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The Griffin

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The Griffin

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Nova Scotia**

Unless otherwise indicated,
the opinions expressed
in these pages are those of the
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We welcome submissions but
reserve the right to edit for
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President's Report



Linda Forbes

It was welcome news that the Gardiner's Mill Dam in Yarmouth County has been awarded provincial designation. The Trust provided a loan to cover part of the cost of building a new dam after the original dam was destroyed. A condition of the assistance was that the homeowners association apply for designation. Communities Committee members Michael Tavares and Dan Earle worked tirelessly on the project.

Our Places of Worship Committee is working on a Fall lecture series to take place outside HRM, in hopes that this will enable a larger audience to attend than could travel into Halifax for a day-long symposium. Two talks are planned for each event. The bus tour of Annapolis Valley churches planned for October is being moved to early Spring 2014. A disturbing number of churches in the Valley are being closed, among them, St. Andrew's United in Wolfville. First Baptist in Dartmouth, another Cobb church, has applied for municipal de-designation. Yarmouth Council voted to hold a public hearing in September to decide whether to de-designate Zion United Baptist church. These are challenging buildings to re-purpose and yet they are significant community beacons.

The HRM Committee is addressing the impacts of changes to the Regional Plan on heritage buildings, streetscapes and neighbourhoods. At risk from other

causes is the Halifax Infants' Home on Tower Road, now owned by St. Mary's, which downplays the importance of the J.C.Dumaresq building. It served for almost a century as a home for orphans and unwed mothers.

Our Ecology Action Centre partners are researching options for environmentally sustainable materials and systems for the Morris project, before the Request for Proposals goes out to contractors. Fundraising, both in-kind and from foundations, continues, headed by Bev Miller, V-P Finance, and Carol Charlebois of Metro Non-Profit Housing Association. Jeffrey Reed is on call as Conservation Consultant. We are fortunate that Elizabeth Pacey can speak to the architectural qualities of the building itself. Phil Pacey, Chair of the HRM Committee, has worked tirelessly on both Morris and general HRM fronts.

On the advice of the Governance Committee, the AGM adopted changes to the By-laws, to become effective in June 2014. The overall intent was to reduce the size of the Board. The number of Board members will be reduced to a maximum of 25 and the Standing Committees, to 10. The current chairs of the 14 committees remain in place for 2013-14. Five regional representatives will ensure that regional issues come to the attention of the Board; they will take the place of the Communities Committee. One Member-at-Large will be elected annually, with a maximum consecutive term of three years.

The Programme Committee has designed a series of lectures meeting the Trust's mandate to educate, while promoting the conservation of special buildings and sites. The variety is wide and the quality, high, as I hope you will have an opportunity to discover.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (423-4807) if you have questions or concerns.

Cover image: Detail from View of Windsor from the Spitfire Pub by Bill Hanrahan, 19"x24" oil, \$450 (Courtesy of Art Sales and Rental Gallery)

ARTIST

Bill Hanrahan



Waiting for a Streetcar, Oil, 16 in. x 20 in., \$350 (Courtesy of Art Sales and Rental)



Tuesday Morning, Oil, 8 in. x 36 in., \$800 (Courtesy of Art Sales and Rental)

Born in Halifax in 1931, Bill Hanrahan is the son of a Harbour Pilot. He moved to Ontario in 1953 and worked as a newspaper reporter in Hamilton and Toronto. He returned to the Maritimes in 1970 to work for the CBC. He has been married to Pearl Buckler, of Halifax, since 1953. They have four children and nine grandchildren. The retired journalist started making pictures

with a senior's group at Bloomfield School in 1995. Later, he studied painting for three terms at the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design. His work is currently in private and corporate collections, in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Switzerland, Russia, and Korea. His studio is at Robie Street and Charles. His work is for sale at Art Sales and Rental, AGNS.

Doors Open Halifax

Hugh MacKay

In June, 2013, Halifax welcomed its inaugural Doors Open event, joining over 60 communities across Canada and thousands of other communities in over 50 countries around the world in celebrating our built environment. Halifax, like any community, is unique in its heritage and the influences that contributed to its development. *Doors Open* is intended to showcase how the built environment contributed to this development. It is intended to bring communities together for common cause in an event that builds awareness, advocacy, pride in and responsibility for the local built environment.

The basic fundamentals of *Doors Open* are quite simple: buildings of architectural, historical, industrial, cultural and social significance open their doors to visitors for one weekend per year. Visitors are invited into properties for viewing and in some cases special programming and interactive events. While *Doors Open* operates at a local level, internationally there are several shared tenets: the participating buildings are generally not accessible to the public, private residences are excluded and the program is free to the public.

This year, for the first time ever, the public enjoyed Halifax's blend of historical and contemporary architecture, visiting buildings to discover the interior design and the functions that give life to these buildings. Many of these buildings are part of our everyday lives, yet had never been viewed or explored by the public. By providing public access into these buildings, *Doors Open Halifax* mobilized public interest in our built environment and is certain to become a major event on Nova Scotia's cultural calendar.

Halifax is blessed with a richness of candidate buildings for *Doors Open*. The challenge was not in finding enough buildings, but in selecting a range that



Government House (Courtesy of the author).

was representative of the diversity of the city and an inventory that, while not overwhelming the organizing committee, would still ensure that the event made a significant impact. Eventually, the number was narrowed down to 31 buildings of both contemporary and heritage vintage, representing key themes such as government, the commercial sector, places of worship, educational facilities, and social significance. Many obvious candidate buildings were included such as Halifax City Hall, Government House and the Dominion Public Building. Several other buildings that might be thought to be obvious, such as Province House and the Town Clock, could not be included in 2013 but are likely to be included in the years ahead. Several buildings that were perhaps not an obvious choice, such as the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Halifax Club, the Environ-

ment Canada - Hurricane Centre and the Women's Council House, each received unexpectedly high numbers of visitors. A full listing of the 2013 venues can be found on the website www.doorsopen-halifax.com. There, suggestions for 2014 venues are being accepted at this time.

A total of 16,502 visits were recorded at the 31 participating venues, although it is recognized that the unofficial total was well over 18,000. In descending order, the top fifteen venues for visitors were: Scotiabank Hollis Street Main Branch (1,684 visits), Government House (1,607 visits), Dominion Public Building (1,497 visits), Halifax City Hall (1,240 visits), Halifax Club (1,203 visits), Environment Canada - Hurricane Centre, Alexander Keith's Brewery, Ummah Masjid, The Grainery Lofts by Southwest Properties, and The Paramount Apartments by Universal Properties, St. George's Round Church, the Little Dutch Church, Dalhousie



Maritime Command (Courtesy of the author).

sie University School of Architecture, the Women's Council House, and Alderney Five Geothermal Vault.

Volunteers are the mainstay of *Doors Open Halifax*. Each venue required two sets of volunteers: one set from the *Doors Open* team to welcome visitors, conduct visitor surveys, and provide information on neighbouring venues and the overall event; and a second team from the venue itself, who acted as the building interpreters and guides, giving voice to the design and functions of the building. *The Doors Open Halifax* Organizing Committee developed a thorough Volunteer Management Plan,

complete with a Volunteer Manual and Volunteer Training Sessions. Over 300 volunteers worked at *Doors Open Halifax*, and the most consistent feedback on our Visitor Surveys were the positive remarks concerning the helpfulness and the enthusiasm of our volunteers. We are deeply grateful to all of these volunteers and delighted that so many of them came out to celebrate with us at our Volunteer Appreciation Event at Keith's Brewery. Volunteers for 2014 *Doors Open Halifax*, scheduled for June 7th & 8th, will soon be able to register on our website.

The immense popularity of *Doors*

Open in other communities across Canada reveals people's curiosity about buildings and their history, leading to increased access, awareness and advocacy for our built heritage. For all communities, the event has grown significantly year-over-year in terms of the number of venues, visitors and volunteers. The tremendous success of the inaugural event has solidified *Doors Open Halifax* as an annual event and planning is now underway for 2014.

Hugh MacKay and past-President Peter Delefos are founding members of Doors Open Halifax Heritage Society.

