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# *The Griffin*

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## WHERE DID THEY LIVE?

### Historic Houses and Those Who Lived in Them: Thurso, Dartmouth, 1872 *by Anthony Lamplugh*

Thurso House was built in 1872 on land originally granted to Captain William Clapham who ran The Mill. Dartmouth's first building, The Mill, was finished before the first Dartmouth Massacre on Saturday, 30 September, 1749. It was not a success and was sold by auction in July 1752. At that time, it was run by Clapham who had lived in Halifax on a water lot next to the successful merchant, Joshua Mauger. A month later, Governor Cornwallis granted Clapham 200 acres south of The Mill which had a shoreline covering most

of the Dartmouth Cove. Clapham had previously raised a Company of Volunteers for protection against the Indians.

After Clapham's death, the land was bought by Richard Woodin, who sold it to his nephew, James Creighton the Younger.

Judge James also built his home on this land in 1867 – Evergreen – which was later to be the house of Dr. Helen Creighton and now home to the Dartmouth

*Continued overleaf*

*Drawing: John Lamplugh, brother of the author.*



**Thurso:** *Continued from page 1*

Heritage Museum Society.

Thurso is the most northern town in Scotland, 14 miles west of John O'Groats. It lies in the bay at the mouth of the river of the same name and is a seaport originally settled by the Vikings. In 1330, the Weights and Measures of Thurso were adopted for all Scotland. It was the name given to this house by its builder, the Reverend Alexander Falconer.

The land was 56 ft. wide and extended 365 ft. on its southerly border from Cole Harbour Road (formerly known as Mulgrave Street, now Portland Street) to Erskine Street (now Summit Street) and parallel to Charles Street (now MacKay Street). The Victorian house, built in 1872, was square with four main rooms and a central hall on the main floor and five bedrooms upstairs, with a two-floor extension at the back with four more rooms and a back stairway.

The Reverend Alexander Falconer was born in Riverton, Pictou County, in 1838 and was educated at the West River Seminary and the Presbyterian College in Truro, with post-graduate work in Edinburgh. He was ordained in 1862 and answered the call to Zion Church in Charlottetown.

It was there that his two sons were born: Robert, on 10 February 1867, and James William, on 21 September 1866. They were only babies when their father was inducted on 21 October 1869 as Minister at the Presbyterian Church of St. James, Dartmouth. Two years later, on 13 December 1871, The Reverend Falconer acquired a piece of the James A.G. Creighton property which had been sold to Donald McLean, who in turn sold it to Nathaniel Russell and W.T. Murray on 17 March that same year.

The family left for Trinidad on Christmas Day 1876 where the Reverend Falconer ministered to the "Scotch Congregation" at Greyfriars Church. Sons Robert

and James followed in their father's footsteps and were also ordained. Their education was international, starting at Queen's Royal School in Trinidad. In 1885, Robert was the Gilchrist Scholar for the West Indies, and both boys went to Edinburgh University, followed by post-graduate studies in Leipzig, Berlin and Marburg.

Both Falconer sons joined the Faculty of Pine Hill Divinity College in Halifax. James was Professor of New Testament Literature in 1907, retiring as Professor Emeritus (MS, DD, LLD) in 1941. He died in 1956.

Robert became a Lecturer of New Testament Greek in 1892. In 1896 he became Professor of New Testament Exegesis and was appointed Principal of Pine Hill in 1904. Three years later, he was appointed President of Toronto University – a post he held until he retired in 1932. Selected after a Royal Commission recommended a complete reorganization of the University, Robert thoroughly reformed its structure, particularly the growth of professional faculties and graduate work. Troubled by Canada's Americanisation, he stressed the importance of maintaining Canada's distinct identity and her connection to Britain. In 1911, Robert Falconer was awarded a CMG. In 1916, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada and became its President in 1932. He was knighted in 1917 and died in Toronto in 1943.

In its obituary, the *United Churchman* described Sir Robert Falconer (KCMG, MA, DLitt, DD, LLD, FRSS) as a fine classical scholar much in demand as an orator. Sir Wilfred Laurier once said that the Canadian Parliament had not produced Sir Robert Falconer's superior as an orator.

Their father, Dr. Alexander Falconer (DD awarded in 1899), moved from Trinidad to the Prince Street Church in Pictou. In 1906 he was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. When he retired, he moved to

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## *The Griffin*

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Submissions are welcomed.  
Deadline for the next issue:

**May 1, 2007**

Please send your  
submissions to  
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miles from Thurso. (There is a memorial to Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, close to the Murray Croft.) William arrived in Nova Scotia in 1822 and had a grant of land in Earltown. He was also a Catechist and started the Earltown School. His son, Robert Murray, was educated at the Free Church College in Halifax and Edinburgh. He was Editor of the *Presbyterian Witness* for 55 years. The Murrays lived at Studley, called the Murray Homestead, in Halifax, and upon Dr. Murray's death, his son Robert Harper

**Thurso:** *continued from page 2*

Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, where he died in the early hours of Sunday, 23 July 1911, just of few months after the death of the man to whom he sold his Dartmouth house, Thomas Cutler.

Thomas Mattocks Cutler bought the house and property on 16 December 1876. He is remembered as "A big man, dark mustache, sedate, kept good order and was well thought of – a very successful man of business". He was employed by the Acadia Sugar Refinery and worked his way up to running the whole company operation. He married Susie E. Foster (whose brother was a Judge of the Probate Court), and they had three children: young Tom, who became a banker, John Geoffrey, who was killed in action in 1917, and a daughter, Norah. He kept a cow and three horses for the sleigh and carriage.

Thomas Cutler bought the parcels of land on each side of Erskine Street (now Summit Street), formerly owned by the

teacher-turned-merchant and landowner, James Ephraim Lawlor. To the front of the house he added the verandah and on the south side the bow windows with a conservatory between. He planted many trees and the 1909 maples are still standing.

He died in the house on 6 February 1911 and was buried in Christ Church Cemetery two days later – the Reverend Samuel J. Woodroffe officiating. Thomas Cutler was only fifty-six years of age. There is a tall black granite family tombstone surmounted by an urn on the east side of the central path. It commemorates his son, John Geoffrey, killed in Action 1917, his son Thomas Graham, 1886-1925, and his wife Susie Elspeth, 1859-1946. After Thomas Cutler's death, his wife Susie went to live in Montreal. She and her brother-in-law, Robert Cutler, were the Executors of her husband's estate. The property was bought by Robert Harper Murray on 16 December 1911.

Robert Harper Murray's grandfather William was a farmer at Rogart in Scotland just over 50

Murray and his mother sold the Homestead to Dalhousie University (now the Studley Campus) and moved to Dartmouth.

Robert attended Dalhousie University and Harvard Law School and was subsequently called to the Bar. His firm was Murray and MacKinnon; he did the barrister's work and Col. MacKinnon did the solicitor's work (created KC, 1916). He was President of the NS Bar Association, 1927, Crown Prosecutor for the County of Halifax, King's Proctor in Divorce Court, Town Solicitor for Dartmouth, and President of the NS Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In 1916, Robert Murray married Frances Creighton, a school teacher at Hawthorne School, and the next year they had twins, Peggy and Graham. Two months before daughter Barbara was due, the Halifax Explosion occurred. The house, three miles from the site of the Explosion, was badly shaken. The foundation was

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Thurso: Continued from page 3

damaged, nearly all the windows and sashes were blown out. The front door was torn from its hinges and landed on the grandfather clock in the front hall. The windows all had to be covered with tar paper, and Mrs. Murray said they lived the winter "in misery". Barbara was born in 1918 and Joan in 1925.

Robert Murray was appointed a County Court Judge in 1933 and remained so until his retirement in 1947 at the age of 75, the age of retirement in those days. There was no pension for one who retired early. Robert was described as a genial, patient man and good company. He died in February 1952, the day after King George VI.

Graham Murray attended Dalhousie University and Cornell Law School. After being called to the Bar, he joined the Air Force. He was appointed a Professor at Dalhousie Law School and continued to serve with the University Air Training Scheme.

Peggy attended Normal School in Truro and became a primary teacher at Hawthorne School where her mother had taught so many years earlier.

Barbara and Joan also attended Dalhousie, Barbara becoming a reporter and librarian after getting her BA. Joan left with a BSc and DipEd. The Education Department was in Studley, her grandfather's house – she recalls lectures in the parlour. Studley was razed in 1949 to make way for the Arts and Administration Building. Joan became a teacher, librarian and writer.

The writer moved into the house with his wife and four boys on 17 June 1963 when the lilacs were in full bloom. The house, so long only a number, has been renamed Thurso House, remembering the Presbyterian Falconers, building in a young country, holding firm to their beliefs, educating themselves well at an international level and rising to positions of honour. ❀

## February Lecture: "Haligonian Trams: Our Disappeared Heritage"

For the February public lecture, Robert Tennant gave us an interesting account of the history of trams in Halifax. The 1860s saw the establishment of public transit systems in several Canadian cities in the form of horse-drawn trams. Halifax followed Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City in the establishment of a tram company (the Halifax City Railroad Company) in 1863, and three years later, horse-drawn trams appeared on the streets of our city. The original route ran from the Richmond Depot through downtown Halifax, linking the North Street train station with Freshwater Bridge at the foot of Inglis Street. The trams were open vehicles, drawn by two horses, olive green in colour, with comfortable interiors ornamented with landscape paintings. (These were supposed to divert the attention of male eyes from the female passengers!) This system lasted until 1876.

