in 1991. For more information, please contact Richard Matheson, Broker, at 902-582-3969; 1-800-711-5556. ☒

April Public Lecture: Saint John rediscovers its heritage

Jim Bezanson, former Chair of the Heritage Canada Foundation and Heritage Development Officer for the City of Saint John, New Brunswick, was the speaker at the Trust's April meeting. His topic, *Building on the Past – Developing for our Future*, canvassed the progress of his city's impressive efforts to conserve and use their heritage buildings. These initiatives led to Saint John's receiving the Prince of Wales prize. This award not only recognised these sustained efforts, but gave the citizens yet another reason to be proud of their rich collection of heritage buildings.

Ironically, it was a community trip to Historic Properties in Halifax that led to the establishment of the Saint John's Preservation Review Board (PRB) which holds authority to make decisions on heritage applications, unlike most Heritage Advisory Committees which provide recommendations to their city councils on heritage matters. It has a mandate to determine if a proposal is appropriate to the architecture and character of the building in question.

The Board works from established standards and an approval process is clearly set out in the bylaw. Because problems had arisen around the perceived inflexibility of the standards, a customer survey was done in 1996. It found that the public gave the program a 97% approval rating and said it was important to maintain traditional details but the two key findings were: Be more flexible, and Be more consistent! As Jim said, this really seemed to mean "be flexible on my application and be consistent with my neighbour's".

As demonstrated in Jim's talk, the Board has shown flexibility on a number of issues such as rear doors in non-traditional material such as steel as long as they are done with panels and mouldings. Similar tradeoffs in the size of

signs have allowed larger signs if they include the use of additional traditional details such as carved lettering or raised mouldings. It was also obvious from Jim's comments that a great deal of informal discussion and work with commercial applicants can lead to a greater appreciation of the opportunities to their businesses that being in a conservation area can bring. While they cannot, and should not, try to compete with the big boxes, they can offer niche retail, personalized service and attractive surroundings for what has been characterised as "pleasure shopping not chore shopping".

After working extensively without success with one developer who wanted to exceed the height restrictions in the conservation area, one applicant decided to do an end run around the PRB and go straight to council, which gave him the go ahead for his project. After some considerable public outcry, Council decided on the face-saving device of a bylaw review, and instead of using the PRB which had a mandate to do such work, a new committee was appointed. The result? The method of calculating appropriate height was found to be fair. Fourteen of the seventeen recommendations made to Council by the new committee had been submitted by the PRB. These were accepted and the whole exercise led to an opportunity to move heritage forward.

A Strategy and Vision for Heritage Development has been adopted which includes not only a clear heritage objective and policies but also an action plan. It encourages partnerships with the private sector to preserve heritage structures as has already been used successfully in several large projects such as Market Square, the Carnegie building, City Market and the beautiful Imperial Theatre. It calls for the enhancement of the heritage

areas, with plantings and parks – Saint John is an active participant in the national 'Cities in Bloom' contest; another tool is their grants program, which has leveraged \$40 million in investment. A program of research, studies, and most importantly, promotion is also carried out. Promotion not only for visitors, although heritage architecture was the #1 reason cited for visits to the city, but also to foster pride in the residents for the treasures they still have. It is interesting to note that since 1973 Canada has lost 22% of its heritage buildings, which is also true in Saint John for areas outside their Preservation areas, but only 0.25% of buildings inside Preservation areas have been demolished.

The city is now moving forward to take advantage of the new national Historic Places Initiative. This program was initially funded as \$30 million over three years, but an additional \$46 million has now been approved. It is open to eligible commercial undertakings. The federal Standards and Guidelines have been adopted and, recognising that time is money to developers, the approval process is constantly being shortened.. The city's heritage inventory identifies more than 6000 buildings having heritage merit, 50 of which are already on the National Register, with another 110 recently submitted for inclusion and another 200 currently being researched. This work is being financed by Parks Canada, through the Heritage Branch, Province of NB.

So what has heritage conservation meant for Saint John? An increased tax base without costly new infrastructure, property values in heritage areas which increased 43% more than the rest of the city by 1997, increased employment (the redevelopment of older buildings is twice as labour intensive as new

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A stroll through a moment in time



Above, the Little Dutch Church.
Below, a stained glass window in the chapel of St. Patrick's Convent.

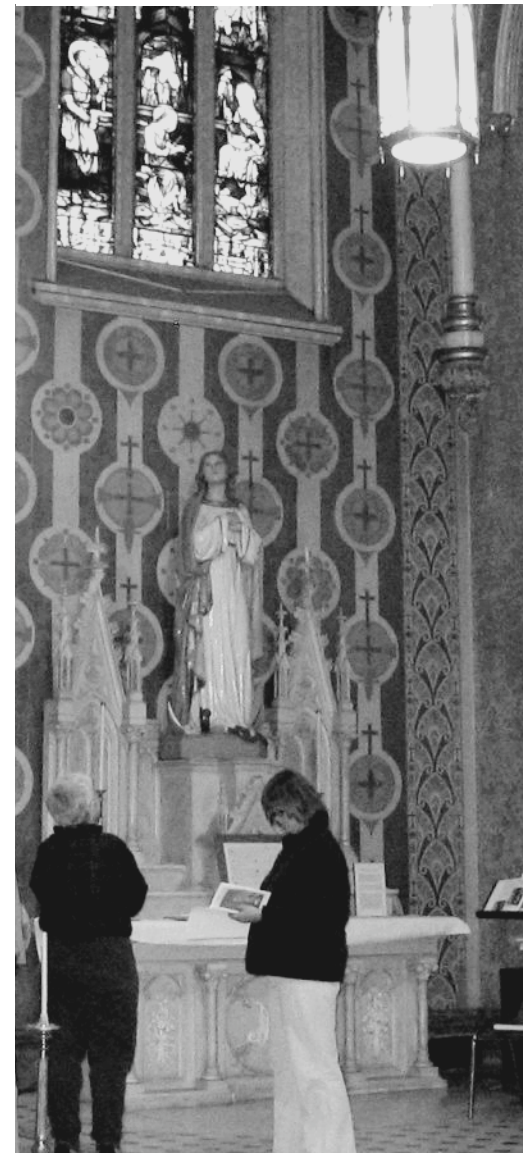


Walkers along Brunswick Street have an advantage over cars as they whiz by during the rush hour traffic. The walkers have time to pause and gaze on the unique architectural features of the older buildings and wonder about the craftsmen and artisans who created them and the people who lived within the buildings. Haligonians were treated to a rare opportunity to satisfy some of this curiosity on Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, through the gracious invitation of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. Under their sponsorship the doors to the Little Dutch Church, St. Patrick's Church and the Sisters of Charity, St. Patrick's Convent, opened to us for a few hours.