Nova Scotia's Students Celebrate Our History and Culture

Janice R. Zann

May 2013 once again saw students from across the province participating in local and regional heritage fairs, culminating in the Provincial Heritage Fair on May 31st at Pier 21 in Halifax.

The number of participants across the province has grown from 5,508 last year to 9,900 in 2013. This is a reflection of the ability of the dynamic, provincial coordinator, Kate Robson (now Kate Kirkpatrick), who conveys her passion for heritage to the regional coordinators and local teachers that play such an important role in encouraging student participation in the fairs.

In 1993, the *Charles R. Bronfman Foundation* assembled a group of Winnipeg teachers and history enthusiasts to help design a program to encourage students to become more aware of their local heritage. The result of that gathering was the first Heritage Fair held, with great success, on May 12, 1993, in Winnipeg.

Following this, a Heritage Fair was then held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and by 1995, six provinces were involved in heritage fairs. Since then, all provinces and territories have participated. Nova Scotia has been involved for the past seventeen years. In the past, a National Fair was held in a different city each year to which the winning students from each province were flown to showcase their projects, observe projects of other provinces, and interact with students from all parts of Canada. This was discontinued due to a lack of funding.

When funding from the Bronfman Foundation for the Fairs was eliminated, the *Historica-Dominion Institute* took over. When that institution ended its involvement, *Canada's History Society* stepped in to help provide national coordination and fund-raising support for the fairs for the past two years. Providing national exposure for students to share



Olivia Bell, recipient of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Built Heritage Award at 2013 Provincial Heritage Fair (courtesy of the author)

their knowledge has not been easy without sufficient funding. However, *Canadian Heritage* "Youth Take Charge" program was supportive in launching a new national component for the 2012 Fairs in which video cameras were provided to the best students from each regional fair. Students created four-minute videos which were put online for Canadians across the country to judge at *Young Citizens.ca*. Some amazing videos were presented, and the winner last year was a Grade 4 student from Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. He was flown to Ottawa to present his video to the Governor General. His ambition is now to become a professional videographer.

A new competition was launched this year. "The Aborigines, the North, and the Arctic" was designed to celebrate the centennial of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913. Four students from Nova Scotia entered projects.

Deborah Morrison, publisher, president and C.E.O. of *Canada's History Society* wrote in the latest issue of *Canada's History Magazine*: "Now that the Heritage Fairs Program is 20 years old, we have already produced a generation of young adults who are more likely to be conscious of our past, and more committed to history and heritage stewardship as a result."

With the results of this year, we can rest assured that the next generation is heading in the same direction. However, funding for these projects is essential. Science Fairs generate large corporate donations as the sciences are perceived as vital to economic development, but we must also realize that our investment in heritage contributes to the creative economy. These heritage fair participants are our future film makers, journalists, museum curators, researchers, architects, visual artists, musicians, actors, urban designers and planners, genealogists, etc.

The Minister of Education, and the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, realize that these fairs are just as important for students as the science fairs, and have been very generous with financial support, as has the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union. However, far more financial support is needed. The work of the provincial coordinator is really a full-time position that is not being adequately funded.

This year once again, members of Heritage Trust contributed their time to judging deserving projects relating to built heritage, and provided award certificates to students at each of the eight regional fairs. There has been a large increase in the number of participants in this category since the Trust began issuing awards. Our President, Linda Forbes, presented the special Built Heritage Award this year at the Provincial Fair to Olivia Bell for her project on the "History and Built Heritage of the La Have River Islands." The prize was a special Pre-

Wile Carding Mill of Bridgewater

Confederation Nova Scotia coin depicting the H.M.S. Shannon, donated for this purpose by an anonymous friend of the Trust, with a special certificate designed by Trust Board member and graphic designer, Arthur Carter. Interestingly, the day of the award ceremony coincided with the date of the historic event of the engagement of the H.M.S. Shannon with the Chesapeake in 1813.

Also at the Provincial Fair, Shirley Nicoll, provincial coordinator for fourteen years, was honoured with a plaque recognizing her place on the National Heritage Wall of Fame. When she stepped down from this position due to ill health, hers were very large shoes to be filled. Fortunately, the present coordinator, Kate Kirkpatrick, took over, and, for the past two years, has given her all to the project. Her efforts have seen the heritage fairs revived and blossoming, with the quality of research and oral reporting by students much improved. The Education Department was represented by Jennifer Burke, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage by Minister Leonard Preyra and Meghan Hallett, and the N.S.T.U. by its president, Shelley Morse.

The Minister of Education, the Honourable Ramona Jennex, wrote in support of the Fairs: "The opportunity to explore and share information on a range of topics within Canadian history is an invaluable experience for students. The Heritage Fairs Program provides a wonderful opportunity for students to further develop an appreciation for the rich and vibrant history of our province and our country."

My sincere thanks to all Trust members who gave their time to judge built heritage projects at each of the eight school boards' regional fairs.

Barbara Thompson

Wile Carding Mill of Bridgewater will be celebrating its registration as a Municipal Heritage Property on September 8 at 2 pm. The Carding Mill was opened by Dean Wile, who also built a sawmill and gristmill in the same area. Dean Wile was a descendant of one of the first families of Bridgewater. Dean's great grandfather, John Frederick Weil, came to Halifax from Germany in 1750 and moved to LaHave in 1758. The Wile family left a lasting footprint on the community. Dean's sons, Arkansas and Otto, were businessmen. Pearl Street was named for Dean's daughter and Wile donated land for Brookside Cemetery.

Wile Carding Mill is one of few original carding mills in the province and the only remaining industry of Sebastopol, Bridgewater's 19th century water-powered industrial area. The neighbourhood once contained grist mills, a saw mill, foundry, wheel and carriage factory and tannery. Water rights were a major business concern of this time period and an important factor in Bridgewater history.

Although it has endured restoration work, the building itself is an excellent example of a small nineteenth-century industrial structure. The structure still retains its original gable roof and clapboards on the front and ends of the main building. All original wooden gears and flat belt mechanics remain inside the building as well as original machinery. The front door and hardware, with its inscription (Nov 11/74 1874) carved on the back of the door, remain intact.

A back ell was added in 1890 and a recent board and batten shed was added over the flume. The wheel, before the addition of the ell, would have originally been exposed. Six-over-six windows situated close to the cornices were replaced with replicas milled with early tools at Ross Farm Museum. The building is in original placement on site, which provides maximum access to wa-

ter power and east facing windows to utilize daylight. The exterior was painted with red ochre established from paint analysis of the shingles. The original waterwheel was faithfully reproduced from local hemlock with gears cast at Lunenburg Foundry.

Join us in celebrating this important building's rich heritage.

The Mill is located at 242 Victoria Road, Bridgewater. Info: Barbara Thompson at 543-4033 or bthompson@bridgewater.ca.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Illustrated Public Lecture Series

SEPTEMBER 19TH

A J B Johnston: A Top 10
History of Louisbourg: Past,
Present, Future.

OCTOBER 17TH

Kevin Robbins: The Town
Major's War: A Look at Halifax
in the War of 1812 through
the Order Book of the Halifax
Military Headquarters.

NOVEMBER 21ST

John Whidden: The New
England Colonial Style: Two
Centuries of Georgian Influence
on Domestic Architecture in the
Wolfville Area.

All talks take place at 7:30 pm

**Museum of Natural History,
Auditorium**

1747 Summer Street, Halifax

Information 423-4807

A Lifetime Achievement Award for Lyndon Watkins, Schmidville

Elizabeth Burke

Mr. Lyndon Watkins was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award on April 25th when Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia hosted its Annual Dinner in the elegant Georgian Room of the Lord Nelson Hotel. The Award was given in recognition of and appreciation for the many contributions he has made to the conservation of heritage buildings in Nova Scotia. The highlight of the evening was Mr. Watkins' presentation in which he described the trials and tribulations he has encountered in following his passion for old buildings.

Mr. Watkins came to Nova Scotia from England in the 1960s, having been recruited by the *Chronicle Herald*, and continued with his planned career as a Canadian journalist and embarked on an unplanned career as a restorer of heritage buildings. He credits his grandfather, Mr. Charles Henry Blackwell, a Welsh builder and collector of old houses and barns, with instilling in him the ability to look at old buildings and see their potential rather than their derelict state.

