



December 2013

Volume 38 No. 4 ISSN 0384

The Griffin

A Quarterly Publication of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia



2 REPORT **President's Report**

Linda Forbes

5 HERITAGE BUILDING **Town of Amherst Sets Example of Adaptive Re-Use**

Donald Forbes

6 COMMUNITY / HERITAGE BUILDING **Whitney Pier's Polish Village Hall (1949)**

Tom Urbaniak

8 LECTURE **A.J.B. Johnston: A Phoenix called Louisbourg –
Top 10 History of Louisbourg: Past, Present, Future**

Janet Morris

10 LECTURE **Kevin Robins: Military Life at Citadel Hill during the War of 1812-1814**

Dulcie Conrad and Janet Morris

12 HERITAGE BUILDING **23 Pine Street, Austenville, Dartmouth**

Holly Gunn

15 CONFERENCE **2013 Nova Scotia Heritage Officers' Conference**

Sara Beanlands

15 NEWS **Heritage Canada - The National Trust**

Tom Urbaniak

The Griffin

A quarterly newsletter
published by
**Heritage Trust of
Nova Scotia**

Unless otherwise indicated,
the opinions expressed
in these pages are those of the
contributors and do not
necessarily reflect the views of
Heritage Trust of
Nova Scotia.

Editorial Committee

Donald Forbes, Dulcie Conrad,
Peter Delefos, Holly Gunn,
Donna McInnis, Janet Morris
Nancy O'Brien

Contributors to this issue

Sara Beanlands, Pam Collins,
Dulcie Conrad, Donald Forbes,
Linda Forbes, Holly Gunn,
Gary LeDrew, Janet Morris,
Bonita Price, Tom Urbaniak

We welcome submissions.

Deadline for the next issue:
February 10, 2014

Please send your
submissions to
Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 36111
Spring Garden RPO
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3S9

E-mail material to
griffin@htns.ca
website: www.htns.ca
Tel: 902 423-4807

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
is a charitable organization.
All donations are tax creditable.

President's Report



Linda Forbes

After months of petitions, letters, and calls by members and friends of the Trust, women's groups, faculty, students, and others, the Board of St. Mary's University has voted to secure and heat the former Halifax Infants' Home at the northeast corner of the campus while structural studies are carried out. The Trust's efforts to save the Home began more than two years ago. The university's original plan was to demolish the J.C.P. Dumaresq building in November. We hope that this reprieve is more than temporary and that the building will be repurposed to serve university and community needs. Prominently situated on a campus gateway corner, it is one of two remaining late 19th century institutional buildings, built by women to serve the needs of women, in Halifax. Historians Judith Fingard and Janet Guildford argued eloquently for commemorating that period of social history, the women who commissioned the Home, and the women whom it served. Its distinctive architecture and the embodied energy in its bricks and mortar represent value to the university.

Also at risk is Zion United Baptist Church in Yarmouth, a large, municipally-registered, brick church adjacent to the Heritage Conservation District and Yarmouth County Museum. Records for this congregation go back to the late 1790s. Dwindling numbers, delayed

maintenance, and inadvertent damage have led to an application to shorten the de-designation period. Such a move would set an unfortunate precedent. The Trust's VP Heritage, Iain Taylor, has devoted considerable time speaking to trustees, Heritage Advisory Committee members, and Council, to persuade them to allow time for updated engineering investigations and planning for staged repairs. The Trust is prepared to offer some financial assistance during this period. A concerted effort to identify new owners and a cluster of uses may prevent the loss of a potentially valuable community resource.

This fall, the Places of Worship Committee offered evening lectures in Amherst's Christ Church Anglican and Truro's Zion United Baptist Church. This free, public education outreach will continue in 2014 in different parts of the province. In Cape Breton, where the Trust has partnered with a local heritage network, plans are being made for activities to address the crisis of surplus religious buildings. Members of the Morris House team have met with the Department of Community Services to discuss the fit of the project with the Department's programs and initiatives. Meanwhile, exterior work continues in preparation for the erection of scaffolding and wrapping, to allow work to continue over the winter.

Heritage Canada's conference in October in Ottawa offered almost too much choice: concurrent sessions competed for attention. Presentations on redevelopment of institutional buildings, social effects of neighbourhood revitalization, and intensification in older neighbourhoods all related to concerns at home. As Tom Urbaniak, NS Governor on the Heritage Canada Board, has written, "[W]e want to use the lead-up to the 150th anniversary of Canada to promote heritage-led regeneration projects from coast to coast and to spearhead demonstration projects." Nova Scotia is rich in potential candidates.

Cover image: Detail from Winter Fortress by Gary LeDrew, digital image (courtesy of the artist)

