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The Griffin

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Nova Scotia's Provincial Normal College: Truro's architectural jewel *by Jan Zann*

Provincial Normal College



A momentous event took place on November 14, 1855, when the Provincial Normal School (later College) opened its doors and ensured the future of education for Nova Scotia's children. On November 15, 2005, Truro celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its opening and to commemorate the day, a bronze plaque was unveiled by Mayor Bill Mills. The large crowd in attendance then viewed an exhibition depicting the early history of schooling set up in the Colchester Historical Museum – the former Beaux-Arts style Science building of the Normal School.

In 1854 the Nova Scotia Legislature passed a Bill to establish a Normal School. It was J. William Dawson, educated at Pictou Academy and Edinburgh, who was instrumental in achieving this goal. In 1850, he was

appointed the first Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia. It was he who educated the populace as to the need for a province-wide system of teacher training, to be modelled after the Normal Schools of New England. The title 'normal' suggested that a 'norm' or 'standard' be set for anyone wanting to become a public school teacher.

After much discussion, a rural setting for such an institution was decided upon rather than a city environment that, it was argued, might expose teacher trainees to undesirable elements which could affect their moral standards. Truro was therefore chosen, helped along by local politicians Provincial Secretary Samuel Creelman and Adams G. Archibald.

After helping to oversee construction of the Normal School built in 1855 (later to become the first Colchester East Hants Regional Library), Dawson left Truro to become Principal of McGill University in

Montreal. He recommended the Reverend Dr. Alexander Forrester, born and educated in Scotland, as the next Superintendent of Education and first Principal of the Normal School. When the school opened, 64 students were in attendance.

By 1857, a building known as the Model School was erected. This was used as a demonstration school for student teachers to model the various skills they would require in the classroom. This building was later divided into two sections, each of which was moved to become homes in the Arthur Street residential area.

In 1874, the School Commissioners decided that it was time to replace the Normal School building with a larger one. Designed by Henry Busch of Halifax, the

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January Lecture: The Historic Places Initiative

The Heritage Trust's January lecture was given by Meghan Hallett, whose article on the Historic Places Initiative appeared in the last issue of *The Griffin*, backed by Bruce Nunn, aka Mr. Nova Scotia Know-it-all.

The evening began with a video prepared on behalf of the federal Historic Places Initiative, showing some of Canada's historic places which had been registered under the HPI. It encouraged the preservation of properties as "legacy choices" by support from all levels of government for their rehabilitation for commercial use.

Meghan then spoke of the Nova Scotia HPI, which comes under the wing of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. She showed pictures of a variety of properties in Nova Scotia that

had been registered provincially and included in the national register, as well as some examples from other parts of Canada. Registration made them eligible for assistance in redevelopment, in partnership with municipal planners and other bodies.

The HPI provides standards and guidelines for redevelopment, funding to assist in this process, and registration of eligible properties. Registration can take place at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Questions followed, and some interesting points were raised, particularly regarding the requirement that the registered places be put to commercial use. *JD*

For more information, see Meghan's article in the last Griffin, and the NSHPI website:

www.NShistoricplaces.ca.

Rockingham Heritage Society Heritage Day Annual Dinner and Talk

On the bitterly cold Saturday evening of February 18, about 250 people gathered at St. Peter's Anglican Church at Dakin Drive and Kearney Lake Road for the annual Heritage Dinner and Talk, an event celebrating Rockingham's heritage, now in its seventeenth year.

Mr. John Wilkie, President of the organization, welcomed guests and, after dinner, introduced Dr. Wayne Ingalls, Professor Emeritus of Mount St. Vincent University, and long-time resident of the Prince's Lodge area, to speak about the Sisters of Charity, founded in Halifax in 1849.

Dr. Ingalls's presentation was replete with historical photos,

many of which showed the special charm of the Rockingham setting (enhanced with gardens created by bringing in mammoth amounts of topsoil). As well, he showed some really magical photos of people in this setting. He told the story of the foundation of the Sisters in response to a dire need for teachers in Halifax and their eventual home in Rockingham. This home, overlooking the shores of the Bedford Basin, has become the head office of a world-wide organization, which, at one time, was a major employer in the region.

Dr. Ingalls's story moved right up to the present when, in 2004, the Sisters' Motherhouse and

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Submissions are welcomed.
Deadline for the next issue:

May 1, 2006

Please send your
submissions to

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College: *continued from page 1*

new Provincial Normal College, with its mansard roof, symmetry, corbelled eave details, and dormers, became an elegant Second Empire landmark in the town's historic downtown. The attractive patterns and motifs in the masonry are a Busch trademark. The building was completed in 1878 and used for teacher training until 1961, when the modern Nova Scotia Teachers College was erected on Arthur Street. It then served as the YMCA building for several years and as the temporary Civic building while the Thomas Fuller-designed 1884 Post Office was being revamped to become the new Civic building following the demolition of the original Civic building in 2003.

Currently, the Normal College is vacant and in need of repair, particularly to the external masonry. Mayor Mills is committed to restoring and finding an appropriate use for it. The Alumni of the Teachers College would like to see their archival materials housed in one part of it. As of yet, the building's new function has not been decided. Town Council has committed funding towards its restoration and has hired McFawn and Rogers for the preliminary engineering study. However, much more funding will be required to do the complete work.

Normal College Graduates

Many famous graduates of the Normal College went on to greater achievements, including the great educator and writer Loran Arthur de Wolfe (1892-1959) and the Right Reverend Moses Coady (1882-1959). Coady was also a graduate of Saint Francis Xavier University in 1905 and Academi de D. Thomas in Rome in 1907. He taught at Margaree Forks School from 1901-1903 and then became Professor of Education at SFX. He was

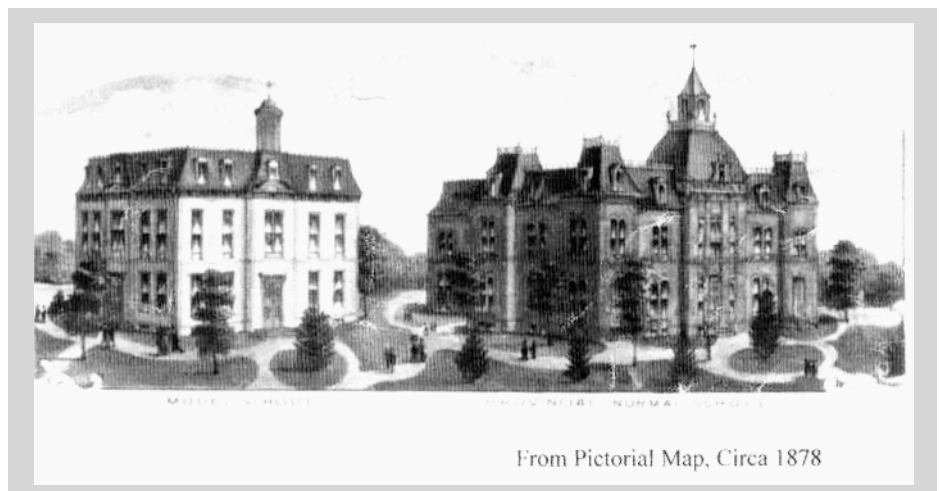
recognised as America's authority on Adult Education, and was the inspiration for the formation of the Coady International Institute which opened in Antigonish in 1959.