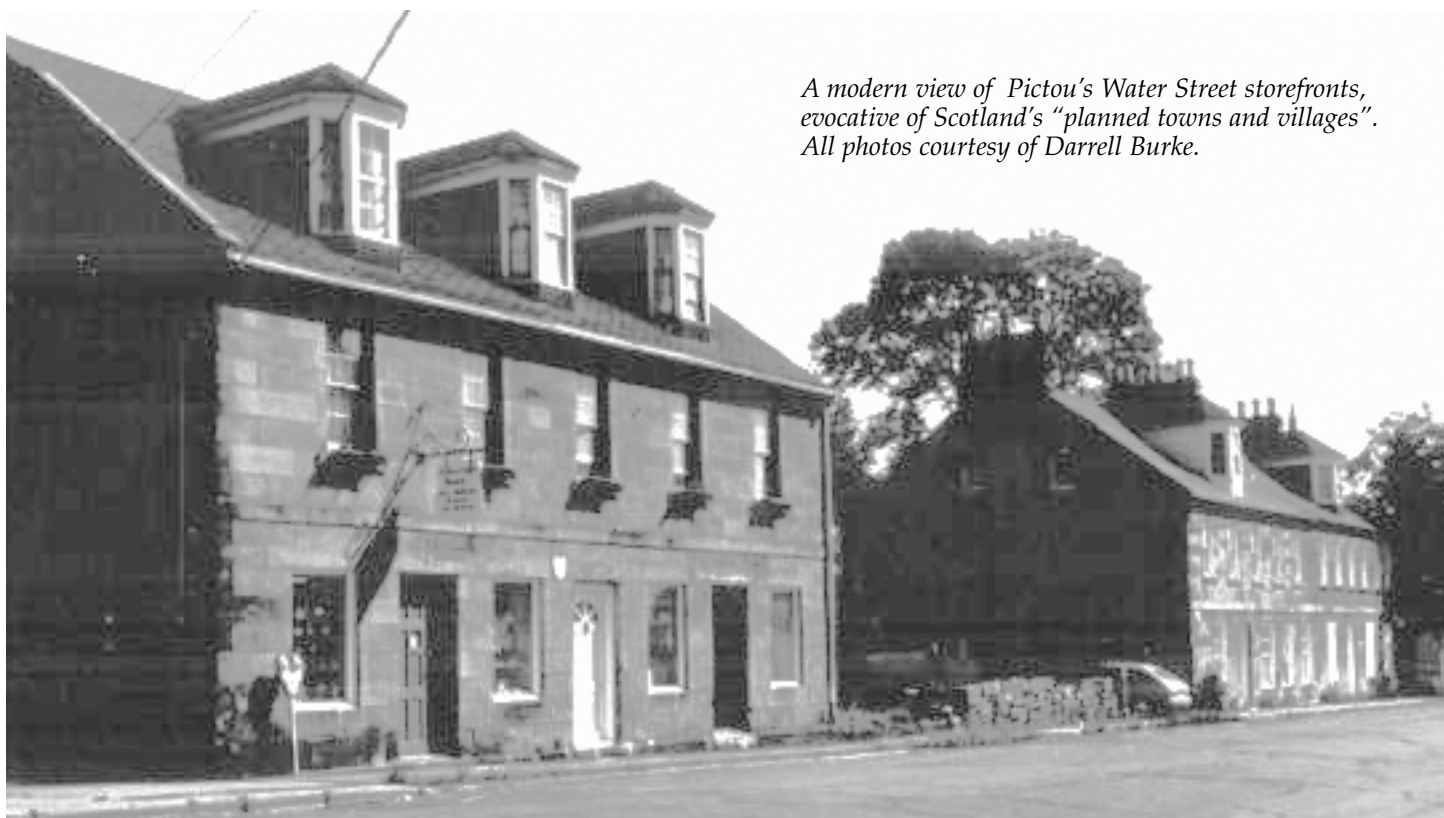
A succession of other companies operated in the late 1800s. In 1884 the Halifax Railway Company was incorporated, but its plans to replace the horse-drawn trams with an overhead system proved too expensive to carry out and it did not go into operation. This failure was followed by the establishment of the Halifax Street Railway Company, which ran a tram service only from 1886 until 1890 and failed due to undercapitalisation and managerial problems. From 1890 to 1895, the Nova Scotia Power Company ran a tram service, but Halifax's steep hills and heavy snow hampered operations. Horse-drawn sleighs were used in winter instead of trams, and horse-drawn "snow boxes" carried away snow from the streets. A fire broke out in the stables in 1895, when 70 horses were led to safety.

From 1895 to 1917, the Halifax Electric Tram Company operated a new service in the city. It was more efficient, and had double tracks along much of the route. During this period, the routes were considerably expanded to serve the Armdale area and Simpsons, and the original system of a two-man crew, a driver and a conductor who sold tickets, gradually gave way to the pay-as-you-enter system that we are familiar with today. During the first World War, women served as conductors. In 1917 the system was taken over by the Nova Scotia Tramways and Power Company and that same year the Halifax Explosion resulted in damage to the trams and changes to the routes as the North Street station ceased to exist. The lines continued to expand and in 1928 the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company took over the existing service. They ran it until after the end of the second World War, when the equipment had become worn and obsolete. The last tram ran in March, 1949, and thereafter trolley buses served the citizens of Halifax for some years.

The lecture was illustrated with many pictures of the changing styles of tram cars, many of which were Nova Scotia built, by Rhodes Curry of Amherst and later by the Silliker Car Company of Halifax. The trams were shown against the changing backdrop of Halifax streets from the late 19th century to the 1940s. The images included such forgotten sites as the Franklin Tramway and Amusement Park in the South End and the Simpson's Loop, which was the trams' western terminal for many years. This was an interesting glimpse of a different aspect of our heritage. JD ❀



*A modern view of Pictou's Water Street storefronts, evocative of Scotland's "planned towns and villages". All photos courtesy of Darrell Burke.*



## **“The Scottish Buildings of Rural & Urban Pictou”, a New Community Memories Website by the Pictou County Genealogy & Heritage Society** *by Darrell Burke*

Pictou County and, in particular, the Town of Pictou, has some of the finest examples of typical early 19th century Scottish architecture to be found anywhere in North America. This is particularly evident in the case of the town's sandstone houses and townhouses. This has been pointed out in many works on Nova Scotian Heritage Architecture, but it really hit home about two years ago when the Hector Exhibit Centre hosted "The Emigrant's Kist", a touring exhibit from the National Museums of Scotland. With the Kist came David Forsyth, Senior Curator of Scottish Social History & Diaspora, to help with the setup and interpretation of the exhibit. David has travelled extensively throughout North America and the world on behalf of the National Museum. When asked about the significance of the architecture in the area, he

unhesitatingly responded that, outside of Scotland itself, Pictou had some of the finest examples of Scottish style architecture in North America. It was then resolved to pursue the creation of a "Community Memories" website at the Canadian Heritage Information Network.

The Community Memories Program allows smaller museums to create content for the Web by supporting their development of online local history exhibits. Our proposal to create an exhibit on Pictou County's Scottish Architectural heritage was accepted. Good news, but with only one employee we still needed help if we were to be able to do the project justice. Again, we were fortunate to be approved by HRSDC for a Job Creation Project which would allow us to hire a person who would gain valuable work experience while working

on the project.

Besides educating the public and promoting the region, the goal was to feature and juxtapose historic images with contemporary images. We wanted to involve the community as much as possible and to this end we sought images from the Pictou Historical Photograph Society as well as from our own archive. We approached many home and business owners and conducted in-depth interviews in order to tell a more human story.

The opening pages and images serve to introduce the overall concept (including a 'visual glossary' of terms) and then explore the architecture using a geographic approach (the Town of Pictou, New Glasgow and rural areas). Finally, the site examines the two main quarries which were the main source of sandstone.

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**Pictou:** *Continued from page 5*

*So what do we mean by a Scottish style?*

The tradition of building in this style has roots that lead all the way back to the 'Old County' and that fertile time of growth and change called the "Scottish Enlightenment". The Enlightenment produced many great innovations in science, politics, philosophy, economics and architecture. The most famous Scottish Enlightenment architect was Robert Adam. Adam was one of the early proponents of the Neoclassical style in Great Britain, but it was in the hands of the more humble mason/architects that the domestic style took shape in Scotland.

Neoclassical elements certainly figure strongly in the style, but the roots of the buildings also trace back to the Medieval and Early Modern Scottish "tower houses" belonging to the lairds and found in the burghs and countryside. The Scots had been using rubble stone (undressed or partially dressed fieldstone) well into pre-

history, but the Romans introduced the use of square dressed stone (Ashlar) of uniform size, as well as the use of mortar and plaster.

The need for defensive structures drove the lairds to build houses which resembled castle towers. During the Renaissance, European influences introduced classical elements into these tower houses and by the time of the Scottish Enlightenment, the Neoclassical elements of symmetry and simplicity completed the evolution of the style in Scotland. The same style we still find in Pictou today.

Throughout the early and mid-nineteenth century Pictou was a major emigration port and settlement area for waves of predominantly Highland Scots. They brought many skills with them, not least of which was masonry. In the 1838 Pictou County census there are 21 "heads of household" who list their primary occupation as "Mason". Other household members' occupations (i.e. sons and apprentices) are not listed, so it's reasonable to assume that

number is quite a bit larger. Not only did they bring the skills and stylistic tradition, but they found the necessary raw material in abundance: the fine workable sandstone favoured back home. Soon they began to recreate the familiar domestic landscape of the homeland in both the town and countryside.

Besides the skills of the Scottish masons and some of the pre-enlightenment influences, there are individual elements common to the style.