His first project was an abandoned farm house in Cheverie, Hants Co. After restoring the house to a pleasantly habitable state, he lived there three or four days out of the week and enjoyed entertaining his friends there. Sadly, some of the local louts vandalized and looted the house to such an extent that Mr. Watkins did not have the heart to do it again. However, once bitten.... His next project, at 1329 Dresden Row in Halifax, was originally a one-and-a-half storey Georgian cottage with Scottish dormer, later converted to a two storey Victorian townhouse. This home was not only in disrepair but fire-damaged as well, and came to be known as Bleak House. A first inspection had him ready to flee in horror but encouraged by

friends, he succumbed and presented a very low offer to purchase. Despite initial dismay at the acceptance of his offer, he proceeded with the restoration. This began his love affair with the historic neighbourhood of Schmidville. Bounded by Clyde, Queen, Morris and Brenton Streets, Schmidville is one of the most historic neighbourhoods in Halifax. It is named after the first family to live on the lands, German-born Christian Schmidt and his wife Elizabeth née Pedley. His pièce de résistance is the conservation of the earliest group of structures built on the Schmidt land, two pairs of Georgian mirror-image cottages, 1314-1316 and 1318-1320 Birmingham Street. They were originally built for the four adult daughters of Christian and Elizabeth Schmidt. This unique enclave has been meticulously restored one building at a time. The pair of cottages at the rear of the lot have become what Mr. Watkins says will be his last home. Although only one room deep and not grand architecturally he has created a home that is a charming blend of the original elements and elegant décor.

The purchase of the home at 1312 Birmingham Street created a private courtyard between the three structures where his enthusiasm for gardening can be seen. This two-and-a-half storey home is aptly referred to as "the Thin House," having an unusually narrow front façade in proportion to its depth.

Mr. Watkins has had no formal training in restoration nor huge sums of money to bring in experts, but rather has learned along the way, taking his time and letting the houses reveal their secrets to him gradually. Conserving old houses has been a labour of love for him with an emphasis on the labour.

In addition to his work preserving heritage buildings, Mr. Watkins has also been an active member of the Friends of the Public Gardens and the Friends of

Schmidville. The Friends of Schmidville association is working to have HRM officially designate the neighbourhood as a Heritage Conservation District.

The HRM Committee of Heritage Trust has been actively engaged in supporting this initiative. For the grand finale of the Annual Dinner program, Dr. Elizabeth Pacey introduced a brochure entitled *Houses and Stories of Schmidville*. The brochure, published by Heritage Trust, with text by Elizabeth Pacey, research by Irene Fennell, and photography and graphic design by Arthur Carter, provides a sampling of buildings in this historic community. Beautiful photos exemplifying varied architectural styles and tales of their owners serve to whet the appetite for more information and, it is hoped, increase awareness that Schmidville represents an important part of Halifax's built and cultural heritage and needs to be protected for future generations.

2013 Built Heritage Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Deadline: September 30th

The Awards recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements in the preservation of our province's built heritage. Award winners are honoured at a special ceremony with resultant publicity, the subject of a feature on our website and an article in Heritage Trust's quarterly, *The Griffin*. The deadline for 2013 is drawing near. For information about nominating a conservation project please visit the Awards page at www.htns.ca or contact us by email at awards@htns.ca or telephone Elizabeth Burke, 902-492-2581.

Unique Heritage Residence, Granville Ferry

Elizabeth Burke

The former Emmanuel United Church, a municipally designated heritage property, located at 5439 Granville Road in Granville Ferry, is looking for a new owner who seeks the serenity of life in an historic town and would enjoy living in a distinctive, architecturally rich heritage building with all the modern amenities.

The Emmanuel United Church, an impressive example of Gothic Revival architecture, was built c. 1878 by John A. Brown, contractor, under the guidance of Reverend J.M. Pike, minister. Originally a Methodist Meeting Place, it continued as such until 1925 when it became a place of worship for the United Church of Canada. Constructed of wood and brickwork, it incorporates many design details associated with the Gothic Revival style, including steeply pitched roofs with numerous gables, pointed arched windows and an emphasis on vertical line. The impressive gabled tower with spire and paired Gothic windows is balanced by the massing of the offset portion of the building.

The current owner, Theodore Richter, has spent the last eight years working on the necessary restorations to maintain the building's structure and sensitively convert the interior for use as a residence. The exterior work included new roofing, restoration of brickwork, a drainage system to protect the building from future water damage, and repair or replacement of windows as necessary. Replacement windows were custom-fitted to the original openings.

The first step in the interior was to remove walls erected by a previous owner, which cut up and enclosed areas and in so doing, impacted negatively on the impact of the large scale space and soaring ceiling. The open concept design retains the majestic feeling created by the original builder and yet the space has a warm feeling generated by



maintaining the original flooring and stunning woodwork with its rich patina. The clever use of partial-height walls allowed bedrooms to be sectioned off without interfering with the interior architecture. Some of the original church fittings have been included in the design plan: pews re-purposed as dining table benches and a lectern standing as sentinel at one doorway. The Foucault's Orb-style ceiling fixtures throughout are a good fit for the age of the building and help to unify the space.

The two bedroom, two bath residence includes a cook's delight, galley style kitchen with high end appliances and a copper counter, which time will allow to blend gracefully, and a completely modern marble main bath. The four storey bell tower, complete with bronze bell, offers outstanding views of the basin and surrounding valley and awaits the imagination of a new owner for future development. The approxi-

mately one-half acre lot with mature trees and a brook provides ample space for creation of a garden to complement the residence.

This 135 year-old building has a history of adaptive reuse. In 1985 it was deconsecrated, sold and transformed into the Landmark Designs craft centre, then a dance studio and now a unique heritage residence. We live in an era when the availability of deconsecrated churches available for purchase is increasing. Many have seen the value in giving these wonderfully crafted structures new life as commercial ventures, community centres, museums and residences. This residence is a stunning example of combining heritage and modernity in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

Unique Heritage Residence is for sale, for \$220,000. MLS No. 05109780. Contact Lorie Farley of Keller Williams Realty (Valley) at 902-824-4813.

Showcasing a Lifetime of Achievement: the Schmidt Daughters' Cottages

Elizabeth Burke

On a beautiful spring evening in April, which all optimistically hoped presaged an early summer, Heritage Trust of NS hosted its Annual Dinner in the Georgian Room of the Lord Nelson Hotel. The event provided the opportunity to honour Mr. Lyndon Watkins of Schmitville, Halifax with a Lifetime Achievement Award presented in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the conservation of historic buildings and sites in Nova Scotia.

Guests were both impressed and entertained by Mr. Watkins' presentation describing the paths he has followed in heritage preservation since his arrival in Canada in the 1960s. (Visit www.htns.ca, Awards Tab and select This Year's Winners for highlights or go to Eastlink TV, On Demand, Podium TV: Heritage Trust presents Lifetime Achievement Award, and watch the live taping of the presentation.)

This article's focus is on one of the exceptional restoration projects undertaken by Mr. Watkins: the historically and architecturally significant pair of Georgian mirror-image cottages at 1314-1316 and 1318-1320 Birmingham Street. These properties lie within the historic neighbourhood of Schmitville, bounded by Clyde, Queen, Morris, and Brenton Streets. The land on which the neighbourhood developed was owned by English-born James Pedley, and it was referred to as Pedley's Field. Pedley's daughter, Elizabeth, inherited the land, and in 1830, she and her German-born husband, Christian Schmidt, subdivided it into building lots for a new suburb, Schmit Ville. Elizabeth and Christian built the pair of mirror-image cottages for their two adult daughters, although there are no records to show they actually lived there. The exact age of the dwellings is not known. It is known that they predate the subdividing of the land since coins dated 1814 were found



South cottage (Courtesy of Elizabeth Burke)

under the floor boards.

The cottages sit flush to the ground with centered entrance doors; small symmetrical windows; narrow corner boards; steeply-pitched roofs with no overhang; and large central chimneys. Twin, gabled dormers with triple lights adorn the front pair of cottages, numbered 1318-1320. The interior decorative elements include Georgian mouldings and Christian doors.

