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# *The Griffin*

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## **LB Jenson Award presented to Yarmouth restorers**

*by Linda Forbes*

The Provincial Heritage Property Owner's Association (PHPOANS) at its board meeting in Yarmouth in mid-September presented the first LB Jenson Award to Michael Tavares and Neil Hisgen of Yarmouth for their restoration work. The award ceremony was conducted at the MacKinnon-Cann Inn, which we were invited to tour. About forty property owners, members of the



Heritage Advisory committee, and Heritage Society representatives were present for the award presentation. The province was represented by Bruce Nunn. While we walked through the decades represented at the Inn, we enjoyed wonderfully abundant finger foods catered by the Inn and wine donated by a building material store in Yarmouth. The PHPOANS board got a behind-the-scenes look at the Inn's excavated basement "command centre" and commercial kitchen as well as a tour right up to the attic of the Charles C. Richards Bed & Breakfast, also restored by Michael and Neil.

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*Editor's note: Michael Tavares is currently serving on the Board of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia as the member-at-large from Yarmouth.*



*Right, the MacKinnon-Cann Inn shown lit up at night and, above, in daylight. Photos courtesy Michael Tavares. ☒*

# The Historic Places Initiative: A new way to preserve the past

by Meghan Hallett

A restored inn in Annapolis Royal, which once hosted a dancing Duke of Kent, shares something in common with the unusually designed Lunenburg house where the famous acrobat, Billy King, was born. Similarly, the gracious home of Halifax merchant Charles DeWolf, who was known for securing an early grain elevator for his port city, is linked with Truro's Archibald House, where the town's first mayor operated a stage coach service to Amherst until trains came along.

Believe it or not, these historic Nova Scotian buildings, each representing a distinctly different architectural style, from Georgian to Italianate, are now all located in the same place. You will find them on the new online register of the Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative (HPI) at [www.NShistoricplaces.ca](http://www.NShistoricplaces.ca).

The register is a steadily growing database of Nova Scotia's historically significant buildings and places, and it is linked with Canada's national online register at [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca). On these sites, the click of your mouse takes you to descriptions, stories, architectural profiles and photos of historic places around the province and across the country. Consider this new two-part register a one-stop heritage resource at

your fingertips.

The Historic Places Initiative is a provincial, territorial and national cooperative project that, in Nova Scotia, is operated under the Heritage Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. It was established to help foster a culture of conservation across the country.

The register is a work in progress. Our Historic Places Initiative team is striving to add information to the register on the various municipal heritage properties across the province. The program's Senior Registrar, Meghan Hallett, trains 'local registrars', who are selected by the municipality, to prepare written records for the register that include Statements of Significance (SOSs). The SOSs are based on provincial and municipal heritage property files. The Senior Registrar works closely with the SOS writers. In time, the written descriptions of the architecture, history, and association with their community of these historic places will be posted, with digital photos, on [www.NShistoricplaces.ca](http://www.NShistoricplaces.ca). Selected properties are also posted to Canada's Historic Places Register. As of October, 2005, close to 300 Nova Scotian historic places were on the new register.

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## PHPOANS meeting of the Board

by Linda Forbes

The PHPOANS Board met at the Yarmouth Museum in September and had a wonderful tour of the museum conducted by Eric Ruff. We then joined Wilfred Allen on a walking tour of the Historic District and environs and greatly admired the wonderful homes build by ship's carpenters in the

late 1800s. Only a deluge and strengthening winds stopped us after a couple of hours. The District is impressive and extensive, and Yarmouth should be considered for a Prince of Wales Award for the excellent preservation of its built heritage assets. ☒



## The Griffin

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### Editorial Committee:

Anthony Lamplugh,  
Janet Morris, Nancy O'Brien,  
Sandra Sackett.

### Contributors to this issue:

Joan Dawson, Wendy Elliott,  
Linda Forbes, Meghan Hallett,  
Fred Hutchinson, Alex Keay,  
Allan Marble, Paul McCulloch,  
Janet Morris, David Murphy,  
Nancy O'Brien, Alan Parish,  
Sandra Sackett,  
Michael Tavares, Jan Zann

Submissions are welcomed.  
Deadline for the next issue:

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submissions to

HERITAGE TRUST OF  
NOVA SCOTIA, P.O. Box 36111,  
Spring Garden RPO,  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3S9

Tel: 902 423-4807

E-mail material to

[heritage.trust@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:heritage.trust@ns.sympatico.ca)  
[www3.ns.sympatico.ca/heritage/trust](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/heritage/trust)

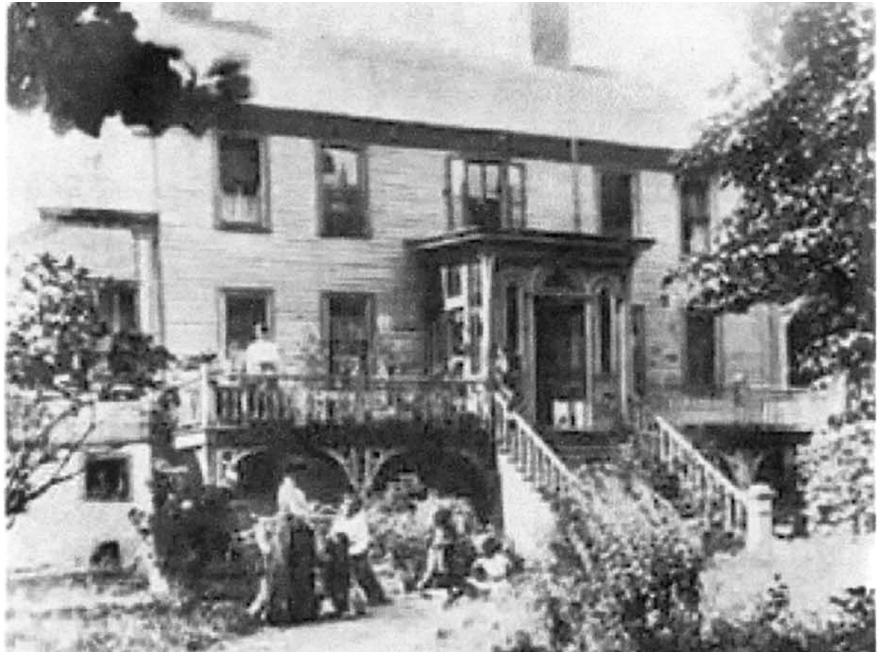


# Where did they live? Two Gottingen Street “Greats” by Janet Morris

North end Halifax was the “home town” of Canada’s fourth prime minister, John Sparrow (after his maternal grandmother) David Thompson. Actually, Sir John Thompson, as he was later known, was born in downtown Halifax at 5 Argyle Street, in a premise rented by his family. When he was five years old, his father, an assistant editor and life-time friend of Joseph Howe, a school teacher and Hansard shorthand reporter, purchased a house then known as 95 Gottingen Street in Halifax, where Thompson spent his formative years. The house, situated on the north-east corner of Gottingen and Prince William Streets, was demolished in 1947 and replaced by a post office, now a “Y” Community Centre. The only evidence of the significance of the site is a federal plaque. (See page 6.)

Thompson resided at 95 Gottingen Street until he was 27 years old in 1872. While there, he trained as a lawyer and became alderman for Ward 5. The youngest of seven, he lived there with his parents and six siblings and later, after his father’s death, with his mother, sister, and his wife until after the birth of their first child, who died after birth. During these years Thompson changed religions from Methodism to Roman Catholicism – not just a convenience to his wife, a Roman Catholic, but as a doctrinal conclusion reached *after* his marriage. Religion was a divisive force in the nineteenth century and it is probable that Thompson’s conversion led to an estrangement from his mother. Generally, his hard work and administrative acumen were recognized on both sides of the religious divide: while the USA elected its first Roman Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, in 1960, Canada had its first Catholic prime minister in 1892. After Thompson’s death in

*Continued on page 4*



*Above, Willow Park, the Thompson house in Halifax until the family moved to Ottawa in 1888. The residence at Gottingen and Prince William Street was torn down to build a post office.*



*The monument which marks the family home of Thompson, his wife and birthplace of their children. The last paragraph reads: “In 1872, Thompson and his wife Annie bought a two-acre property and commodious house, ‘Willow Park,’ at the now southwest corner of Almon and Windsor Streets, with its own barn, marketable hay, and occasional mice. Fields were still being farmed to the west and north. Here Thompson spent the happiest times of his illustrious short life, in his beloved Halifax.”*



**Where:** *continued from page 3*

1894, the Manitoba School Question recurred as a leading issue in the 1896 election when the Liberals, under Laurier, swept into power.

Upon reading Peter Waite's biography, *The Man From Halifax: Sir John Thompson* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985), one is greatly impressed with this Halifax northender. It could be said that Thompson compares with Napoleon as a great codifier: he gave Halifax its first consolidated City Charter, and he revised Nova Scotia's court system by amending the Judicature Act to fully marry the courts of equity and common law, abolish the old forms of action and provide a new code of civil procedure. He oversaw the revision of the provincial statutes. While serving as Attorney-General, he gave Canada its first consolidated Criminal Code and formed the Exchequer Court of Canada.