Another notable student was Madeline (Frances) Symonds who, in 1928, was the first person from the Black community to graduate. Another was Professor Ralph Hartley Wetmore, who graduated from Acadia University in 1921 and went on to become Chair of the Biology Department at Harvard University from 1946-47, and an editor and contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica in 1967.

Professor H.W. Smith, a

women were not permitted to study medicine in Canada, she attended Women's Medical College in New York and graduated as a doctor in 1881. Famous Canadian writer Margaret Atwood's mother attended the Normal College, and Margaret herself toured the building in 2003. She publicly expressed her dismay that the elegant staircase, down which her spirited mother had slid, was no longer there!

Many important events have occurred within this grand old building. One, of great value to Nova Scotia's teachers, was the meeting in 1896 at which the Nova Scotia Teachers Union was organized. At that time, it was to



lecturer in Natural Science at the Normal School in 1888, was responsible for an experimental farm in Bible Hill which led to the establishment of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1905. Professor Joyce Hemlow, after attending the Normal School, earned a BA and MA from Queens University in 1942 and a PhD from Radcliffe in 1948. She became Chair of the English Department of McGill University and was the first Nova Scotian woman to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Mary Louise Angevin (1848-1898) attended the Normal College in 1873, then taught for five years in Dartmouth. Since

be largely "devoted to protecting teachers from being defrauded by their employers."

Over the years, thousands of teachers were educated and trained at the Nova Scotia Normal College and the Nova Scotia Teachers College. The latter was closed in 1997, to the dismay of many school administrators.

The original building is revered by its former students and faculty. Its importance for education in this province cannot be underestimated, as Truro was the centre of teacher education for 143 years. When eventually restored to its former glory, the building will again be the spectacular

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Towers threaten Citadel views and Historic District

Central Harbour View
from Citadel Hill:



As we go to press, the HRM Council is, for the first time, to vote as a whole with respect to a proposed downtown development, the United Gulf proposed development for Granville, Sackville & Hollis Streets, Halifax, on the former TexPark site.

This proposal for two 27-storey towers would be higher than the Citadel and would block a large-portion of the view towards the central harbour and George's Island. It would make a mockery of the Barrington Street Historic District, which has been more than twenty years in the making and has finally been placed before Council.

The relationship of new development to historic buildings and harbour views is not subjective; it is governed by the Municipal Planning Strategy (the 'MPS') and by legal precedents. The policies in our Municipal Planning Strategy require that the municipality not act in a manner inconsistent with the Strategy, yet this proposal seems to entirely disregard portions of it. The MPS

requires Council to make every effort to preserve or restore views from Citadel Hill that impart to Halifax a sense of its history. They further require that new buildings should reinforce the proportions of adjacent heritage buildings. In this instance, there are registered heritage buildings directly across the street on Granville Street that are not respected by these towers.

The Barrington Street Historic District incorporates 26 registered heritage buildings which are about one-eighth the height of the proposed towers. The two towers would overpower the low-scale, heritage ambience of the district.

The proposed towers would cast long, dark shadows on the popular pedestrian Sackville Landing and other locations on the waterfront, also contrary to the Policies. The towers, unless modified, would create unacceptable wind effects as they rise 285 feet straight up from the sidewalk of Sackville Street, actually lurching over the street-line.

In the Heritage Trust brief to

HRM Councillors, to be presented by Alan Parish upon resumption of the hearing, he states, "Your decision will be about vision. It will proclaim council's vision for the future of downtown Halifax. If the proposal is approved, council will be voting in favour of a fractured, inconsistent downtown much like that of many other cities in North America. These large 27-storey buildings will be cheek-by-jowl with older, historic, human-scale buildings. On the other hand, if council refuses this proposal it will demonstrate to the populace that this council has a vision to make Halifax an even more special city on the eastern coast of our continent."

The public hearing began on the evening of February 28 and continued March 7. Comment on the proposed development in the form of letters or e-mail will be accepted by the clerk's office until a decision is rendered, likely on March 21. E-mail clerks@halifax.ca or write to Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1841 Argyle Street, PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5. ☒

February Lecture: All Saints Cathedral in Halifax

The speaker for our February lecture was Bill Naftel, whose topic was "An American in Halifax; the Design and Construction of All Saints Cathedral".

Bill started with an account of the development of the diocese of Nova Scotia, which was originally based at St. Paul's Church as part of the Anglican establishment in the eighteenth century, and reinforced by the arrival of the Loyalists. The early bishops were administrators, and no need was felt for a cathedral building. It was not until the later 19th century, under the episcopate of Bishop Binney, that the Anglican church became disestablished so that it was no longer the "official" church of the province. The diocese also became more independ-

ent, governed by its own synod. Binney, under the influence of the Oxford Movement, felt that Anglican worship should be centred on a cathedral.

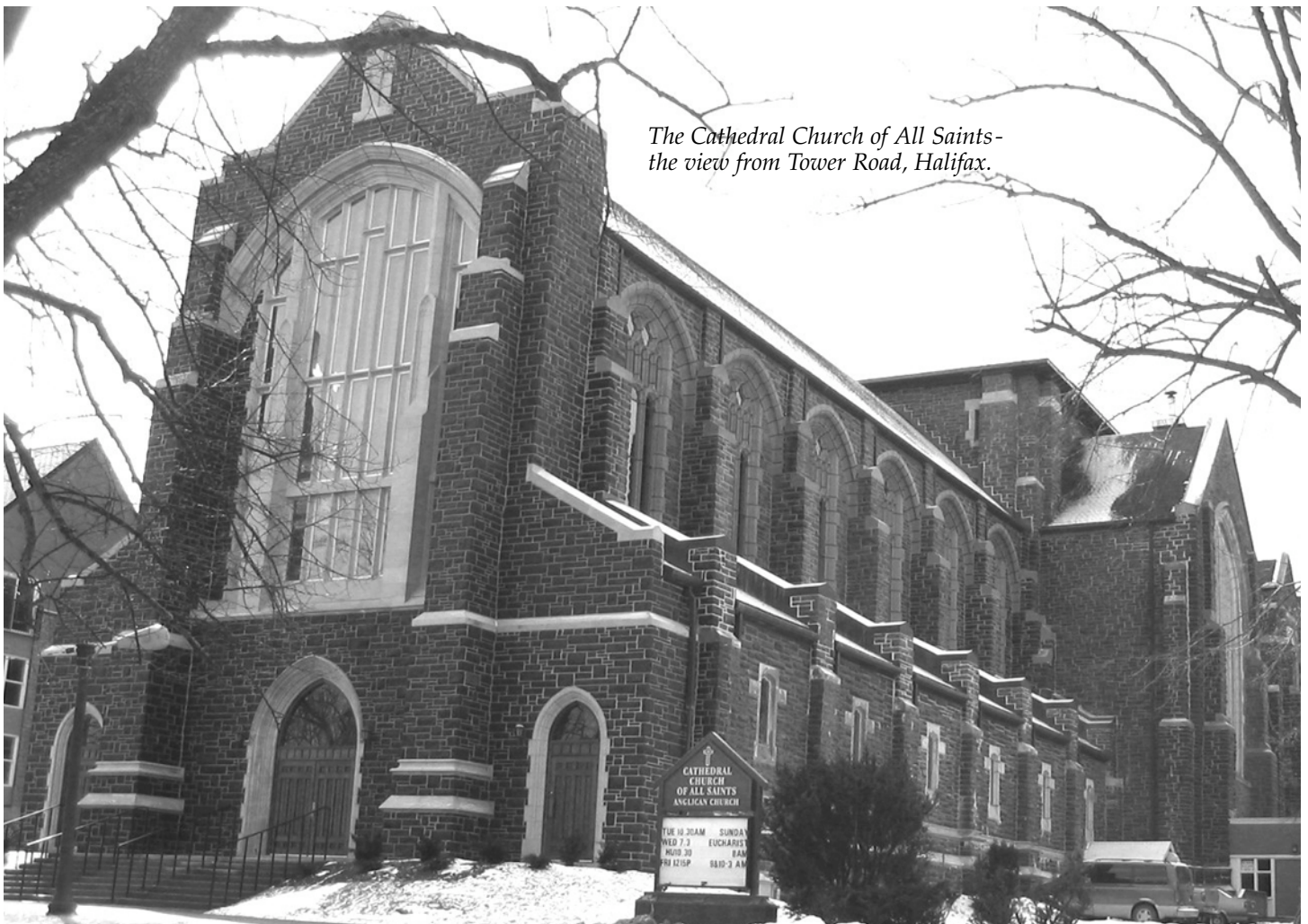
Temporarily based at St. Luke's Church at Morris and Church Streets, the bishop first selected a site for his proposed cathedral at the corner of Robie Street and Spring Garden Road, where St. Stephen's, known as the "Bishop's chapel," was constructed. Plans for the cathedral were drawn up by an English architect and the cornerstone was laid in 1887, but with Binney's death enthusiasm for the scheme dwindled.