When Mr. Watkins acquired these properties they were derelicts with below grade rot, roof and shingling which allowed the snow to enter, Kemac stoves as a heating source, and a single bathroom shared between the cottages. Restoration work proceeded slowly, and in Mr. Watkins words it was "rather like peeling an onion," gradually removing layers until the original structure and materials were revealed.



Dining room (Courtesy of Lyndon Watkins)

Mr. Watkins resides in the pair of cottages at the rear of the lot. The interior of each cottage is one room deep, consisting of a small entry, main living space with a small, side room on the first floor, and a bedroom on the second floor which is accessed via a steep, narrow staircase. The early occupants of these cottages would have lived very primitively by our standards with the fireplace being the centre of life providing both heat and a place to cook. The toilet would, of course, have been out back. The small, side room was called the birthing room.

Mr. Watkins' restoration has retained the original floor plan, but opened the entry between the cottages and adapted the rooms' usage to suit the way we live today. The main living area of one

cottage has become a formal parlour and the other a formal dining room. The highlight of the dining room is an Adam style fireplace (pictured here) salvaged from the demolished Clyde Street home of Elizabeth and Christian Schmidt. One small side room has become a study, and the other a kitchen with a space carved out of each of the bedrooms for a bathroom. A bonus room has been created in the basement leaving the textural, stone foundation exposed. This room contains a display of interesting artifacts found during the restoration.

A unique, special home has been created through the juxtaposition of elegant antiques and fine art against the rustic, exposed ceiling beams and painted pine floor. Watkins' interest and flair for gardening has been given rein

in the courtyard area between the two sets of cottages, causing pedestrians to pause and gaze in admiration at the properties. A fortunate few are invited in. Sara Beanlands, Chair of Heritage Trust's Programme Committee, said it best in describing Lyndon Watkins as "an artist of buildings and streetscapes."

Schmidtville is the most intact Georgian residential area in Canada. Unwilling to wait for the neighbourhood to gain protection by way of an HRM designation as a Heritage Conservation District, Mr. Watkins has made provision in his will for a foundation to be formed to ensure his properties will be preserved with ongoing stewardship.

Elizabeth Burke chairs the Awards Committee.

A Convenient Disconnect - When Heritage Matters

Austin Parsons

Over the 2013 Canada Day weekend, the St. James United Church in Spry Bay, Nova Scotia was rededicated as a Halifax Regional Municipality heritage property. It was a day when the work of the community to rehabilitate the long vacant church was celebrated. Several generations of different families representing the original builders and worshipers, as well as those involved in the rehabilitation work, gathered to share stories about what the church meant to them, and to understand the effort it took to bring the church building back to where it is today.

Along the way, I came to realize how a nondescript building can bond the ghosts of a community, and save its memory. Heritage buildings can be about significant architecture, but they can also be about what the buildings meant to those who used them. At the end of the day, a building needs a champion to survive. The reasons that motivate a champion are as different as the number of buildings themselves. The common denominator is that someone or some group thought the building was worth saving.

What follows is more than a story about people, a building, and the relationship between the two. In addition to all the sustainability arguments about why buildings should be saved, there is also a human component. It is the irrational human reasons that may make the most sense.

Spry Bay is on Nova Scotia's eastern shore. In its day, it was a working coastal community with its own lobster cannery, schools, merchants, and churches. Today, it is a sign on the highway with a few homes scattered along the coast. Most of its residents are summer people - people who grew up in the community, moved away after high school to a different life, are now retired, and

returned to their family homes over the summer. As you would guess, the community is now held together by its collective memories and a desire to honour them.

St. James' first service was held on January 24, 1874. That was the first service in the new church. The church was actually built twice. The structure was mostly complete but was blown down in the Great Nova Scotia Cyclone of August, 1873, and was then rebuilt that fall.

The church was built with the money from community families. Each family bought a pew. In a time when a fisherman got one cent per lobster, some families paid \$25.00; others paid \$50.00 or as much as \$100.00 per pew. Their great-grandchildren still remember what their ancestors paid.

St. James was first a Presbyterian church, and is now a United Church. It served the community for more than eighty years before it was deconsecrated in the 1960s. It is a nondescript building, and isn't the oldest building in the community. Its most obvious character-defining elements are its belfry and windows, and they aren't special in terms of architectural design. The architecture of the church and its time in service aren't what mattered. What mattered was its heritage. It was a spiritual beacon for several generations. It was the place where people were christened, married, and buried. It was the place where the community gathered every Sunday not just to worship, but also to gossip and get caught up on news.

As the people moved from the community, the church lost its purpose, but the people didn't lose their memory of the place. For lack of a better description, the building was abandoned for a time. What saved the church from the wrecker's ball was a past parishioner's action. On his own initiative, he applied to have the building designated as a

municipal heritage property. Now, for better or worse, this act made people think about what they had, and take action.

Last Sunday, in the pews were the great and great-great-grandchildren of the people who initially built and worshipped in the church. On this day, the bond to the building was re-connected.

I work with buildings. Most times, they are just that - a collection of materials. I work on them, get paid, and I move on. I started this way with St. James. My connection with the building was the windows. Parsons Lumber Company Limited was responsible for restoring its sashes, fabricating storm windows, and making a storm door. Because of this work, I was invited to the rededication ceremony. As such, I took pride in what our company did and was glad to be invited. But it was a craftsman's pride, similar to the pride you take in your work.

I understand that people can have different types of connections to buildings from the ones I have. The Spry Bay community's connection to its church isn't a selfish connection based on personal ownership of one kind or another, but one based on community spirit. It is a connection based on what the building represented to the families that were in attendance. It is a connection that made people want to bake cookies, preserve cucumbers, and spend time in countless meetings to raise the money needed to conserve the building.

In one sense, the church is like every other small community church in North America where the population left, and the building no longer has a purpose. Frequently, these buildings are demolished, or sold, or used as a storage barn. The difference with St. James is that its people didn't forget what the building meant to their forefathers or to them.

This story isn't typical. When dealing with a heritage building, I rarely see

St. Patrick's-Alexandra: Community Not Hopeful City Council is Sincere

Dulcie Conrad

this much of a personal connection to the building. Often, most people are more distant in their relationship to the building. What is rare in the story is that the building bound a group of people together, much as it did when it was a church.

Some buildings can make an individual more community-minded, but St. James made a community more community-minded. In both cases, it is the irrational that has driven the process.

In some way, this irrational aspect of the human spirit is not unlike what I see in the Guild. The Guild is driven by principles of business, engineering, craft, and sustainability among other tangibles. It is also a community of people brought together by buildings. It also has a passion that some would consider irrational. It is this passion that drives a good deal of decisions.

In a time when a number of communities have lost their connections to their buildings and their heritage, it is refreshing to witness a case where this hasn't happened. The connection between the building and the people began with those who have long since passed, and continued with those who haven't used the building in almost two generations. Upon reflection, the ceremony showed me how a building can become more than wood and plaster to the people who use it. I don't think a person can love a building, but a community can.

An interesting lesson learned because heritage mattered to a few.

This article first appeared in Scantlings, the newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild.

In late June of 2013, hundreds of Haligonians of all ages, mostly from the North End of Halifax, jammed themselves into the tiny Gottingen Street Memorial Public Library to defend their right to have a say in the future use of the now-empty St. Patrick's-Alexandra School Complex which has served this historic, integrated community for generations.

This meeting didn't just happen. For more than a year, community leaders have battled for the right to have access to the property which was taken away by a determined Halifax City Council bent on inner city high-rise development at any cost - and sold to a developer without even a by-your-leave to those non-profit groups who had been involved in their community's activities for years: Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, North End Community Health Centre, and the Mi'kmaq Friendship Community Centre.

Sadly, with their on-going efforts to prove that they have the know-how and commitment to manage such a facility not yet accepted, there is no guarantee that the building will be turned over to them when Council takes its final vote, likely in November of this year.