ARTIST

Gary LeDrew

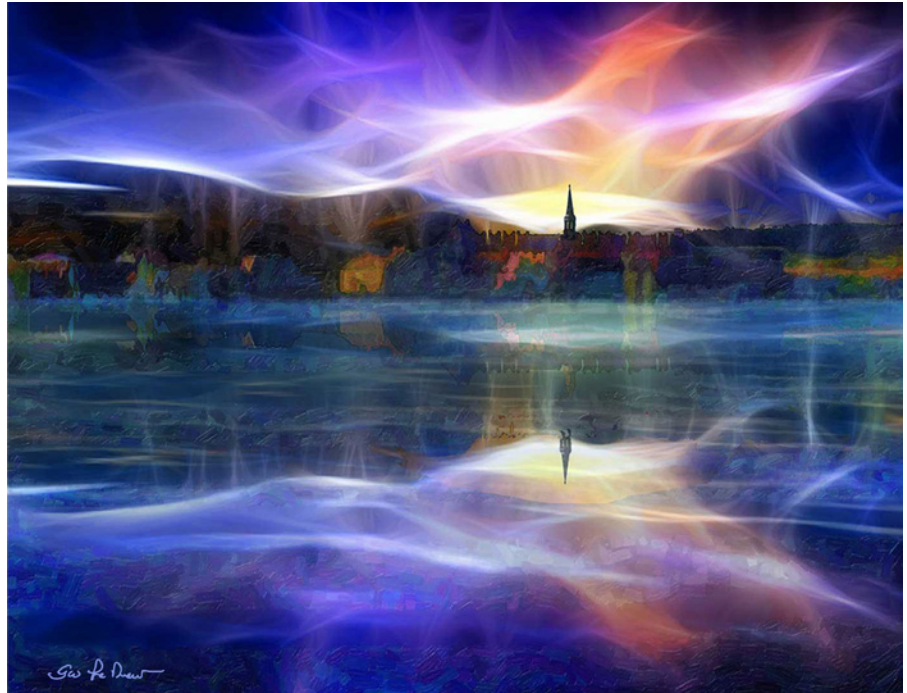
Gary LeDrew lived at the Louisbourg Lighthouse as a child. His great-grandmother was Joseph Howe's cook, and his parents met at Beryl Markham's plane after she landed nearby. He lived for many years in Uxbridge, Ontario. Both of his parents painted, and Gary was artistic from an early age. He had several shows in Uxbridge, and his paintings hang in many banks, doctors' offices, and other businesses there. He has had an adventurous life, including sailing in the Caribbean, delivering racing yachts, and working as a boson on a square-rigger. He hung out in the art scene, worked with several prominent artists, and was a member of "The Electric Magnetic Spectrum", one of the first avant-garde bands. He has worked in movies and the entertainment business. He managed a New Orleans jazz band and ran a famous after-hours club.

"Gary LeDrew lived at the Louisbourg Lighthouse ... In 2004, he moved back to Louisbourg ... and has been photographing and creating art there ever since"

He went about his life as an artist and got into computers in 1981 to make art. It was so difficult to create graphics on early computers that he accidentally became a computer expert. He spent ten years as an executive for a large computer company, and had computer art exhibitions in Toronto and Uxbridge from the early 90s. In 2004, he moved back to Louisbourg, his favourite place in the world, and has been photographing and creating art there ever since. He now lives in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Contact: Gary LeDrew, 235 Alexandra St, # 17, Sydney, NS, B1S 3A4, tel: 902-270-0910.

All pictures are \$400 unframed 24"x30" ink and acrylic on canvas or \$50 signed prints 11"x14" unframed on water-colour paper.



Where Canada Begins, Louisbourg 1758, digital image (courtesy of the artist)



History Harbour, digital image (courtesy of the artist)

*Heritage Lost, Regained, Lost, Reconstructed, At Risk**Donald Forbes*

This issue of *The Griffin* pays tribute to Louisbourg, the extraordinary fortified capital of the French colony of Île Royale, a fully functioning 18th century town erected on the wild, rocky coast of Cape Breton Island, beginning in 1713. Elsewhere in this issue, we report on two HTNS lectures from the past fall, one on the history of Louisbourg and another on Halifax in the War of 1812. We celebrate the conservation of a modest carpenter's home in the old neighbourhood of Austenville, Dartmouth. We also report the municipal designation of the not-so-old Polish Village Hall in Whitney Pier, recognizing its role in the regeneration of a vibrant Polish community in this culturally diverse town.

Three hundred years ago as we go to press, the first rough shelters, fishing wharves, and flakes had been constructed at Louisbourg against the coming winter. Over succeeding years and decades, stone masons would erect homes, inns and taverns¹, a large hospital (remarkably no large church), a public wharf, a lighthouse, the King's Bastion barracks, and fortifications of a community they no doubt hoped would endure for centuries. As A.J.B. Johnston points out in a new book published earlier this year², the town site we deem so remote today was in fact strategically situated in the centre of a thriving fishery, at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and at the intersection of major sea routes, the transportation corridors of the day. By 1740 the town was entirely surrounded by massive stone fortifications, including the magnificent gate, the Porte Dauphine. Just five years later, Louisbourg fell to an attacking force of British and New England troops. Most of the 250 houses in the town were demolished or severely damaged during the siege and bombardment; the Porte Dauphine was reduced to rubble. By the treaty of 1748, Île Royale was returned to the French and the following year

the British established Halifax. Thus the earliest built heritage of Nova Scotia's capital city today owes its origins to the audacious concept of Louisbourg. The latter was rebuilt with strengthened fortifications, but fell once more after a seven week siege in 1758. Again there was tremendous damage and loss of life from the bombardment. The British occupied the town for the following 10 years but deliberately destroyed the fortifications before the peace of 1763 (250 years ago).

The ruins of Louisbourg slept for two centuries. Then an extraordinary and, again, audacious project was set in motion to rebuild approximately 20% of the original town. The reconstruction began 50 years ago this year, in 1963. As a result we have recovered the ability to walk the streets, marvel at the imposition of European architecture on a wild coast, imagine the bustling harbour, and revel in the beauty of the skyline, as depicted in Gary LeDrew's paintings on our cover and page 3. Although not original, these rebuilt structures echo the first rebuilding of Louisbourg after 1748 and, having attained the ripe old age of 50, may arguably be considered heritage structures in their own right. The threats to this wonderful heritage resource today are not military but economic and natural. The maintenance of the fortified town of Louisbourg is dependent on political will and adequate funding. In the longer term, as A.J.B. Johnston explained in his September lecture, rising sea levels and retreating shores pose severe threats. Waves run in over the seawall against the waterfront buildings in severe storms. The sea has already taken part of a major bastion and other archaeological resources. It will inexorably eat away at the ruins and rebuilt heritage of Louisbourg over the coming decades and centuries. In the meantime we celebrate both the 300th and the 50th anniversaries of this remarkable cultural icon.

Heritage Trust
of Nova Scotia

Illustrated Public Lecture Series

JANUARY 16th

Bruce MacNab:
**In Harry Houdini's Footsteps:
A Look Back at Twenty Nova
Scotia Structures Visited by
the Handcuff King.**

FEBRUARY 20th

Judith Fingard:
**Licensed Drinking
Establishments in
Temperance-Era Halifax**

MARCH 20th

Allan Marble:
**Destined for Demolition:
Hospital Buildings
Constructed in Nova Scotia,
1867-1950**

All talks take place at 7:30 pm

**Museum of Natural History,
Auditorium**

1747 Summer Street, Halifax

Information 423-4807

¹ Fortin, M.A.J. (2000) *Popular Culture and Public Drinking in Eighteenth-Century New France: Louisbourg's Taverns and Inns, 1713-1758*. MA dissertation, UBC (<http://hdl.handle.net/2429/10614>).