Thompson, as Attorney-General of the day, could have commuted Louis Riel's death sentence. Probably the carrying out of the sentence was John A. MacDonald's decision, though Thompson was responsible for commuting other death sentences arising out of the Riel Rebellion of 1885. Actually, Thompson was suffering from some very painful gallstones for the two weeks before and during the execution of Louis Riel. Thompson subsequently defended the government's action in an important speech which led many to consider him the only worthy successor to John A. Macdonald, who was to die in office in mid-1891.

Closer to home, and earlier in his career, Thompson deserves recognition as a first director of Point Pleasant Park, and for his involvement in the City's rescuing the Public Gardens from debt and bringing them under public control. His title was bestowed for his work, shortly after arriving in Ottawa and becoming Attorney-General, in brilliantly negotiating

on behalf of the east coast fishery and related businesses in a territorial dispute with the Americans.

Sir John Thompson was not blessed with a long life: he died while in office at age 48 while lunching at Windsor Castle with Queen Victoria immediately after being inducted into Her Majesty's Privy Council. This untimely and very public death has tended to overshadow his life's accomplishments. His wife and children all established themselves outside Nova Scotia, and Sir John Thompson is not widely recognized by Nova Scotians as one of their own. Although the only Prime Minister of Canada from Halifax, no signs point to his resting place in Holy Cross Cemetery, South Park Street, Halifax. The plaque's situation on Gottingen Street identifying the site of

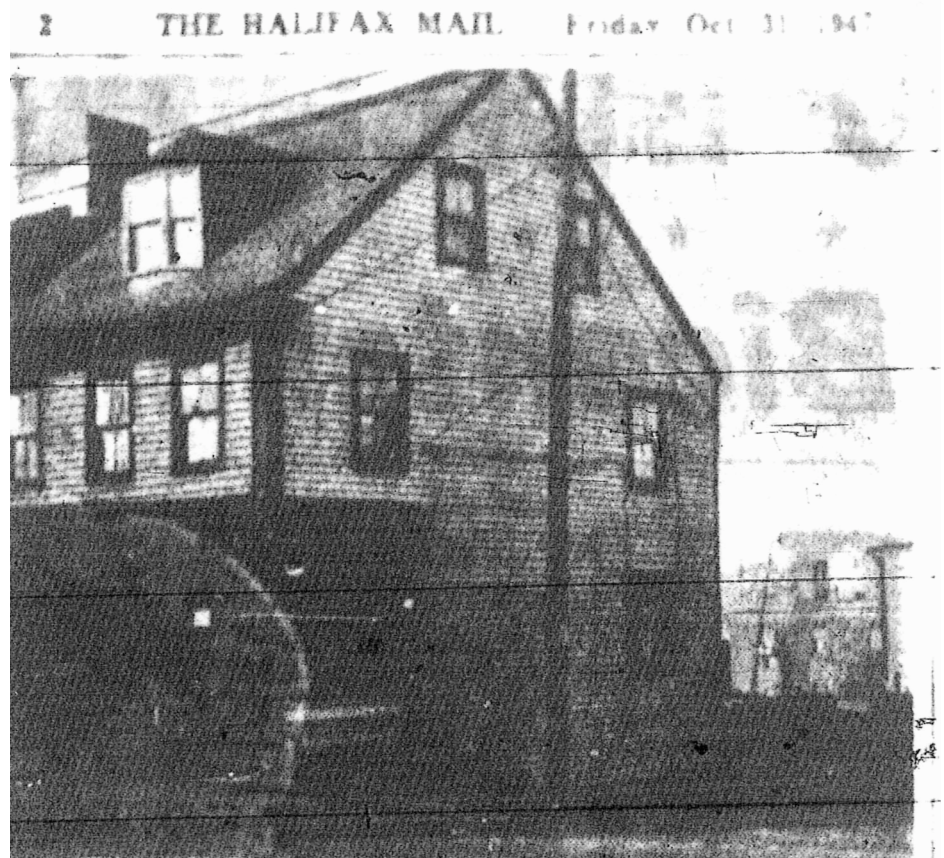
Thompson's family home bears no resemblance to the site as it was known by Thompson. The small monument on the south side of Almon Street, just west of Windsor Street, marking the family home of Thompson, his wife and birthplace of their children, sits in a field; the house was torn down some some years after Thompson's death. There is little that remains of Thompson's life in Halifax.

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Another Halifax north-end address that deserves recognition is 2089 Gottingen Street, formerly 15 Gottingen Street, the family home of Annie Affleck, the very savvy wife of Sir John Thompson.

Author Heather Robertson introduces us to Annie Affleck and her future husband on a stroll

*Continued on page 6*



**TO RAZE HISTORIC BUILDING**—Pictured above is a front view of the building at the corner of Gottingen and Prince William Streets, the birthplace of Sir John Thompson, which according to plans will go under the wreckers' hammers next week. Pending the departure of present tenants of the upper apartment of the historic building the forms have already been placed at the rear for a section of the foundation of the new Halifax North Post Office to be erected on the site.



# Message from the President



*Alan Parish, president of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*

The Midtown tower decision came down from the Utilities and Review Board (UARB) in early October. As most of you are aware, the Heritage Trust was successful in its appeal of Council's

decision to allow the 17-storey tower up a block from the Citadel. However, the fight is not over. The developer has appealed that decision to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal. We will again be ably represented by Ron Pink and other members of his firm. You can expect another request for funds in our annual membership campaign.

The provincial government is conducting a review of "heritage" in the province. This is interpreted widely to include cultural and historic issues as well as built heritage. The province is conducting the review by way of submissions to a committee of Voluntary Planning which has held meetings around the province for this purpose. Members of the Heritage Trust have attended at most meetings to put forth our message to protect the built heritage of the

province. We will have to wait and see what the province has in mind after the report is tabled some time in the spring.

The other important issue at this time is the conclusion of the evolution of the new municipal planning strategy for HRM. We are watching it carefully and currently feel that the protections of our built heritage in the old planning strategy have been properly carried into the new.

In this issue you will see a report of our first house tour in Halifax, which we hope will become an annual event. Many thanks to all of those who assisted in this successful undertaking and, in particular, to those who opened their houses for the benefit of the Trust.

I wish you all a happy holiday season. ☺

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## November Illustrated Lecture

### Polar Bears and Ptarmigan: Downs' Zoological Gardens 1847-72

The speaker at the Trust's annual dinner at the Lord Nelson on November 17th was Heather Watts. Her subject was the Zoological Gardens established by Andrew Downs at the head of the North West Arm. Heather began by taking us on a boat tour to the Gardens with the Caledonian Club, from Halifax Harbour to the head of the Arm, where the voices of the inhabitants of the Gardens a short way up the Dutch Village road could be heard.

Andrew Downs was a lover of nature from his youth, and spent much of his life as a naturalist and taxidermist, collecting, studying and preserving wild birds and animals, both native and exotic species. He was among the founders of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute, where he promoted the study of natural his-

tory, and for some years tried unsuccessfully to persuade the city to support the establishment of a public zoological garden. Having failed to obtain civic backing for this scheme, he eventually decided in 1847 to establish the garden privately. He obtained a large property near the head of the Arm, and moved there with his family. Here he built up a collection of wildlife which became the first zoo in North America north of Mexico.

Downs was a gentle, courteous man who enjoyed conducting tours of the Gardens. He was a supporter of what was known as the Acclimatization Movement, popular in Europe for introducing new species of animals and birds, and he travelled to Europe several times, where he also won prizes for his taxidermy at the 1861

Exhibition.

Despite a few setbacks, his collection grew over the years and became very popular with the public. It was visited by Prince Edward during his posting in Halifax, and by many other celebrities. Downs built a huge aviary of wood and glass to house the exotic birds of which he was very proud, but he also collected many native birds and animals. In its heyday the zoo housed 200 varieties of birds, and many animals including moose, bear cubs brought in by military officers who could no longer keep them, and seals that had a habit of escaping and heading off down to the Arm. Silver pheasants were a favourite species, and their feathers were much in demand for making fishing flies.