My first stop was at the Little Dutch Church, originally a house that was moved to its current site in 1796 to serve as a Lutheran church. Time was spent strolling through the cemetery, paying tribute to the original pioneer founders and worshippers, many of whom were prominent in the trading business, including descendants of the Schwartz's Spice Company. Traffic noises disappeared with a step inside the simple structure of the church. All those who entered were caught up in the peace that emanated from within. The spell was not broken as I peered up into the bell tower and my eyes carried me up two sets of ladders to look out the window towards Bedford Basin, formerly Torrington Bay. Stepping out the door, one could only admire the achievement of these earlier worshippers whose dreams and visions of a magnificent place of worship were realized in the construction of what we have come to know as Saint George's Round Church, one of the jewels among Halifax's historic buildings.

My second stop was the Sisters of Charity, St. Patrick's Convent. This was a special treat because its doors are rarely opened to the

public. It is still a private dwelling of the Sisters of Charity. It originally was built by the West merchants who moved into it in 1863. The Sisters of Charity bought the building in 1888. The work of the Sisters branched out into many corners of the city, starting schools, hospitals and work with the poor and disadvantaged. One person on the tour remembered their comforting care at the Infirmary and the pampering meals served with silver cutlery. Visitors gazed at the finely-crafted moldings along the walls and above the doors and paused to speculate about where doors formerly led. The highlight was the chapel built from a former



conservatory with its beautiful stained glass windows. Again, peace reigned.

The third stop was at St. Patrick's Church which was opened to parishioners in 1883. The person with me called it the "most opulent" church in Halifax. The golden walls certainly reflected the light of God, which also shone through the many beautifully-made stained glass windows made by Mayer and Company of Germany, makers of the original 19th century windows, after WWI. We were curious - why a new set of windows only 30 years later. In their preparation for the tour, Trust guides discovered that although much of Mayer and



Above, HTNS President Alan Parish with Katie Robins, the tour organizer. Below, right, the facade of St. Patrick's Convent. Next, tour participants stopping for tea and a chat, and bottom centre, the interior of St. Patrick's Church. The church, circa 1845, is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax and the convent is a residence of the Sisters of Charity. All photos, Sandra Sackett.



Company's history was lost, their account books remained and revealed that the original windows were blown out in the Haliax Explosion. More than our curiosity was satisfied by this visit.

Our own spirits soared with the buttresses and the vibrations of the magnificent pipes of the Cassavant organ as the Beethoven's Ode to Joy poured from its pipes. We exited with senses filled by the experience of the sights and sounds.

Our last stop was at the rectory for a wonderfully-served and refreshing tea. Another sense was well-satisfied. We also had time to share what we had learned with the other visitors and to exclaim over new insights into our own foundations and roots. The mood remained as we stepped back into the modern world lit by sunshine, which just glistened off the dome of St. George's Round Church, reminding us once again of the connections between past and present. ☒



How did this happen? *by Beverly Miller*

How does the owner of a registered heritage building manage to get HRM Council approval for an addition that was reportedly described by a Councillor as looking like “a cruise ship on top of a heritage building”?

Actually, it’s an incredibly easy two-step process. All the property owner has to do is file an application. It can be for any one of a number of actions: a demolition permit, a substantial alteration, a development agreement, or deregistration of the property. Then comes the “hard” part: waiting a year, a period that begins as soon as the application is filed. At the end of the year, even if the changes have not been approved by HRM, as long as the project adheres to all other requirements, the owner is free to carry out whatever plans he or she might have for the property, including demolition.

In a best-case scenario, the changes a heritage property owner wants are period correct and sympathetic to the building. In that case, the approval process

PHPOANS: *continued from page 6*

is very quick. Perhaps most importantly, we learned of the availability of a person with such experience, negotiating skill and vision who could be approached to implement such an important conservation tool. Bill’s skill is evident as he works on completing the Barrington Street Conservation district, a project that has been twenty years in the making.

Following the conference, delegates were given a tour of the charming Quaker-Whaler House, an amazingly intact double-house dating from 1785-6 in downtown Dartmouth. Sally King introduced the history of the Quaker presence and their whaling activities, and Matt Hughson, a remarkable youth with a huge

Continued on page 18



An architectural rendering of a proposed addition and renovation at 1326 Barrington Street, Halifax. The confection was described by an HRM Councillor as “a cruise ship on top of a heritage building.”

is very quick. If the Heritage Planner reviews the plans and has some concerns about the changes, they are sent to the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) for an opinion. Often, after some discussion and negotiation with the HAC, the property owner will make changes and the project can go ahead. In the worst-case scenario, the HAC and the developer cannot come to terms. Then the owner can appeal to Council to approve the project without HAC approval. Often by this stage the one-year waiting period is almost up and even if Council rejects the proposal, the owner will soon be free to proceed.