² Johnston, A.J.B. (2013) *Louisbourg: Past, Present, Future*. Nimbus.

Doris Butters (1916-2013)



(courtesy of Stephanie Robertson)

Pam Collins

Doris Evelyn Butters of Halifax passed away aged 97 on January 25, 2013. She was predeceased by her husband of 67 years, John, a son Michael, and a granddaughter Michelle. She is survived by daughters Mary, Elizabeth, and Lesley Jane, sons John and Timothy, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Doris and her family arrived in Halifax from British Columbia in the mid-1960s, when her husband was transferred to Halifax with the Royal Canadian Navy. She was Department Secretary for Community Dentistry at Dalhousie University for 19 years. Upon retirement, she spent another 27 years as a volunteer secretary at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

Doris was an active member of the Halifax Field Naturalists. She enjoyed the various hikes to see rare Nova Scotia wildflowers and to take in the views. She was active with the Theatre Arts Guild and St. Mary's Drama Club,

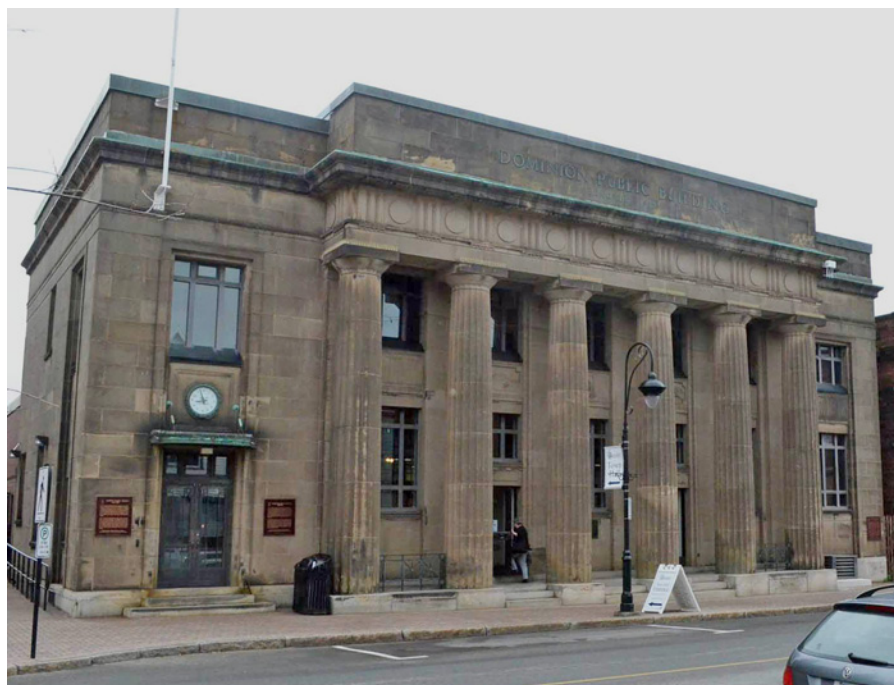
and she served as Wardrobe Mistress, creating many of the period costumes. Doris loved to travel, throughout the Maritimes and overseas. She particularly enjoyed touring England, especially with a group of friends, to visit heritage sites and museums.

Doris became an active member of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and served on many committees. Bonita Price shared work in the HTNS office with Doris for a number of years and recalled that the four volunteers got together often to compare notes and sometimes to tour historic houses. On one occasion, she and Doris went to Windsor "to see to the installation of an overflow of books" in the house the Trust had inherited at Richmond Hill Farm. Doris could always be found carrying her trusty notebook and pencil, taking careful notes in shorthand of Executive, Board, and general meetings. She was well known as a talented writer, often contributing to *The Griffin*, which she also edited for a number of years.

Town of Amherst Sets Example of Adaptive Re-Use

Donald Forbes

The Town of Amherst has moved into its new quarters in the 1935 Dominion Public Building on Victoria Street. The decision to conserve the exterior and elements of the interior of this fine Beaux-Arts influenced Art Deco structure sets an important example for adaptive re-use in Nova Scotia as well as for regeneration of the downtown core in Amherst. The move has provided a new lease on life for an iconic element of the town's streetscape. This registered heritage property served as the Amherst Post Office from 1935 to 1976. In recent years it had housed the Tantramar Theatre. In May 2013, the Board of Directors of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia met in the new Council Chamber. This provided an opportunity to interact with key staff and interested residents of the Town of Amherst and of Cumberland County to discuss heritage challenges and opportunities in this part of the province, the gateway to Nova Scotia.



The Dominion Public Building (1935) in Amherst, repurposed as the new Amherst Town Hall (courtesy of the author)

Whitney Pier's Polish Village Hall (1949) - Heritage as a Part of Regeneration

Tom Urbaniak

On August 2, 2013, a large reception was held at Nova Scotia's only Polish hall to celebrate its registration as a municipal heritage property. The process culminating in the registration is really a case study of how heritage can be the cornerstone of regeneration. A place of heritage significance need not be ornate or particularly old. Cultural identity can be the primary factor. Intangible heritage can be recognized along with the tangible.

The heritage registration of the hall was a proud moment for the St. Michael's Polish Benefit Society, established in 1909. The society owns and operates the hall, located at one of the main intersections in the multicultural neighbourhood of Whitney Pier. "The Pier" is a formerly industrial neighbourhood in the shadow of the now-dismantled steel plant. The current hall was built in 1949, replacing a circa-1911 facility located one block to the south, near St. Mary's Polish Church. The church, in the founding and building of which the society played a central role, is marking its 100th anniversary in 2013. The church has been provincially registered since 1984.