In 1905, St. Luke's burned down, leaving the diocese without a base. Bishop Worrell took up the

cause of the new cathedral, but in a new location. The proposed site was on Tower Road, where a skating rink and exhibition building stood. The idea was to incorporate the cathedral, Dalhousie University, the Victoria General Hospital and other public buildings into a planned urban vista.

At this point William C. Harris, designer of a number of gothic-style churches in the Maritimes, came forward with a plan for the new building. But he found himself in competition with the American firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, represented by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. Goodhue came to Halifax and enthusiastically drew up sketches for a cathedral,

Continued on page 6



The Cathedral Church of All Saints - the view from Tower Road, Halifax.

Cathedral: *continued from page 5*

cloister and associated buildings. Goodhue claimed the cathedral itself could be built at the budgeted price, while Harris's plans would be more expensive. Goodhue won the contract, and Harris, despite the rejection of his plans, was appointed resident architect to oversee the actual construction.

Goodhue, although he was an agnostic, was excited at the prospect of building his first cathedral. He had apprenticed in New York and then joined Cram's firm, which he left in 1913 to work on his own. He designed a number of churches, including the chapels at West Point Military Academy and Princeton University. Bill showed other examples of Goodhue's work, including the West Point chapel which resembles our cathedral in design. His style evolved over the years, however, and before his death in 1924 it had moved into art deco.

The last section of the lecture dealt with the construction of the cathedral building. Because of the difficulty of fundraising, it was determined at an early stage that only part of the original plan could be carried out. The bishop was not pleased, but had to settle for the modified plan with a shorter nave and no tower. Working drawings were available by 1907, and the contract was put out to tender. It was awarded to the Brookfield Company, who quoted an over-budget price of \$155,000. To shave this down, it was proposed to substitute reinforced concrete for stone in some places, and cast concrete for carved stone decorations. Other suggestions for cost-cutting were put forward, and the contract was eventually signed for \$125,000. Work began in 1907, and the following year the foundation was

completed and the foundation stone from Spring Garden Road was relaid.

Goodhue was not happy with his relations with Worrell and Harris and their attempts to save money. He visited Halifax once more in 1909 to see what progress had been made on his cathedral. Originally, funds had only been available for a building with a three-bay nave, but Brookfield had managed to obtain sufficient credit to construct three extra bays, only one short of the original plan. Goodhue modified some of the interior details in the interest of economy, then departed, leaving Harris in charge, and Worrell with the huge task of raising funds. By 1909 only \$16,000 had been raised from the public, and by 1913 funding still stood at only \$75,000. Great support was given by the Diocesan Women's Cathedral League, who provided the organ and many other interior features.

Largely due to cost-cutting as a result of lack of funds, not only was the cathedral built without its planned tower and west front, but also structural details were modified. Copper flashing was omitted to save money, the composition of the mortar was changed and unfortunately bonded poorly with the stone, and other flaws became evident as time went on. Nevertheless, the construction work was sufficiently finished in 1910 for the opening ceremonies to take place.

The building was further weakened by the Halifax Explosion of 1917. Bill traced the structural problems, particularly leakage, that dogged the building throughout the 20th century. An attempt to deal with these problems in 1929 fell victim to the Great Depression. The problems culminated in the damage caused by Hurricane Juan in 2003. But on a more positive note, funding

from various sources enabled the completion of the west front, and the problem of water seepage may have been solved.

Despite the problems encountered both in his dealings with the bishop and in the need to modify his plans to save money, Goodhue's ambition to design a good cathedral building at a moderate price was carried through Worrell, who was responsible for fundraising, remained committed to the design, and did his best with the resources available, with help provided by the Diocesan Women. The cathedral is serving its intended purpose. *JD* ☒

Notice

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia's 2006 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the Museum of Natural History, Summer Street, Halifax.

The meeting will be followed at 8:00 p.m. by a presentation by W. Bruce Stewart of the Culture Resource Management Group on an archeological history of Halifax as discovered at the Halifax Wastewater Treatment property.



December Lecture

Restoration or Rehabilitation: the Befores and Afters

Restoration, renovation, or rehabilitation? Those were the questions with which Hal Forbes launched his interesting lecture about the houses he has worked on over the years in Halifax's Creighton Street neighbourhood. He continued with an account of his background in textiles and costume design and his experience in the theatre, which, he said, enabled him to apply the same disciplines to his approach to giving new life to unpromising old houses. Starting with hands-on experience in carpentry and roofing, he brought all these skills to bear on the houses that he has worked on over the years.

Hal's first house was acquired in a desperate need for somewhere to live, after having convinced his bank manager that he had in view what was in fact a non-existent house – which he then had hastily to find! This was the first of many that he was to purchase and enhance in what had been a rather run-down area north of Cogswell Street.

Hal's philosophical approach to working on houses is both visionary and practical. Restora-



Before (rear view)

tion, if carried to its literal extremes, would involve subjecting the inhabitants to the same inconveniences that the Victorian householders endured and that they would have changed as soon as they were able. It is "too pure". Renovation without sensitivity to the building goes too far the other way. What he wanted to achieve was a balance between people's needs and period correctness. So he preferred the term "rehabilitation" though he felt this was still open to discussion. The important thing was to retain the spirit of



After (rear view)

the structure rather than trying to recreate what was no longer a practical way of life.