*Continued on page 18*

**Where:** continued from page 4

up Gottingen Street on a cold, blustery November night in 1866 – upon Annie’s first meeting John Thompson – in her book, *More Than a Rose: Prime Ministers, Wives, and Other Women* (Toronto: McClelland-Bantam, Inc. 1992). The details of the encounter, as well as an introduction to this very strong-stemmed “rose” is available because Annie Affleck kept a diary for six months which included this encounter. Their subsequent life and times are recorded in letters: Annie “made” her husband write to her every day he spent away from home, and she wrote volumes to him. These records, which have been preserved, are a valuable insight into the lives and characters of these two eminent Haligonians as well as the social temper of the times. One event noted in Annie Affleck’s diary is the birthday of Canada. The diary entry is quoted in Heather Robertson’s book:

*Monday 1st July. Our first day as Canada. The Union of the Colonies was celebrated in a very lame manner although I suppose the Confederationists will trumpet it in the most*

*graphic manner The bells rang or tolled just as you please and a few weak guns were fired. I staid in the house and sewed all day. The day was very warm and dusty. Thompson came in the evening around about 7 o’clock. I put on my hat and we strolled out on the common. The programme said there would be fireworks. We looked and I saw about a 1/2 dozen fire rockets and there was about one dozen spectators. The archbishop had his residence illuminated in quite a grand way and a band playing on top of the house quite a crowd were collected there - the Asylum looked very well - the Province Building had a few candles half on in a few of the windows and a tar barrel burning on the Parade – a smoaky procession of the fire brigade - home about half past ten feeling very tired.*

Thompson courted the redoubtable Annie Affleck while teaching her French and shorthand, a skill learned from his father and used to supplement his meagre earnings at the start of his legal career. These lessons and their courtship took place at her parents’ house at 15 Gottingen Street. Upon their marriage, they moved up the street to #95,

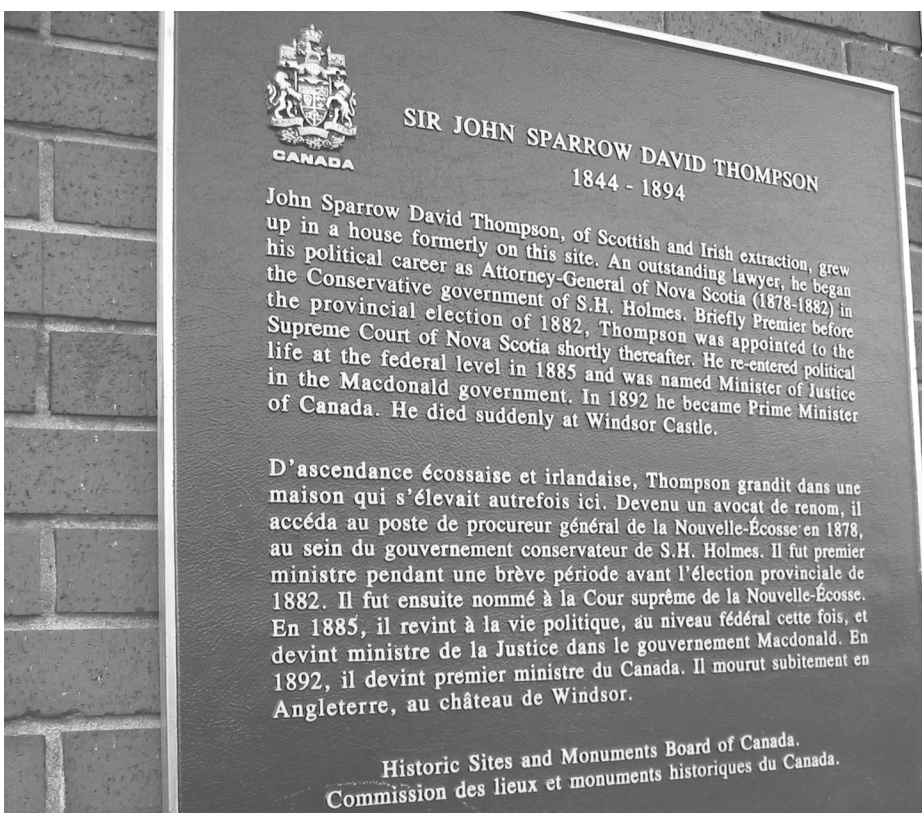
Thompson’s family home, and later bought a large house at Willow Park where they lived and raised their family. A monument where the house once stood, on a part of the two-acre site, is all that remains.

Annie Affleck was largely responsible for pushing John Thompson from the relative comfort of an early position on the bench of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia to a role in provincial politics. She later steered him away from accepting a vacancy on the Supreme Court of Canada. Thompson’s natural affinity was for law; it was Annie who pushed him ever more to the forefront of the political stage.

The prime minister as family man was not seen again in Canadian politics until, briefly, Joe Clark, and then during the service of Pierre Trudeau. Most of the family responsibility fell to Thompson’s wife, including her burden in giving birth to their nine children, five of whom survived. It should be noted that Annie would have preferred more responsibility in this regard: all the children but the youngest were sent off to boarding schools, the two boys to Scotland, and the girls to Quebec. Annie personally assumed other substantial roles, entertaining with dinner parties in their rented quarters in Ottawa two evenings a week with the help of just one servant. The expense of these dinners was borne personally, and the Thompsons, who could not afford to purchase a house in Ottawa, felt the pinch.

Annie has been described as having a fish monger’s tongue and was a bit of an anomaly among wives of the brass in Ottawa, but she became a great friend of Lady Aberdeen, the Governor-General’s wife. Lady Aberdeen, Annie Thompson and Zoe Laurier were co-founders of the National Council of Women.

No plaque and no recognition is accorded this admirable Haligonian. ❏





# September Illustrated Lecture

## “Restoring an old Lunenburg house”

In the first public lecture of the new season on September 15, Mark Stewart shared with the audience an illustrated account of his experiences in rescuing a derelict house at Garden Lots, near Lunenburg. This was not his first restoration project. He showed us “before and after” pictures of old houses that he and his wife, Marni, had restored previously at West Berlin and Freeport. It was clear that they were capable of amazing things, but the story of the rehabilitation of the wreck that was to become their present home seemed nothing short of miraculous.

The house overlooking Lunenburg Harbour on the road to Blue Rocks dates back to 1815, a date established by Alan Ruffman’s dendrochronology project. When Mark and Marni first saw the house, it had a kitchen ell attached, but by the time they purchased it, that was gone, leaving a tumbledown rectangular building with one of its doors boarded up and covered with shingles. The walls were made of hemlock planks fitted into posts, with oakum inserted between to stop the draughts, and a layer of birchbark on the outside where we would use tarpaper. Inside, the walls were lined with split lathes to support plaster. There was a central curving wooden staircase. The foundation was made of rounded granite boulders.

The plan was to build new kitchen and bedroom wings, one at each side, and to restore the main part of the house using old lumber where possible. Much of the original wood was in poor condition, and by the time that had been removed, they were left with the foundation, the frame, and two-and-a-half walls. The walls were rebuilt, with the original doorway restored, and a new, insulated roof constructed. We

saw pictures of the development of other renovations, which included a fireplace made from old bricks on the original hearth, with an antique wood stove; and a dormer window in the form of a Lunenburg bump or Scottish dormer where traces of an original dormer had been found. Two new dormers were built at the back of the house to provide extra light for the upper floor, where the roof beams and boards were “whitewashed” with diluted white paint. The original staircase was retained, and a beautiful open living area created on the main floor. Old floorboards up to 20 inches wide from a house at Conquerall Bank were laid over a concrete base with heating pipes running through.

The kitchen ell was reconstructed on one side, and on the other a new bedroom wing was attached to the main building by a diagonal connector, and a verandah was installed across the back of the house, creating a comfortable and harmonious dwelling. We saw pictures of the garden created by Marni, with a patio and walkway paved with bricks left over from the fireplace. A



*Detail of a wooden joint.*

workshop and other outbuildings, including an outhouse, were also built. The property includes an old schoolhouse, whose future purpose is still to be decided.

The pictures, and Mark’s account, gave a fascinating view of how an apparently ruined building can, with skill and care, be brought back to life. *JD*

*For more about the Stewarts’ house, see the December 2003 issue of The Griffin. Ed. ☒*



## New Logo Launch

The new logo of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, another step in improving the museum’s profile with a recognizable and professional brand. Each box represents one of the themes of the museum’s vision: Dartmouth, heritage/history, education/presentation, and community, with the museum “M” spanning the gap between education and community. ☒

# Investing in downtown Wolfville... *by Wendy Elliott*

*(taken from The Advertiser)*

Saint John, NB, heritage officer, Jim Bezanson, says, don't use the "H" word if you want to interest reinvestment in a venerable downtown. Talk instead about new uses and new needs.

About 20 years ago Saint John decided to emphasize its built heritage, creating civic pride where there was none. Then the city won national awards, received national publicity and attracted a host of new companies to the city, Bezanson explained. He added, "if you want to retain youth, you have get on the bandwagon. Identify your strengths and capitalize on them." The city offers grants to induce owners to rehabilitate older buildings. Bezanson, who is an architect, has redone 36 units and says he can prove the process is profitable. "In 12 years I've never had a vacancy. I rarely have to discuss potential anymore."

The former chair of Heritage Canada pointed out that since 1983, the rehabilitation of old buildings has outpaced new construction, yet CMHC continues to use new housing starts as its primary measurement. In one generation, Canada has lost 22 percent of its built heritage. In Vancouver, the figure is 37 percent and in Toronto it's 40 percent, Bezanson told a Wolfville audience on June 3. Not maintaining buildings has its cost, too. What goes into a landfill from the demolition of one old building, he stated, equals the cost of five million new aluminum cans; 16-30 percent of landfill materials are construction and demolition debris.