"A place of heritage significance need not be ornate or particularly old. Cultural identity can be the primary factor"

The society's request to have its hall registered was the culmination of a two-year process of revitalization, of both the building and the organization. The society and the hall had reached a critical juncture: major repairs were required, some of these demanded by the fire inspector. The hall was looking tired. Usage had declined; gone were the days when you could count on a constant stream of outside rentals. The neighbourhood was undergoing a difficult transition from industrial to



Part of the Sto Lat! exhibit (courtesy of Nicole Baker)

post-industrial: no longer was it home to six groceries, two cinemas, and many bakeries and delis – business had gravitated to the outskirts of Sydney. Meanwhile, the society's rules and founding documents also needed a major refresh. It was a lot to absorb at once.

Members confronted these realities. They decided that winding down was simply not an option. In collaboration with Cape Breton University, a strategic planning process was started. Individual and small-group interviews were conducted by community developer Alicia Lake. A community workshop took place. A step-by-step plan was developed through careful consultation.

Responding to the plan, the society adopted modern by-laws, going from a male-only service organization to a co-ed structure, welcoming members from all walks of life with an interest in promoting and preserving Polish heritage in Cape Breton. To make these changes official, the society needed a special bill to be passed in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. That is because St. Michael's was incorporated under its own legislation, well before the advent of a Societies Act of general application.

A process that could have been

an obscure legal exercise turned into momentum-building and positive public relations. The society requested and received permission from House Speaker Gordie Gosse (the MLA for the neighbourhood) to have the new bill drafted in Polish as well as English, the first time in Canada that a law has been formally proposed in Polish. Representatives of the society turned up in their traditional jackets to address the House Committee on Local and Private Bills. The bill received Royal Assent on May 3, 2012, the holiday for people of Polish heritage around the world.

The strategic plan called for the hall to build on the good work being done already by the Pogoria Polish Folk Ensemble – the main organization using the hall for practices and dinner theatres. Sustainability required more culturally themed activities generated by the community itself. General rentals would not be enough. With a road map in hand, fund-raising and grant-proposal writing began. An auction was held. Traditional meals were served. Folk-dance demonstrations were offered. Legacy benefactors were courted. The Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, the federal Enterprise

Cape Breton Corporation, and the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) came to the table. In all, the work would total approximately \$150,000.

The transformation was impressive: a bright, wheelchair-accessible facility. The exterior facelift, going from a peeling brown to a tasteful red and white (the Polish colours), gave a boost to the Pier's principal street. The basement, which still had the worn look of the early 1970s, became an attractive exhibit and reception space, completed just in time to host the exhibit "Sto Lat! The First Century of St. Mary's Polish Church." In fact, we were literally still clearing the dust from the renovations as CBC Radio's



Exterior view of the refurbished and newly designated Polish Village Hall in Whitney Pier (courtesy of Nicole Baker)



Another view of the Sto Lat! exhibit (courtesy of Nicole Baker)

Wendy Bergfeldt, host of Mainstreet Cape Breton, was setting up for her live broadcast of the exhibit opening on July 25, 2013. Traditional artwork that had graced the walls in the early days was emulated. Historical portraits were restored and displayed. Everyone wanted the hall to reflect Cape Breton's Polish community, just as the builders had intended.

"The society's request to have its hall registered was the culmination of a two-year process of revitalization, of both the building and the organization"

Keeping up the hall, maintaining the legacy of generations of Cape Bretoners of Polish heritage, will take work; it will take continued creativity. The hall is marketing itself more assertively than ever. It has introduced a gift certificate program. It has joined the local Chamber of Commerce. The society has worked in tandem with the parish to cultivate a

new generation of leaders and organize more events. It is exploring partnerships with other cultural organizations.

The heritage registration, which was requested by the society, was very much part of this process of development, investment, and expansion. The recommendation to register was passed unanimously by CBRM's Heritage Advisory Committee and by the municipal council. It was seen as a mark of affirmation, respect, and encouragement for one of Canada's longest-standing Polish communities. It was a case where a building and a community – a culture – are intertwined.

Tom Urbaniak is Vice Chair of Heritage Canada — The National Trust and a board member of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. He is a faculty member in the Political Science Department at Cape Breton University. As a member of the St. Michael's Polish Benefit Society he was actively involved in the hall renewal and in the application for heritage registration.

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

Janet Morris

Some think of history as something that occurred “back then” and barely touches us today. In a recent HTNS lecture, Dr. A.J. B. Johnston demonstrated that Louisbourg is a happening place, historically, geologically, and personally for the speaker. The history of Louisbourg is only part of this enchantment – the wind, the ocean, and the bleak, black rock first impressed Johnston in 1959, when he visited the area as a boy. Today, of course, 50 years after the beginning of the reconstruction, it looks very different, yet retains the windswept aspect he remembers from the late 50s.

The talk was organized around the speaker’s “Top 10” picks from the history of Louisbourg.

Number 1 is the significance of the harbour which 5000 years ago was a lake. A plan dated 1757 shows the harbour with a very narrow mouth, allowing for easy defence against attack by sea. The beacon of the harbour was its lighthouse – the second after Boston in North America. Even before the establishment of Louisbourg, this harbour was an important place for the Mi’kmaq population and later for European fishermen.

Number 2 is its historical importance and strategic location in the Atlantic world. It was connected by sea lanes to France, to the West Indies, to Canada (Québec) and to the French fishing interests in Newfoundland. Furthermore, it was strategically located to dominate the cod fishery and compete against the English in Boston. The cod banks were the economic equivalent to today’s oil sands and cod were chased by fishermen from many European nations. The place was known as English Harbour

in the 1500s and 1600s. Nicolas Denys reported that people would overwinter in the area to get to the cod banks first in the spring

Number 3 is its significance in the context of Île Royale (Cape Breton Island), a French colony which included Île Saint-Jean (Prince Edward Island). Louisbourg, the governing centre for this colony, jutted out into the Atlantic in a day when the mainland was marginal. Following the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, the French lost mainland Nova Scotia and Newfoundland but retained Île Royale and Île Saint-Jean, and so they focused their resources here. Though the fishermen chose the place, commerce, the royal administration, and the military followed.