Hal suggested that the greatest hindrance to effective rehabilitation was the lack of a pool of information from which people could draw. He spoke of the difficulty people experience in finding skilled craftsmen, suitable materials, and plans to guide their choices. He was anxious that people should be able to share their experiences so that knowledge should not be lost and research not be

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After



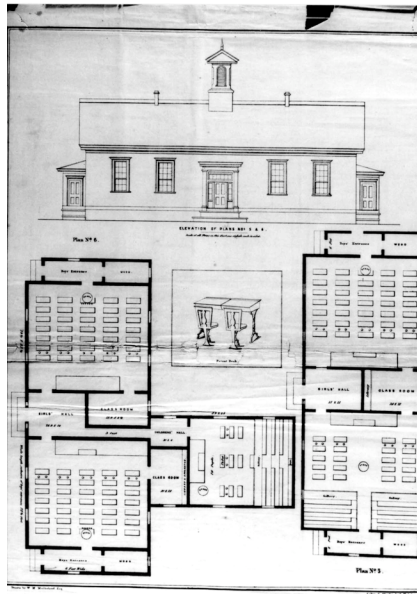
Before

Nova Scotia's rural schools and the impact of their architecture

For those of you interested in the detailed history of school design in Canada before 1930, we suggest you read *Historic Schools in Canada*. What becomes clear upon reading it is the profound effect two Nova Scotian architects had on the rural communities of Nova Scotia, the first, W.R. Mulholland, and the second, H.E. Gates.

W.R. Mulholland

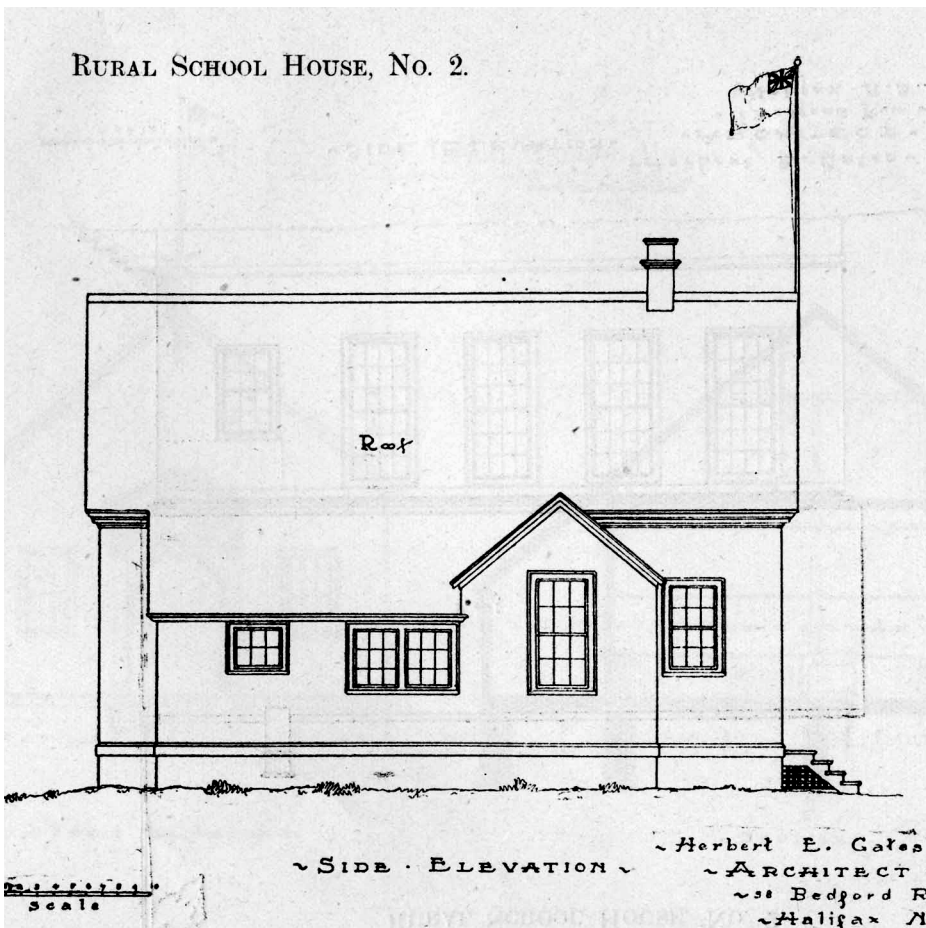
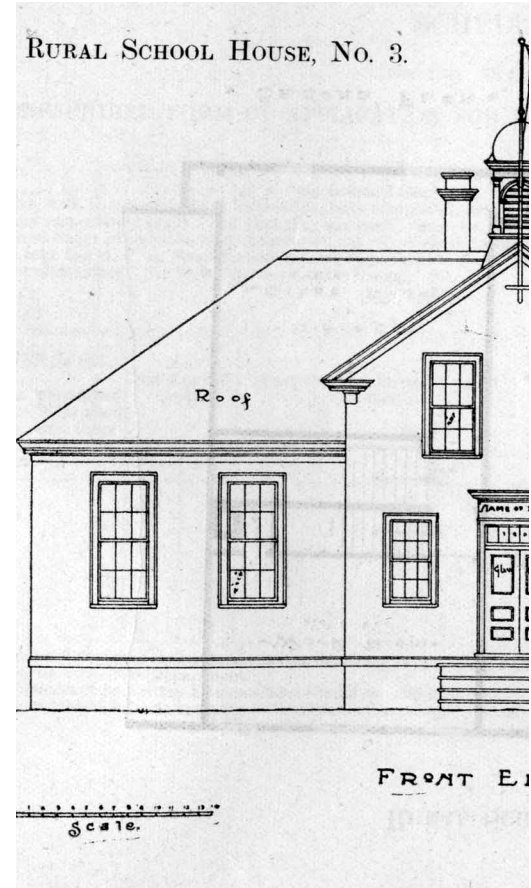
With the introduction of public education in Nova Scotia in 1864, education authorities hired W.R. Mulholland to design a series of one-room, two-room and four-room schools that the local school boards could construct in their districts. These designs appear to borrow from Henry Barnard's *School Architecture* (1842), one of the most influential and popular books on the topic in



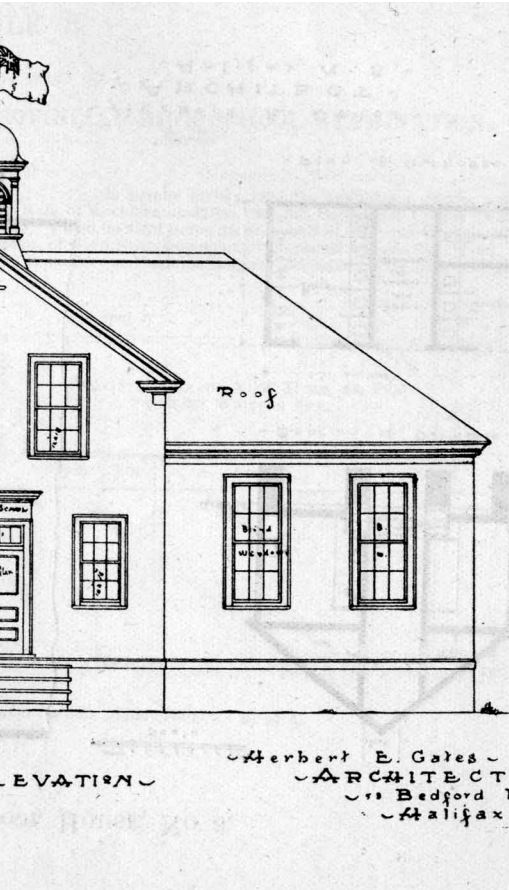
Plan: Rural School No.3.