This is what happened in the case of 1326 Barrington Street. The owner filed an application for a substantial alteration to the building in June 2004. Staff felt they could not approve the alterations, and the project was sent to the Heritage Advisory Committee with a recommendation against approval. After review by the

HAC, some changes were made by the project architect, most specifically a set-back to an addition on the roof of the heritage building to preserve the sight lines. However, the Committee felt that even with the changes they could not approve the project and advised Council to reject the application.

By this time it was March 2005, and the developer had only to wait two more months to begin construction based on his original plan; the one without the set-back. To speed up the process he brought the second proposal, the one with the set-back, to Council. Since its hands were more or less tied by the June deadline, Council decided to approve the slightly better, but still very obtrusive, plans for the site.

We asked Bev Miller, well-known activist with the Peninsula South Community Association and writer for the Southender to give us her comments. Ed. ☒



Clockwise from top left: E.E. Hewson residence, 1908, W.M. Mitchell, architect; Victoria Street business district; Amherst Boot and Shoe Factory, one of the many industries headquartered in Amherst at the beginning of the last century; and the Post Office and Customs House, Victoria Road, 1887, Thomas Fuller, architect.

Historic Amherst: its builders and architects *by Garry D. Shutlak*

Builders...

Amherst was a sleepy shipbuilding shire town until the arrival of the railway in 1872. Within a decade the town was well on its way to becoming a major economic force in the province. By the end of the century, the firms of Rhodes, Curry & Co., Robb Engineering, Christie's Baggage Factory, Amherst Boot & Shoe Factory, Hewson Woollen Mills, and the Amherst Piano factory were known throughout the province, the Maritimes, and in other parts of Canada. The two most prominent building firms in the town were C.J. Silliker and Rhodes, Curry & Company.

Clarence J. Silliker (1861-1929), contractor and builder, worked as a carpenter when young in Halifax and in 1880 returned to Amherst to work for the firm of Rhodes, Curry & Company. In 1891 he left the firm and went into partnership with J.H. MacKay. This partnership lasted some two

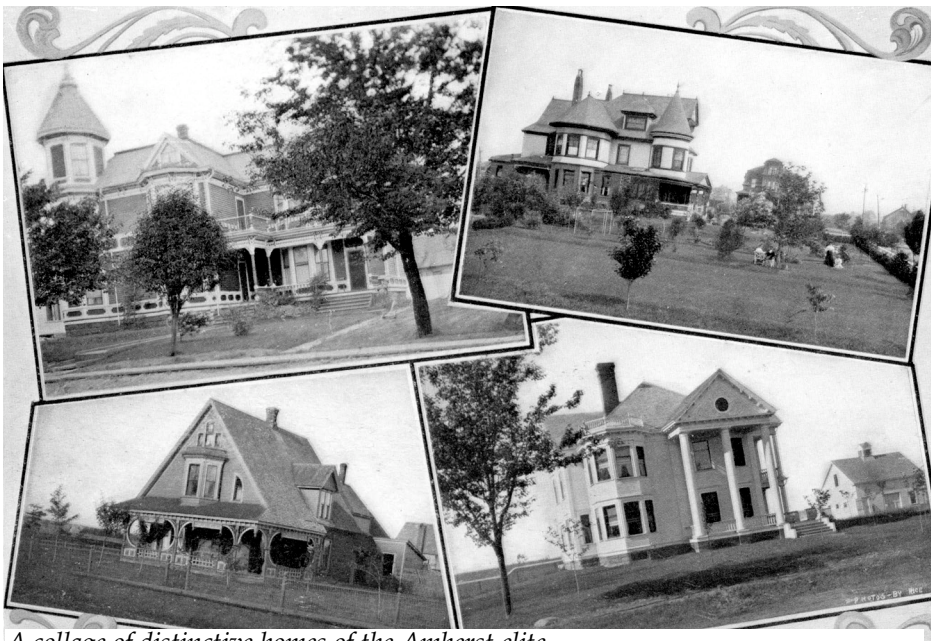
years. In 1893 he opened a new two-storey woodworking factory on Albion Street. In 1896 he put on a three-storey addition and a cabinet department; as his business grew he also opened a heating and plumbing department. In 1904 the firm was incorporated as Silliker & Company Limited. By 1906 the business had grown and prospered. Silliker began exporting fittings and cabinetry in an attempt to compete and capture a part of the lucrative Ontario market. Unfortunately, he was visited by two fires that destroyed his business which was not fully insured.

From 1891 until 1907, Silliker built, altered or added to nearly 250 houses. He built so many of one style that the house became known as the "Silliker" or "Amherst" house. He also built 29 other buildings in the town: in 1891, he built the A. Robb & Son Foundry, the D.W. Robb residence, Church Street (1894), A.W.

Fillmore's Warehouse at the corner of Church and Victoria Streets (the second floor was finished as a public hall), and a new building for B.W. Baker, Victoria Street; in 1901, a large addition to the Amherst Boot & Shoe factory; in 1902, the AME Church, six seven-room tenement buildings for Hewson Woollen Mills, storage and stock warehouses, foundry and boiler house for Robb Engineering; in 1903, Acadia Street School, Amherst Heights; in 1905, a brick fire station near Christie's Pond, the Amherst News Building, Havelock Street; and in 1906, the Two Barkers (now Margolians), Victoria Street. After the 1906 fires, C.J. decided to move his business to Halifax and established the Nova Scotia Car Works, but that is another story.

Rhodes, Curry & Company was founded in 1876 by Nelson A. Rhodes and Nathaniel A. Curry,

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A collage of distinctive homes of the Amherst elite.