There is wonderful intrinsic architectural value in our built heritage, Bezanson suggested, but too many owners are milking their buildings for profit without placing enough emphasis on the buildings' contribution to their bottom line or to a town's character. Bezanson encourages some owners to fix up, and others to



*Jane Goodfellow surveys an upstairs space during renovations of their commercial property on the corner of Main Street and Harbourside Drive.*

remove what he calls cancerous growths – plywood and parging. "Buildings cannot be frozen in time, but remember that quality is the reason that people came here." Rehabilitation today, he stated, does not mean slavishly copying architectural details. "Small projects done well can make a difference. Facades can be effective marketing tools – not the ones covered over with sheets of plywood."

On a Saturday morning walking tour, Bezanson told the 14 people who attended, "you have to build on your assets or you lose them. We have to continue to reinvest our hearts and souls in our downtowns." The architect noted it is a myth about malls and nearby parking. "It's a closer walk to shops in towns and you can get unique products. Our money

doesn't leave the community for head office either. What also draws customers is high quality and personal service."

Buildings reflect the values of those they serve, thus Wolfville, a university town, has an abundance of pizza joints as well as several top notch restaurants. Bezanson suggested that the town should create a standard that everyone agrees to. Exteriors that reflect good values have a positive effect on the streetscape; garishness can have a decidedly negative one. He also pointed out that in addition to their streetscape, the view in Wolfville of the dykes is one of the town's main focal points.

*Wendy Elliott is chairman of Wolfville's Heritage Resource Committee and a staff writer for the*

*Continued on page 9*



**Investing:** *continued from page 8*

*Kentville Advertiser. Jim Bezanson's workshop was sponsored by the town's heritage resource group.*

## **... with success on the corner of Main and Harbourside Drive** *by Wendy Elliott*

The corner of Main Street and what is now Harbourside Drive in Wolfville has long been a prime commercial location, Tom Sheppard says in his illustrated history of the town. Now the downtown building is receiving a makeover by new owners Jane and Pat Goodfellow. When they bought the structure, Jane says, it was occupied by an insurance office and two upper storey apartments. Only the insurance office is still there.

Renovating the second and third floors, the Goodfellows discovered a stash of historic business papers, old shoe lasts and other memorabilia. "There was a ton of cool stuff. Some of the equipment remains a mystery. We vacuumed up some of the papers before we realized how old they were," says the Kentville native. The remainder are headed for the Acadia University archives.

It was son Kurt's idea to expose the attic beams. "They are like good, old bones," Jane adds. Instead of dark, dingy apartments, there is an open, bright work environment rented by a software development firm, employing three to five people, including Pat. They provide technical support to Henry Schein Inc., which is the leading distributor of dental supplies in the United States. According to Pat, who hails from southern Ontario, lifestyle and environment make small towns like Wolfville attractive even for firms the size of the one he works for.

The Goodfellows believe their

building dates back to the 1850s. They appreciate the role it played in the commercial history of the town. Jane says the creation of commercial space at the rear downstairs and a renovated exterior are next on the list. "We'll do the outside last. It doesn't pay any bills," she chuckles.

Prior to McDonald Chisholm renting the store front for their Wolfville office, it had been Van Wart's Hardware since 1964. Columnist Glen Hancock worked in the building when it was Acadia Stores as a stock boy. He

earned \$2 a day when Wolfville had open nights on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The manager was the late Elmer Kennie. "It was hard work, but fun," recalled Hancock. "I liked everyone I worked with, and one of the clerks eventually became my wife."

Acadia Stores became one of the first chain stores in the Valley in 1944. The operation took over a grocery business run for many years by Rupert Harris. He went into business in 1893; prior to that, Rupert Prat kept the store. ☐

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**Initiative:** *continued from page 2*

Each week, more places are added.

This project is a cooperative effort that relies on the involvement of Nova Scotia's heritage property homeowners, local heritage advisory committees, and, often, community museums and historical societies. The Historic Places Initiative also offers heritage property owners and municipalities a simple set of guidelines on restoring, rehabilitating and preserving our built heritage structures in their handbook, *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. Heritage home owners may order their own copy of this publication through our website, [www.NShistoricplaces.ca](http://www.NShistoricplaces.ca), or by

contacting the Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative office at 902-424-5647.

Nova Scotia's built heritage legacy is rich and varied. The online register is using new technology to capture that legacy and to help preserve it for the future.

*To learn more, members of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia are invited to join the Historic Places Initiative team for an evening presentation on the progress of the Historic Places Initiative at the Museum of Natural History on January 19, 2006.*

*Meghan Hallett is Acting Manager and Senior Registrar, Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative. She edited The Diary of Sarah Clinch, published in Halifax in 2001. ☐*

## **Occasionally nice guys win**

The eulogies from every quarter honouring Rear Admiral Desmond Piers are without question richly deserved. Certainly he was a naval war hero – as recognized by Canada with the award of the Distinguished Service Cross, and by France with the very prestigious Legion d'Honneur. Piers' very full and successful naval career doubtless seemed perfectly natural to him as he was born and brought up in Halifax. But it was upon retirement, through his volunteer work, that he showed his true colours and his loyalty to his native province. The Heritage Trust was one of the many organization to which he devoted time and energy, serving on the board during the interesting years of the late 1980s and early 1990s. *PMcC* ☐

# The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society (RNSHS)

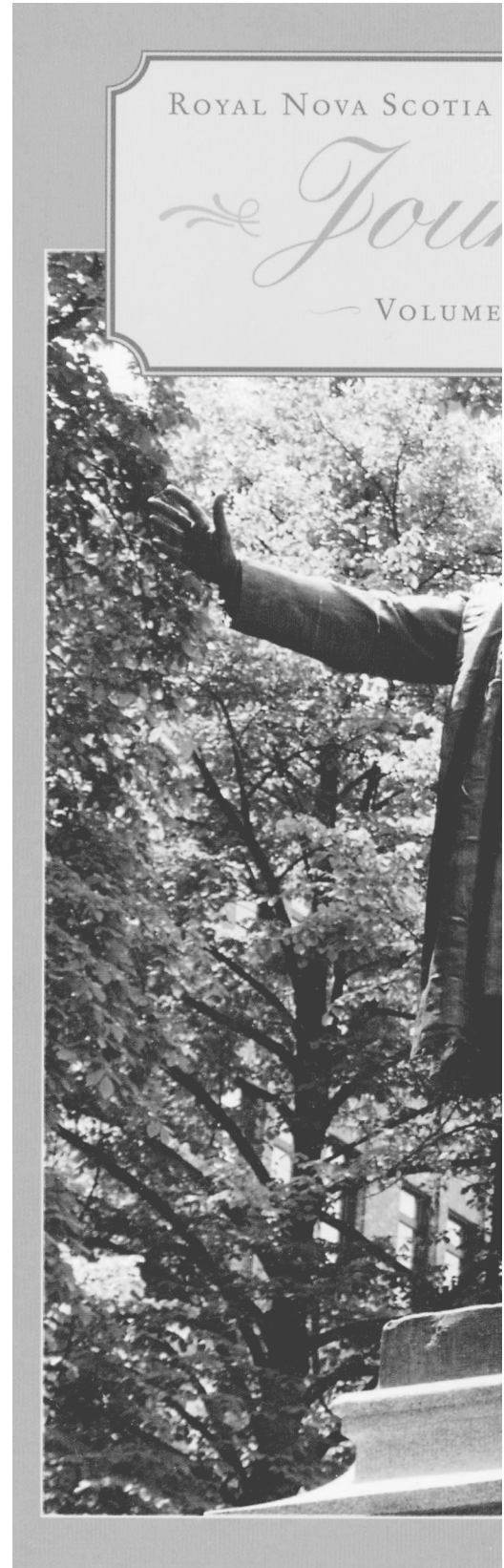
The RNSHS was not the first organization to announce that it would collect and preserve the historical records of Nova Scotia and promote the writing of the history of this province. On 22 August 1863, an editorial appeared in the *Acadian Recorder* supporting the formation of the first province-wide historical society. The Nova Scotia Literary and Scientific Society, which had existed from 1859 to 1862, ceased to function, and this created the impetus for those members who were especially interested in science to form the Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science early in 1863. In January 1864, the officers of the first Nova Scotia Historical Society were elected, and in the following May the Society was incorporated. Although this new Society had among its officers and council such personages as Joseph Howe, Charles Tupper, T.B. Akins, and Beamish Murdoch, the Society does not appear to have been active very long. Archivist D.C. Harvey, writing in 1944, concluded that "the very existence of the society was forgotten in the history-making epoch of confederation and the days of despondency which followed that event."