British North America.

Irish-born William Ringland Mulholland (ca 1826-1892) was both a mathematics teacher and an architect who taught at the

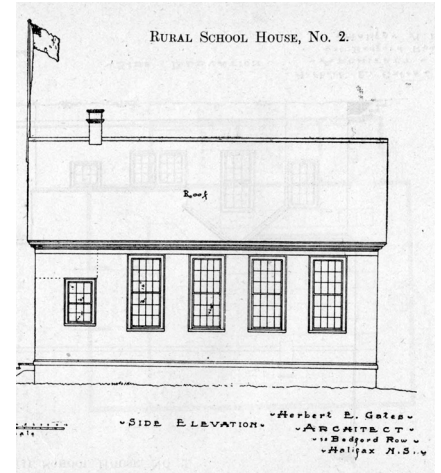


Pictou Academy and the Normal College in Truro. Perhaps because of his unique talents, the Superintendent of Education, with the approval of the Council of Public Education, hired him to produce plans, elevations and interior finishes for wooden one-room, two-room and four-room schools. In 1874 alone, 66 schools were completed and another 46 were under construction in the province of Nova Scotia. Mulholland became the Principal of the Normal College in 1879 but continued to dabble in architecture, designing two Truro churches we know of, and other buildings not yet identified. Mr Mulholland retired from the Normal College and left Truro to live with his son Luther in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1882. Ten years later, his son returned his father's body to Truro to be



tions and elevations for one-room and two-room schools for rural school districts. The two-room schools were also designed to have a library and work room on the second floor. Examples of the earlier schools include MacDonald Garden School and Bible Hill, and of the latter, Liscomb and Barss Corner.

Dartmouth-born Herbert Elliot Gates (1874-1944) was trained by Edward Elliot, and between 1899-1903 dabbled in education as an instructor in architecture at the Victoria College of Art and Design. Perhaps his best-known educational building is the Nova Scotia Technical College Building, Spring Garden Road, Halifax (1908). Among other schools he designed were Chester, 1901; Bridgetown, 1902; Quinpool Road School, Halifax, 1902; Agricultural College, College Road, Bible Hill, 1903 and 1908; New Glasgow, 1910; and Saint Patrick's Boys'



School, Brunswick Street, Halifax, 1917.

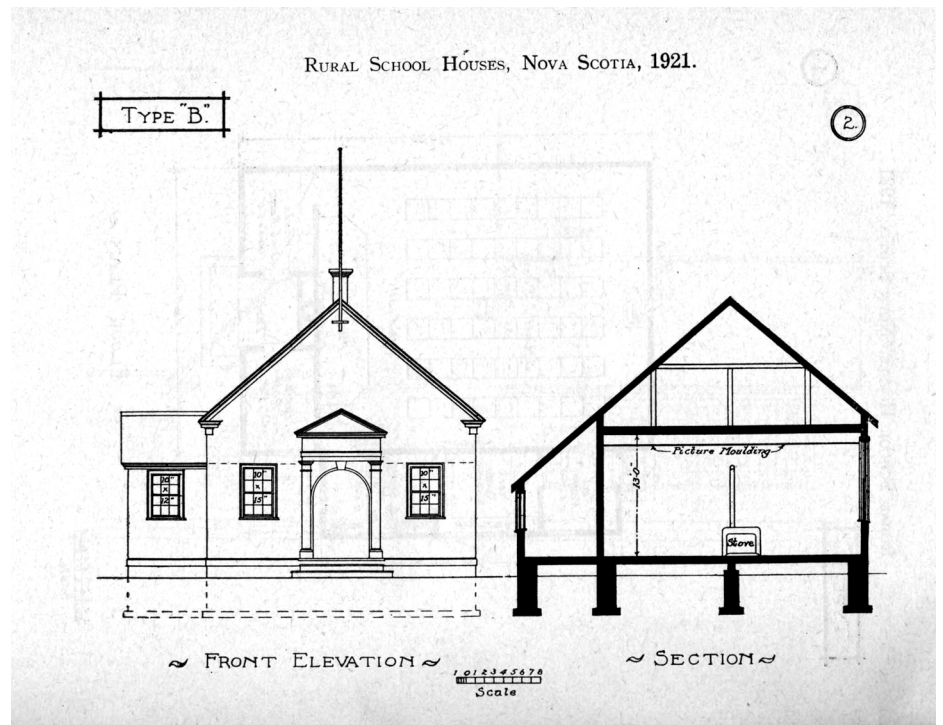
If you travel around Nova Scotia, you will see examples of these designs the length and breadth of the province. If you don't drive, we suggest you peruse the collection of books published by Nimbus in their series "Images of Our Past", available in local book stores and public libraries across the province. ☒

buried with his family.

The school house plans were completed in 1864 and were sent to school districts when they wanted to build a school. The plans, with modifications and alterations, were used up to the 1890s. Common schools were found in small communities such as Africville, Bear River, Fort Lawrence, CrossRoads, Rogers Hill; the larger schools, referred to as academies, were found in such diverse communities as Guysborough, Chester, Shelburne and Sherbrooke. The Mulholland-designed Sherbrooke Academy has been restored and looks much as it did when first used by the town's scholars and teachers.

H.E. Gates

In 1901, and again in 1921, the province turned to architect, H.E. Gates to furnish plans, specifica-



Heritage Canada Foundation Annual Conference 2006: “Heritage in an Electronic Age”

Ottawa, Ontario, October 12-14, 2006

The electronic age is having a profound affect on heritage conservation. Some of the key uses of the new technology in heritage include creating and managing inventories and registries of property and artifacts, rehabilitation and restoration project management, developing multi-dimensional models of heritage sites,

promoting conservation through web and internet communications, and developing new ways of working with broadcast media.

The 2006 annual conference will examine heritage conservation in an electronic environment, featuring presentations on current trends, demonstrations of tools now being developed, and workshops on how to take advantage of technology to advance her-

itage conservation.

The sessions will be organized around four streams: advocacy change in an electronic age, urban planning and heritage protection in an electronic age, media, and heritage in an electronic age

For more information, contact: Heritage Canada Foundation, 5 Blackburn Avenue, Ottawa ON, K1N 8A2, e-mail: heritagecanada@heritagecanada.org ☒

Nominations for Heritage Canada Foundation Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the Heritage Canada Foundation 2006 Awards and Prizes program.