Amherst: *Continued from page 13*

brothers-in-law in Amherst. Rhodes's training was as a carpenter, but he also worked in Boston with an architect and contractor. Curry's training was in Nevada in rail car manufacture. Initially, they opened a door and sash factory, which succumbed to fire, was rebuilt, burnt again and, after obtaining long-term financing, they began to diversify into construction and railcar construction with the purchase of the James Harris Car Company in Saint John. To maximize profits, the company acquired timber lands, sawmills, lime deposits and brickyards, making it possible to use their own materials, and built houses and buildings from the foundation to the roof. Much of the finer joinery was undoubtedly produced in the manufacturing plant in Amherst where they employed architects such as L.R. Fair when he first went to work. The firm produced all kinds of interior finishes, from newel posts to fireplace surrounds, church pews and altars. Among the others builders and contractors who worked in the town and surrounding county were Nelson Beckwith, John Cove, Joseph Cove, both in partnership and separately, Foster Burton and Andrew T. Allan, McDonald &

Fales, George Thomson, and R.T.H. Weir. They were employed by all the major Maritime architects, J.C. Dumaresq, Edward Elliot, Elliot & Hopson, H.H. Mott, and H.E. Gates.

With their headquarters in Amherst, Rhodes & Curry opened branch offices in Halifax, New Glasgow and Sydney. In the communities of New Glasgow and Sydney, they constructed many of the company houses used by the miners, steel workers and car builders in Amherst, New Glasgow and Sydney. The firm was the largest Maritime construction company from 1880 until 1920. After the death of Nelson Rhodes in 1909, the car company was absorbed by the Canada Car Company of Montreal. The construction firm continued into the 1950s as a much smaller and less dominant force in the construction industry, but during their heyday they built thousands of buildings in the Maritime Provinces, many of which still stand today.

Among the major buildings Rhodes & Curry erected in Amherst are the Engine House (1884), Amherst Boot & Shoe Factory (1885), the Hickman Building (1887), Amherst Court House (1888), Amherst County Academy (1892), the Baptist Church (1894), the Maritime Fair Building (1902), Cottage Hospital

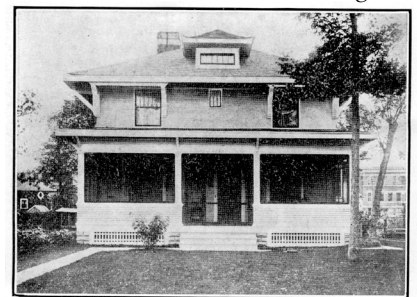
(1903), Rhodes Terrace (1905), Nova Scotia Carriage and Motor Company (1912), the Armouries (1913), Amherst Hospital (1928) and Nurses' Residence (1929).

... and Architects

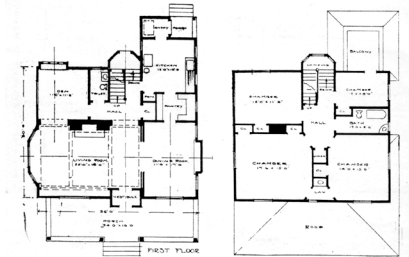
The town of Amherst also had its share of local architects, the most prominent being Saint John-born-and-educated Willard Morse Mitchell who not only practised architecture and filled the position of town engineer for nineteen years but also taught art at Mount Allison University. He designed the brick warehouse on Douglas Street, the engine and boiler house for Amherst Boot & Shoe factory (1907), Knox Presbyterian Church (1907), the renovation and improvements (the horseshoe gallery) to First Baptist Church, Victoria Street, including frescoes (1907), the E.E. Hewson residence, Victoria Street (1908), the Captain Blair Carter residence, Rupert Street (1908), and the Spring Street School (1916).

J. Leander Allen was active in the town from 1896 to 1917 and had his offices on Spring Street. He designed the C.R. Smith house, Lawrence Street in 1902.

Continued on Page 15



Design No. 16

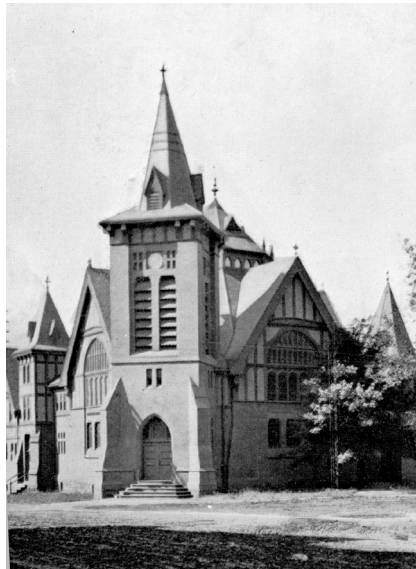


Design No.16 from the Silliker Car Company catalogue No. 8. This design is typical of many of the houses erected by Clarence Silliker not only in Amherst but also in Halifax. Halliday catalogues later referred to houses of this style as the Amherst House.

We know that he supervised the construction of a \$60,000.00 building (possibly the Two Barkers) on Victoria Road in 1906, the Daily News Offices (also 1906), and the Amherst Railway Station (1908), and the Armouries (1913). He was the architect of G.T. Douglas House, Victoria Street, and the elegant twenty-four room residence for Mr. White. In the second and third decades of the last century, Mr. Allen was a partner in the firm of Allen and Miner.

The other two Amherst architects were the New Brunswick-born brothers, Frank J. and William P. Leger(e). Their early career may well have been in the offices of Clarence J. Silliker. Frank J. Leger designed the Chandler Street Catholic School in 1906, however, we have not been able to attribute any building to William P. Leger.

Of the other architects who designed buildings in the town, one of the busiest in the town was Saint John architect, H.H. Mott, who designed the First Baptist Church (1892), the Rhodes & Steele Building (1894), the Town Hall and Fire Station (1897), and



the Fillmore & Morris Building (1898). J.C. Dumaresq was the architect of St. Charles Roman Catholic Church (1889) and the Bank of Montreal building, Victoria Street (1904). Elliot & Hopson designed Saint Stephen's Presbyterian Church (1899). W.C. Harris was the architect of Christ Church manse, Victoria Street, and H.E. Gates designed the Maritime Block, Church Street (1906). L.R. Fair planned additions to several new schools, and the Dominion Public Building between 1911 and 1934.