Dr. Harvey credited John T. Bulmer, a 31-year-old lawyer in Halifax, as the person most responsible for the establishment of the second Nova Scotia Historical Society, now known as the RNSHS. The organizing meeting of this society was held on 2 January 1878 and the inaugural address was given by Lieutenant-Governor Adams G. Archibald on 21 June 1878. John Bulmer was the first secretary and librarian of the society, and in his role of librarian immediately began to collect historical material related to Nova Scotia from all over the western world. According to Lt.-Gov. Archibald and T.B. Akins, it was "Bulmer's activity both as

secretary of the NSHS and librarian of the amalgamated libraries, which raised the Legislative Library from obscurity and neglect to the first rank among the libraries of the Dominion." Between 1878 and 1882, Bulmer collected 13,500 books, 14,523 pamphlets, and 1,425 volumes of newspapers for the amalgamated libraries of the NSHS and the Legislature. Fifty years later, in 1931, this extensive collection of books and manuscripts, including the *Nova Scotiana* of T.B. Akins, was transferred from the Legislative Library to the new Public Archives building on the Dalhousie University campus and formed the basis of one of the finest collections of its kind in Canada. This major contribution of the RNSHS to the Public Archives was recognized in 1986 when a brass tablet commemorating the donation was unveiled at the entrance of the new Archives building on University Avenue. This tablet was the last of 44 tablets which the RNSHS has placed on buildings throughout the province during the period 1911 to 1986 in recognition of the achievement of Nova Scotians as well as significant historical events. A survey of the commemorative tablets erected by RNSHS, including photographs, was prepared by the late Ethel Crathorne in 1980 and can be viewed at the NSARM in MG20, vol. 948, #4.

Membership in RNSHS is \$25.00 (\$15.00 for students) for one year and includes a copy of the *Journal*. The current President and the first woman to hold the office is historian Judith Fingard. The Society meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from September to May at the Public Archives on University Avenue at 7:30 p.m. "to hear and to discuss individual papers about personalities, places and events integral to

the history of Nova Scotia". The list of topics forthcoming can be found in *The Griffin*. Most of the





## (S): Some little known facts *by Allan E. Marble, President, 1979-1982*

papers are published in the RNSHS annual *Journal*, which costs \$25.00 per copy (it replaces

both the *Collections* and the *Nova Scotia Historical Review*; back copies of all these publications are now offered at greatly reduced prices). The current *Journal* is

Volume 8 of the new series. Cheques should be sent to RNSHS at P.O. Box 2622, Halifax, NS B3J 3P7. *Website:* [nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs](http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs). NO'B. ❏



## Heritage House Tour

On Sunday, October 23, just as a torrential autumn downpour started, the Heritage Trust's tour of a selection of historic Halifax southend and Schmidville homes got underway. Should we, next time, fix a rain date? The date of the tour was coincidentally significant: it was the 55th anniversary of the move of Acacia Cottage from Coburg Road to its present location on South Street by a former owner and another heritage preservationist, Vega G. Dawson..

In spite of the inclement weather, a flood of people toured the homes. A program explaining the particular interest of each home was available to each "tourist", the text prepared by Elizabeth Pacey. We had an enthusiastic bevy of volunteer guides, and Alex Keay, our energetic employee, saw to it that each volunteer was identifiable with a white ribbon.

Many started the tour at Oaklands Lodge at the corner of Robie and Oakland Road (see *The Griffin*, June 2004), a very visible heritage landmark, which served as poster child for our tour on the poster and program prepared by Arthur Carter. A most welcoming fire burned in the fireplace.

The homeowners gussied up their homes with flowers, and they went to a great deal of trouble to prepare for the public onslaught; one owner was painting a deck on a day we visited in preparation for the event. The homeowners were generally available and engaged in animated discussion with patrons in every home visited. In just one home

where the owners were not available, the features and artifacts were nicely pointed out in framed notes prepared by volunteer Sandra Sackett so guests were able to quietly enjoy the house and read a great deal of information while enjoying some welcomed shelter from the rain.

The early Georgian cottages, one on South Street and another in Schmidville, were a delight and a newly appreciated heritage asset to many, and although they provided some challenges in terms of small entryways and stairways, the importance of preserving this early architecture became very real to all visitors.

The tour concluded at The Henry House, which has recently been provincially registered; earlier this year its owners won an award for building restoration. The hot apple cider was especially enjoyed on a wet afternoon. Patrons were invited to deposit ballots for an opportunity to win an overnight stay at the award-winning MacKinnon-Cann Inn in Yarmouth, with complimentary breakfast donated by owners, Michael Tavaras and Neil Hisgen. The draw took place as the tour and the day concluded, with Linda Forbes of Dartmouth, the well-known heritage activist, the winner.

The Tour Committee wishes to extend special thanks to the homeowners, to our sponsors, and to all those who braved the weather to make our first fundraising house tour in over a decade a sopping success! JM ❏

# Biography: Sir John Wentworth 1727-1820 *by Fred C. Hutchinson*

## Part 2



*The second in a two-part article on the life of Sir John Wentworth, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, 1792-1800.*

The Revolutionary War raged for another four years until King George III called upon Charles Wentworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Rockingham, and the Earl of Shelburne in March of 1782 to form a new government and bring about peace with the American colonies. John Wentworth and his wife, Frances, were confident that an appointment as Governor to Nova Scotia was imminent, but Rockingham died three months later as did the chances for John to retain his former status. Nevertheless, on September 20, 1783, at the age of 43, John Wentworth sailed into Halifax Harbour as the newly appointed Surveyor-General of “His Majesty’s Woods”.

Within ten days John was hiking through the woods of Nova Scotia in search of white pine, the “mast timber” needed by the British Navy. Over the next 14 months he would travel more than 3000 miles visiting saw mills, lumber camps, businesses and timber reserves. His journeys during this period took him to Shelburne, the Shubenacadie River, Pictou, the Saint John River, Passamaquoddy Bay, the St. Croix and the St. Lawrence Rivers, and on a visit to Quebec. In the spring of 1784 Frances joined her husband at their modest accommodation of £150/year in Dutch Town. The humble surroundings and John’s absence added to her ongoing depression.

In 1786, while John was attending to surveys in Cape Breton and visiting with J.F.W. DesBarres, its Governor and creator of the *Atlantic Neptune*, the

21-year-old third son of George III, Prince William, sailed into Halifax Harbour and also into the bed of 41-year-old Frances Wentworth. The Prince and future King of England was noted for his drinking and debauchery and was more at home in a brothel than a reception line, but found comfort in the arms of the beautiful and intelligent Frances. John had always catered to and flattered the establishment when he felt that it might pay dividends and Frances also had her motives – he appeared tolerant and Prince William, somehow, got a posting to Quebec.

In 1787, John visited Pictou to defend escheatment action by the Crown on the two 20,000-acre land grants that he received in 1765, two weeks before the Stamp Act. He was successful in the property’s defense and the Wentworth grant is the oldest surviving grant in Pictou County. And while John Wentworth was on his field trip to Pictou, it seems that Prince William made a field trip of his own to Halifax and once again into Frances’s bed. William next visited Frances in August of 1788, only to find her in the company of a young officer. He was offered a guest room and the affair was over.

Upon the financial ruin and death of Paul Wentworth, John and Frances were forced to return to England in the summer of 1791. John was deeply in debt: Paul had been receiving John’s salary by power of attorney but not paying any bills or forwarding any money. While the Wentworths were trying to resolve their financial crisis, they received word on December 29, 1791, of the death of Governor Parr of Nova Scotia. John was told that he might get the governorship of Cape Breton, which devastated Frances; a few days later, however, John Wentworth was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Nova

Scotia, the position of Governor having been changed to Lieutenant-Governor during Parr’s term in office. He was also to retain the position of Surveyor-General of “His Majesty’s Woods”. His new salaries totalled £2300/year. John and Fanny’s habits were hard to change, and for the next two months they put everything on their credit cards and bet on the future.

John Wentworth, Nova Scotia’s first civilian governor, and his wife of 23 years sailed into Halifax Harbour on May 12, 1792, with a 15-gun salute on the Grand Parade, and ushered in a decade called “the golden age”. The 54-year-old Wentworth is the only person to serve as a governor and surveyor of the King’s Woods in both Canada and the United States. Governor Johnny, as he had always been referred to in Nova Scotia, was able to eliminate the provincial debt in his first year of office. The new Governor promoted businesses and personally supervised the construction of a road from Pictou to Dartmouth. He worked to see that Acadians received secure title to their land, appointed Acadian magistrates, and was the first to gain the Acadian loyalty. Most were impressed, although there were a few Methodists who took exception to Frances’s smoking cigars in the open window of Government House.

In 1793 France and England were once more at war. Wentworth was instructed to raise a provincial militia and appointed himself a colonel with an annual salary of £1000. The following year saw the appointment of Prince Edward, the 27-year-old fourth son of George III, as commander of the British troops in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Prince Edward’s future daughter, Victoria, would later rule England for over 60 years. Edward and his

*Continued on page 14*



# Heritage for Sale: 1043 Tower Road, Halifax

This heritage home for sale at 1043 Tower Road is one of three homes built in 1869 and part of the Tower Road registered heritage Streetscape. The house has three floors above the completed basement, three large bedrooms, three full bathrooms and a small washroom. There are small kitchens in the basement and top floors. The main kitchen was added to the rear of the building in 1982. There are two working fireplaces with new chimney liners in the living and dining rooms.