The Prince of Wales Prize

Under the generous patronage of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, this prize is awarded to a municipal government, large or small, rural or urban, which has shown an exemplary commitment to heritage conservation.

The Gabrielle Léger Award

Named after the wife of former Canadian Governor General, Jules Léger, this award recognizes individuals who have contributed nationally to heritage conservation.

Lieutenant Governor's Award

This award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual or group in the province in which the Heritage Canada Foundation's Annual Conference is held. This upcoming year, the conference will be held in Ottawa, Ontario.

Journalism Award

Awarded to a journalist whose coverage of heritage issues is judged to be outstanding.

Corporate Prize

Recognizes a business, large or small, which has demonstrated

outstanding stewardship of its built heritage.

Achievement Award

Given jointly by Heritage Canada and a partner organization, this award honours individuals for excellence in their province or territory.

Restoration: *Continued from page 7*

duplicated. Some kind of resource centre would be helpful, perhaps with government assistance in documentation. Developers should have access to and make use of information, and spend time on design and research in order to achieve a sympathetic result that is pleasing to the public.

With these ideas in mind, Hal showed as examples “before and after” pictures of the many buildings he had worked on, from small single-family dwellings to apartments, incorporating modern conveniences and often skilfully increasing their capacity without destroying their integrity. He replaced obtrusive alterations such as picture windows and inappropriate doorways with items more in keeping with the period, achieving a balance of windows and doors and creating

*All nominations must be received on or before **March 31, 2006**. For information on nomination procedures, contact the Heritage Canada Foundation at: 5 Blackburn Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8A2. Tel. 613-237-1066 Fax 613-237-5987 E-mail heritagecanada@heritagecanada.org ☒*

pleasing exterior and interior aspects. His use of colour and texture to make a plain, neglected building into a small gem was demonstrated in the slides. What came across very clearly was Hal Forbes's capacity to visualise and develop the possibilities of a building without altering its basic lines.

Discussion followed the slide show as members of the audience asked questions and shared experiences. *JD* ☒

College: *continued from page 3*

architectural gem in the Town of Truro's Civic block. Its image was featured on the Canada Post \$2 stamp in 1994, and it was provincially designated in 1999. The Town is presently applying for federal heritage designation of this beautiful and historic building. It would, indeed, be a most worthy recipient of such honour. ☒

Heritage for Sale: Circa 1752, it's one of Liverpool's oldest homes

71 MAIN STREET, LIVERPOOL

Location, location, location! Built in 1752, this home is believed to be one of the oldest homes in Liverpool. Recent renovations to the main house include re-wiring with 200-amp service, insulation, gyprock, front deck replaced, new front door and casing. New kitchen with wonderful copper accents, new window in upstairs bath. There are stainless steel appliances, a cozy propane fire-place in the living room, 6-over-9 windows, and a small detached barn for storage. Attached area in the back of the house, with its own separate entrance and breaker panel. Shared driveway agreement in place. \$169,000.00 Canadian. ☒



Walt MacDonald Real Estate Ltd., 128 Main Street, P.O. Box 1769, Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0; 902-354-5775; email: waltmac@auracom.com
web: www.macdonaldrealestate.ns.ca

Message from the President



Alan Parish, president of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Once a year, usually in May, the board of the Trust holds its board meeting outside Halifax. Although many of the activities of the Trust are centred in Halifax, it is a province-wide organization. We currently have board members

March 2006

from Yarmouth, Port Medway, Kentville, Truro and Guysborough. Over the past four years we have held our May meeting in Chester, Pictou, Grand Pré and Baddeck. This year we will be in Yarmouth. We typically invite representatives from the local heritage and/or historical groups to join us for the last part of the meeting and then for lunch.

Any local members of the Trust who wish to attend are also welcome. If you are from that part of the province and wish to attend, please let our secretary, Janet Morris, know. Janet can be contacted by phone through the Trust's office at 902 423-4807 or by email at heritagesuites@aol.com.

On another front, as you read this issue of *The Griffin*, you will note we continue to be involved in supporting built heritage both in HRM and around the province. We have reports from Molly Titus,

chair of the communities committee and Jan Zann, who continues to keep us informed of the status of built heritage in Truro. Membership in the Trust is available to both individuals and organizations. We would like to encourage those groups around the province who are involved in the heritage of their communities to join the Trust and keep us informed of your organization and its activities and events. ☒

Community Grant Program

Halifax Regional Municipality has their Community Grant Program in place again. For more information and details, go to www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/CommunityGrantsProgram.html. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2006. ☒

Communities Committee Report: Hazel Hill, Guysborough County and Cape Breton *by Molly Titus*

Hazel Hill, Guysborough County

It's hard to restrain one's enthusiasm after visiting Hazel Hill in October under the guidance of Scott Conrod (see March 2005 issue of *The Griffin* for an article on Hazel Hill by Graeme Duffus).

A small group of committed people, members of the Commercial Cable Rehabilitation Society, like Scott and Heritage Trust board member Stephen Townsend, are working very hard to restore the main Cable Building and to keep alive the fascinating story of a signal step in the evolution of communications technology. The building still features the original mosaic tile floors and the tin ceilings, and you can see where the cable, once laid across the floor of the Atlantic and then the floor of a lake nearby, finally reached the room where the telegraphers decoded the messages.

But it's the human history that Scott retailed which I found most intriguing.

On a day like this, in the late nineteenth century, an employee of the Commercial Cable Company in Hazel Hill, Guysborough County, might have sent a cable, via London, England, to the employees of Western Union in next-door Canso, inviting them to a tennis tournament that afternoon.

The social life of the Commercial Cable Company was to be envied. Their employees were part of a fortunate number who actually received bonuses, and who could go to their own company hospital when medical aid was needed. Their houses had electricity, running water, and were centrally heated before many others of that era. There were houses for the married employees and singles quarters for those who weren't. They had their own association, their own clubhouse, boat-house and cottages available at

Fox Island and Little Dover, and they could become members of the "Eastern Anglers Club", also founded by the Commercial Cable Company. Life was good.

If you go to Hazel Hill today, the streetscape viewed from the old cable building is intact. The houses, once lived in by international employees of the company, are now lived in by local inhabitants. The singles quarters have recently been bought by people from Chicago.

The houses were originally built from kits manufactured in Ontario. This Ontario company had one shipment bound for the Azores, and one shipment bound for Hazel Hill. The story is that the two got mixed up and Hazel Hill received flat roofed buildings, more suitable for the snowless climate of the Azores. Rather than send them all back again, the engineers set to constructing suitable peaks to put over the flat roofs, and all was well.

I have a DVD Scott sent me entitled "SOS MESSAGE from the COMMERCIAL CABLE REHABILITATION SOCIETY" for "personal viewing only". One of the features of the DVD is a recording of Bill Windeler, Senior, who, as telegrapher at the time, received the first message to the mainland about the sinking of the Titanic. Fascinating stuff.

If you visit the area, you can travel along the Transatlantic Communications Heritage Trail between Sherbrooke Village and Canso, and at each landmark of historical significance, you can read interpretive panels, the sources of whose information are noted. There are two panels in each of Tor Bay, Fox Island, Little Dover and Hazel Hill.

Cape Breton

Iona Connection. After the visit to Hazel Hill on Friday, I continued to Orangedale, Cape Breton,

for the semi-annual meeting of the Iona Connection on Saturday. This group comprises all the heritage organizations in Cape Breton, and that's a huge number. In these wanderings of mine as Communities Committee chair, I am bowled over by the number of people involved in heritage around the province, and by their commitment and enthusiasm. This was true at the Iona Connection.

I began by taking notes, and then gave up when I simply couldn't keep up with all the reports and information which poured in every minute from each of the speakers.

MacAskill Museum. But I did note that the reports included one from the MacAskill Museum – aha, I thought...Giant MacAskill...but no, it's a museum celebrating the photographer MacAskill. Situated in St Peter's, it boasts the fact that two of the best summer employees ever were there this past summer, and, no, they will NOT give out the names of these two, because other museum organizers are not above "sheep stealing"! The MacAskill museum this year was lent the Minot MacAskill sailing cup to add to its inventory because, it turns out, MacAskill won this cup a total of nine times.

Sydney. From the group in Sydney we heard that the north end of the city is going to become a Heritage Conservation District. Glace Bay's museum is in the Old Town Hall. They had FIVE students working for them all summer. AND they have discovered seaweed insulation between floors of the old building.

Lake Ainslie. The group at Lake Ainslie raised \$45,000 with events such as a memorial hymn sing, with candlelight and a tolling bell

Continued on page 13

Hazel Hill: *continued from page 12*

adding to the atmosphere. They also sponsored a book launch of a book by Janice MacLean.

Highland Village. The Highland Village this year boasted a huge Clydesdale horse on site, and the Church there had a special concert during the Celtic Colours.

From Cheticamp we heard that museum visits went up by 16% this year over the year before, while Port Hastings benefited from the 50th anniversary of the completion of the causeway and also persuaded the Federal Government to issue a special stamp for the occasion.

These are just a sampling of the things that have been going on in Cape Breton.

I was given time also to talk about the Heritage Trust – its expertise in architecture, engineering, advocacy and research; its hope that buildings will continue to be registered; and that registered heritage buildings will continue to be entered into the HPI. I stressed the importance of attending the Voluntary Task Force hearings, and found that the afternoon programme was being devoted to preparing briefs to present to that very body. It's hard to get ahead of Cape Bretoners!

I gave out old copies of *The Griffin*, which were very well received, and membership application forms. I have had a request from one person who had mislaid hers for another membership form as she particularly wants to receive *The Griffin*. So that's a promising sign.

Molly Titus is chair of the Communities Committee and devotes much of her valuable time maintaining contact with many of heritage and historical groups around the province. To contact Molly, email molly.titus@ns.sympatico.ca ☒

Peter Saulnier uses his knowledge to re-create old Spryfield



Peter Saulnier at work on one of his fine models.

Peter Saulnier has a detailed knowledge of the houses of old Spryfield – he builds models of old houses, mostly houses in the area that have been demolished. By “rebuilding” these landmark replicas, he gives the people of Spryfield the opportunity to see the heritage they have lost. For example, how often have you wondered what used to stand where a Tim Horton’s Drive-Thru sits today? In Spryfield, the answer is the Pinegrove Hotel, and you can see what the Pinegrove Hotel looked like by checking out a model built by Peter.

To sustain and expand on his hobby, Mr. Saulnier created the “Adopt-a-House” program. For a \$50 (or more) donation, you can designate a building you would like to resurrect, and you can have your name placed on a model of the building. Peter Saulnier will build it, and the model will be kept on display at the Spryfield Library for the community to enjoy. The models are in the per-

petual care of the Mainland South Heritage Society. You can say you helped rebuild “Old Spryfield”.

Usually the models sit atop the shelves in the library at the Captain Spry Centre, but at Christmas time, they are set out in a Christmas Village, with lights, Christmas trees, wreaths, sleighs and reindeer added to create a showcase for the historic models. A visit to the Spryfield Library is a recommended stop for heritage enthusiasts. JM ☒

Rockingham: *continued from page 2*

75-acre Halifax property was sold to United Gulf Developments Limited for redevelopment. The project includes reuse of the landmark Motherhouse building. The savvy Sisters will no doubt see that the “Village Park” plan carries out the intended creative reuse of the existing building, as well as their goals of respect for the environment and for their neighbours. JM ☒

Couple wins Truro Heritage Award



Above, Charlotte MacQuarrie, Chairperson of the Heritage Advisory Committee (left), is presenting the Award on behalf of the Town of Truro to Judy and John Wheelock. Below, No.43 Queen Street, Truro.



The Truro Heritage Advisory Committee presented John and Judy Wheelock with the 2006 Heritage Award for their restoration of 43 Queen Street on February 23rd, Heritage Night at the Colchester Museum. The physical improvements, especially the reconstruction of the original verandah and the attractive paint colours, help to restore the home to its former glory. The house is one of the grandest examples of our town's Queen Anne style of Victorian period architecture.

Such a restoration preserves the domestic achievement of T. G. McMullen, the distinguished lumber king of Nova Scotia who built the home for his family of 10 children. The Town recognizes that the cost of restoration of historic homes is high and requires special knowledge and appreciation of their value. The Town acknowledges this restoration as a preservation of the town's heritage and as a fine example for others to follow. ☐

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Illustrated Public Lectures Spring 2006

Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

"The Classical Architecture of Greece and its Influence in Nova Scotia"

SPEAKER: Peter Delefos, past-president of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, Heritage Canada NS Governor

Thursday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

"Looking at our Nova Scotia House Heritage"

SPEAKER: Stephen Archibald and Sheila Stevenson, authors of *Heritage Houses of Nova Scotia* (Formac, 2003)

Thursday, June 15, 8:00 p.m.

(after the Annual General Meeting)

"Location, Location, Location!"

The history of Halifax as discovered in the Halifax Wastewater Treatment property – an archeological dig

SPEAKER: W. Bruce Stewart, Culture Resource Management Group

Requests for speakers and subjects welcome. Please call Nancy O'Brien at 902 422-1709. The public lectures, part of an ongoing 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, 1749 Summer Street, Halifax. Parking in the two museum parking lots ("Pay and Display").
Everyone welcome.

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. Meets six times year, last Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

Cole Harbour Heritage Society and Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth. Contact: Elizabeth Corser, 434-0222
Fri., April 12

Roast beef dinner and auction hosted by the Cole Harbour Heritage Society, Brightwood Golf Course, \$35/person. Heritage Farm fundraiser. Auction donations needed.

At the Heritage Farm:
Fri., April 21

An evening with Heather Dale sponsored by the Harbour Folk Society.

Admittance by donation
Sun., April 30, 1:30 pm

Storytelling in the Giles House
Adults, \$4; 8-12 yrs, \$2.

Sun., May 14, 1 pm-3:30 pm
Mothers' Day Tea - Adults \$7/
children \$5.

Mon., May 15

MUSEUM AND TEAROOM OPEN

Sat., May 20, beginning at 11 am

Sheep shearing

Sat., May 27, 10 am

Dartmouth Horticultural Society
annual plant sale

Sun., May 28, 1:30 pm

Storytelling in the Giles House,
Adults, \$4; 8-12 yrs, \$2.