Charlottetown architect C.B. Chappell designed Highland View Hospital (1903) and Trinity Methodist Church (1906). Dominion Architects' Thomas Fuller designed the Post Office and Customs House (1889), and David Ewart, the Armouries in 1913. Andrew Dewar, formerly of the firm of Stirling and Dewar, designed the D.W. Robb house which appeared in the 1881 issue *The Builder* (London, England) as a house design for N.A. Rhodes. This house appears to have been built later in that decade. K.E. & E.W. Blaikie, Boston architects, born in Great Village, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, designed the N.A. Rhodes residence, Havelock Street (1890), and the Robert Lamy house, Victoria Street (1892).

More research would undoubtedly add to the list of architects, contractors and builders who turned the town into an industrial



An architectural drawing of Amherst's Town Hall and Fire Station (1897), designed by H.H. Mott. Left is St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church (1899), Elliot & Hopson.

dynamo. The end of the temporary prosperity of World War I, the merger of businesses, and the economic power of Central Canada eroded the position the town and region had only thirty years before. ☒

Keep the HTNS in mind

When planning your estate or looking for a way to honour a friend or a relative, a financial donation or a bequest to the Trust will not only advance a cause you believe in, it may also give your estate a valuable tax credit that can be applied to your final income tax return. Gifts to the Trust can be made in your name or in memory of someone special.

HTNS Treasurer
Mark Stewart will be pleased
to answer your questions.
Call 902 534-1044.

Come ye!

Sunday, August 14, 2005,
2-5 p.m.

**Heritage Trust Summer Picnic,
Richmond Hill Farm,
Windsor, Nova Scotia**

All members of the Heritage Trust are invited to a picnic at Richmond Hill Farm outside Windsor on Sunday, August 14, 2-5 p.m. Members and families are all welcome to visit the Trust's farm, view the house, tramp the grounds, and enjoy summertime refreshments.

\$10/person, \$20/family. Invitations with more details and a map will be sent out in July to all members. We hope to see you there!

FNSH Conference: Marketing our knowledge *by Janet Morris*

Cornwallis Base in the area of Clementsport, Nova Scotia, hosted a delightful conference for heritage enthusiasts across the Province in April. There were so many sessions that participants could effectively attend only half of the conference.

The first session attended by the writer was entitled "Growing a Historical Society". The example presented was the Tantramar Heritage Trust, founded by Paul Bogaard. This interesting region spanning South East New Brunswick and the border region of Nova Scotia (cruelly severed into two provinces in 1784) was the first area to be dyked after Annapolis Royal, but it took until 1996 to have its history recognized officially by an organization. With more than 200 years of pent-up energy they "hit the ground running".

The area includes a university town, and this advantage has been harnessed by publishing student theses on local history. They have a national historic site – Fort Beausejour – in their region, which they feel has been minimized by Parks Canada but is available for their exploitation. They have established exhibits of historic maps, a lecture series with presentations every two months, a newsletter, a website and numerous publications. To emphasize their involvement, the publications are of a consistent size and cover material, and all of a common design. On Heritage Day they have a breakfast fundraiser with a sort-of "Antiques Road Show"; they have fund raising dinners, including a silent auction. On one such occasion each table had a model ship centrepiece that was sold at the auction; another time, each table was named after a street in town.

The Tantramar Heritage Trust has purchased and maintains two buildings: the Campbell Carriage Factory Museum – the only carriage museum in Canada, and a

shipbuilder's house, used as a heritage centre and family research centre, with a small admission charged. Their partnership with the municipality has led to a heritage bylaw being implemented, and a plaquing program with background information on the buildings published on the organization's website. They also collaborate with museums in south-eastern New Brunswick. Their administrative structure was also discussed.

The energy and imagination of this group was most impressive and instructive. We can learn a few tricks from them.

South Rawdon Museum. A second session attended was entitled "Serving Communities", an issue highlighted by the closing of the South Rawdon Museum. Methods of developing new means of celebrating and preserving heritage were demonstrated by several case presentations which, on the whole, showed a great deal of energy in our province.

The Tatamagouche Creamery Square project houses several groups in the town centre, as well as the farmer's market and a theatre group. The idea is to create a critical mass, a destination, in a historically significant existing structure that is easily visible from various points of entry to the town. Linda Byers cited research showing that a tourist will need four hours of "happenings" to stop for one hour. She noted some exhaustion evident among the aging population, which includes retirees who have come back after years away. There are some 54 volunteer organizations in this community of 700 people.

The Orangedale Railway Museum, situated at the base of the Bras d'Or Lakes, celebrates the heritage of railway history. It was founded by three retired railway workers who took a professional approach in contacting the Nova Scotia Archives to learn the appropriate way of cataloguing

artifacts. But the founders are also interested in fun, and the presenter, Paul Collins, Curator of the Community Museum Assistance Program, clearly enjoyed his time spent with this group.

Another interesting story was presented by Judy Hopkins of Hubbard's Heritage Society. They did the usual things to raise money, starting with T-shirts, graduating to sweat shirts, then calendars, but it is the dinner theatre fundraiser which has lasted. Annually, a historic family is selected, and genealogical research is done including interviews with surviving family members; pictures are obtained, land grants researched, cemeteries toured, and anywhere else the research leads. Then a play is written and performed at an annual dinner theatre; the proceeds amount to between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for this one event. Look for this year's event on October 7th!

Finally, Joyce Rankin, of the Celtic Music Interpretation Centre, gave her impressions of establishing and maintaining a museum or cultural centre. She highlighted the approach in Cape Breton, where every town must have a unique theme: thereby a driving tour around the island is developed. Good food and music are part of the recipe, and demonstrations are key. Corporate sponsorship and a golf tournament are fundraising staples. To maintain ongoing interest, they established a Music Events Registry. They also have their space in a community centre setting.

The patchwork of experiences of these various groups has some common threads; the telling of each experience in the context of a conference made a quilt! This was a delightful conference in a delightful part of the world. ☐

May Public Lecture: old Barrington Street

On May 19, Bill Plaskett, Heritage Conservation planner for HRM, spoke to a packed auditorium about the history of Barrington Street, planned for Heritage District designation. He described the evolution of the street from early days to the present, and discussed plans for the future.

Bill showed maps and sketches from the very earliest days of Halifax, when the town was laid out like other 18th century colonial settlements – on a grid system centred on the Grand Parade. With the Parade and St. Paul's Church as central features, the street ran through the middle of the grid. Pictures of the street over the years illustrated its evolution. Originally limited by the boundaries of the early settlement, it was extended into the North and South Suburbs as Halifax expanded, but it is the old central section that was selected for designation as a Heritage District.

The talk was illustrated with early pictures of some of the area's major architectural features such as St. Paul's Church, Government House, St. Matthew's Church, Saint Mary's Basilica and City Hall, and Bill then took us on a block-by-block tour of the street with early photographs. He demonstrated how many of the buildings had evolved over the years, with additions and alterations, to reach their present form. We saw examples of changes to the roof lines and fenestration, sensitive and insensitive signage, the changing use of the buildings, and recent construction, and, of course, he noted the disappearance of some important buildings. As well as the buildings, the street itself was featured, with its changing traffic including horse-drawn streetcars and the early electric trams.

Bill then showed some interesting diagrams of each block of the street as it is today, with his-

torical notes about the buildings and a commentary about each block and its potential for restoration or development.

Finally, Bill outlined his vision of the future of the Heritage District, with the emphasis on the revitalisation of the area. Issues included not only the regulation of building but also public street improvements, the solution of parking problems, decisions about buses, and marketing and retail recruitment to bring appropriate businesses downtown. He sees a revitalisation plan as being closely linked with conservation. Above all, the cooperation of property owners should be achieved by incentives and design guidelines rather than by draconian regulations, though with strengthened demolition control. This gave rise to lively discussion which continued long after the formal closing of the meeting. JD☒

Books for summer reading

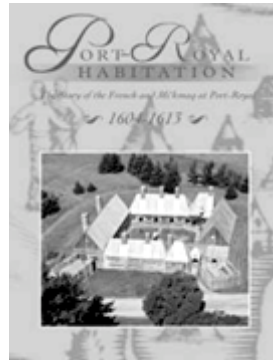
A Ship Portrait, Harry Thurston. Gaspereau Press \$18.95 (Can.) (September 2005).

Bold Privateers: Terror, Plunder and Profit on Canada's Atlantic Coast. Roger Marsters. Formac, 128 pp. pb \$34.95.

Deadman's: Melville Island and Its Burial Ground, Iris Shea & Heather Watts. Glen Margaret Publishing \$19.95 pb.

Half-Hearted Enemies: The Untold Chapter of Reluctant Enemies caught up in a Continental War (1812), John Boileau. Formac \$19.95 pb.

Historical Atlas of the Maritime Provinces, 1878, Introduction by Joan Dawson. Nimbus \$29.95 pb (12"x15").



Port-Royal Habitation. The Story of the French and Mi'kmaq at Port-Royal (1604-1613). Wayne Kerr. B/W photos, illustrations, historical maps, artwork. Proceeds to Annapolis Royal Historical Society, Nimbus \$14.95pb.

Underground Halifax - Stories of Archeology in the City. Ed. by Paul Erickson. Nimbus: 24.95. ☒

Annapolis Royal: Stroll through the centuries

☘
A late summer fund-raising event. Four houses, four centuries: 1635, 1735, 1835, 1935.

☘
Daytime visit or guided tour with Alan Melanson and others
Saturday August 27.

☘
Contact the sponsors:
Annapolis Heritage Society:
902 532-7754 or the Historic
Gardens: 902 532-7018.



PHPOANS: *Continued from page 6*

interest in his work, guided the tour.

This low-budget conference was high on content, as well as enjoyable. There was an abundance of food and it was very nicely catered by local volunteer, Leila Lamoureux. It is important for heritage property owners not to feel alone in the world, and more should attend conferences of this quality. ☒

Saint John: *continued from page 9*

construction for the same capital investment), and increased tourism. Cultural and heritage tourism is a billion-dollar industry and Saint John wants its share. Every year over 80,000 cruise ship passengers come to the city and spend at least \$121 a day. Needless to say, it has also resulted in the heightened pride the people of Saint John rightly have in their city.

Jim ended with a challenge to built heritage lovers to "walk the talk" as he has done. Get a group together, invest some funds, do the research, buy some buildings and get going on heritage conservation in our own communities! BS ☒

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference and AGM

June 23-26, 2005

Saint Mary's University, Halifax

Evening lectures, day workshops (including conservation workshop), annual meeting and Saturday awards banquet.

Tours: June 22 - pre-conference tour to Heather Lawson's Raspberry Bay Stone studio; June 24 - Colonial tour, Victorian tour, and Halifax Disaster Tour. Information: info@gravestonestudies.org or jones@nysha.org.

Programs sponsored by other societies

Acadian Museum and Archives

West Pubnico, NS. Contact: Diane Poirier, 902-224-2170

Amherst Township Historical Society

c/o Cumberland County Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst. Contact: Barb Thompson, 902-667-2561.

Annapolis Heritage Society and Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

Saturday, August 27

Fund raising event: Four centuries house tour (four houses) See notice, p. 17. For further information: 902-532-7754 or 532-7018

Argyle Municipality Historical and Genealogical Society

Tusket, Yarmouth County.
www.argylecourthouse.com

Charles Macdonald Concrete House of Centreville

19 Saxon Street, Centreville, NS.
Contact: Stephen Slipp, 902-455-0133;
www.concretehouse.ca

Chester Municipal Heritage Society

Old Chester Train Station or Box 629, Chester, NS B0J 1J0. Contact: Gail Smith, 902-275-3266
Saturday, August 27
Annual House & Harbour Tour, 2005.
For particulars call (902) 275-3842.