A Little History about the Site

For many of our Griffin readers who may not be familiar with this historic area of Halifax, the multi-acre complex lies immediately adjacent to the internationally-known St. George's Anglican Round Church, where we were told as children "the devil can't get you in the corners," and within the immediate vicinity of the equally historic Cornwallis Street Baptist Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, which is now undergoing massive reconstruction by a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of this area's historic, Catho-

lic past. This beautiful church had been declared surplus and would likely have ended up in the city dump if it had not been rescued by caring parishioners and other people from the Halifax community interested in Canada's built heritage.

Today's existing complex contains the former, two-storey St. Patrick's Boys High School and a massive one-storey addition, which was built years ago to replace the now-demolished, nearby Alexandra Grammar School.

Prior to the Halifax Explosion in 1917, this area stretching north from Citadel Hill to Stadacona was very prosperous with many historic buildings: the Military Hospital, now Staples; the School for the Deaf; and St. Patrick's Girls High School, now part of the Uniacke Square housing project; the Halifax Railway Station, now the Irving Shipyards; Alexandra Grammar School, now architecturally-compatible, single family homes; along with many fine mansions where doctors and prosperous city founders once lived, and where the fragile Little Dutch Church still survives thanks to neighborhood kids who guard it as if it was their own.

When it became known that Halifax City Council had ignored its own rules (Section 63 of the City Charter) by failing to seek out public opinions prior to accepting the developer's bid to purchase the site, local community leaders began raising the funds required to hire a lawyer who would take the matter to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court. Thankfully, the Court ordered City Council to rescind its agreement with the developer, and give the united community a chance to make its own offer to purchase the site.

Don't Look for Any Favours

The June meeting, chaired by city-appointed Holly Richardson, was called by civic officials to make it clear that the united community and its representatives should not look for any favours. The

community would have to provide a financially-viable proposal like any other interested party. City financial policy and planning manager, Bruce Fisher, explained that he had not been party to HRM's former process and evaluation. He presented an overview of the property including aerial photographs and views of the interior of the former high school. He also estimated what the tax on the building would be and pointed out the importance of applicants' assessing the condition of the site.

Fisher said City Council would be considering the overall context of their proposal: the market value, their planning strategy, the benefit of cost savings, consequences to the community and the greater municipality. "Council will look at the benefit that will accrue from selling the property at market value or selling at below market value to a non-profit organization," he said.

Fisher indicated that if City Council decided to sell the property at below market value, a public meeting would be held and a 2/3 majority vote of Council would be required to approve such a sale. Also, he added, Council could just as easily agree to sell the property at market value. He said he hoped a decision could be made regarding the project by November.

Public Participation

Rev. Rhonda Britton of the Cornwallis Baptist Church opened the public participation discussion by listing a number of problems and pressures faced by the local community. The lack of meeting places where youth, adults, and seniors could socialize, engage in activities, receive special training, or find help when needed was clearly a good enough reason for keeping the school complex in community hands.

When she invited the many youth who had attended the three-hour meeting to tell the city administrators how the facility could be used, they didn't hesitate to shout out their ideas: language programs, summer camps, after-school projects, a swimming pool or hot tub, an open gym, theatre and art

classes, a games room, cooking classes, breakfast and lunch programs, pottery and wood working classes, teen dances, leadership training classes, a daycare, tutoring programs, card games, talent shows, a drop-in centre, soup kitchen, music lessons, homeless shelter, and playground.

Among the more than fifty people who spoke that night was Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre youth co-ordinator, Glenn Knockwood, who was accompanied by a number of young people, all wearing signs, who attend activities at the Gottingen Street location where Knockwood has worked for five years. "But we are running out of space because the numbers keep growing." All of the programs offered, he said, were beneficial "for the community. Many of our young people are poised for leadership," he said and he hoped City Council would not deny them the space to keep the momentum going. He felt Council had been "disrespectful" in its previous decision to sell the complex, and hoped its elected members would put their faith in the community's young people and give them a chance to meet their potential. It was pointed out that the Mi'kmaq Centre had a membership of some 5,000 and growing.

Dr. Margaret Casey, who heads the North End Community Health Centre, said there was an urgency to resolve the matter, and "if the opportunity" was missed it would have a negative impact on the city. The proposal put forward to Council by the three non-profit organizations, she stated, would attempt to capture what had been expressed at the meeting that night. She added that there would be further consultations with the community prior to its submission to city officials.

Both Dr. Casey and Rev. Britton noted that the community seemed fearful of the subjective process outlined early in the meeting by City representative, Bruce Fisher, and concerned that there didn't seem to be a will among elected city councillors to help the community. "HRM should be more open to having community members come to them

and should hold a follow-up meeting so staff can bring specific answers back to community members." Dr. Casey said that holding one meeting indicated that HRM was not entering the process in the right spirit. She added, "I hope this is a sincere effort on the part of our elected officials."

One unidentified member of the audience noted that non-profit organizations were expected "to do a great deal of work" to put this kind of gigantic proposal together, and that it would be helpful "if the city could give them more help as to what they are required to submit."

Among the many that spoke were at least a dozen community leaders, including former school board chairman, Irvine Carvery; Halifax lawyer and human rights activist, Rocky Jones; former Halifax City Manager, Bernie Smith; North End Community Health Centre Director Jane Moloney; Ward 8 Councillor Jennifer Watts; Jens Jensen of St. George's Anglican Church; Nova Scotia Housing Trust president, Ross Cantwell; Mi'kmaq lawyer and Chair of the Halifax Aboriginal Peoples Network, Naiomi Metallic; Halifax Humanities Program Director, Mary-Lou Reddin; North End Business Association President, David Flemming, who recommended all those present contact their council member; and Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre Executive Director, Pam Glode.

For those who wish a full transcript of the meeting, contact the clerk's office at Halifax City Hall.

E. Pacey notes: St. Patrick's Boys School on Brunswick Street is the work of ... the most distinguished Nova Scotia architect of the first half of the 20th century. [Cobb] had studied at the prestigious Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris. [It] can be classed as one of our rare and most important "designer schools", in the tradition of Palace Schools of the late 19th and early 20th century... [which] were architectural landmarks and a source of great public pride. St. Patrick's School deserves to be a registered heritage property.

Iris Shea: Foreign Protestant Descendants at the North West Arm

Janet Morris

On a long summer's eve, following the Annual General Meeting, we travelled back in time - and in our armchairs - to the Lower Armdale Settlement, since the early 1900s known as Jollimore, with long-time resident and historian, Iris Shea.

The first permanent settlers in the area were descendants of the Foreign Protestants who had settled in Lunenburg in 1753. Many families spread out from Lunenburg, populating communities between there and Halifax. The settlement was named for the Jollimore family (Jolimois). Also prominent among early settlers were the Boutilliers; both were families of French-speaking Lutherans from Montbéliard, which is now part of France. The Slaunwhites (Schlagenweits) were of German origin; Joseph and his second wife, with two sons, first came to Lunenburg aboard the Sally.

In 1826, three grandsons of Pierre Jolimois - John, Frederick and George - moved from St. Margaret's Bay when their parents, John and Sophia (nee Slaunwhite), purchased what is now the Boscobel property and most of Boulderwood. John and Frederick subsequently purchased two 50 acre lots from the John Howe, Jr. Estate. Frederick sold much of his land to his Boutillier cousins (a family from the Head of St. Margaret's Bay who settled at the Northwest Arm in 1830). Later, Sanford Fleming acquired most of the Boutillier land, allowing the public to use parts, including Ferry Cove, where the Oakland Road ferry, begun in 1903 by Joe Boutillier, ran until the 1960s; the crossing was five cents each way and on an as-needed basis.

Iris Shea detailed the ownership and history of many of the older homes in the area. The area is defined by narrow roads, a few remaining grander homes - some are registered heritage properties - together with cottage-style houses originally occupied by stonecutters,



Boscobel gates (Courtesy of Iris Shea)

farmers and fishermen; they supplemented their incomes by working at local mills and quarries, and for a short while, the ice company on William's Lake. The community had a school built by William Cunard in 1803. In 1865, after a fire, a lot was purchased for the new school which opened in 1866, with school trustee, Twining, living next door. This school burned down in 1915, and a third Cunard School burned down in 1947. Ultimately John W. MacLeod School replaced it.

The community also has a cemetery, located on George Jollimore's property, completely surrounded by old stone

walls. One hundred and fifty people are buried here, and the cemetery is now closed to burials. The cemetery is just inside the Boscobel gates, which were built in the 1870s, and were removed on the day of our talk for the purpose of widening the road for the new development on the Boscobel lands. It was noted that the distance between the gates was wider than the Dingle Gates, which still stand. The old 12 foot road will be replaced with a 66 foot wide road.

It is time for us to get up from our armchairs and protect this heritage community.

H. John Whidden, *Wolfville's Architectural Heritage: Notable Buildings of Old Wolfville Organized in Three Walking Tours*

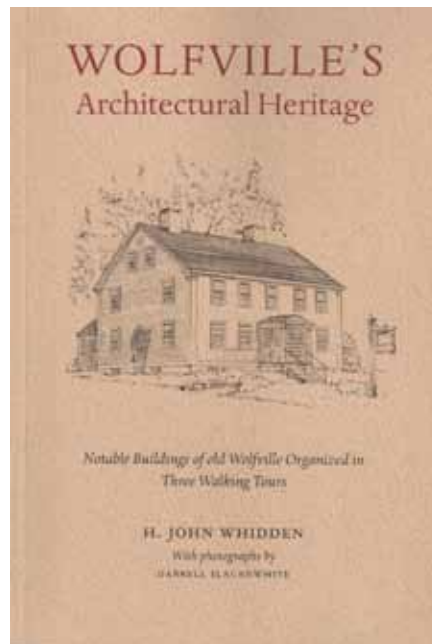
Holly Gunn

Wolfville's Architectural Heritage: Notable Buildings of Old Wolfville Organized in Three Walking Tours by H. John Whidden, with photographs by Darrell Slauenwhite, Wolfville: Wolfville Historical Society, 2012. Available from Wolfville Historical Society, Randall House, Wolfville, N.S. Cost \$15.00. The book is also available from the Box of Delights, Wolfville's independent bookseller.

Wolfville's Architectural Heritage provides a guide to the many architectural styles used in over two centuries of home building in Wolfville. Whidden has done an excellent job of describing the architectural styles and features of each building while adding interesting comments about the distinctive features of each structure. He points out houses that are distinctive for various reasons: bargeboard, skyscraper chimney, stucco finish, and so on. He compares houses of the same style, and points out how this style has evolved in Wolfville over the centuries. His lively commentary about the architects and builders of these buildings, the people who commissioned them, and the early occupants, make this book a delight to read.

Whidden includes only those buildings on Main Street and in the old town; however, he describes over one hundred and twenty buildings in his book. The construction dates of the buildings range from 1761, the oldest building still standing in Wolfville, to the 1930s. The inclusion of a number of buildings from the twentieth century adds an interesting perspective to the book. The book reads like a who's who of historical Wolfville as Whidden introduces readers to the homes of business men, teachers, politicians, rectors, pastors, and other notable residents of early Wolfville.

Whidden has organized the build-



(Courtesy of Nieuwland Publishing)

ings into three walking tours which can be completed in one to two hours each. If you are unable to take the walking tours, it is possible to drive the tours, making numerous stops along the way. The book is very readable on its own without the walking tours, and, for anyone familiar with Wolfville and its built heritage, this can be quite enjoyable. If you want to revisit some of the houses after taking the tours, use *Google Maps Street View* to view some of the houses online. Although this does not work for some of the houses because of the trees that block the view of the house, the *Street View* zoom feature allows close examination of architectural features not easily viewable when walking. This zoom feature is very useful with houses such as 1 Starr Street, 628 Main Street, 13 Highland, and 21 Prospect Street, permitting the viewer closer examination of the detailed work on the exterior of these houses.

The author has included a glossary at the back of the book where he explains the architectural terms that he used in the book. Darrell Slauenwhite's photographic images of Wolfville's buildings illustrate the glossary. Whidden has also included an explanatory note at the back about Wolfville's noted architects and builders: Leslie R. Fairn, Andrew R. Cobb, John Graham Johnson, Charles H. Wright, and Elam S. Langille. Whidden has packed a lot of information into this slim book.

Not only is the book informative, it is entertaining as well. Whidden's enthusiasm for his topic is evident in his writing, making this book a pleasure to read, and the tours are easy and enjoyable to follow.

If you want to spend a pleasant day in the area, purchase a copy of *Wolfville's Architectural Heritage*, and immerse yourself in Wolfville's wonderful built heritage for an afternoon.

Holly Gunn is a retired teacher-librarian who lived in Wolfville while a student at Acadia University. She has a B.A., B. Ed., and M. Ed from Acadia, and an M.L.S. from Dalhousie.

Charles Burke: "I Often Wonder What Become of Her": Beryl Markham's Atlantic Crossing September 5, 1936

Janet Morris

Baleine is situated on a lobe of land just north-east of Louisbourg, a lowland reaching out to the Atlantic below Scatarie Island, topography heavily marked as marsh or swamp. Dr. Charles Burke, a leading archaeologist with Parks Canada, happens to have roots there, and unraveled a fascinating story of this place at our May public lecture.

In 1598, Baleine was viewed as having potential as a site to bring Puritans being driven from the Netherlands and from the French Magdalen Islands. In 1629, the Scots planted a settlement there consisting of 60 passengers of the "Brownist" sect of Puritans from the Netherlands, led by Ochiltree, who had accompanied William Alexander to Nova Scotia. In 1763, while the land was again under English hegemony, the disbursed French arrived, and during this period Baleine was the second largest settlement in Cape Breton. In the 1760s some Irish arrived; their settlement was supplemented in the 1780s by Irish convicts.

Dr. Burke's history then skips to the transportation revolution of the twentieth century. Cape Breton is better known as the place of the aviation experiments of Alexander Graham Bell. Much progress was made in aircraft design in the decades following Bell's Silver Dart, and the plane piloted by Beryl Markham was a De Havilland Percival Vega Gull, known as the prettiest plane ever flown. Aviation progressed by leaps and bounds after her 1936 flight, primarily due to World War II, when planes were developed to fly farther, higher and faster, eclipsing early aviation history.

There were 26 failed attempts to fly solo from Europe to North America. The first successful east to west flight was by Jim Mollison, a Scot, who flew from



Ireland to New Brunswick in August, 1932. The first female solo flight was by Beryl Markham, from Abingdon (near Gravesend), England, to Baleine, arriving September 5, 1936. This was the middle of the Depression, but also an age when female aviators were as popular as Hollywood movie stars.

Born Beryl Clutterbuck, in Rutland, England in 1902, her family emigrated to Kenya when she was 4. In her early life she learned Swahili, and possibly other native languages. Her first career was in horse breeding, then racing, followed by a career in aviation. After learning to fly she serviced remote East African communities by aircraft, later supplemented with piloting for large game expeditions. After her record flight, in 1937, Beryl Markham (now bankrupt) sailed to New York, arriving the day Amelia Earhart was lost. Ms. Markham would likely be better known to us had she not failed her movie screen test. She lived in London, Hollywood, and the Bahamas, before returning to Kenya in the 1950s where she resumed horse breeding and racing, dominating the racing circuit

until 1972. She died at age 84, in 1986, one month short of the 50th anniversary of her trans-Atlantic flight. In her last few years she was raised out of poverty by proceeds from the re-issue of her 1942 book, *West with the Night*. A read of this book will show she was never impoverished of spirit.

One of the biggest challenges of her flight was to get off the ground – the craft was designed to fly a maximum of 660 miles, but had been specially outfitted with extra fuel tanks. An Irish lighthouse at Berehaven was her last guiding light before crossing the black ocean at night. Another link with sea navigation is her route – she flew the Great Circle course heading for Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. Her destination was New York. However, the plane began to sputter, and the situation became serious 12 minutes from Sydney airport. Gliding, she found a touchdown, where the nose and wheels of her plane became embedded in mire. On landing, she struck her head on the cabin front, shattering the glass. The cause of the inelegant landing was an airlock in the fuel line or air vent, caused by ice particles. The landing could be said to be elegant – she missed telephone wires, avoided the water, and the numerous boulders. Charles Burke detailed the local encounter with Ms. Markham. Regrettably, a recorded CBC interview that September evening in 1936 has been lost.

In 1999 a plaque was erected at the place of her landing. The site remains a stopping place for aviation aficionados. Her book is an impressive internal raconteur. A biography, *Straight on Till Morning* (Lovell, 1987), and a PBS documentary entitled "World without Walls: Beryl Markham's African Memoir," hint at the wonderful personality commemorated at this place.

Patching Plaster Walls with Drywall

Bruce MacNab

Some contractors insist that plaster walls must be gutted for renovations to succeed. According to these operators, a homeowner must bear the enormous cost of removing plaster and lathes so tradespeople can properly install wiring, insulation and plumbing. Afterwards the walls have to be dry-walled and all the trim re-installed. This is nonsense.

A good electrician armed with fish tapes and long flexible drill bits can rewire a house with almost no damage. And it's well known that blown-in insulation fills the irregular wall cavities found in century homes better than batt insulation. Plumbers will have to make some holes here and there because pipes don't bend like wires. But their damage can be fixed with a few inexpensive drywall patches. Most plaster ranges in thickness from 1/4 to 3/8 inch thick. Thankfully, both 1/4 and 3/8 inch

drywall panels are available.

Patching plaster doesn't have to be difficult. Many tradespeople make the same mistake – they start at the damaged area and try to beat the plaster back to a square or rectangular shape. A better approach is to remove only the loose plaster and leave whatever shape remains. This creates a new problem. How do you cut a wildly-shaped drywall patch that looks like a map of Oak Island?

Paper templates are almost fool-proof. Try using a thick product like dry sheathing paper. It's sold in rolls for use under wooden flooring. To start, cut a piece slightly larger than the patch area. Tack the paper to the wooden lathes with ordinary thumb tacks. Now, using a sharp knife carefully cut the paper along the edge of the plaster which you can feel through the paper. Before you know it, you'll have an accurate template of your required patch. But don't be too

accurate – your patch must be slightly smaller than the hole. Trace your paper template onto a piece of drywall and cut your patch using a drywall saw. Screw your patch to the lathes using "coarse thread" drywall screws. Use a proper dimple bit in your drill to set the screws slightly below the surface without breaking the paper surface of the drywall.

Once your patches are installed they can be finished by using fiberglass tape and drywall compounds. This is more difficult than it looks. You should practice drywall taping in someone else's house before you tackle your own home. Or hire a professional tapper. You can afford one now that you've saved some cash by not gutting your plaster walls.

Bruce MacNab is a Red Seal journeyman carpenter and a member of the Provincial Advisory Council on Heritage Property.



Plaster wall damage caused by the author while roughing in a bathroom vanity.



A paper template has been cut in place. Note the thumb tacks.



The damaged area patched with drywall prior to taping.

continued from page 20

Canada's Changing North: Nunavut Today with Nick Newbery, Oct. 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Nick Newbery spent thirty years living and teaching in several small Inuit communities in Nunavut, with much of his work being with at-risk, aboriginal youth. During that time, he photographed as much of Inuit life as possible, travelling broadly in the territory. He was present at many historic northern events, and was the government photographer at the creation of Nunavut in 1999. He now teaches northern studies courses at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. His thirty years of living in the Arctic will provide visitors with a taste of today's Canadian North and a sense of how Inuit today are bridging the past with the present.

Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos

West Pubnico, Yarmouth County, N.S.
Lights Along the Shore, Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., featuring a presentation "Life at the East Pubnico Lighthouse". \$3.00 per person. For more information, call 902-762-3380.

Ottawa House By-the-Sea Museum

1155 Whitehall Road, Parrsboro, N.S.
Closing Christmas Tea and Sale, Sept. 15, 2013, 12:30 - 2 p.m.
Fall Dessert, Oct. 20, 2013, 2 - 4 p.m. Apple and pumpkin served with tea and coffee. E-mail: ottawa.house@ns.sympatico.ca. Phone: (902) 254-2376 (Summer only, during hours of operation, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.) Museum entrance fee: \$2.00.

Parkdale - Maplewood Community Museum

3005 Barss Corner Rd., Maplewood, N.S.
Museum closes to the public for the season on Friday, Sept. 27 at noon.
65th Birthday/ Retirement Open House for Curator Barbara Wentzell, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments, some entertainment, and an open mic to bring greetings and best wishes.

Quilts at the Harbour, The 15th Annual Quilt Show and Sale

Baptist Church, 885 West Halls Harbour Road, Halls Harbour, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This event combines a wonderful display of quilts with light refreshments, a bake and produce table, a quilters' gently-used table to delight the most avid quilter, and the opportunity to visit a heritage, country church dating to the 1840s. Many of the quilts are for sale. Admission and refreshments free with an offering. The offering and all sales will help to support the church! Cost: Donation. Email: jant@novascotiaquilts.com

Riverbank Cemetery Tour

Holmes Hill Road, Hantsport, N.S. Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013, 7 - 8:15 p.m. Hear legends and the local history of some of Hantsport's illustrious forefathers during this guided tour. Admission: Free. Contact: Susan Carey at susan@hantsport-novascotia.com. Phone: (902) 684-9302. Sponsor: Hantsport Harvest Fest Committee.

Ross Farm Museum

New Ross, N.S.
W.W.II Encampment, Sept. 21-22, 2013. Join Atlantic Canadian World War II Living History Association this weekend as they put on a World War II re-enactment at the museum! It's sure to be an exciting weekend with them here. They love to talk with visitors, so be sure to drop by and have a chat. For more information or to sign up please call 1-877-689-2210 or Email rossfarm@gov.ns.ca Website: <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/rfm/en/home/whattoseedo/ourevents/default.aspx>

Scott Manor House

Fort Sackville Road, Bedford, N.S.
Candlelight Graveyard Walk, Sept. 23, 2013, 7:30 p.m. from Scott Manor House. Everyone will meet at the Scott Manor House a few minutes before the walk begins. The tour goes through All Saints Anglican Cemetery and Brookside Cemetery and will take approximately 30-40mins. Phone: 902-832-2336. Email: scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca

Sherbrooke Village

Sherbrooke, N.S.
Photography Camp, Sept. 16- 19, 2013. Sherbrooke Village will be hosting a four-day, photography workshop featuring well-known photographer Wally Hayes. The village offers a wealth of material for pictures which has inspired photographers for many years. Please register.
Harvest Weekend, Celebrating the harvest with pumpkin treats, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 - 22, 2013.
With These Two Hands, A demonstration of weaving, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013. Website: <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/sv/index.php> Admission fees: <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/sv/admission.php>

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield

Corner of Rockingstone Rd. and Ardwell Ave., Spryfield, N.S.
Harvest Fair, Farm field, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, 2-4 p.m. Rain date: Sept. 22, 2-4 p.m. Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/urbanfarm-spryfield.com/www/>

Fall Festivals

Celtic Colors, Oct. 11- 20, 2013. Various locations throughout Cape Breton. This award-winning festival consists of forty-six concerts and more than two hundred, community, cultural events that explore musical and cultural connections between Cape Breton and its Nordic neighbours from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Shetland. See iconic Cape Breton performers and culture bearers with some of the finest Celtic and traditional musicians, singers, and dancers from around the world. Website: <http://www.celtic-colours.com/>. Concert List: <http://www.celtic-colours.com/all-shows/> Cultural events listing available on the website.
Fibre Arts Festival, Amherst, N.S., Oct. 15-19,

2013. A five-day celebration of all things fibre: knitting, quilting, rug hooking, etc., featuring workshops, exhibits, and hands-on demonstrations. In 2010, the Festival was presented with the Festival and Events Award from Central Nova Tourist Association.

Website: <http://www.fibreartsfestival.com/>
Schedule of Events: http://www.fibreartsfestival.com/#!schedule/component_41229

Festival headquarters: Clock Tower Building, 50 Victoria Street, Amherst.