The house sits on a 32x 200 lot with a lovely garden and pond, part of a Garden Tour a few years ago, and a three-car garage in the back of the house. It is zoned R2A, allowing for office use. Ideal for professional couple with older children. \$760,000. Contact Lynn King, Royal LePage Atlantic, 902-830-5450

## Tower Road Streetscape

Halifax Regional Municipality has recently installed several very attractive signs on Tower Road calling attention to its designation as a Registered Heritage Streetscape. In part, the sign reads "In the decade from 1970 to 1980 the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia began a process of identifying his-



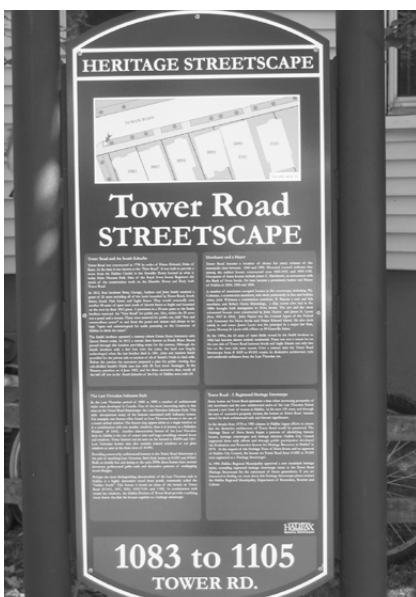
toric houses, heritage streetscapes and heritage districts. At the request of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and on approval of the Halifax City Council the houses on Tower Road from #1029 to #1105 were registered as a "Heritage Streetscape".

The sign tells of the history of Tower Road as being constructed in 1798 by order of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, and was initially called the "new road". It connected the Martello Tower with the Citadel. Between 1860 and 1890 it became the location of choice for many citizens of the mercantile class. One panel of the sign describes the features of the late Victorian Italianate Style

which is found in many of the named homes. It singles out such features as the Palladian window styles, the stained glass windows and the Halifax Porches.

This segment of the Tower Road was important because the Halifax Street Railway (1886-1890) which was horse drawn, came up Inglis, turned north on Tower to Victoria, and thence back to South Park and Spring Garden Road. This information is not on the sign but may be of interest to *The Griffin* readers.

Halifax Regional Municipality is to be congratulated for this significant step in identifying heritage streetscapes of Halifax. DM



**Wentworth:** *Continued from page 12*

mistress, Madame St. Laurent (Julie), took up residence with the Wentworths at Government House until their two-storied house, now known as Prince's Lodge, was built on a 200-acre parcel of land owned by John Wentworth on the shores of Bedford Basin, the area now known as Rockingham. During the year of joint tenancy, the Prince and Governor entertained 2437 dinner guests at Government House. John received a baronetcy in 1795; Fanny was now Lady Wentworth and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Wentworth.

In 1796, the Maroons from Jamaica arrived in Halifax. This black labour force was quickly put to work on the Halifax Citadel as well as other fortifications and provided farm labour for some of the estates under development. Wentworth employed at least 50 blacks on his Preston farm; he also had a black mistress and resulting offspring. He again strayed from his marital vows when he had a relationship with Bridget Lowe, who bore a son, Edward Lowe, in July 1799, a month after Fanny Wentworth and their son, Charles Mary, returned from England.

Sir John laid the cornerstone for the new Governor's residence in 1800, currently the oldest official residence in Canada. The projected cost was £10,500 but when completed in 1805, the final cost had nearly tripled. That same year, Sir John's duty as Surveyor General of "His Majesty's Woods" was extended to all of Canada. He was now 68 years old and just three years later, in 1808, he was replaced as Lieutenant-Governor. He continued as Surveyor General, but in name only.

John and Frances left for England in 1809 to petition for a pension greater than £500 per year and to try and claim for more than £12,000 in expenses owed to him.

In 1812, the 75-year-old Wentworth left England under the assumed name of John Wallace to

escape debtor's prison. Frances remained in England with Charles Mary, who was now a lawyer trying to deal with his father's expenses and claims. Some of the problems dated back to 1764. After 45 years of marriage and at the age of 68, Lady Frances died in England. Sir John spent most of his time at Prince's Lodge and in 1816 suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed. He then moved in with his sister-in-law; when she died in 1819, he moved into Mrs. Fleigher's boarding

house on Barrington Street. Mrs. Fleigher was the widow of one of his former Deputy Surveyors, and she took good care of him.

On April 8, 1820, in his 84<sup>th</sup> year, Sir John Wentworth passed away. He is buried in a crypt at St. Paul's Church in Halifax. His debts were settled eight months later, with a balance owed to him of £8,864. Think of Sir John, will you, the next time you go skiing in the Wentworth Valley, paddle on Wentworth Lake or walk down Wentworth Street in Dartmouth. ☒

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## Heritage in action *by Jan Zann*



*From left to right, Fred Hutchinson, Mike Tavares and Kathy Putnam inside the Maud Putnam House, Brookfield.*

On October 25, while the province was preparing for Hurricane Wilma, Heritage Trust Board members Mike Tavares and Fred Hutchinson braved the blustery weather to travel to Brookfield, Colchester County, to join me in viewing the 200 year-old Putnam House and offer advice to its owner, Kathy Putnam. (See *The Griffin*, September 2000, December 2001 and September 2005)

For two summers Kathy had transformed the former stage-

coach stopover into a museum but had to discontinue her efforts due to insufficient community support. However, she did not wish to see the property fall into the hands of a developer who would then bulldoze it. We three Trust members were impressed with the original fixtures in the house, which is relatively unchanged in the one hundred years of ownership by the Putnam family. We noted the wide floor boards, the

*Continued on page 15*



# October Illustrated Lecture

## “For sale - must be moved”

On Thursday, October 20, the Heritage Trust hosted a lecture by Christopher von Maltzahn, architect and house transplanter. The talk illustrated the process of moving a house some 30 kms in the middle of winter.

The first decision was what to do with the old house on the site. The von Maltzahns had determined the existing house was not salvageable, a very difficult conclusion. Then the owners incidentally heard of a fine house in nearby Bridgewater: an 1873 house formerly owned by Dr. Harrington was about to be torn down. The house needed someone to take quick action, and it was most fortuitous that the “it can be done” von Maltzahns were on the scene.

The decision, once made, required immediate action. First, the old house had to be removed. This took all of twenty minutes to demolish, although somewhat longer to clean up the site. The

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**Heritage:** *continued from page 14*

bubbles in the many original glass panels, the impressive front entrance way, and, in the basement beams, the saw marks made by a long-forgotten tradesman in the days when houses were built to last for a very long time. Due to its location, now close to a small commercial centre where once it had stood out proudly in a picturesque rural setting, it seems inevitable that the house would need to be sold with the intention of moving it. Kathy expressed to us her appreciation for our discussion of her options and the advice from such interested and knowledgeable people.

Anyone interested in the Putnam House and property should contact Kathy Putnam at 902-673-2451. ☒

owners salvaged significant building materials from the old house to reuse where possible.

Meanwhile, 30 kms away, von Maltzahn’s crew were, to the audience’s horror, sawing the “new” house in half horizontally, fifteen feet above the foundation.



The windows were removed, and window openings assisted in supporting I-beams threaded through the upper part of the house to lift it off the lower half and onto the flatbed by the housemovers, Phil Leil and crew. Fifteen feet is the magical number for staying below overhead wires; thirty feet was the width of the road allowance. There were only inches to spare in this transplant. The halves were each lifted onto a flat-bed truck and trundled down the road. Police accompanied the oversized loads, and, although the move was supposed to happen overnight, the snow banks required further paring, the overhead tree branches had to be lopped off, parking meters were “beheaded” and stop signs were in the way. This was the best show on a wintery Sunday in small town Nova Scotia, and people watched and walked along, with one spectator taking 22 hours of video footage. The move took many days longer than was anticipated, and the von Maltzahns were concerned about spring weight restrictions being introduced before the move was complete.

The audience breathed a sigh of relief once the house was pieced together on top of a new foundation, but were dismayed to



see the amount of work required to put the house together again – the walls were stripped to the studs, new plumbing and electrical wiring were installed, and the trim reinstalled. The audience appreciated that “For Sale - Must be Moved” is not for the faint of heart. JM

## Putnam House Update -Report to the board from Michael Tavares

At the board meeting on Saturday, November 26, Michael Tavares gave an update to the visit to the Putnam House. It was clear after discussing options such as moving the house to another location and selling the lot or salvaging the noteworthy architecture and disposing of the remainder, Kathy Putnam’s wish was to try and find someone to relocate the house. Shortly after this meeting, Michael was referred by Mark Stewart to Hugo McGoldrick who is in the salvage business in Canning. He contacted Mr. McGoldrick and put him in touch with Kathy Putnam. After viewing the property, Hugo felt confident that he could in fact relocate the house. Michael has now been retained to represent Kathy, organize the removal of the house from its lot, and assist with a sale of the land to the commercial property owner to the east. “This combined effort,” he says, “shows that with the desire to preserve our built heritage, anything is possible.” ☒

## Do you care about Nova Scotia's Heritage?

The Voluntary Planning Heritage Strategy Task Force held public meetings throughout the province in November.

You are invited to participate and your input will help create recommendations for an overall heritage strategy for Nova Scotia.

Heritage means different things to different people. Some think of historic buildings, museums, artifacts or archives. Others think of genealogy, languages, music, oral history or cultural traditions. And for some heritage is more about natural landscapes, biological diversity and outstanding natural features.

The Task Force wants to hear from you so the recommendations it makes to government reflect what Nova Scotians value most about their heritage.

Make sure your voice is heard. A discussion primer on the topic is available at [www.gov.ns.ca/vp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/vp) or by contacting Voluntary Planning.

Written submissions can be made online at [www.gov.ns.ca/vp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/vp); e-mailed to [volplan@gov.ns.ca](mailto:volplan@gov.ns.ca); faxed to 902-424-0580; or mailed to

Voluntary Planning, Suite 600,1690 Hollis St., Halifax, NS B3J 3J9.

All submissions must be received by **Thursday, December 15, 2005.** ☒

## The Heritage Canada Foundation's new Executive Director

The Chair of the Board of Governors of the Heritage Canada Foundation, Michel Grenier, is pleased to announce the appointment of Natalie Bull as the Foundation's new Executive Director.

Born in New Brunswick, Natalie completed her studies at the Université de Montréal with a master's degree in Applied Sciences in Architectural Conservation. She has worked for Public Works and Government Services Canada since 1992 in progressively senior positions, including Architectural Conservation Advisor, Business Development Manager, Program Manager and Acting Director with the Heritage Conservation Directorate, Real Property Program. Last year, Ms. Bull completed a term as Manager of Certification for the Historic Places Program at Parks Canada.

Natalie also brings strong non-profit-sector leadership experience to her new position. Her active membership in the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) culminated in her election in 2003 for a two-year term as President and Chief Executive Officer.

As an expert in heritage conservation, Natalie has participated in a number of symposia as a panellist, lecturer and technical train-



er. She is well known and respected in the conservation field in Canada and has participated in many speaking engagements across North America.

Natalie Bull has been at the helm since October 24, where she welcomes your calls and e-mails. Natalie can be reached at (613) 237-1066 or at [nbull@heritagecanada.org](mailto:nbull@heritagecanada.org)

For more information about the Heritage Canada Foundation, visit [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org) ☒

## HRM appointment

Bill Plaskett has been hired by the City as a second heritage planner to join Maggie Holm in the Planning Department. Last year Bill directed the study of the proposed Barrington Street Heritage Conservation District. He was employed for some years in Lunenburg county and worked on the heritage designation of Maitland in Hants County and Lunenburg (UNESCO). ☒



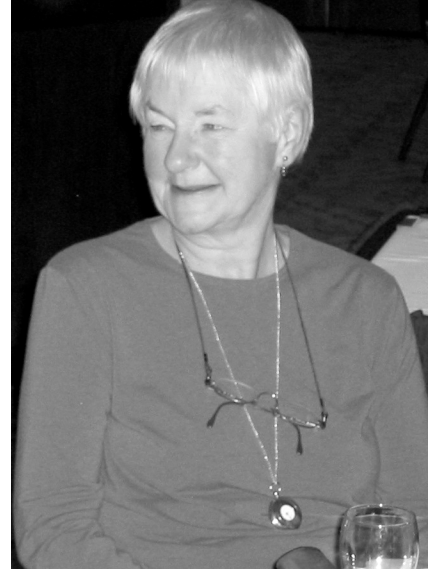
Garry Shutlak's popular column on the history of historical buildings in Nova Scotia will resume in the March 2006 issue. -Ed.



# 2005 Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Annual Dinner draws an upbeat crowd in a party mood

This year's annual dinner was held on November 17 at the Lord Nelson Hotel – most appropriate given the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The hotel provided an elegant, ambient setting for guests to dine, mingle and learn more about the intriguing history of nineteenth century Halifax and its surroundings.

The annual dinner is always a popular event for membership and friends as it provides the opportunity to catch up on heritage events and issues coming up in the new year. Heather Watts's lecture describing the fate of the now-lost Downs Zoo only emphasizes the ongoing need for our continued stewardship of the province's heritage sites and landmarks. AK



*Local Historian, Heather Watts, top right; Phil and Betty Pacey, top left; Kevin Ball and Donna McInnis, immediate right; and below, one of several tables of sociable Trust members who, by their presence, helped make the dinner a success. ❏*



# Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

## Illustrated Public Lectures - Winter 2005-2006

**Thursday, December 15,  
7:30 pm**

"Restoration or Rehabilitation:  
The Befores and Afters"

A discussion on line, design,  
texture, paint and decoration.

**speaker:** Hal Forbes,  
Designer/Craftsman Winner of  
the 2005 Heritage Entrepreneur  
Award from Heritage Trust of  
Nova Scotia.

**Thursday, January 19,  
7:30 p.m.**

Government Programs for  
Heritage Conservation:  
The Historic Places Initiative

(HPI) *A presentation by a team from  
the Province of Nova Scotia  
Heritage Division (see page 2)*

**Thursday, February 16,  
7:30 p.m.**

"An American in Halifax.  
The Design and Construction of  
All Saints Cathedral"

**Speaker:** Bill Naftel, historian  
(Parks Canada), retired; author of  
*Prince Edward's Legacy. The Duke of  
Kent in Halifax.*

**Thursday, March 16,  
7:30 p.m.**

"Pugwash - a Contemporary  
Historic Site"

**Speaker:** Steven Leahey

*Requests for speakers and subject  
welcome. Please call Nancy O'Brien  
at 902-422-1709.*

*The public lectures, part of an ongo-  
ing program sponsored by the  
Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, are  
held on the 3rd Thursday of the  
month at 7:30 p.m., September to  
June, in the auditorium of the  
Museum of Natural History, 1747  
Summer Street, Halifax. Parking in  
the two museum parking lots ("Pay  
and Display") and across Bell Road  
at the Vocational School.  
Everyone Welcome. ☒*

### **Parks Canada management plan review of the Halifax Defence Complex**

Parks Canada has held a series of Open Houses for the review of the management plan for the Halifax Defence Complex, which is composed of five national historic sites of Canada: Halifax Citadel, York Redoubt, Prince of Wales Tower, Georges Island and Fort McNab. Parks Canada encouraged anyone interested in sharing ideas on the vision and proposed management direction for these sites with the planning team to attend one of three Open Houses. A newsletter can be obtained by phoning 902-426-5080 or emailing [hdc-cdh@pc.gc.ca](mailto:hdc-cdh@pc.gc.ca). Written submissions may be made up to January 13, 2006. ☒

### **Membership Reminder!**

Take the time to renew your HTNS membership when your renewal form arrives in January.

Along with the satisfaction of helping to preserve our past for present and future generations, your membership gives you • a subscription to *The Griffin*, the HTNS quarterly newsletter • monthly public lectures, September - June on many aspects of built and cultural heritage

- access to resources at our office, in the Old Church of England Institute Building, Barrington Street, Halifax,
- opportunities to volunteer your interest and skills in the service of our mandate.

*For more information, contact the Trust office at 902-423-4807*

**Polar:** *continued from page 5*

In 1867, having been persuaded to go to New York to oversee the Zoo in Central park, Downs sold off his collections and his property on Dutch Village Road. But he did not stay in New York, and a few months later returned to Halifax and started up again on a smaller scale. This second attempt did not last for long, and in 1872 he gave up and moved

into town. Examples of his taxi-dermy can still be seen at the Nova Scotia Museum, at Dalhousie and at Acadia University.

Remnants of the Zoological Gardens property still exist, but Downs's house was drastically altered by a later owner and is now beyond repair. Heather reported that the whole property is scheduled for imminent redevelopment. JD ☒



## Programs sponsored by other societies

### ***Amherst Township Historical Society***

c/o Cumberland County Museum,  
150 Church Street, Amherst. Contact:  
Barb Thompson, 902-667-2561. Meets  
six times year, last Tuesday of the  
month at 7.30pm

### ***Bedford Heritage Society***

9 Spring Street, Bedford. Dates, times  
of meetings, programs, etc., contact  
Tony Edwards, 835-3615.

### ***Colchester Historical Museum***

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

### ***Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society and Farm Museum***

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth.  
Contact: Elizabeth Corser, 434-0222  
*Sun., December 11, 2 pm*  
Christmas Carol Service in the Cole  
Harbour Meeting House (circa 1830)  
traditional decorations and hymns,  
1436 Cole Harbour Road at the top of  
Long Hill  
*Tues., February 14, 7 pm*  
Valentine's Day Dinner in the  
Tearoom at the Cole Harbour  
Heritage Farm Museum, 471 Poplar  
Drive, Dartmouth; full course meal  
with music and candlelight; reserva-  
tions only: \$25.00/person, all inclu-  
sive. Phone 434-0222 or 462-0154 for  
reservations.

### ***Cumberland County Museum***

150 Church Street, Amherst, NS.  
Hours, events - contact Barb  
Thompson, Amherst Township  
Historical Society, 902-667-2561

### ***Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society***

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street,  
Dartmouth (former home of Dr. Helen  
Creighton). For hours, events, etc.,  
contact: 464-2300.

### ***Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage***

1113 Marginal Road, Halifax NS B3H  
4P7. For information, contact  
423-4677/ 1-800-355-6873 or visit  
<http://www.fnsh.ns.ca>. *Heritage Contacts  
& Connections* is an electronic informa-  
tion hub that promotes links within  
the heritage community and promotes  
awareness of heritage resources. To  
find expert advice, relevant non-profit  
resources, useful web sites, education-  
al opportunities and funding, infor-  
mation visit [www.fnsh.ns.ca/hcc](http://www.fnsh.ns.ca/hcc). To  
share your helpful *Contacts &  
Connections*, email us at  
[fnsh@hfx.andara.com](mailto:fnsh@hfx.andara.com).

### ***Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia***

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

### ***The Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative***

Check the online register of Nova  
Scotia's historic buildings and places.  
It is growing everyday:  
[www.NShistoricplaces.ca](http://www.NShistoricplaces.ca)

### ***Kings County Historical Society/Old Kings Courthouse Museum***

37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville, NS.  
Monday-Sat., 9 am- 4 pm. Contact:  
902-678-6237 or 902-678-6237.

### ***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, third Tuesday of  
the month, 7 pm. Contact: Jane  
Houser, 902-634-3489.

### ***Mainland South Heritage Society***

Regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM  
at the Captain William Spry  
Community Centre on the last  
Thursday of the month from  
September to June, excluding  
December. All welcome. Contact Iris  
Shea, [ishea@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ishea@ns.sympatico.ca) or  
tel. 479-3505.

*Sat., February 25, 1:30-4:00 p,*  
Annual Heritage Tea and Display: this  
year's theme is War Veterans, a collec-  
tion of photographs and information  
collected during the Year of the  
Veteran. A draw will be held for a  
hand-made Heritage Bag containing  
five books by local historians and a  
commemorative \$20 coin of the  
Sambro Light - **tickets on sale now.**  
Captain William Spry Community  
Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield.

### ***Mersey Heritage Society***

Contact the Society at [merseyher-  
soc@netscape.net](mailto:merseyher-<br/>soc@netscape.net) or call Craig  
Chandler at (902) 420-0040, email:  
[cchandler@seacorcanada.com](mailto:cchandler@seacorcanada.com). For  
schedule updates, visit [http://myweb-  
page.netscape.com/merseyhersoc/notice.ht  
ml](http://myweb-<br/>page.netscape.com/merseyhersoc/notice.ht<br/>ml)

### ***Northwest Arm Heritage Association***

Contact: Guy MacLean, 429-9412

### ***Nova Scotia Archaeology Society***

Meets at Auditorium of NS Museum  
of Natural History, Summer Street,  
Halifax, 4th Tuesday of the month,  
September-May. Contact: Jeff Turner,  
835-5472; [jeff\\_turner@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jeff_turner@ns.sympatico.ca).  
There is no admission charge and the  
talks are open to the public. For more  
information, contact Craig Chandler  
at [cchandler@seacorcanada.com](mailto:cchandler@seacorcanada.com) or  
420-0040.  
*Winter 2006, "Underground Halifax" -  
Illustrated Talk Series, continued:  
Tues., January 24, 7:30 pm*

"Location, Location, Location! Archaeological Mitigation on the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Property". *Speaker:* W. Bruce Stewart, Cultural Resource Management Group.

*Tues., February 28, 7:30 pm*

"Steamship China from Halifax Harbour". *Speaker:* Greg Cochkanoff, Atlantic Catch Data Limited

*Tues., March 28, 7:30 pm*

"A Walk in the Park: Point Pleasant after Hurricane Juan". *Speakers:* Lynne Schwarz and Fred Schwarz, Black Spruce Heritage Services

*Tues., April 25, 7:30 pm*

"Thirty Years of Archaeology in Halifax Regional Municipality". *Speakers:* Stephen A. Davis, Saint Mary's University, and April D. MacIntyre, Memorial University

### ***Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society***

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street, Halifax. Contact: 424-7490

*Wed., February 22, 7:00 pm*

*Meeting:* Reports on NSLPS Activities  
*Program:* "Île Haute". *Speaker:* Dan Conlin, Curator of Marine History, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Illustrated talk about the history of this Island in the northern Bay of Fundy, its fog and its lighthouses. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

*Sat., March 18, 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon*  
*March Break Children's Workshop:* Build a Model Lighthouse. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. For children aged 6-12 years; younger children should bring a helper. Fee: \$4.00. Call 423-8034 to register.

*Wed., March 22, 7:00 pm*

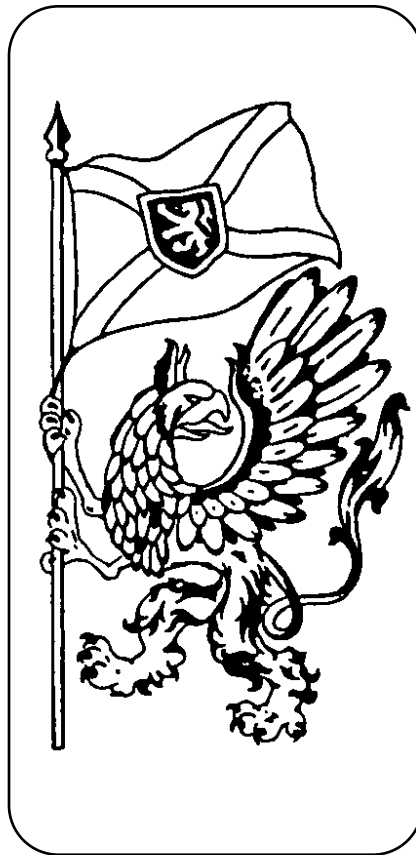
*Meeting:* Reports of NSLPS activities  
*Program:* "Pictou Bar Lighthouse". *Speaker:* Fergie MacKay. Illustrated talk on the history of this lighthouse which the tragic fire in July 2004 destroyed which became headline news. The loss of this wooden octagonal tower with the red vertical day-mark was felt keenly by all who hold lighthouses dear. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

*Wed., April 26, 7:00 pm*

Annual General Meeting with Reports and Presentation of the Craig Harding Award.

*Program:* "Update on Cape Forchu",

8:15 pm. *Speaker:* Nancy Knowles, President of the Friends of the Yarmouth Light. Cape Forchu is undoubtedly the second-best known lighthouse in Nova Scotia, standing as it does on a rocky island in the approaches to Yarmouth Harbour. In 2002, the Canadian Coast Guard transferred ownership of the lighthouse to the Municipality of Yarmouth with the community group, the Friends of the Yarmouth Light as its manager. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.



### ***Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society***

Contact: Janet Guildford, 454-5200;

Website: [nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs](http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs)

*Wed., December 14, 7:30 pm*

"The Rev. Dr. Andrew Brown: Nova Scotia's elusive historian". *Speaker:* Sara Beanlands. Meetings in the new year will continue to be held third Wednesday of the month, programs TBA.

### ***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](mailto:jamac@ns.sympatico.ca) or Donna Foley, Vice President, (902) 477-1772

*Sat. March 6, 2006, 2-4pm*

Seedy Saturday at Emmanuel Anglican Church Hall, 322 Herring Cove Road, Spryfield. Contact: Jean White, 477-2933

### ***Wallace and Area Museum***

Contact: 902-257-2191; e-mail:

*Thurs., December 8*

Opening of the Christmas Display of Sewing Samplers and Cylinder Gramophone Music. The samplers dating from the 1850s are mostly from the Museum's collection supported by some on loan from friends of the Museum. The Music is from a 1920 Thomas Edison Amberola. Fifty cylinders of a wide variety of Music.

*Sun., January 1, 2 pm*

Annual Wallace New Year's

*Sat., February 11, 2 pm*

*Winter Exhibit:* "Wallace Wood. 1800 To 2000". Opening reception for exhibit of two hundred years of wood shipment.

### ***Women of Wolfville***

Contact Wendy Elliott, 902-542-7203

*Thurs.-Sat., March 2-4*

The history of Wolfville seen by women: a theatrical presentation. Festival Theatre.

### ***Yarmouth County Museum/Historical Research Library***

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS. First Friday of the month at 7.30pm: Historical Society Meeting; First Friday of each month at 7.30pm (no admission); second Tuesday of each month, 7pm, Armchair Travel Series (admission \$3/person) - programs *tba*; second Saturday of the month, 10 am to noon: Spinners Group - call for locations. Information: contact Eric Ruff at 742-5539, fax 749-1120, (email: [ycmuseum@eastlink.ca](mailto:ycmuseum@eastlink.ca)); website: <http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca>

*Other exhibits are constantly being changed.* ☒