Number 4 is its importance as an urban centre, as seen in a view by a French engineer in 1717, four years after Louisbourg’s establishment: this was not a fort or a village, but a real town, not unlike Boston. Nevertheless it required defence. Despite the narrow, easily

defended, harbour mouth, the military considered the situation less than ideal in the context of an attack by land, with high ground in the vicinity from which the town could be bombarded.

Number 5 is the community and its diversity. The population was dominated by men, with male:female ratios of 3:1 or even 6:1. However, the variety of peoples and occupations prospering there in the 31 years of peace following Utrecht was impressive. Many peoples were represented, many languages spoken. There were Africans, Mi’kmaq, and traders bringing food and other goods from New England, from the West Indies, and from France, Holland, and Spain.

Number 6 is the surprisingly secular basis of Louisbourg society. Although there were several chapels, there was no church – the parishioners apparently didn’t want to pay for one. There was only one street named for a Saint – Louis IX. There were even name changes on Île Royale to reduce religious references: St. Peter’s Harbour was renamed Port Toulouse; St. Anne’s became Port Dauphin. This reflected the 18th century Age of Enlightenment and the secular bias of the Royal administration.

Number 7 is the significance of the place to the original inhabitants. There are Mi’kmaq hieroglyphics in the rocks. First Nations people are portrayed in European artwork – always identifiable because of the peaked caps on the women of this matriarchal society. The Mi’kmaq were very religious, in contrast to the Louisbourg French.

Number 8 is the fatal flaw, which was embedded in the town’s success. It was isolated from the other significant French settlement at Québec and this remoteness had its consequences when



Entrance of Louisbourg Harbour on the Island of Cape Breton, J.F.W. DesBarres, artist and surveyor, 1776; NSA Map Collection: Atlantic Neptune S65 N61

the British come to dominate the seas. The impressive and substantial fortifications offered little protection when the British established blockades, as in 1745 and again in 1758. The British had to return Louisbourg to the French after the 1745 peace. In 1757, they sent out a huge flotilla of ships to blockade the harbour, but when the French fleet arrived, the action ended in a stalemate. In 1758, the British renewed their efforts, this time blockading three naval ports in France – preventing the French from sending out their fleet. When the British landed at Louisbourg in 1758, the French had no reinforcements.

Number 9 is the town's survival after the fall of Louisbourg. Although the British blew up the fortifications in 1760, they occupied the town for ten years. The Acadians began coming back after the deportation. Today, although French sovereignty is limited to the islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon, French cultural influence in the area survives.

Number 10 is the role of Louisbourg as a history laboratory: a fifth of the buildings and a quarter of the fortifications have been reconstructed. In 1895, the Americans commemorated the 1745 siege with a huge crowd; Acadians

protested to the Canadian government. In 1919, a body was set up to advise the government on historic sites. Over the following years, buildings on the main town site were expropriated and cairns were erected. In 1926 a plaque was unveiled, and in 1928 the National Historic Site was established. In the 1950s, the Diefenbaker Government established the Rand Commission. Rand's ensuing report recommended the reconstruction and this year is the 50th anniversary of the beginning of that project.

The history of Louisbourg is recorded in over five hundred maps and almost one million artifacts. The history, the artifacts, and the recreation have taken on a life of their own. The phoenix that is Louisbourg is threatened by the tides – its feet are in the rising water – and the ocean ultimately threatens the town's third defeat, but in the meantime its secrets continue to be revealed and its significance as the most important early urban place in Nova Scotia is secure.



Waves overtopping the seawall at Louisbourg in a major storm (courtesy of Ian Harte, Parks Canada, with assistance from Bob Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada)

Kevin Robins: Military Life at Citadel Hill during the War of 1812-1814

Dulcie Conrad and Janet Morris

Retired Parks Canada historian Kevin Robins was based for almost 30 years at the Army Museum in the Halifax Citadel. In a recent HTNS lecture, he introduced a rapt audience to life in the British army based in Halifax during the War of 1812-1814. If there were any in the audience who thought that most of the action took place in Upper Canada, his hour-long talk put the record straight. Remember, the troops who burned the White House in Washington sailed from Halifax.

In those days the British ran the show. The British Army did not leave Nova Scotia until 1906. Some Griffin readers may recall the colourful re-enactment a few years back of the departing army's march from Citadel Hill down to the waiting ships on the Halifax waterfront.

“If there were any who thought that most of the action took place in Upper Canada, his hour-long talk put the record straight”

In those days, the Town Major was responsible for issuing orders to the troops. These are preserved in Order Books located in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. These daily records are bound in pigskin and remain in remarkable condition. For his talk, Robins focused on the Order Book for six-months from the Autumn of 1812 to the Spring of 1813. This was just a glimpse into these remarkable records which go back as far as the American Revolution.

Central Headquarters

For military purposes, Halifax was central headquarters for the area known as Military District #6 which included present day New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Bermuda. The orders issued fell into

three categories:

- General Orders from Military Headquarters – from a declaration of war to general directives for the movement of troops;
- Orders for District #6 – specific proclamations to carry out the General Orders; and
- Garrison Orders related to the Halifax defence complex – issued weekly.

During that six month period in 1812-1813, there were 644 officers and men stationed at Halifax. They were responsible for managing and maintaining 14 outpost positions, including Fort George, Fort Ogilvie, Point Pleasant, Northwest Arm Battery, Fort Charlotte, McAlpine Blockhouse, Royal Artillery Park, Fort Sackville and Sambro Light.

Another base maintained by the military was Melville Island Military Prison, which housed 132 guards and officers. According to the Record Book, these numbers doubled when war broke out. The first American prisoners of war arrived in Halifax on July 4, 1812. The Halifax Garrison was responsible for lodging prisoners and for prisoner exchanges.

According to the records, one of these exchanges involved 238 people from the Upper Canada campaign. Robins noted that “the prisoners were not in good health when they arrived” and some of them are buried on Melville Island. Memorial services are held on a regular basis to this day.