Sat., June 3, beginning at 11 am

Sheep shearing

Sat., June 17, 4:30-6:30 pm

Rhubarb Rhapsody, Adults,
\$8/children, \$6.

Cumberland County Museum

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

Sat., June 10 (Museum Day)

March 2006

Celebration of 25th anniversary of museum opening in 1981. Descendants of former owners of Grove Cottage invited to return. View improvements to the heritage gardens and dedication of trees by donors and dignitaries; 2 pm: unveiling of sculpture of Robert Barry Dickey, Father of Confederation. Demonstrations, children's activities, heritage entertainment, afternoon garden tea party and exhibit of Museum's progress over 25 years of community service.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

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

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

1113 Marginal Road, Halifax NS B3H 4P7. Information: 423-4677/1-800-355-6873 or visit <http://www.fnsh.ns.ca>.

Heritage Contacts & Connections - electronic information hub promoting links within the heritage community and awareness of heritage resources. To find expert advice, relevant non-profit resources, useful web sites, educational opportunities and funding information, visit www.fnsh.ns.ca/hcc. To share your helpful Contacts & Connections, email us at fnsh@hfx.andara.com.

Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic

Lunenburg, NS

Fun at Fisheries, Wednesdays,
9:30am-4pm

Watch the fish have their morning "mug-up" of special feed every Wednesday; 10 am, film show from museum collection, Ice House Theatre. Special \$4 admission rate through April.

Friends of McNabs Island Society

Annual meeting and spring clean-up
tba. Contact: 434-2254

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

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

Tues., March 28, 7:30 pm

"Adoption disclosure", *speaker:* Paula Murin, NS Dept. of Community Services.

Sat., May 13, 1:00 pm

"The Gene in Genealogy: What is DNA and how is it used in genealogical research," *speaker:* Dr. John Archibald, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dalhousie University.

The Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative

Check the online register of Nova Scotia's historic buildings and places:
www.NShistoricplaces.ca

Local Council of Women

989 Young Avenue, Halifax.

Information: 423-5300.

Notice: George Wright's 1904 house available to rent 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

Captain William Spry Community Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield, Halifax.

Meets last Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm. Contact: Iris Shea, 479-3505; ishea@ns.sympatico.ca

Tues., March 21, 9am-3:30pm

Participation in Memory Project Road Show, Lord Nelson Hotel; photographs and information on war veterans in Mainland South.

Thurs., March 30, 7 pm

DVD of the interviews by Sambro school children, recording oral histories for their 2005 History Alive project. Host: Allan Marryatt

Thur., May 25, 7 pm

"Polar Bears and Ptarmigans: Downs' Zoological Gardens, 1847-1872";

speaker: Local historian Heather Watts. Heather has acquired more interesting photos since addressing the Heritage Trust Annual Dinner meeting in 2005.

Medway Area Heritage Society

Contact: Chris Georghiou, 902-543-4204, P.O. Box 153, Port Medway, NS B0J 2T0; e-mail: laughing.dog@ns.sympatico.ca.

Readers Festival 2006; tickets - 7 pm Saturdays: \$12 (incl. reception), 2 pm Sundays: \$8:

Sat., July 1 - Margaret Atwood

Sun., July 2 - Graeme Gibson

Sat., July 15 - William Kowalski

Sun., July 16 - William Weintraub

Sat., August 5 - Howard Norman
Proceeds for the 1832 Meeting House Restoration Fund

Museum of Natural History

1747 Summer St., Halifax; information: 424-6099

Wed., March 22, 7:30 pm

"The Geological and Cultural History of Halifax Harbour", illustrated; speakers: scientist, Gordon Fader, and filmmaker, Charles Doucet.

Wed., April 12, 7:30 pm

"Root Baskets of Atlantic Canada - Acadian Black and Mi'kmaw", illustrated; speaker: Joleen Gordon, author.

Wed., April 26, 7:30 pm

"Maritime Gardeners and Gardens - regional heritage gardens"; speaker: botanist Alex Wilson. Food bank donations welcome

Northwest Arm Heritage Association

Contact: Guy MacLean, 429-9412

Wed., March 29, 7:30 pm

"Samuel Cunard and the Northwest Arm"; speaker: John Langley, QC., at Bethany United Church

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. Open to the public.

Contact Craig Chandler at cchandler@seacorcanada.com or 420-0040. Winter 2006, "Underground Halifax" - Illustrated Talk Series:

Tues., March 28, 7:30 pm

"A Walk in the Park: Point Pleasant after Hurricane Juan". Speakers: Lynne

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, & April D. MacIntyre, Memorial University.

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

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

Contact: 424-7490. All programs held at the MMA.

Sat., March 18, 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon

March Break Children's Workshop: Build a Model Lighthouse. Children aged 6-12 years. 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 wooden lighthouse destroyed by fire in July 2004.

Wed., April 26, 7:00 pm

AGM 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.



Rockingham Heritage Society

Information: Carol Worrell, 443-7073

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Meets third Wednesday of the month, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 7:30 pm; short business meeting, followed by presentation. Information: RNSHS, P.O. Box 2622, Halifax, NS B3J 3P7; or email: judith.fingard@dal.ca; website: nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs

Wed., April 19, 6:00 for 6:30 pm

Annual Dinner Meeting at the Wardroom, Stadacona. Tickets \$35 from Janet Guildford, 454-5200.

"PoTlotek/Ile-de-la-Sainte-Famille/Chapel Island: a Documentary History. Speaker: John Johnston and Sandy Balcom.

Wed., May 17, 7:30 pm

Annual General Meeting. "Organizing Generosity in Halifax: from Community Chest to Red Feather";

speaker: Shirley Tillotson.

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield

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

Wallace and Area Museum

13440 Hwy 6, Wallace; hours: Monday-Friday 9-4:30/Saturday 1-4 pm. Information: 902-257-2191; e-mail: remsheg@aura.com.com

Current Exhibition: Museum Mi'kmaq basket collection

Fri., May 5

Opening of two additional artistic displays: watercolour paintings by a local art group; hooked mats by the Remsheg Rug Hookers. To May 27.

Sat., June 10

Opening of the Summer's theme exhibit, The United Empire Loyalists and the "Remsheg Grant".

Fri.-Sun., June 16-18

Encampment of United Empire Loyalist Soldiers and Camp followers. The 84th of Foot, Royal Highland Emigrants.

Yarmouth County Museum/Historical Research Library

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS; 1st Friday of the month at 7.30pm: Historical Society Meeting; 7.30pm (no admission); 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm, Armchair Travel Series (\$3/person) - programs *iba*. Information: Adèle Hempel, Director, 902-742-5539, email: ycmuseum@east-link.ca; website: <http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca>

Tues., March 17, 7:00 pm

Launch of the exhibit, "The Marine History of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia": "Real" exhibit of photographs and ship portraits from the collections, also being launched simultaneously as a "virtual" exhibit on the website. A Community Memories initiative of the VMC Investment Program (CHIN). Tues-Sat., 2-5 pm. Admission free. ☒