Scarecrow Festival and Antique Fair, Mahone Bay, Oct. 4-6, 2013. Sixteen years of creations that amaze and amuse thousands of people each year are spread throughout the town of Mahone Bay. Hundreds of scarecrows that have just been created, and are crowd favourites from the past, are delighting bus loads of visitors from all over North America.

Whirligig and Weather Vane Festival, Shelburne, Sept. 21-23, 2013. The Shelburne waterfront bustles with folk art, workshops, music and entertainment during the annual whirligig festival - a woodcrafter's paradise! For more information, call 902-875-3205. Website: <http://www.whirligigfestival.com/>

HERITAGE BUILDINGS / TOURS

*Isle Madame Lighthouse Tours:
A Show of Community Spirit*

Is anything more Nova Scotian than chowder and lighthouses? One community group is capitalizing on the appeal of both to raise awareness of their local history — and money for their local lighthouse society — but not with a community fundraising supper. Isle Madame lighthouse enthusiasts are sharing what they know in a four-hour tour of the island's lighthouse sites, served with bowls of chowder and tea biscuits, and the enthusiasm of a local guide. They have recorded several hours of history and reminiscences by community members, to play on the drive around the island. Margaret Herdman, a member of our Board, is one of the people who compiled the material on the recording. Margaret's daughter designed the colourful brochure. Tours are available by request and cost \$40. All proceeds go directly to the preservation efforts. For a private tour and lunch, it's a bargain. And you won't want it to end! Call Marg at 227-8303 to book.

Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

Annapolis Heritage Society, North Hills Museum

5065 Granville Road, Granville Ferry, Annapolis Royal, N.S.

Salt Box Talks: Lecture Series - Each session will include a PowerPoint presentation on a selected theme, a guided tour of the collection where applicable, and refreshments. Each lecture is \$3.00 per person. Registration required. Call 532-2168.

Chinoiserie at North Hills, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., or 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Chinese Taste in design was one of the most important stylistic forms during the Georgian Period (1714–1830). It was seen as exotic, fanciful, and a reaction against the severity of Classicism. We'll trace its history and influence on the decorative arts, especially within the porcelain, furniture, and artifacts found at North Hills.

Keeping up with the Stuarts, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., or 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Travel through the English furniture styles that were popular during the Stuart period from the beginning of the reign of James I in 1603 to the end of Queen Anne's reign in 1714. We will examine the sturdy oak construction of the Jacobean style that was prevalent from James I to Charles I, the austere designs of the Puritans, the influence of the French and Dutch in the Carolean Style while Charles II was in exile, the graceful and decorative styles of furniture in the William and Mary period, and, finally, the mastery of technique during the reign of Queen Anne. Mr. Patterson's collection boasts many fine examples of furniture that covers the Stuart period.

Restoration and Conservation, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., or 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Learn about the evolution of restoration and conservation in paintings and antiques. Discover some of the techniques that museums use to maintain their collections and how they may be applicable to the preservation of your own treasures. Discussion will also include fascinating stories of conservation from the lecturer's own experience.

Groups: If your group is interested in having its own "Salt Box Talk" at North Hills Museum, please consult our list of themes below: Georgian Furniture, The Royal Academy of Art The Grand Tour, The History of Stained Glass, The History of Frames

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum,

471 Poplar Drive, Cole Harbour, N.S.
Harvest Dinner, Sunday, Oct. 13 and Monday, Oct. 14, 2013, 6:30 p.m. A three-course indulgence featuring some of the Rose & Kettle's most popular fare: autumn vegetable soup and homemade biscuits, roast turkey with seasonal sides and all the trimmings, plus a choice of pumpkin pie with fresh cream or gingerbread with lemon sauce for dessert. Advance reservation and ticket purchase required, \$25 adult

and \$15 child. Call 434-0222.

Annual Craft and Bake Sale, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Both heritage houses are filled with crafts, Christmas gift ideas, and a selection of seasonal, home-baked treats. Free admission.

Colchester Historem

29 Young St., Truro, N.S.

Heavy Weather, Storm Prediction from Franklin to Saxby, an illustrated talk by Jerry Lockett, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, 7:30 p.m. In this talk, author Jerry Lockett traces the origins of storm forecasting, and examines Saxby's curious ideas. He also examines the unusual circumstances that made the Saxby Gale so devastating. Admission: Pay what you can. Members: Free.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

Evergreen, 26 Newcastle St., Dartmouth.

Exhibit – "**Keeping up with the James' – A Glimpse into the Life of Sarah James & Family**", Aug. 10 – Nov. 9, 2013. The museum is pleased to showcase a recent donation from the family of Sarah James. The daughter of Judge Alexander James and Harriet Hawthorn was born and grew up in Evergreen House. Come and learn more about her marriage to Sandy Morrison, their children, and her life after Evergreen. Find out who else was born in this grand house, and get caught up in the great Hawthorne versus Hawthorn debate. This event included with \$2.00 admission to Evergreen House.

Dartmouth Heritage House Tour, Saturday, Sept. 28 and Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Get ready to be amazed once again by the richness and diversity of the heritage and architecture to be discovered in Dartmouth. Tickets available at Evergreen House and Saturday mornings at the Alderney Landing Farmer's Market.

Halloween at Helen's House, Oct. 17 – 31, 2013. Helen Creighton was the author of *Bluenose Ghosts*, and was a firm believer in the supernatural. Evergreen house was Helen's family home where she had many experiences of her own. Come for a visit, and see Evergreen decorated for Victorian Halloween. You will learn how many of the traditions we follow today were started. Event included with \$2.00 admission to Evergreen House.

Family Photo Workshop, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013, 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Learn to date old photos, place people in your family tree, and help identify faces from your past. Browse and study a collection of historic photo and costume reference books. The workshop will take place in two parts: a slide show and talk, followed by a hands-on workshop. Presented by Jenny Miligan, M.Ed., Socio-costumologist. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Registration includes presentation, handouts, worksheets, and refreshments. Please pre-register by October 26 by emailing martinc@bellaliant.com. You are invited to include one or two photos with your registration.

For more information about any of the Dartmouth Museum Events, please call 464-2300, or visit www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca, or see the Dartmouth Heritage Museum on Facebook.

Fultz House

33 Sackville Road, Lower Sackville, N.S.

Annual Heritage Dinner, Celebrating the Harvest Festival, Oct. 16, 2013, 6:30 p.m. Cost \$10.00. Community Craft Crawl, Fultz House Museum Craft Shop, Saturday, Nov. 2-3, 2013, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Museum open for tours during the Craft Crawl. Admission: a non-perishable food item. Phone: 902-865-3794. Email: fultz.house@ns.sympatico.ca. Website: <http://www.fultzhouse.ca/events/>

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Dick Eastman Lectures, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013.

Enjoy a day with Dick Eastman who will present four lectures: The Organized Genealogist, Cloudy with a Chance of Genealogy; Putting the Genes in Genealogy; Conservation: Keeping up with Genealogy. Cost: \$45 for members; \$75 for non-members. Location to be announced. Email: info@novascotiaancestors.ca.

Mahone Bay Settlers Museum

578 Main St., Mahone Bay.

From Rural Roots to Runaways: The Story of Suttles and Seawinds, May 25 – October 6, 2013. Textiles, photographs, fashion illustrations and print materials weave together the artistry and colour sense of designer Vicki Lynn Bardon and the forty-year history of her company, Suttles and Seawinds. Vicki created a fashion and home décor enterprise from the traditions and crafts in her native Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia. For Museum hours after Labour Day, call 902-624-6263 or Email: info@settlersmuseum.ns.ca

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

1675 Lower Water St., Halifax, N.S.

The Bravest Canadian: Fritz Peters, VC, the Making of a Hero of Two Wars, by Sam McBride, Oct. 1, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Canada has many war heroes, but the only one who received multiple awards for valour in both world wars was Captain Frederic Thornton "Fritz" Peters, VC, DSO, DSC and bar, DSC (U.S.), RN. Born in Charlottetown in 1889, "Fritz" has a special place in the hearts of Prince Edward Islanders as the only Victoria Cross recipient born on the Island, but he came from a family that had an extraordinary impact on the history of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as well. Fritz's great-nephew based his book on a treasure trove of recently-discovered letters, including twenty-seven letters written by Fritz.

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