Painting by J.E. Woolford

One of the more than a dozen visual images in this illustrated lecture included a large, panoramic painting by J.E. Woolford, dated 1817. The poster advertising the talk showed a portion of the painting in which soldiers are folding up a signal flag on the top deck of the Citadel's ramparts. Other important parts of the painting show views of Dartmouth, with Christ Church's steeple

A sample of news items from daily entries in the Order Books

- July 1, 1812 -
New Brunswick authorities negotiate agreements of neutrality with the Passamaquoddy and Maliseet First Nations

- July 3, 1812 -
A proclamation forbidding any persons under British Command from molesting American citizens living on the frontier of New Brunswick or interfering with their goods or coastal vessels

- July 4, 1812 -
First American prisoners of War arrive in Halifax, sent to Melville Island Military Prison

- July 7, 1812 -
American prize brig arrives in Halifax

- July 11, 1812 -
US frigate Essex captures a transport with 145 English soldiers en route to Halifax

- July 12, 1812 -
American Privateer Rossie sails out of Baltimore, takes 18 prizes in six weeks off the coasts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia



HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Public Lecture

Kevin Robins

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



- Thursday, October 17th
7:30 pm
- Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax
- Admission is free.

For more information call 423-4807 or visit our website

www.htns.ca

visible on the horizon, and parts of the well developed Northend of Halifax including St. George's Round Church. In the foreground are the North Barracks, where the stately home of the Duke of Kent was located. Historians tell us that this was one of Canada's earliest and most beautiful stately homes. It was located on the west side of present day Brunswick Street north of Duke Street. More research is needed to determine

when it was built, by whom, and how it came to be demolished.

Names Not Lost to History

Robins' talk contained remarkable detail as to military uniforms, military discipline, military transport between posts and military communications via packet boats. Military marches were used in part to patrol roads and also

to condition men to campaigning in North America. The Order Books detail the names of military boat builders and army masons - names which would otherwise be lost to history. They also record military celebrations: in this book, for example, Wellington's victory at Salamanca, announced in Halifax eight weeks after the event. This was to be marked by an «Evening of Illumination» when candles were placed in the front windows of homes and citizens, normally confined indoors at night, were invited to stroll the lighted streets to celebrate the victory.

This was an illuminating evening from an award-winning Parks Canada historian. During his career, Kevin Robins was charged with caring for historic weapons in the Army Museum at the Halifax Citadel and his duties included manufacturing more than four tons of gunpowder. Illuminating indeed!

23 Pine Street, Austenville, Dartmouth

Holly Gunn

One of the popular stops on the Dartmouth Heritage House Tour in September was 23 Pine Street. Over three hundred people went through the house the weekend of the tour. There were a number of factors that contributed to the popularity of this house. For some, it was the renovations that make this 1905 dwelling a comfortable 2013 home. For others, it was the family history of the original owners. Other people were interested in the historic, Dartmouth neighbourhood. A focal point for many people on the tour was the table that displayed photo albums and artifacts. The current owners have kept a scrapbook of renovation photos, and we were fortunate to obtain photos of the original family that lived in the house. The owner, who was on hand to answer questions, served lemonade and cookies in the kitchen. The friendly, chocolate brown, Labrador retriever, who greeted guests at the door, was a real hit with the children and many adults as well.

Austenville

This Pine Street house is located in Austenville, Dartmouth, and is an excellent example of Late Victorian Plain Style, typical of many of the houses built for the working class in Austenville during the late Victorian era. Austenville was developed on land from the Thomas Boggs estate. Thomas Boggs was the son of Dr. James Boggs, who came to Nova Scotia with the Loyalists and was the Surgeon to the Garrison and the Duke of Kent. Thomas Boggs was a business partner of Lawrence Hartshorne, a very successful Halifax merchant and member of the Legislative Assembly. In 1815, Thomas Boggs bought the whole of what is known as Austenville, consisting of some 67 acres, for £348 6/3 when much of the James Creighton property was sold by the executors of the Creighton estate. Hartshorne bought most of the remainder of the Creighton land.

Austenville was not developed until after 1860. It became largely a working-class neighbourhood and remained

that way into the twentieth century. According to the 1935 Electoral List for Dartmouth, Pine Street was occupied mainly by tradesmen, labourers, and their families. Eight of the twelve tradesmen were carpenters. These were some of the tradesmen who built and maintained Dartmouth during the early twentieth century.

The Pine Street house, like many other Austenville homes, is set very close to the street with a long, narrow backyard. Unlike many of the Victorian Plain Style houses, 23 Pine Street features several extravagances not characteristic of this house style: hoods over the window and door which incorporate a dentil motif; dentils near the roof overhang at the front of the house; rows of scalloped shingles on the house-front; a stained glass window; and carved moulding around the fireplaces in the interior.



Left: Pine Street house with siding partly removed (courtesy of John Thompson) Right: Angled back-to-back fireplaces (courtesy of Hal Oare)

The original owners – the Angus Conrod family

The Pine Street house was built in 1905 for Angus Conrod (1878-1947), a carpenter, and his wife, Laura McDonald (1880-1966), both from Lawrencetown, Halifax County. Like many other young people from the Lawrencetown-Chezzetcook area at this time, Angus moved to Dartmouth around 1899 to take advantage of the employment opportunities in this bustling, industrial town. Angus bought the building lot in September 1904 for \$150 from Daniel Fillis, another carpenter from the Eastern Shore. In 1906, the house and furniture were assessed for \$800, a typical assessment for similar houses in the neighbourhood at that time. Angus and Laura raised two children in the house: Marion Lila, born in 1911, and Gerald Roy, born in 1913. Members of this Conrod family lived at 23 Pine Street for over eighty years from 1905 until 1991. We were fortunate to be able to display several photos of Angus, Marion, and Gerald during the tour and to have carpentry tools belonging to Angus on display.