Colchester Historical Museum

29 Yonge Street, Truro, NS. Contact: 902-895-6284

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth.
Contact: Elizabeth Corser, 434-0222
Sat., June 18, 11 am
Sheep Shearing

Sat., June 18, 4:30-6:30 pm

Rhubarb Rhapsody (a meal followed by a selection of rhubarb desserts)

Cumberland County Museum

150 Church Street, Amherst. Contact: Barb Thompson, Cumberland County Museum and Archives, 902-667-2561; www.creda.net/~ccmuseum/; www.cumberlandcountymuseum.com

Note: June 21, July 9 and August 5 are Drop-In Days

Saturday, June 18

Aboriginal Day

Tuesday, June 21, 2-4:00 pm

Folding Paper Aboriginal Trivia Crafts and Demonstrations; readings. Call ahead (June 13- 17) for registration and times of the programmed activities; also a Drop-In Day for all.

Tuesday, June 28

Speaker: Angela Lohnes, Red Cross Coordinator "History and Present Day Services", 7:30 pm

June 27-September 24

Exhibit: "Business Through the Ages—Women at Work"

Saturday, July 9, 10 am

Amherst and Area Garden Tour.

History, activities/games centred around flowers, vegetables & crops.

One session and one day only on Museum Grounds. Call Ahead (July 1- 8) for registration and information.

Friday, August 5, 10 am-3 pm

Dickey Day: "Walk in History's Shoes and Other Shoes". Historical Play, "shoe" activities, historical tours, garden scavenger hunt walk. Call Ahead (July 27- August 3) for registration and information.

Cunard Steamship Society

Contact: John Langley, Box 427, Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0; 902-295-1147; www.cunardsteamshipsociety.com

Exhibit: "Cunard on Canvass: The Langley Collection", Pier 21, until September 2005

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth (former home of Dr. Helen

Creighton). For hours, events, etc., contact: 464-2300.

Quaker House - 57 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth, open for the season.

July 1-August 13

Exhibit: "Spanning the Harbour" - 50th Anniversary of the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge - DHM collection. Evergreen House

Sunday, July 10

Strawberry Tea at "Evergreen",

August 18-October 8

Exhibit: George Craig - The Entrepreneurial Photographer (1885-1892), with 250th Deportation of Acadians Anniversary. DHM collection. Evergreen House.

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

1113 Marginal Road, Halifax NS B3H 4P7. For information, contact 423-4677 / 1-800-355-6873;

<http://www.fnsh.ns.ca>.

Heritage Contacts & Connections:

electronic information hub - includes expert advice, relevant non-profit resources, useful web sites, educational opportunities and funding - visit www.fnsh.ns.ca/hcc. Share your helpful Contacts & Connections, email fnsh@hfx.andara.com

Friends of McNabs Island Society

Contact: 434-2254

Kings County Historical Society/Old Kings Courthouse Musuem

37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville, NS.

Monday-Saturday, 9 am- 4 pm.

Contact: 902-678-6237. Admission free except where otherwise noted.

Donations welcome.

Local Council of Women

989 Young Avenue, Halifax.

Information: 423-5300.

Notice: George Wright's 1904 house, celebrating its 100th anniversary, can now be rented for special occasions.

Lunenburg County Historical Society

LaHave Fire Hall, LaHave, NS.

Regular meetings, Tuesdays, 7 pm.

Contact: Jane Houser, 902-634-3489.

July 8-10

30th Annual Lunenburg Craft Festival.

Sunday, July 31, 12 noon-4 pm

17th Annual Nova Scotia Folk Art Festival, Lunenburg Memorial arena, Green St., Lunenburg. Information: 902-766-4295; email: swoodcock@east-link.ca; www.nsfolkartfestival.com.

September 10-11

Heritage House Tour, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.

Mahone Bay Settlers Museum/Cultural Centre

578 Main Street, Mahone Bay, NS.

Contact: 902-624-6263

Mainland South Heritage Society

Captain William Spry Community Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield, Halifax. Meets on last Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Contact: Iris Shea, 475-3505.

Saturday, June 11, 10 am

Walk to Historic Rockingstone: Join members of the Mainland South Heritage Society, Urban Farm Museum Society and CRABapple Mapping Project. Meet in parking lot of Captain William Spry Centre (takes approximately 1 to 2 hours). Contact Iris Shea, 479-3505 for more information.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Lower Water Street, Halifax.

Information: 902-424-7490.

Medway Area Heritage Society

Contact: Chris Georghiou, e-mail:

laughing.dog@ns.sympatico.ca.

Memory Lane Heritage Village

Lake Charlotte, NS Information - contact: 902-845-2501, or 1-877-287-0697; www.heritagevillage.ca

Saturday, July 9, 10 am-4 pm

Fifth Annual Model Boat Festival

Saturday, July 23, 10 am-4pm

First Annual Women's Work Celebration

Saturday, August 27, 10am-4pm

Fifth Annual Eastern Shore Family History Gathering

Saturday, September 10, 10 am-4 pm

Fifth Annual Antique Show & Tell
Heritage Dinners: Reservations no later

than 4pm on Thursday before.

Dinner of 4-5 courses served at 7 pm. \$20/person + HST. *June 11:* German Heritage Dinner; *July 2:* Italian Heritage Dinner; *July 16:* Hungarian Heritage Dinner; *August 27:* Middle Eastern Heritage Dinner, *September 3:* Scottish Heritage Dinner; *October 1:* Octoberfest.

Mersey Heritage Society

Contact the Society at merseyher-soc@netscape.net or call Craig Chandler at (902) 420-0040, email: cchandler@seacorcanada.com. For schedule updates, visit

<http://mywebpage.netscape.com/merseyhersoc/notice.html>

June 2005

A return to Wobamkek Beach is planned to investigate some of the features that were discovered in December 2003.

Nova Scotia Archaeology Society

Contact: Jeff Turner, 835-5472;

jeff_turner@ns.sympatico.ca.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street, Halifax.

Contact: 424-7490

NSLPS Trips, Summer 2005

Saturdays: July 1, July 30, August 27, and September 24

On The Water Tours of Halifax Harbour Lighthouses. Depart Purcell's Cove Marina, 521 Purcell's Cove Road at 9 am, return at approximately 4 pm. Trip ashore on Sambro Island for a close look at the lighthouse and have lunch (weather permitting). Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Cost- \$50 per person - lunch and refreshments included. A portion of the trip fee will be donated to the NSLPS. Registration is required. Call George Hebb, 4776537

Saturday, July 16, and Sunday, July 17
Saturday: Tusket Islands cruise and lobster dinner, leaving Wedgeport at 12:30 pm: island cruise, history, lighthouses and dinner on one of the islands. *Sunday:* special visit to Cape Forchu Lighthouse on Sunday, with tea, coffee, and muffins, followed by visit to newly restored Seal Island

Light Museum in Barrington in the afternoon (completion of repairs permitting). \$60.00 including lobster dinner. To register call Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034

Saturday, August 13

A trip to Rockbound - East Ironbound Island, leaving Lunenburg waterfront at 1:00 pm, returning about 6:00 pm, on CGG-approved "Cape Islander" charter boat, going out Lunenburg Bay and around into beautiful Mahone Bay. Includes visit to setting for CBC's Canada Reads 2005 winner, "Rockbound" by Frank Parker Day, with NSLPS guest, author Donna Morrissey, and a stop on East Ironbound to view the lighthouse, visit the school house, and walk the island with NSLPS guide relating the history of the lighthouses. No children under 12 years of age. Cost \$40.00. To register call Dorothy MacLeod, (902) 423-8034

Saturday, September 10 (weather date September 24)

Isle Haute (off Cape Chignecto): all-day boat trip out of Harbourville on the Bay of Fundy. Lead by Dan Conlin, Curator of Marine History, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, an expert on the history of the island, and Tony Thompson, Past-President of NSLPS. An opportunity not to be missed! It is a fairly strenuous outing (getting on and off the boat via a Zodiac, and hiking up to the lighthouse site). Take sensible clothing (especially footwear), food, and adequate water. Arrangements are still being made for this trip. Registration will be required. Cost at least \$50.00 per person. No children under 12. For further details and to register contact Tony Thompson, 477-7366, or email: Tony.Thompson@dal.ca. Trip is limited to 20 persons. Note: Register with Tony as soon as possible. We expect this trip to fill quickly.

Scott Manor House and Ft. Sackville Foundation

Open daily in July and August 1-4 p.m. Other times by appointment. Admission is free. 15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford. Contact: 835-5368; www.scottmanorhouse.ca; phone: 902-832-2336; e-mail: scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield

Society meets the second Monday of every month at the Captain William Spry Community Centre, 7:30 pm. Contact information: 10 Kidston Road, Halifax, NS B3R 1M8; Patricia MacLean, President (902) 477-6087 / e-mail: jamac@ns.sympatico.ca or Donna Foley, Vice President, (902) 477-1772

Saturday, June 11, 10 am

Walk to Historic Rockingstone.

Contact Iris Shea, 479-3505 for more information.

Monday, August 1, 2-4 pm

Outdoor family Garden Party in the farm field on Kidston Road, off Rockingstone Rd. in Spryfield, as part of the Natal Day celebrations.

Miniature ponies will be on hand for the enjoyment of children of all ages. Everyone welcome.



Wallace and Area Museum

Contact: 902-257-2191; e-mail: remsheg@auracom.com Many other events, call the museum for a schedule.

Saturday, June 11

Grand Opening of the Museum Expansion. Ribbon cutting, 1:30 pm; tours of the new facility, opening of a new display "The Top Ten Objects in the Wallace and Area Museum Collection." Food and music.

Everyone welcome.

Sunday, July 3

Francis Grant Day. Community members read poems and stories written by local writer and historian.

Sunday, July 24

Railway Day at the Museum. Former railway men talk about their experiences on the railroad. Telegraphers demonstrate the use of Morse Code.

Wednesday, August 3

The Annual Mary Kennedy Tea. In honour of Museum benefactor John Kennedy's mother. Tea is served in the beauty of the museum's historic gardens. Flower arranging competition, music, food.

Saturday, August 6, beginning at 8 am
Third Annual Giant Craft and flea market. Over 30 tables, lots of parking, music, games and prizes.

Monday, August 15

Acadian Settlers Day. A remembrance of the start of the Expulsion. The 250th anniversary of the removal of Acadian settlers from the Wallace area ("Remshég").

Waverley Heritage Museum

1319 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley. Contact Annie Smith, 861-2427.

Friday, July 1 - official opening

July and August: Friday afternoon tea parties.

Summer Exhibit: Year of the Veteran

Yarmouth County Museum/Historical Research Library

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS. Information: contact Eric Ruff at 742-5539, fax 749-1120, (email: ycmuseum@eastlink.ca); website: <http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca>

Friday, July 8

Society Meeting-Awards Night & Favourite Artifacts. 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 9

Annual Garden Sale, 9am-1pm

Monday-Friday, July 11-15, 3 pm

Seafest Talks. Speaker: Eric Ruff.

Includes talks on ship portraits (July 13), sea shanties (July 14), costumes (July 15).

Friday, August 5

Society Meeting - "Shipwrecks off the Nova Scotia Coast". Speaker: Dan Conlin, Curator, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 7:30 pm

Summer exhibits: Ruth Rideout:

"Tombstones", exhibit of artwork

related to tombstones; "200th

Anniversary of the Battle of

Trafalgar"; "Lingerie from the

Museum's Collection"; A Celebration

of the End of the Second World War

Uniform. ☒