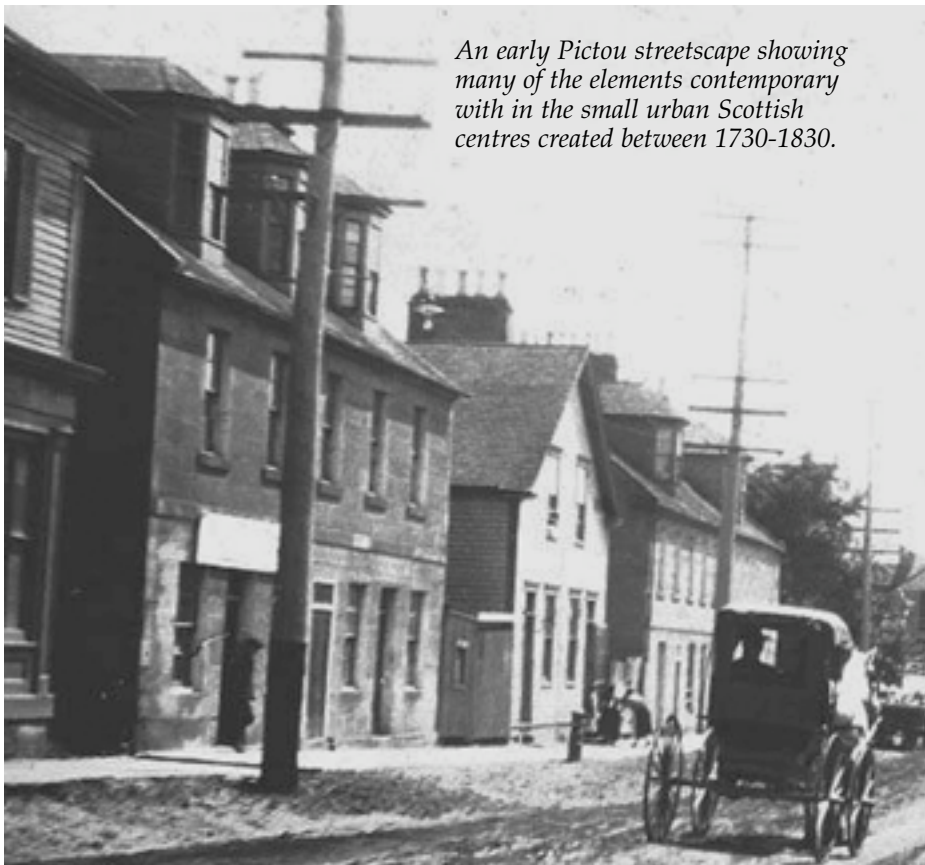
In Chapter 6 of *Buildings of the Scottish Countryside* by Robert Naismith, the design principles that inform the style are examined in detail. The main feature is the symmetrical arrangement of the buildings. The buildings are divided into cubes and/or rectangles like a child's set of building blocks. Within each section the number and placement of doors and windows is generally uniform. In most cases when irregularity seems apparent, it is due to alterations made to a building at a later date.

In addition to symmetry, proportion and the use of stone, one of the key elements that helps identify a building as Scottish is the slightly raised section of the gable called a skew. Also common are stringcourses and plinths.

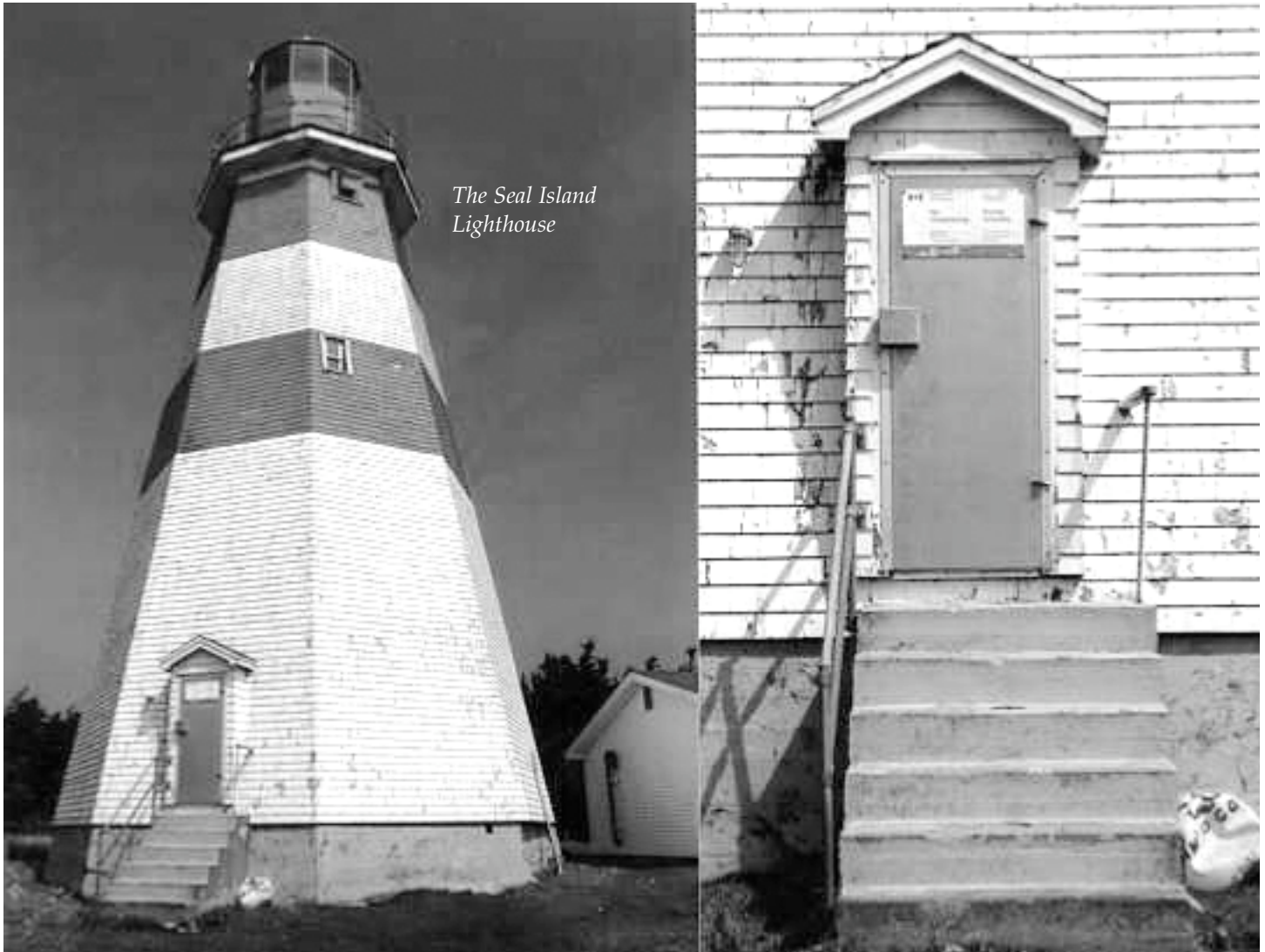
The five-sided dormer is often referred to a "Scottish dormer". This may be a misnomer. While quite common in the region, they are certainly not the only style of dormer used on what are otherwise obviously Scottish-style buildings. Looking at buildings in Scotland, this particular dormer seems no more common than any other.

These are some of the most obvious individual elements, but there are others as well. Very few if any of the buildings chosen contain all the elements, but the combination of some (or many) elements and the period of the building make certain ones obvious. Others chosen for the website (especially those made of wood)

*Continued on page 8*



*An early Pictou streetscape showing many of the elements contemporary with in the small urban Scottish centres created between 1730-1830.*



## Let's Act to Protect Our Lighthouses *by Philip Pacey*

The Seal Island Lighthouse has been listed as one of Canada's ten most endangered places in 2007. Built in 1831 off the southwest tip of Nova Scotia, the Seal Island light is the oldest wooden lighthouse in Nova Scotia. A report by the Heritage Canada Foundation states that the lighthouse has not been kept in good repair, with leaks, rotten shingles and peeling paint.

This highlights the need for stronger federal and provincial legislation to protect heritage buildings. Except for railway stations, which were protected by a private member's bill about 20 years ago, there is no legislation to protect federally owned and regulated buildings in Canada. We are the only G-8 nation that lacks

such fundamental legislation.

Lighthouses have been a central part of the image of Nova Scotia for generations. Unfortunately, many of the beacons along the Lighthouse Route are in jeopardy.

The contrast is obvious for any Nova Scotian who visits New England, where the lighthouses are well maintained. Businesses thrive arranging for visits and selling souvenirs. It is no coincidence that more than 70% of the historic lighthouses in the United States are legally protected.

At the urging of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society and other heritage groups, the late Sen. Michael Forrestall proposed a bill to protect lighthouses. His initiative was taken

up by Sen. Pat Carney of British Columbia. Bill S-220, an Act to Protect Heritage Lighthouses, was passed by the Senate in December, 2006. This bill would provide for evaluation of the heritage significance of lighthouses by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The government or other owners would be required to maintain and protect lighthouses that pass the criteria.

Meanwhile, in the Commons, Peter Stoffer (Sackville-Eastern Shore) introduced Bill C-268 last May, saying, "We believe that working through community groups and communities throughout the country we can preserve and protect these lighthouses for

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many generations to come." On February 7, Gerald Keddy (South Shore - St. Margaret's) introduced Bill S-220, already passed by the Senate. He said, "It is the intent of this bill to have as many as possible of Canada's existing 583 lights transferred to their community of interest." The bill was given first reading and will come up for second reading on March 27, 2007. Similar bills have been presented before, but have not been adopted, despite strong support from Nova Scotian MPs.

The Province also has a role to play in protecting these important icons of Nova Scotia. The Heritage Strategy Task Force of Voluntary Planning has recommended that the Province consider the remaining lighthouses for possible designation as Provincial Heritage Properties.

Heritage buildings are important to the economy. For example, other than shopping and walking, visiting heritage buildings and sites is the most popular activity of visitors to Nova Scotia. Tourism is worth \$1.4 billion annually to the province.

February 19-23 was Heritage Week in Canada, a time to value our historic legacy from past generations, and a time to resolve to conserve that legacy for future generations. Let us hope that Parliament and the Province will act this spring, before it is too late. ❁

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**Pictou:** *Continued from page 6*

are more open to debate.

Particularly noteworthy is a stretch of storefronts on Water Street in Pictou that is evocative of what are known as the "planned towns and villages" in Scotland.

For a 100-year period spanning roughly 1730-1830 government and landowners created small- and medium-sized urban centers throughout Scotland. The main purpose was to attract rural workers and tradespeople to labour in

## **"Embracing the Heritage Advantage: A Conference for People Living and Working with Heritage"**

**When? MARCH 22 & 23, 2007**

**Where?** Tantramar Theatre, 98 Victoria Street East, Amherst, Nova Scotia

**Who should attend?** Anyone living or working with heritage: including, but not limited to, planners, heritage advisory committee members, heritage workers, anyone involved with municipal registrations and heritage bylaws, heritage property owners and developers, development officers, chief administrative officers, clerks and administrative assistants for municipalities.

**What is the conference registration fee?** Attendance at the conference is FREE. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Participants cover their own transportation and accommodation costs. The event is sponsored by the Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative.

**How do I register?** To register, download and complete the Registration Form on <http://nshistoricplaces.ca/news.shtml> and return it to Elizabeth Parnell by March 1, 2007.

**Where can I stay in Amherst?** Visit the Accommodations Listing at <http://nshistoricplaces.ca/news.shtml> for information regarding hotel and bed & breakfast accommodations in Amherst.

**For more information on Embracing the Heritage Advantage 2007, contact Elizabeth Parnell, NSHPI Assistant Registrar, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6. Phone: 902 424 3748 FAX: 902 424 0560 Email: [parneleb@gov.ns.ca](mailto:parneleb@gov.ns.ca)**

new sites of the Industrial Revolution. Some villages were also created to exploit an expanding fishery.

The result was streetscapes comprised of terraced homes and businesses which shared gables and were often found in pairs or rows. The building layout and location were required to conform to the roads. Roof ridges were parallel to the pavement and building covenants called for the use of stone with little if any open ground between buildings and street.

That Pictou's citizenry carried this ideal with them to the New World is evident in older images

of the town and in this remaining stretch of streetscape.

All-in-all the site uses over 180 images and explores many of the houses in fairly extensive detail. It was a real joy and a privilege to be granted access to some of these magnificent structures. We hope you will also enjoy having a peek into the basements, attics and fascinating history of these homes on March 12 when the site goes live. The Community Memories web-site can be found at:

<http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/PM.cgi?LM=CommunityMemories&LANG=English&AP=getIndex> ❁



# Message From the President



Phil Pacey, president of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

## Dear Members of the Heritage Trust:

This is the first issue of the 32nd volume of our newsletter. The Trust is really fortunate to have had a series of groups of volunteers who have edited this newsletter for 31 years.

Let's start a new year with some good news. Truro Town Council has registered eight properties in the east end of Truro as municipal heritage properties. Cape Breton Regional Municipality is considering a heritage conservation district in the north end of Sydney. Cape Breton Regional Municipality has established an incentive fund to assist owners of registered heritage properties with the cost of repairs.

Hundreds of owners are quietly caring for heritage buildings in Nova Scotia. The exterior of Kinley's Drugstore in Lunenburg has been refurbished. Canada Post is moving into the former Lunenburg Hardware Store. The Lunenburg Opera House has been purchased by an individual who wishes to restore it. The community hall in Selma, Hants County, has been restored as a gallery. A couple has purchased a threatened home on Roper Street in Amherst and has carefully restored it.

In December the Heritage Strategy Task Force of Voluntary Planning released their final report, making 59 recommendations to strengthen the protection of heritage in Nova Scotia. These recommendations were based on more than 800 written and oral comments from Nova Scotians. The Heritage Trust has asked the government to adopt these recommendations. I encourage you to read the recommendations at [www.gov.ns.ca/op/Task\\_Force/Heritage/Heritage.html](http://www.gov.ns.ca/op/Task_Force/Heritage/Heritage.html) or to call the Trust office. The Minister of Heritage, Hon. Len Goucher, has stated that these recommendations will be reviewed by the government with the intention of preparing a provincial heritage strategy by the fall of 2007.

In July, Harold Theriault, MLA, presented a bill to the Legislature that would delete the provision that allows demolition of a municipally registered property a year after application is made. That bill is still on the order paper. Howard Epstein, MLA, has presented a similar bill. The heritage buildings and sites in Nova Scotia are very important to our sense of identity as Nova Scotians. We are thankful for the efforts of thousands of Nova Scotians who have worked to protect these buildings and sites, whether by maintaining and repairing them physically, or by supporting them financially, or by participating in public discussions.

Two members of the Trust have died since the previous issue. Margaret Martin was a leader in the researching, writing and editing of *Founded Upon a Rock and South Shore, Seasoned Timbers*, Volume 2. Fred Matthews served as president of the Trust from 1983 until 1986, leading the successful efforts to prevent construction of two high-rises at the corner of Brunswick and Sackville Streets in Halifax and to establish a heritage unit in

the provincial civil service. During this time policies were added to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy to protect the vicinity of Citadel Hill. These policies were recently cited by the Court of Appeal in rejecting the Midtown Tower.

Alex Keay, our public relations director, will be moving to Ottawa with her family this summer. She plans to complete work in the office on June 15. In the meantime, she will be organizing workshops, a conference in Amherst and a house tour. She can be reached at 423 4807. If you have questions or suggestions, please give me a call at 494 3334.

Sincerely,  
Phil Pacey ✨



## NOTICE

### Heritage Trust 2007 Annual General Meeting

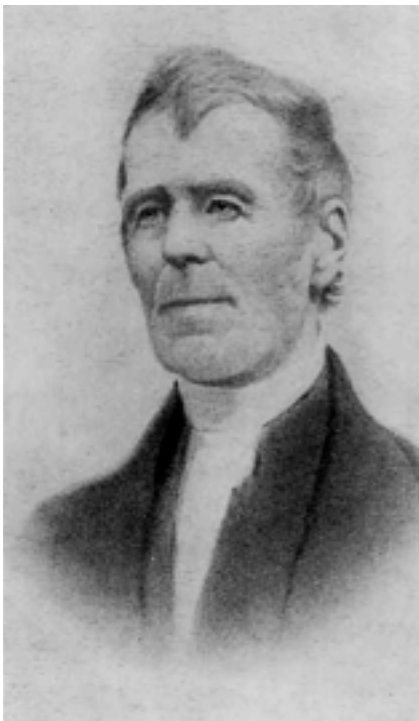
The Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia will be held on **Thursday, June 15, 2006, 7:00 p.m.**, at the Museum of Natural History, Summer Street, Halifax.

The meeting will be followed at 8:00 p.m. by a presentation by Jim St. Clair on Cape Breton wooden churches on back roads.

# The Re-opening of McCulloch House, a Story of Cooperation

Nearly ten years of hard work and uncertainty ended on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at approximately 2:45 p.m., when two actors portraying Thomas and Isabella McCulloch made a short speech of welcome from the front step of McCulloch House to the waiting crowd on the lawn and opened the doors.

The history of McCulloch House begins in November of 1803, when Thomas and his small family arrived in Pictou en-route to Prince Edward Island from Scotland. They were halted in their journey by icy conditions in the Strait. McCulloch had studied at the University of Glasgow, then at the Secession Divinity Hall at Whitburn and subsequently became a licensed Secessionist Presbyterian Minister. During his enforced layover, his education impressed the Pictou town elders, who mutually decided to ask him to stay and minister to the "Harbour" congregation.



Thomas McCulloch. All photos courtesy of Darrell Burke.

Thomas McCulloch was without a doubt a product of the Scottish Enlightenment, but he was in all respects a Presbyterian minister as well. Scientific method and religion were never in conflict for him philosophically or otherwise.

McCulloch is best known for his struggle with the provincial elite to remove legislative barriers to nondenominational higher education and as the founder and head of Pictou Academy. The seminary associated with the Academy was the first in the province and was the foundation for the Atlantic School of Theology. In addition, the Academy contained both a laboratory and a specimen room, perhaps the first natural history museum in the province. He was also an avid naturalist and regular correspondent with John James Audubon. McCulloch wrote what many consider to be North America's first work of literary humour, *The Stepsure Letters*.

Shortly after his arrival, 12 acres were obtained by the congregation on which to build a house for the minister; a local merchant then donated bricks he had imported from Scotland but was unable to sell. These were used to finish the new minister's house in 1806 on a rise overlooking the harbour just outside of town. The house had most of the elements we associate with the Scottish Domestic style brought over to the region from the homeland (see "The Scottish buildings of rural & urban Pictou", a Community Memories Website by the Pictou County Genealogy & Heritage Society, online as of March 12, 2007).

At some time late in the 19th century the gable roof was modified to create a gambrel roof, which greatly altered the character of the house. Fortunately, images of the house prior to the alteration exist.



The McCulloch House, before (above) and after (below) roof alteration.



McCulloch House remained in private hands until 1972, when it was purchased by the province and joined the Nova Scotia Museum (NSM) family. In the mid-1990s, deterioration of the outer brickwork started to become a major concern. A private architectural firm was hired to make a condition assessment of the house in 1998.

The main conclusions were that infiltration of moisture from a variety of sources and mechanisms over the years was the main cause of deterioration. In addition to taking steps to rectify the moisture issues, large sections of the outer brick layer would need to be replaced and structural reinforcement added at key points in the house in order to stabilize the overall structure.

The work was begun by the

# tion and a New Beginning in Pictou

by Darrell Burke



Composite image of brickwork.

Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) in partnership with the Nova Scotia Museum (NSM) in the summer of 1998 and was completed in 2001. At this point a major decision was made.

While not commonly known, it's a fact that a large proportion of NSM sites are managed locally by non-profit community boards. This has proven to be a fairly successful relationship. McCulloch House is one of these, operated by the Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society. The closure of the museum was seen by NSM as an opportunity to totally re-examine the way that the house and Thomas McCulloch were interpreted. The period-room style presentation hadn't really changed since the house opened in 1973 and definitely had a 'dated' feel. In addition, many of the furnishings in the house could not be attributed to McCulloch.

NSM proposed that a committee be formed to conceive a fresh concept for the permanent exhibit. A group was formed in 2002 with representation from the community, the Society Board and NSM. Meeting on a regular basis over the next two years, the group worked diligently to achieve a shared vision for the new exhibit.

Several key elements soon emerged. The focus was to be, of course, Thomas McCulloch.

However, the group wanted to place him in a larger context – his provincial significance both then and now as well as the time, place and conditions in which he lived and worked.

The group felt that a visitor at the site should leave not only knowing more about the man, but also with a picture of the community, province and even the international context that formed him, and what drove Scottish immigration to this particular place. They also wanted to explore the social conditions which created cultural conflict over matters of education and religion at the time. The group wanted the exhibit to be entertaining, interactive and appeal to a broad audience.

All this in four rooms, a hallway and a tiny pantry – roughly 800 square feet in which to work.

Fortunately, one of the committee members was NSM's award winning designer, David Carter. David managed to create a preliminary design concept that met and augmented the committee's shared vision. The only obstacle remaining: money.

NSM did not have the resources to create the exhibit 'in-house' so it was decided that a design firm would be hired to complete, fabricate and install the final design. The estimated cost for this was \$130,000. Over the next two years, with contributions

from the Province, ACOA, the Town and Municipality of Pictou and through the Society's fundraising efforts, the money was secured and all partners felt confident proceeding. Two main jobs remained. First, to hire a design firm to complete the final design and fabrication. Second, to make final preparations at the house to receive the new exhibit.

While the major structural problems had been dealt with, there were still fairly significant cosmetic issues to confront. The landscape immediately surrounding the house had become overgrown, and eaves, trim and steps were in need of paint.

The interior had some water damage, unattractive old wall paper, cracked plaster and some major issues with sagging ceilings where the plaster had separated from the lathe. There were also plumbing, electrical and carpentry repairs required. Again the Society and NSM turned to



Below, water damage in the kitchen.

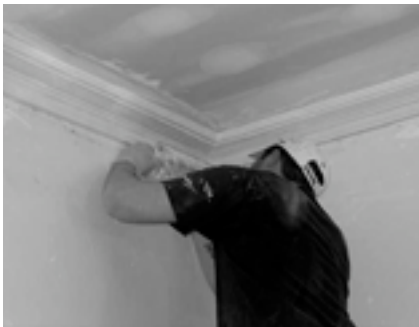
Continued on page 12



**McCulloch:** *Continued from page 9*

Transportation and Public Works.

Arrangements for proceeding with the two final elements came together late in 2005 and at this point the NSM and Society now felt confident enough to publicly announce the re-opening for the



*The same kitchen with a plasterer doing repairs.*

summer of 2006. It was still a very tight timeline.

Over the next eight months the committee worked closely with the design firm which won the contract and TPW's skilled tradespeople. As with any project, there were lots of challenges and even moments of despair, but hard work and determination overcame all challenges. Pictou and all Nova Scotians have a new exhibit and a historic site to enjoy and take real pride in. Please come and see for yourself when we re-open for the summer season on June 1, 2007. The museum will be open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m..

*Darrell Burke is Curator of the Hector Exhibit Centre & McCulloch House Museum* ❁

*Below, a new exhibit.*



## Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Illustrated Public Lectures Spring 2007

**Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm**  
*Speaker:* Joyce McCulloch

**Subject:** "The Painted Room." Joyce will narrate a DVD which portrays the intricately painted room of a Halifax home and the painstaking restoration and conservation techniques taken to preserve this art form of the past. The DVD documentation was produced by Peter Murphy of Antigonish County.

**Thursday, May 17, 7:30 pm**  
*Speaker:* Margaret Campbell

**Subject:** "Free Spirits of the 1890s: The Prat Sisters in New York." This is an illustrated presentation about three talented artists from Wolfville who operated a successful bookbinding and leather working studio in New York city at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century.

**Thursday, June 21, 8:00 pm**  
*Speaker:* Jim St. Clair

*(after the Annual General Meeting)*

**Subject:** "Cape Breton Wooden Churches on Back Roads".

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*Unless otherwise indicated, all lectures take place at the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax.*

## November Lecture: Conservation of Canada's Vimy Monument

After an enjoyable dinner at the University Club on the Dalhousie campus, the November lecture was delivered by Andrew Powter, conservation architect and project manager for the investigation, documentation and planning for the Vimy Monument conservation project.

Mr. Powter described in great detail the development of the Historic Structures Report which served as a blueprint for the conservation of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, which is currently nearing completion. The monument was established at

Vimy Ridge, the site of one of the important battles on the Western Front in which Canadian troops participated, with great loss of life, during the first World War. As part of the mandate of the Imperial War Graves Commission, cemeteries were established near the battle sites in which identified bodies were buried with headstones, but it was also essential to commemorate the many soldiers who perished and whose bodies were not recovered. The Vimy Memorial, designed by Walter Allward, was constructed

*Continued on page 18*



# J.C. Dumaresq: A Local Boy Makes Good *by Garry D. Shutlak*

One of the best known nineteenth-century Nova Scotian architects was Sydney-born James Charles Perry Dumaresq (1840-1906). He was the second son of Charles Wittigan Ferdinand August Dumaresq and Christianna MacDonald. His father was the Collector of Customs for the colony of Cape Breton as was his grandfather Philip Dumaresq, who also served the colony as chairman of the Executive Council.

James C. was educated in Sydney and at Horton Academy, Wolfville. He received some of his early training as a mechanic in Sydney. Unfortunately, we are not aware of this early Sydney work. According to his grandson, J. Philip, Dumaresq moved to Halifax and apprenticed with David Stirling. He was recorded in the Nova Scotia directory as a carpenter residing in Sydney; his father was also recorded as a carpenter. In 1870, Dumaresq opened his own Halifax architectural firm of Dumaresq & Simpson. By 1872, he was in partnership with John McVean, and this firm lasted for some five years before being dissolved in 1877. Mr. McVean lived in the Bollard House, 188 Queen Street. He spent many years residing at Port Hawkesbury where he died in 1902. In 1873, while in Halifax, Mr. Dumaresq married Madeline McDonald and they had six children: sons, George Perry (1878-1878) and Sydney Perry, and four daughters, Jean, Anne, Edna and Jessie.

The family moved to Saint John, NB, after the Great Fire of 1877 and resided there for the almost a decade. While there Mr Dumaresq was in partnership for short periods of time with architects Andrew Dewar, formerly of Halifax, C. Osborn Wickenden and, between 1885 and 1895, with Saint John architect, Harry H. Mott. The family returned to Halifax in 1885 and resided on the



*The Royal Bank Building, at Charlotte and Dorchester Streets, Sydney. The building was constructed in 1901 to house the Merchants Bank of Halifax. (NSARM photo.)*

north side of Cogswell Street at No 17, near Gottingen. Mr. Dumaresq practiced alone until he brought his son into the firm in 1901, when the firm of J.C. Dumaresq and Son came into being. James C. Dumaresq died 1906.

During his career both in New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia, J.C. Dumaresq built many structures throughout the Atlantic provinces. The following are a sampling of his work on the Island of Cape Breton. The bulk of the buildings cited are public buildings, businesses, churches, schools; we have not been able to find many references to homes.

During a period of over twenty-five years Mr. Dumaresq designed two schools – the Sydney Academy, corner of George and Dorchester Streets, 1881, and the Regent Street School, Regent Street, North Sydney in 1892. He was the architect for the Sydney Hotel, Sydney, 1893, with the Boston architectural firm of Cabot, Everett & Mead, for a proposed

hotel for J.P. Conway, Glace Bay, 1896, and for a Residential Hotel for the Dominion Coal Company, Sydney, 1900. Among his ecclesiastical designs was Saint Matthew's Presbyterian Church, North Sydney, 1898, additions to Jubilee Methodist Church, Dorchester and George Streets, Sydney, 1901, and Falmouth Street Church, Sydney, 1905.

In the business area he designed the Merchants Bank of Halifax, Charlotte and Dorchester Streets, Sydney, 1901, which became the Royal Bank of Canada in 1906, and the McDonald, Hanrahan & Co. Building, Sydney, 1902. So far, the only residential work discovered was additions and alterations to the home of Miss Brookland at 121 Esplanade Street, Sydney, 1896.

J.C. was not always successful, losing the competition to build the new Court House to Elliot & Hopson, 1901. However, he did design the Court House on Chebucto Road, Baddeck, in 1888.

*Continued on page 15*

# Energy Efficiency in Heritage Structures *by Arthur Irwin*

One of my main objectives in this article is to erase a few of the myths that exist in the minds of owners of heritage structures. This, of course, is not any fault of the owners, but because there is so much misinformation out there.

Every structure, both new and old, loses heat energy. In new housing these problems can be dealt with or prevented in our construction strategies. We have an endless barrage of manmade products which artificially hide a thousand sins: vinyl, composites, artificial brick, you name it. If it blows off, it is simple to replace.

The subject at hand is the "heritage world." The products used in the construction of our heritage homes were not mass produced; they were made by craftspeople from a specific era and geographic area.

For the past 49 years, my experiences have mainly dealt with heating and ventilation as well as the upgrading of the building envelope for structures of all sizes, including a historic vessel or two. When I enter one of these Historic Gems, I have a firm belief that this particular structure has existed very successfully on its own for one or two hundred years without my input and I say to myself, "do not be responsible for ruining this wonderful creation!"

The secret to our success is finding tradespeople who have an in-depth understanding of and who value these structures. The original fabric of the interior and exterior must be appreciated. The dedicated renovator must have the skills to identify and locate comparable and compatible products to do the job.

The main objective of retrofitting these structures is to reduce energy consumption. In a two-storey, uninsulated home, savings of 35-40% are not difficult to achieve by insulating the roof or attic and the exterior sidewalls.

The main challenge with heritage structures is that one must establish limitations and very specific guidelines before embarking on these ventures.

The attic is where one begins because it is the most accessible area to be insulated and blowing in insulation is relatively easy. Should there be insulation already in place, regardless if it is sea weed, batt materials, vermiculite, mineral wool or whatever; leave it in place and blow insulation over the existing product. By blowing insulation, a more uniform coverage is possible; it is very difficult to install batt insulation under the roof slope. Attic ventilation is also important. The National Building Code specifies one square foot of free unobstructed opening for every 300 feet of attic area.

Now to the exterior walls, and it is here the myths show their ugly heads. I get the argument, "Blown insulation will settle in the walls." A comment very true years ago. In fact, insulation was often poured from the attic space, landed in the stud space and eventually settled. If it did not settle, it sat in a natural loose condition. When moisture-laden air passed through the insulation, it cooled and any moisture being held in suspension fell out as water. When absorbed by the insulation it created a wet mass that eventually created rot, mildew and other problems.

Those days are long gone. Today, the product of choice for existing structures is called "cellulose insulation." This is mainly manufactured from shredded newsprint and treated with a fire retardant and anti-fungal component. Cellulose has a slightly higher "R" value than other blown insulating products. Cellulose should be installed by a professional with high-powered blowing equipment. When blown under pressure, a higher density can be maintained, which means air cannot easily moved through

the product.

When can one insulate and not insulate these exterior walls? Structures with exterior wood shingles present the least amount of problem. The necessary wood shingles can be removed and the insulation blown into the wall cavity. There is a specific protocol that should be followed. A standard for blown insulating products was developed by the Canadian Government Standards Board a number of years ago.

Brick or stone exteriors require special consideration. Sometimes insulation can be blown from the inside, depending on the interior surface. It is at this point where these projects become more difficult. If a building has exterior wood siding, however, it may be possible to remove a few strips of siding to permit drilling the wall to blow in the insulation. Here an experienced insulator can make a legitimate choice. Can these strips of siding be put back in place without disfiguring the wall surface? If it has vinyl siding, it could not be classed as an authentic heritage property in any case. Unfortunately, many are of the impression they can save energy by nailing strips of plastic on the exterior of a home. (From this comment, I will be accused of being unfair to vinyl siding products.)

Many energetic souls have taken weeks or months to open a wall system, install batt insulation, a vapour barrier and new gyproc. This as a very labour-intensive venture, but it will pay dividends in the form of energy savings.

Should we insulate the basement? If the basement is heated and used as a living space, office or family recreation room, insulation will definitely reduce heating costs. If the basement is unheated, insulation is less effective. I am not suggesting one should not insulate, but this is the last area in

*Continued on page 18*

# Heritage for Sale

## 1870 "Bank of Nova Scotia House", 192 Victoria Street East Amherst

*Architect:* Senator Hon. Thomas Rueben Black (1832-1905)

The historic "Bank of Nova Scotia House" is located on one of the most desirable streets in Amherst, only a five-minute walk from the town's lovely historical downtown area. Lovingly conserved to the original Victorian Picturesque style, with refinished hardwood floors and softwood floors throughout, lovely interior woodwork, bookcases, and a working fireplace, a large eat-in kitchen, and an abundance of space and light – a wonderfully elegant home. The five large bedrooms, a formal living room, front parlour and huge dining room, two full baths and a main floor powder room can accommodate any sized family, or would make this home a wonderful Bed and Breakfast. Lovely side verandah, private back yard beautifully landscaped in 2006. One of the bathrooms can easily be converted to an ensuite. Home is freshly painted inside and out and has been rewired, plumbed and insulated. Natural gas available.

\$199,900. Contact Kathy Morash, Coldwell Banker Performance Realty, 134 East Victoria St., Amherst. Tel: 902-667-1899; cell: 902-644-8833; email: [kathymorash@eastlink.ca](mailto:kathymorash@eastlink.ca)

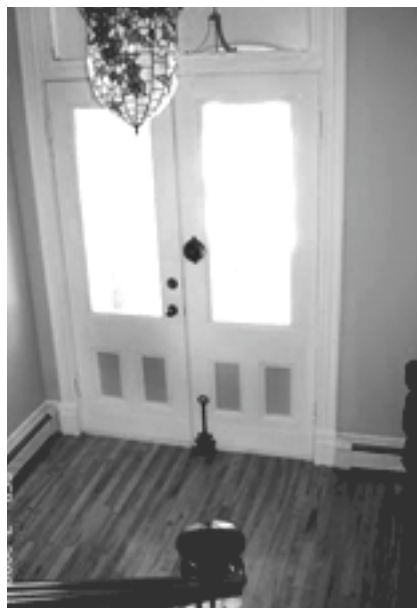
### *History of "Bank of Nova Scotia House"*

This fine home was built in 1870 for prominent lawyer F. W. Bent. Immediately after Bent's death the residence was purchased by Senator Black, the original builder, as his family's primary home. Senator Black was a contractor who created many of Amherst's most notable grand structures, many of which still stand today.

*March 2007*



*Above, the view from the street. Below, the entry way.*



He owned a large portion of land in Amherst in the latter part of the 19th century. Other noted owners of 192 Victoria Street East include William Welsford Black, Esq., builder and farmer; George T. Douglas, Chairman of the Nova Scotia Manufacturer's Association, Director of Nova Scotia Carriage and Motor Car Co., and Director of many other

important companies throughout the province of Nova Scotia; Molly Simmons Critchley, artist and author, and most recently Christian Cardell Corbet, internationally renowned sculptor and painter. The house received its



name "Bank of Nova Scotia House" based on its longest resident, Charles Bertram Simmons, Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia. ❁

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**Dumaresq:** *Continued from page 13*

At the time of his death he was survived by his wife and five children in Halifax and by his brother Charles, Whitney Avenue, and sisters, Mrs. D. Burton, and Miss Dumaresq, Love's Lane, Sydney. ❁

# In Memoriam: Frederick White Matthews *by Philip L. Hartling*

Fred Matthews, aged 91, passed away peacefully in his Halifax home on February 20, 2007. His exemplary career was outlined in his obituary in *The Chronicle-Herald*, Monday, February 26. Fred, the son of the Rev. F.R. and Bertha Elizabeth Matthews, was born in Carbonear, Newfoundland. He studied chemistry at Mount Allison University (B.Sc.) and McGill University (Ph.D). Dr. Matthews was a research chemist and manager of Information Services Section at Canadian Industries Limited (Montreal), employee of Imperial Chemical Industries (U.K.), and subsequently Professor of Information Science at Dalhousie University School of Library Services. He was involved in many societies and organizations

including our own Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Fred served as President of Heritage Trust from June 1983 to June 1986. These were years of stability, with the Trust moving forward on a number of fronts. The organization turned 25 in 1984, and this milestone was celebrated with a dinner, the presentation of a gavel bearing a silver plaque displaying the names of past presidents, and the sale of society pins and anniversary spoons.

During Fred's presidency, Heritage Trust cooperated with the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage and the Friends of the Public Gardens, all of whom valiantly fought but, unfortunately, were unable to save the streetscape on Summer Street and

the Hart House on Spring Garden Road. However, during the same period, the buildings which Trust members originally knew as the "Prince and Hollis Buildings" underwent development and were renamed "Founders Square". The by-laws of the Trust were amended to strengthen the financial management of capital funds left to the Trust. The appointment of an Executive Officer and the development of adequate office space greatly improved office efficiency and management.

Rogers' *Photographic Advertising Album: Halifax 1871* (1984) was reprinted and *Researching a Building in Nova Scotia* (1984) was published. Because of Fred's passionate love of books, printing, bookbinding and printing presses, Heritage Trust members will appreciate his closing comments in the 1985 President's Report: "If our main responsibility is to educate our members on Heritage conservation, our program of meetings and tours has served us well. In the educating of the public we have relied mainly on our publications."

Fred concluded that the Trust must be forward thinking: "If the awareness of Heritage and its importance for preserving our way of life is to be extended to a wider public, new activities will have to be planned with this objective in mind."

His "President's Message" in *The Griffin*, December 1983, recognized that the enduring strength of the Trust is in its volunteers, because "Our successes have depended on the inspiration, drive, knowledge and zeal of individuals."

Fred Matthews was certainly one such volunteer. Heritage Trust extends heartfelt condolences to Phyllis, who regularly attended monthly meetings with her husband, and to their children and grandchildren. ❀

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## Halifax Restoration Workshop

On Saturday, January 20, just after frigid winter temperatures set in, Heritage Trust held its first Halifax-based Restoration Workshop since about 1994. This workshop resulted from a local demand following the successful event held in Annapolis Royal in August, 2006. Accommodation for our workshop was provided by St. George's Round Church Hall, and the gracious volunteers provided a hot lunch for registrants on both meeting dates.

The event was in two parts. At the first Saturday session, Gerard Donahoe, HRM Building Inspector, opened the session with a discussion on the amendments to the *Building Code Act* which permit alternative compliance measures. Essentially, if a restorer wishes to meet the *Code* provision's intent in an unconventional manner, a submission can be made to the building inspection division, with an explanation as to how the proposal meets the intent of the *Code*. We also learned that

there is an appeal procedure whereby a building inspector's refusal of a proposal can be reviewed by a Board, with measures to provide a speedy resolution of the "appeal". Mr. Donahoe faced many questions from the small audience.

A session by Matt Doucette of Burnside Decorating Centre was supplemented with gift certificates from Benjamin Moore. He discussed using wallpapers to replicate tin ceilings. He recommended how to match wood stains, and where to buy wood that is knot-free. Very useful stuff.

In the afternoon session, Mark Stewart, with a slide presentation, illustrated that even the most woeful old house can look superb and serve today's uses when placed in the hands of competent contractors. His advice was to think twice before doing anything – it is the intact house that retains its value. He also suggested when you think about needing extra

*Continued on page 17*



space, people tend to do so from the inside out; instead they should consider the house from the outside in. Often people don't really need the space they think they do. He suggested one of the best ways to locate competent workmen is to simply ask the owner of a recently restored building for recommendations. He advises to plan ahead – it may take six months to get the right person for your job.

Part II of the Workshop took place on Saturday, February 3rd. By now, the word was out, and the second session was well attended. This session featured Michael Tavares, who truly is Nova Scotia's answer to "Holmes on Homes". Mike, who styles himself an "adaptive re-use restoration artist", feels that restoration must be profitable, but, if one does this for a living, s/he will never have to ask whether they are making a meaningful impact on the world. As restoration is peeling back the layers of time, Michael started with removing lead paint. He went on to discuss caulking, weather-stripping, wood door restoration, fireplace restoration, insulating and air spaces, soffits, rubblestone basement walls, heating systems, plaster restoration, draughty floors, and included some imaginative alternative compliance ideas he has used in commercial restorations. Michael makes things seem simple and fun – the best example was his tip on cleaning fireplace flues...burn potato peels!

A hard act to follow, but Troy Wood, of Wooden Windows & Doors, impressed the audience again with his video (discussed in the last issue of *The Griffin*), then actually re-glazed a window in our presence. His love of his work was inadvertently revealed when he mentioned he had never actually timed how long it takes to reglaze a window.

Further workshops are being planned in other areas of the province. JM ♣

## Proposed Amendments to Heritage Property Act may prevent repeats of Merkel House Fiasco – Is it too late for Coburg Cottage?

by Fred Hutchinson, with references from City Rambles by Garry D. Shutlak

With January's Membership renewal letter from our President, Phil Pacey, there was included a colour insert prepared by David Murphy, Vice-President of our Board, graphically illustrating Heritage lost to Parking Lots. This is not a new issue; indeed it continues to confront both registered and unregistered properties. Bill 132 received first reading January 10, 2007, proposing to remove the right of the owner of a municipally registered heritage property to alter the exterior appearance of the property or to demolish the property one year after the municipality has refused permission to do so; that is, it affords municipally registered heritage properties parallel protection to provincially registered buildings.

The problem with existing legislation is illustrated by the loss of the Merkel House on Brunswick Street. The House was built in the former fashionable area of Brunswick Street in 1868 and was a fine example of Italianate design. It was built for James William Merkel, auctioneer, commission merchant, and banker. He was president of the Merchant's Bank of Halifax, a private bank founded in 1864, federally incorporated in 1869, and today known as The Royal Bank of Canada. James Merkel died a short while after the completion of his new home, and his son-in-law, Joseph Starr, lived in the house until 1879. The house was rented out until it was bought in 1882 by the Roman Catholic

Episcopal Corporation for \$7,500. In 1883 the house opened as Saint Joseph's Orphanage, housing 70 children of both sexes. The orphanage was relocated to Quinpool Road and in 1894 the house became the Home of the Guardian Angel. An addition was built in 1912, attaching it to the building that is now known as "Hope Cottage". Nearly eighty years later, in 1970, the building was leased to the New Options School, and in 1981 it became a year-round hostel, run by the Nova Scotia Hostelling Association. The property was registered by the Halifax City Council as a heritage property in 1980. The property was purchased by NPI Property Group Limited in 1992 and was vacant until its demolition on September 7, 1996.

There were protracted efforts over a period of 23-1/2 months (extended by consent of the owner) to attempt to save the building once an application for demolition was submitted to the City. The City offered the owner a development agreement to construct 24 units on the site, including the restored building, however, the owner could not find financing. HRM Council recommended to staff in 1996 to try to find a buyer or negotiate a land swap. It was recommended that the best solution might be for the municipality to take another look at buying the house outright, however, by this time the interior of the building was "gutted" and only structural elements remained. After a public hearing, a recommendation was to be made to HRM Council but the building was gone before Council next met.

Continued on page 18

**Vimy:** *Continued from page 12*

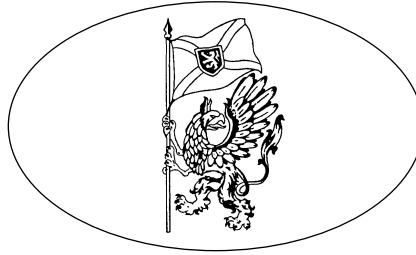
between 1925 and 1936 in memory of the Canadian soldiers who lost their lives there. As well as the cemeteries, the site includes the remains of some of the trenches and underground communication tunnels that were used by both sides as the ground was taken and retaken during the course of the fighting. It is dominated by an impressive monument as high as a ten-storey building, consisting of a huge horizontal slab and two vertical pylons, with sculpted figures, and the names of the fallen inscribed on the stones.

In the latter half of the twentieth century the deterioration of the structure caused concern to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and steps were taken from time to time to repair the damage, which was caused largely by water. In 1996 the monument was designated a Canadian National Historic Site. Thereafter, Mr. Powter and his colleagues embarked on a National Historic Structures Report that would cover all aspects of the projected conservation.

Mr. Powter described the goals of the report, which was designed to ensure that the work would proceed smoothly with no unexpected delays or cost overruns. Very many technical details needed to be addressed. The causes of the deterioration of the stonework were analysed and plans drawn up to rectify them with better provision for drainage. A search was carried out for suitable stone with which to effect repairs, and arrangements were made to have limestone shipped from quarries in Croatia, the source of the original stone. Work was begun in 2004, and is expected to be completed by April, 2007, at which time a rededication of the memorial will take place. Until then, the site is closed to visitors, but provisions have been made for interpretative material to be available, including inscriptions of the names that

people would wish to find.

After Mr. Powter's 50-minute presentation, an interesting question period completed the evening. *JD* ❄



**Merkel:** *Continued from page 17*

For more than 10 years, the site has remained an empty lot – though not a parking lot.

Recommendations in a supplementary report to HRM, dated September 25, 1996, included:

- *Council direct staff to prepare a Heritage Conservation Area plan and By-law for the Brunswick Street area in 1997, after the Hydrostone Conservation Area plan and By-law are largely completed.*

Neither has been implemented; indeed, ten years later we still do not have a single registered heritage district in HRM.

- *Council direct staff to develop a procedure which would be implemented whenever an application is made to demolish a registered heritage property.*

Again, this has not happened, however, the proposed legislative amendment would address this.

...And the problem continues. Coburg Cottage, without its current provincial registration and which is the subject of a deregistration application may face demolition if the provincial deregistration is successful. The one-year waiting period in which the municipality can hold up demolition expires this March.

Perhaps the Municipality must be more pro-active; their purchase of the properties near Maitland Street and municipal designation of the existing buildings resulted in the restoration of these buildings and redevelopment of the large, vacant lot. Perhaps HRM should consider a heritage trust

fund (possibly paid out of development fees) to allow greater protection of our heritage. The Council may try to help, but without improvements to the legislation, as proposed in the current Legislative session, they are left trying to "put out fires" instead of preventing the fires in the first place. ❄

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**Energy:** *Continued from page 14*

the home that should be insulated. I argue this point with many people. If no heat is being produced in the basement, how can we save energy if heat is not being lost to the outdoors?

Hopefully, I have clarified this issue regarding the subject of retrofitting heritage houses. With today's energy costs, one must consider all possibilities, and, without question, retrofitting usually provides a greater payback on investment than many stock market ventures!

*Arthur A. Irwin operates his own consulting practice in Halifax, Irwin Energy Consulting Services, and can be heard and seen monthly on CBC Radio's "Maritime Noon" and CBC TV's "Country Canada". ❄*

**WEIRD & WACKY**  
Intriguing items from the archives of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum  
**MARCH 8 TO JUNE 23 2007**  
BUT WHAT IS IT?  
A CURIOUS CONCOCTION OF COLLECTABLES  
Dartmouth Heritage Museum

## Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

### **Annapolis Heritage Society**

<http://www.annapolisheritagesociety.com>

*O'Dell House Museum, Annapolis Royal:*

Winter hours: 1-4 pm, weather permitting; summer hours: late May-early Sept., daily, 9am-5 pm

*North Hills Museum, Granville Ferry:*

June 1-Oct. 15, Mon.- Sat., 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sun., 1 pm- 5:30 pm

### **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

### **Colchester Historical Society Museum and Archives**

29 Young Street, Truro; information: Penny Lighthall, 902-895-6284; [colchestermuseum@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:colchestermuseum@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

*Public Talks:*

*March 22, 7:30pm - From Cloddy*

*Earth to glittering Gold, the Story of*

*Truro's J.P. Norrie by George Norrie*

*March 28, 2pm - Tatagamouche*

*Shipyards by Bob Latimer*

*March 30, 2pm - Truro in the Halifax*

*Explosion by Malcolm MacLeod*

*April 4, 2pm - The Fire at the NS*

*Agricultural College by Dale Ells*

*April 6 - 2pm - Talk & Exhibit*

*Opening - Senator A.W. McLellan of*

*Great Village by Dick Ackerman*

*April 26, 7:30pm - George D. Byers of*

*of New Annan, Missionary to Hainan,*

*China by Bob Latimer*

*May 24, 7:30pm - Cart Tracks and*

*Cartographers, Walking 18th Century*

*NS by Danny Dyke*

*Events:*

*April 14, 8am-noon Annual Indoor*

*Yard Sale and Bake Sale.*

*April 28, 10am-3:30pm - Genealogist*

*Dr. Terry Punch Workshop - Cost \$25*

*includes lunch*

*May 3, 7pm - Exhibit Opening - The*

*Joy of Rug Hooking*

*May 5, 2pm - Exhibit Opening -*

*Elizabeth Bishop's Great Village.*

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

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth.

*March 2007*

Contact: Elizabeth Corser, 434-0222.

Open daily May 15-October 15.

*Sat., March 17*

Antiques Roadshow, 10 am-4 pm,

Cole Harbour Fire Hall; three

professional appraisers, \$10/item

*Sat., April 21*

Annual dinner and auction,

Brightwood Golf & Country Club, 5

pm for viewing/socializing, 6 pm

dinner; \$35/person, purchase ahead

*Sun., May 13*

Annual Mothers Day Tea, Rose &

Kettle Tearoom, 1-4 pm; adults,

\$7/children, \$5.

### **Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society**

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street,

Dartmouth (former home of Dr. Helen

Creighton). For hours, events, etc.,

contact: 464-2300;

[dhmuseum@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:dhmuseum@ednet.ns.ca)

*March 8-June 23*

*Exhibit: "Weird & Wacky - A curious*

*concoction of collectables", Tues-Fri.,*

*10 am-5 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm, 2-5 pm*

### **Desbrisay Museum**

130 Jubilee Road, Bridgewater; Winter

Hours, to June 1, 2007: Wed-Sun. 1-5

pm; information: 902-543-4033; [museum@bridgewater.ca](mailto:museum@bridgewater.ca)

*Wed., March 28*

"Bridgewater, Then and Now" - illus-

trated presentation, *speaker:* Edith

Wolter; admission \$2 non-members;

members free.

### **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 information hub that pro-

promotes links within the heritage com-

munity and promotes awareness of

heritage resources. To find expert

advice, relevant non-profit resources,

useful web sites, educational opportu-

nities and funding, information 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).

*March 20-April 24*

Human Resource Planning for the

Successful Museum; On-line

*March 26-April 24*

Advocacy: Articulating Your Worth;

On-line

*Fri., April 20*

Preventive Conservation for Your Site;

Shelburne

*April 26-28*

Spring Heritage Conference: What's

Your Story?; Truro

*June 2007 - Making Mannequins: tba*

*Note:* May 9-10 - Council of Nova

Scotia Archives annual conference,

Halifax

### **Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic**

Lunenburg, NS. Season opening: May

19-October 14, 9:30 am-5:30 pm; July

& August, 9:30 am-7:00 pm.

Information:

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fma/new-frames-master.html>

### **Fort Anne National Historic Site**

Annapolis Royal. Information: May

15-June 30/Sept. 1-Oct. 15 - 9am-5:30

pm; July 1-Aug. 31 - 9am-6pm.

Perimeter walking trail.

### **Friends of McNabs Island Society**

*Mon., April 30*

AGM - Brightwood Golf & Country

Club, 7:00 pm

*Sun., June 3*

McNab's and Lawlor Island Beach

Clean-up. Meet at Murphy's on the

Water before 10 am. Groups of 10+

must pre-register with the Friends of

McNabs. Rain date: June 10.

Information: Carolyn, 902 477 0187;

email: [mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca) or visit

[www.mcnabsisland.ca](http://www.mcnabsisland.ca). Information:

Faye Power, 443-1749; Barry Edwards,

455-0820; email [mcnabs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:mcnabs@chebucto.ns.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.

Admission free except where otherwise noted. Donations welcome.

*Permanent exhibits:* The Courthouse, The Acadian, The Victorian Parlour, The New England Planters  
*Short-term exhibit:* "Remembering Kentville Railyards", to April 2007

### **Local Council of Women**

989 Young Avenue, Halifax.

Information: 423-5300.

*Thurs., March 15*

AGM/Potluck Supper, 5pm, Council House

*Sat., April 21*

Indoor Yard Sale and Bake Sale Table, 9-12am, Council House

*Thurs., May 17*

Meeting with Guest Speaker, TBA, 7pm, Council House

*Notice:* George Wright's 1904 house is available for rent for special occasions. For more information, please call 422-8485.

### **Lunenburg Heritage Society (LHS)**

PO Box 674, Lunenburg, NS, B0J 2C0; contact Ruth McConnell,

[www.lunenburgheritagesociety.ca](http://www.lunenburgheritagesociety.ca);

[info@lunenburgheritagesociety.ca](mailto:info@lunenburgheritagesociety.ca)

*Family History Weekend, June 7-9*, hosted by the South Shore Genealogy Society together with the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic and the Lunenburg Heritage Society.

Information/registrations forms: [ssgsoc@hotmail.com](mailto:ssgsoc@hotmail.com) or <http://fisheries.museum.gov.ns.ca>

*Friday, June 8*

Educational program with presentations by Ralph Getson, Curator of the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic: researching sea captains in your family, followed by a new lecture by Terry Punch, well-known genealogist, author and CBC's family history expert. A reception will follow

*June 8- 9*

"Make Sail for Lunenburg – Climb Your Family Tree", event to coincide with the anniversary of the Founding of the Town of Lunenburg on June 7.

*Saturday, June 9*

Displays on family history and Lunenburg heritage, as well as entertainment. Fisheries Museum; 10 am-4 pm

### **Mainland South Heritage Society**

Captain William Spry Community Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield, Halifax. Meets on last Thursday of

each month at 7:00 pm. Contact: Iris Shea, 479-3505; [ishea@eastlink.ca](mailto:ishea@eastlink.ca); <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nsmshs/>

### **McCulloch House Museum**

100 Old Haliburton Road, Pictou.

Information: 902 485 4563;

[burked@ns.gov.ca](mailto:burked@ns.gov.ca). Reopening for the summer season: June 1; hours: June 1-October 15, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun., 1-5 pm

### **Northwest Arm Heritage Association**

Contact: Guy MacLean, 429-9412

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

Online register of Nova Scotia's historic buildings and places:

[www.NShistoricplaces.ca](http://www.NShistoricplaces.ca)

*Thurs.-Fri., March 22-23*

"Embracing the Heritage Advantage: A Conference for People Living and Working with Heritage," sponsored by the Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative, Amherst. Information and registrations forms: on-line at [www.nshistoricplaces.ca](http://www.nshistoricplaces.ca). No charge, advance registration – space limited.

### **Nova Scotia Archaeology Society**

Meets at Auditorium of NS Museum of Natural History, Summer Street, Halifax, 4th Tuesday of the month, September-May. No admission; talks open to the public. Contact: Jeff Turner, 835-5472; [jeff\\_turner@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jeff_turner@ns.sympatico.ca). Craig Chandler at [cchandler@seacorcanada.com](mailto:cchandler@seacorcanada.com) or 420-0040.

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

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street, Halifax. All programs held at the MMA, 424-7490. Information, contact Jim Guptil, [jguptill@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:jguptill@hfx.eastlink.ca); <http://www.nslps.com/>

### **Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society**

Hector Centre, Pictou. Contact: 902-485 4563; [pcghs@gov.ns.ca](mailto:pcghs@gov.ns.ca)

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

Meets third Wednesday of the month, Public Archives of Nova Scotia,

7:30 pm; short business meeting, followed by a presentation. For more information, contact The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, P.O. Box 2622, Halifax, NS B3J 3P7; or email: Philip Gerard, [philip.girard@dal.ca](mailto:philip.girard@dal.ca); website: [nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs](http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs) Wed., March 21

Annual dinner meeting, \$35; deadline: March 14. Information: contact Philip Gerard, 494-2814/ [philip.girard@dal.ca](mailto:philip.girard@dal.ca) "The Sisters of Charity in Rockingham". *Speaker:* Wayne Ingalls Wed., April 18

"Sailors and Citizens: The History of British Naval Impressment in Nova Scotia, 1775-1815, *speaker:* Keith Mercer Wed., May 16

Annual General Meeting;

"Carto-authority: Governance and Geographic Knowledge in Early Halifax, 1749-1753"; *speaker:* Jeffers Lennox.

### **Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield**

Museum open April-October. 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

### **Wallace and Area Museum**

13440 Hwy 6, Wallace; hours: May 15-October 1, Monday-Friday 9-4:30 / Saturday 1-4 pm. Information: 902-257-2191; e-mail:

<http://wallacemuseum.ns.ca/>

*Sun., April 15*

History of Wallace Harbour, 2 pm

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

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS. First Friday of the month at 7.30 pm: Historical Society Meeting (no admission); second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm: Armchair Travel Series (admission \$3/ person) - programs *tba*; second Saturday of the month, 10 am to noon: Spinners Group - call for locations. Information: Derek Kowalchuk, Director, at 902-742-5539, fax 902-749-1120; email: [ycmuseum@eastlink.ca](mailto:ycmuseum@eastlink.ca); website: <http://yarmouth-countymuseum.ednet.ns.ca> ♣