"... an excellent example of Late Victorian Plain Style, typical of many of the houses built for the working class in Austenville"



23 Pine Street in its restored finery, 2013 (courtesy of Hal Oare)



Angus Conrod as Fire Captain (cropped from original in the Regional Firefighters Interpretation Centre, Fall River, Halifax Regional Municipality, used with permission)

Angus Conrod played a prominent role in Dartmouth. In 1910, he was a carpenter with T. Merson on Portland Street. While working as a carpenter, Angus volunteered with the Dartmouth Engine Company (the fire department), and was elected Fire Captain in 1904, a position he held until 1916. He was made an honorary member of the Dartmouth Fire Department for his long years of service. Following the Halifax Explosion in 1917, Angus was active with the Dartmouth Relief Commission, serving as a member of the Shelter Committee. By 1945, he became a building inspector with C.A. Fowler, an architecture firm in Halifax.

After Angus's death, his wife, Laura, and her two children continued to live in the house. Gerald worked as a carpenter before the Second World War. During the war, he enlisted in the Merchant Marine, was captured when his ship was torpedoed, and was held as a prisoner-of-war in Germany for four years. After his prison camp was liberated, he returned to live at 23 Pine Street until he married in 1963. After the war, Gerald worked in the Halifax Dockyard Cryptology Department. His prisoner-of-war photos were quite a topic of conversation during the house tour. Gerald lived to be 99 years old, dying in 2012. Marion, who never married, lived in the

house until she died in 1991. Marion was trained as a stenographer and eventually became a private secretary in the firm of Drury, Heustis, and Davidson. Although she never married, she cared for foster children.

The current owners

The current owners, John Thompson and Jenny Fearon, purchased the house in 1992 and gradually began to renovate it. John enlarged a closet so that clothes could hang vertically, instead of horizontally. In 1996, John and Jenny began to work on the dining room and living room. In 2002, they started outside; in 2003, they added a deck; and in 2004, they began work on the cellar/basement. They lived in this home for



Horse-drawn pumper of the Dartmouth Engine Company (cropped from original in the Regional Firefighters Interpretation Centre, Fall River, Halifax Regional Municipality, used with permission)



Rear view of 23 Pine Street in 2013 (courtesy of Hal Oare)

over twenty years before insulating it. As the insulating company was removing the exterior wooden siding to blow in insulation, the owners discovered earlier scalloped shingles underneath. These and other decorative features have been restored in the recent work

Sharing with the community

People on the tour enjoyed seeing many of the original features of the house that still remain: old-fashioned doors and hinges, double-hung windows, adjoining fireplaces in the living/dining area, the wide-board floors in the upstairs rooms, and the old cellar. Guests also appreciated the modern-living features of this 1905 house: a laundry room in the basement/cellar, the renovated kitchen, and a study upstairs. Many people enjoyed learning about the original family who lived in the house, about the Dartmouth Engine Company, the prisoner-of-war camps, the Merchant Marine, and Angus's involvement in the community. The tour of this house seemed to have something to interest everyone with its mixture of family history, social history, neighbourhood history, period architecture, and, of course, the chocolate brown Lab.

Holly Gunn was the researcher for the Pine Street house and a guide during the house tour.

2013 Nova Scotia Heritage Officers' Conference

Sara Beanlands

The 2013 Nova Scotia Heritage Conference, hosted by the Region of Queen's Municipality, was held at White Point Beach Resort in September 2013. The theme of the conference was *Sharing Cultural Landscapes: Explore, Experience and Help Define Cultural Landscapes in Nova Scotia*. For many years, the concept of 'cultural landscape' has been applied in a variety of disciplines, such as architecture, geography, environmental design and planning, and archaeology. It has recently been adopted in the Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act which defines a cultural landscape as "a distinct geographical area or property uniquely representing the combined work of nature and of people."

"... a cultural landscape is a distinct geographical area or property uniquely representing the combined work of nature and of people"

The three-day conference included a number of special events and guest speakers. On September 25, participants were invited to tour Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site. Kejimikujik was designated a National Historic Site in 1995 (the first national park in Canada to be so recognized) to honour its rich cultural landscape and Mi'kmaq heritage. The tour included a medicinal plant walk, a Dark Sky Preserve talk, and traditional food sampling. Local heritage sites, including Perkins House, Fort Point Lighthouse, the Provincial Court House, the former Liverpool Town Hall, and the Rossignol Cultural Centre also offered special open house heritage tours.

On September 26, a number of guest speakers shared their perspectives on, and experiences with, the cultural landscape. The keynote speaker was Dr. Tom Andrews, Territorial Archaeologist at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage

Centre in the Northwest Territories. His presentation, entitled "Practice and Place: The Role of Traditional Practices in Managing Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes", focused on the effort to document and interpret the archaeological record of the Tłı̨chǫ and other Dene groups through cultural geographies and oral histories of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Other speakers included Rebecca Kennedy of Parks Canada, who spoke about "World Heritage Cultural Landscape Inscriptions", Claude DeGrâce and Naomi Blanchard, who shared their work on "The Landscape of Grand Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site", and Gregory MacNeil and Sara Beanlands, who discussed the role of public archaeology and technology within a cultural landscape framework. A panel discussion was also held to consider the impacts of a cultural landscape designation from both social and economic perspectives.

To further explain the concept of cultural landscape, Kevin Barrett, Coordinator of the Provincial Heritage Property Program, facilitated an interactive workshop entitled "Cultural Landscape Design", which asked participants to consider what cultural landscapes are and what they can mean for a community. Using examples from across the province, attendees learned why cultural landscapes are important features of the historic and modern environment and how they will be administered under the Heritage Property Act.

Sara Beanlands is an archaeologist and historian and a member of the Board of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Heritage Canada - The National Trust

On November 15, 2013, the Heritage Canada Foundation announced its adoption of a new name: Heritage Canada – The National Trust. The Preamble to the National Heritage Action Plan reads as follows:

We believe that Canadians have a right to a living history – people, places, spaces, and landscapes that tell our story, embody our accumulated wisdom, teach us about our joys, triumphs and errors, and create opportunities for all generations and cultures to express themselves, for people to earn a dignified living, for youth and elders to feel rooted and respected.

We are losing that living history, and our country is hurting because of it. That loss affects us all – loss of neighbourhoods, loss of affordable housing and small businesses, disappearance of eco-systems, devaluing of traditional knowledge and art, assimilation of cultures and languages, the decay of many towns and downtowns. Our living history cannot be contained only in museums. It is an expression of our patriotism, of our civic and cultural identities. It is an expression of who we are.

Our right to a living history cannot be fulfilled in a throw-away society. Our communities, our identities mean something. They are inseparable from the historic environment.

On the eve of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the moment has come for a Movement of Regeneration.

Tom Urbaniak is Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, Heritage Canada – The National Trust

Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

L'Acadie de Chezzetcook

79 Hill Road, West Chezzetcook.

Annual Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, December 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. The outdoor tree will be decorated in Acadian colours. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Dartmouth Heritage Museum

26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth.

Current Exhibits:

Victorian Christmas at Evergreen House, Nov. 19 – Dec. 21, 2013. Come and see Victorian decorations, Victorian toys, and the museum's home, Evergreen, in all her splendour. Learn how the trimmings were made and how our community celebrated the season over a hundred years ago. Included with \$2.00 admission.

Models, Miniatures & More, Nov. 19 – Dec. 21. The spirit of old Dartmouth captured in form and photographs. Included with \$2.00 admission.

Phone (902) 464-2300, e-mail: museum@bellaliant.com.

Museum hours posted on the website: www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca/index.html

DesBrisay Museum

130 Jubilee Road, Bridgewater.

Current Exhibits:

Captured Moments, coloured pencil art by Patti Young, running until December 31.

The Twelve Days of Christmas, running from Nov. 21 through Dec. 31.

Annual Christmas Open House, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Anniversary Tribute to Saint Joseph's Catholic Church and Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, open hours are Wednesday through Sunday. **Phone (902) 543-4033, website www.desbrisaymuseum.ca**

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

Monthly meetings held in the Akins A/V Room, Nova Scotia Archives, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax

The general public is invited to join the Board and members of the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia for these free lectures.

How to research your ancestor's criminal past, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Presented by Stephen Schneider, Criminology Graduate Program Coordinator at the Department of Sociology and Criminology, Saint Mary's University. Sometimes in our family trees, we discover an ancestor who has been involved in criminal activity. Once we're over the shock, we want to know more. Dr. Schneider will walk us through the basics of how to research our ancestors' criminal past. He will also discuss what resources and tools are available to assist us in tracking down the facts about our ancestors' questionable activities.

Pierre Clouthier of Progeny Genealogy, Saturday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.

Mahone Bay Father Christmas Festival

Mahone Bay.

Decorated House Tour, Saturdays Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sundays Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m. Dressed up for the Yuletide season are three versions of a lovely Nova Scotia Cape House, with interesting architectural changes over the years. All dated between 1880 and 1900. Admission \$10/ person, available at Kinburn Pharmasave in Mahone Bay and at the decorated homes. For more information, contact: Barbara Feeney, Chair, Father Christmas Festival, (902) 624-8133.

Mainland South Heritage Society

Captain William Spry Community Centre, 16 Sussex Street, Spryfield.

Remembering our Veterans,

Saturday, Feb. 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

As part of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, the Mainland South Heritage Society will honour veterans from past wars at our annual Heritage Tea and Display of Photographs. Please join us. Refreshments served. Admission free, donations welcome.

Yarmouth County Museum

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth.

Christmas Colours, opening November 16.

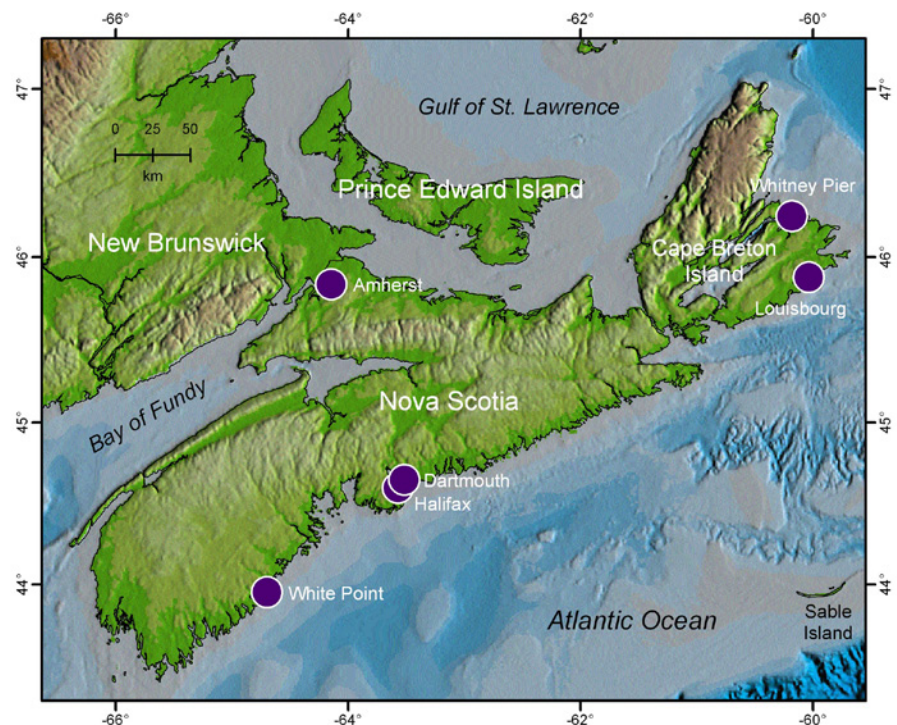
Showcasing a selection of quilts, photographs, artwork, clothing and more from the museum's collection in preparation for the Christmas season.

The Rugg Bees and the Carpet Baggers Annual Hooked Rug Show and Sale, opening November 30 at 2:00 p.m. Showcasing their beautiful and detailed work for the Holiday Season

Gingerbread Tea, Dec. 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes sandwiches, gingerbread, and an assortment of sweets.

For more information, contact the museum at (902) 742-5539, e-mail: ycmuseum@eastlink.ca

Locations of subject matter in this issue



Base map data courtesy of Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada