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The Griffin

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The Griffin

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published by
**Heritage Trust of
Nova Scotia**

Unless otherwise indicated,
the opinions expressed
in these pages are those of the
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necessarily reflect the views of
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Cover image: Winter Shadows, Saunders Park,
by Mary Garoutte, 2013, oil on board, diptych,
10"x18" (courtesy of the artist).

President's Report



Our Awards Committee deserves recognition for overcoming inexperience and weather to mount a successful ceremony in February, under difficult conditions. Thanks go to Laura MacNutt (Chair), Elizabeth Ryan and Elizabeth Jablonski, and to Arthur Carter for more of his striking graphic work. Some of it, bearing the Trust's logo and name, may be displayed around the province over the next few months. Cathy McCarthy, our new part-time communications advisor, jumped in at short notice to enhance our publicity efforts. What a pleasure to see the provincial media coverage, of one project in particular, and more to come!

In Halifax, public awareness of the physical, as well as historic, value of the **Dennis Building** is growing, due in part to the reporting of a well-known architect's assessment. "**The Province has a gem,**" says David Garrett, who examined the interior in February. "**[It] could get high-quality offices in there at a fraction of the time and cost of a mid-quality replacement building.**" David Garrett is the architect for a number of well-known projects, including repurposing of the Freemason's Hall and the National Film Board building, both within the Barrington Street Conservation District. (To learn more, see www.dennisbuilding.ca/)

In our Strategic Plan we recognized the need to strengthen our ability to spread a positive message about

heritage conservation and Heritage Trust's activities around the province. The Board agreed to hire a communications advisor for six months. We had good response to our job posting and several excellent candidates were interviewed. **Cathy McCarthy is working on a communications plan based on our Strategic Plan.** Effective web-based communications are an essential component. Some of you will recognize Cathy from her decades-long volunteer work with the Friends of McNabs Island Society (<http://mcnabsisland.ca/>). Cathy can be reached at communications@htns.ca.

The Morris House team is gearing up to work on the interior of the building, after a winter hiatus during which we – and the neighbours – admired the exterior from beyond the snow and ice banks. If you are in Halifax, you too can enjoy the fruits of last year's labour, at the corner of Creighton and Charles; both are one-way streets, so plan your route carefully. Transforming the Morris House for occupancy as a comfortable, safe home for young adults, while respecting our heritage, environmental, and budget demands, will be the challenge.

Donations, in-kind and monetary, will be vital in ensuring a timely completion of the project. Ward Skinner is the Finance Committee's liaison person with the Joint Action Committee. The JAC represents all the partners: the Trust, Metro Non-Profit Housing Association, Ecology Action Centre, and the ARK. Through Ward's contacts, a seasoned project manager with an interest in history has been approached to work with our architect, Mike Harvey. Over the next few weeks, the groundwork will be laid for a coordinated development approach.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with Membership, Archives, and general administration. Please get in touch at 902-423-4807 or contact@htns.ca.

Volume 40 – Looking Ahead

The completion of 50 years of Heritage Trust newsletters and the appearance of volume 40 of *The Griffin* are important milestones, prompting reflection on the accomplishments of HTNS over half a century and directions for the future. In this issue, Peter Delefes delves into some of the history, as revealed in early issues of the newsletter.

While **the primary aim of the Heritage Trust is the conservation of heritage structures**, the motivation includes respect for and appreciation of our history, enhancement of our physical surroundings, and the preservation of cultural resources for future generations. Additional benefits include economic development (particularly with respect to tourism), skills retention and development, conservation of embodied energy, waste reduction, and educational value, not to mention aesthetic enjoyment. Simply put, beautiful places make us happy.

In the context of the demographic and economic challenges facing our province, the benefits but also demands of heritage conservation should not be overlooked. Austin Parsons proposes a Nova Scotia Traditional Trades Network to support and enhance access to the human resources and skills needed to maintain our built heritage. The value of a skilled workforce is reflected in the 2014 Built Heritage Awards reported here, including awards for masonry conservation in a historic Cape Breton farmhouse and Halifax City Hall.

There are opportunities in adaptive re-use of heritage structures for new enterprises that provide employment in small communities and rural areas. As the non-urban proportion of the population in the Maritimes is among the highest in the country, strategies for rural sustainability are a priority in Nova Scotia. The Flying Apron Inn and Cookery in Summerville (see Elizabeth Burke's article in this issue) is an inspiring example of rural entrepreneurship. It makes good use of a heritage property



Morning Light, Hydrostone (Kane St.), 2013, by Mary Garoutte, oil on board, 12"x12" (courtesy of the artist)

in a small community, supporting local producers who maintain an agricultural landscape, and attracting consumers from Halifax and farther afield to sustain rural employment and opportunity.

The growing appreciation of cultural landscapes has been recognized in the Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act and in the UNESCO World Heritage designations of Lunenburg and Grand Pré. Heritage structures (churches, barns, wharves, lighthouses, among others) are important components of cultural landscapes and the physical setting of a heritage building is often key to its history and significance.

Our cover artwork by Mary Garoutte features a Halifax park. Her painting of morning light in the Hydrostone neighbourhood highlights the appeal of this

distinctive post-Explosion cultural landscape in the Halifax urban mosaic. Urban parks and streetscapes are important components of our cultural heritage, as recognized in the focus on Brunswick Street in the first issue of *The Griffin*. This is also reflected in the Trust's advocacy over the years for the preservation of views from Citadel Hill and for the rehabilitation of the Halifax waterfront Historic Properties 50 years ago.

Expanding the dialogue on Nova Scotia's built heritage to include consideration of cultural landscapes and rural sustainability provides an opportunity to highlight the relevance of heritage resources in the broader discussion of strategies for prosperity in Nova Scotia. – DLF

Laura de Boer: Revealing Details - Findings of the Charles Morris Office Building

Marilyn Gurney

I was not among the brave who stood on the cold, dark streets of Halifax in January 2013 as the Morris House slowly trundled along to its new foundation at the corner of Creighton and Charles Streets in the North End. I did however, see the house at its temporary, down-town, empty-lot location. It certainly begged the question as to whether it would be a success or not. Therefore, I was very keen to hear Laura de Boer speak about her findings in the Heritage Trust public lecture on November 20, 2014.

Ms de Boer is an archaeologist with specialization both in industrial heritage and in the archaeology of standing buildings. She volunteered her skills and Heritage Trust was indeed fortunate to have her involved in the Morris project. She began her lecture with a brief history of the house and its construction. Halifax cooper Dennis Heffernan most likely built the house in 1764 (as indicated by tree-ring analysis), making it the third oldest wooden structure in the city (after St Paul's and the Old Dutch Church) and the oldest commercial building. Charles Morris Junior purchased the house for use as an office in 1777. The Morris family owned the building for eighty years, as male members were provincial surveyors.

Once on the new foundation, where part of the skin or outer shell of the home was removed, original construction details became visible. Ms de Boer described the house as cross-braced and brick-nogged. Original marriage marks or construction numbers were readily visible, as were the mortise and tenon joints of the outer walls, the roof-line, and ghost marks. The rear extension of 1½ storeys, a later addition, had an unknown purpose. With all the superfluous construction material removed, the history of renovations, changes, and

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA
Public Lecture

Laura DeBoer
Archaeologist

**Revealing Details:
Findings from the
Charles Morris House**

- Thursday, November 20th
7:30 pm
- Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax
- Admission is free
Everyone welcome

For more information call 423-4807 or visit our website
www.htns.ca

repairs became clearly visible.

A hidden door, blocked and over-shingled, as well as blocked windows were revealed. The Scottish dormer was not original to the house, but in all likelihood was built early on. Some scorching was found near it. Saw marks, vertical pre-1870 and circular post-1870, were used as a dating aid. One unusual find was a canvas strip attached to the

inner sheathing; its purpose remains unclear. Plaster lath of non-standard size (split, not sawn) is common in older homes and could be seen in the Morris building. Floral wallpaper with subdued colours was found behind a fireplace uncovered in 2010.

Ms de Boer then addressed the issue of concealed artefacts. These are items that were found in the house, either



The Morris Office Building revealed, as scaffolding came down in November 2014 (photo by Don Forbes)

accidentally lost or deliberately placed. Some were of a common type such as a wine bottle with cork, a pipe marked with an anchor made by MacDougall of Scotland (mid - late 19th century), and old newspaper. The most interest-

ing, as well as unusual, were four pieces of clothing. Were these tucked in the wall for insulation, or as a superstition to ward off evil spirits? Their original owners will most likely remain unknown. Ms de Boer spent considerable



Christian Hernandez, textile conservator at the Canadian Museum of Immigration (Pier 21), placing clothing found in the Morris Building in the freezer (courtesy of C Hernandez)

time describing the pieces: (a) a brown silk bodice with pockets for boning, machine-stitched, hand-repaired, rolled up and tied; (b) a black bodice with off-white lining, leg-of-mutton sleeves, black buttons, and trim braid; (c) a black skirt with brown lining, gathering at waist, stiffer fabric at the bottom; and (d) a small thin garment, perhaps a child's skirt or shawl. None were suitable for insulation, but all were found near an opening of some sort. The dark colour might indicate widows' clothing. Ms de Boer ended her lecture with a hands-on demonstration of some of the fabric.

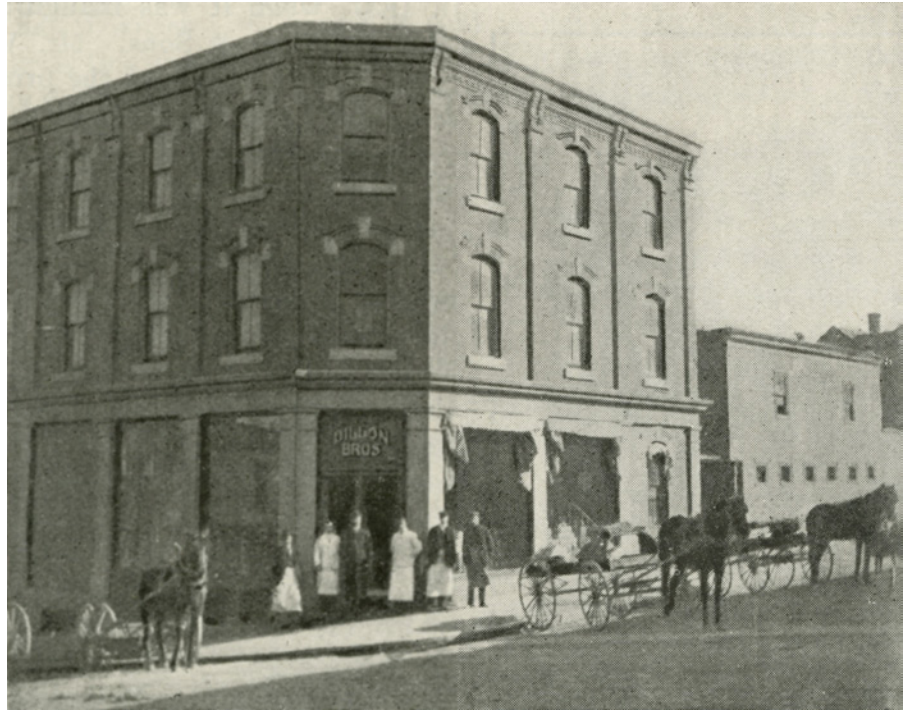
The Dillon Building, Albemarle (Market) and Sackville Streets, Halifax

Garry D. Shutlak

Patrick Dillon (1824-1890) was the founder of the firm which became known as Dillon Brothers. Born in County Clare, Ireland, he was a bandsman attached to the personal household of Major Gore in the 97th Earl of Ulster Regiment, and came to Halifax in 1848. Patrick Dillon and his wife Catherine Burns (1829-1909) had three children: William M. (1846-1895), John P. (1855-1900), and Dennis (1858-1887). Mr Dillon bought his discharge before the regiment left our shores in 1854.

The firm was founded in 1850 when Mr. Dillon opened a saloon on Albemarle Street opposite the South Barracks and built over the years a large business in the grocery and liquor line. The firm was first known as Patrick Dillon at 47 Albemarle Street, on the northeast corner of Sackville Street (the family resided at no. 49). A two storey brick building was built in 1865. In 1879, the business became Dillon Brothers (Dennis and William), grocers, and that business was located at 80 Sackville Street, corner of Albemarle Street, with Patrick Dillon Liquors across the street at 75 Sackville Street. After the death of his father and two brothers, John P. Dillon, his mother, Catherine, and Daniel C. Woods ran the enterprise. After the death of John, Woods became the manager of the firm. In a newspaper supplement published in 1902, it was stated that "No little of the house's success has been due to Mrs Catherine Dillon's wise directed efforts. She is a woman of superior executive ability and is much esteemed by the entire community."

In April 1898, they tore down their old wooden structure at the southeast corner of Sackville and Albemarle Streets, and replaced it with a three-and-a-half storey brick structure with granite trimmings, designed by Henry Busch. The building had approximately forty



New Dillon Brothers premises, 76-80 Sackville Street, with sun on the west façade along Albemarle Street, turn of the twentieth century (from *Halifax, the Capital of Nova Scotia, Canada, and its Advantages and Interests 1909*, p. 100, courtesy Nova Scotia Archives)



Dillon Building, with advertisement for new development, March 2015 (photo by Don Forbes)

feet of frontage on Albemarle Street and one hundred and twenty feet on Sackville Street. Samuel Marshall was the builder, Freeman Bros did the carpenter work, and Crump & Perrier the hot water system.

The entrance was at the corner and lighted by three sheets of plate glass. The store had a metal ceiling and electric lighting. The interior furnishings were cherry with marble topped counters, ornamental bins with roll tops, ten Japanese inspired tea caddies, and shelves laden with handsomely labeled canned goods. At the rear was a packing room and adjoining it a shelf supply room. The second floor was used as a bonded warehouse and the third floor as an excise department. From the concrete basement a 3000 pound capacity goods elevator ran to the roof. All the doors in the building were fireproof.

About 1903, Daniel C. Woods (1855-

1920) became the proprietor of the enterprise. His children William, Howard, Edward, Alfred, Rose, and Annie Winifred all joined the firm, which was wrapped up in 1925. The building was then occupied by Frank Reardon, glass, paints and wall papers, and by W.H. Golden, auto distributors, repairs, and Auburn service station. The Auburn automobile was a highly prized and well-designed vehicle, but the company went out of business in 1937, in part due to the Depression. In 1941, Military Control occupied the Dillon Building followed by the Department of National Health and Welfare (Family Allowances); Sherwin-Williams, paints; Harold D. Lohnes, Corner House Lunch Room; Gerald Bedard Ltd, electrical contractors; and then, for over twenty years, the Association of Nova Scotia Hairdressers, Michael's School of Hair Design, and Salon Services Limited. In 1980, part of the building became

the Sackville Rooming House, in 1990 it was occupied by Hindsight Antiques and Sec Computer Sales Ltd, and in 1995 Night Magic Fashions. In 1994, the Strange Adventures comic book store opened in the basement and remained there until 2013.

The Halifax Chronicle-Herald of 5 November 2014 reported that MOSAIK Property Management Limited, headed by George Giannoulis, announced a multi-million dollar eight storey mixed-use complex incorporating the facade of the Dillon Building, with commercial space on the ground floor and one and two bedroom condominiums above.

Garry Shutlak is Senior Reference Archivist at Nova Scotia Archives and a frequent contributor to The Griffin

NEWS

Grants for Buildings at Risk

The Buildings at Risk Fund is an advisory committee to the Board and recommends grants for small-scale projects to promote the preservation of historic buildings or sites in Nova Scotia. Under the leadership of Philip Pacey, the committee membership has been selected for its complementary skills. Current members are Melanie Ballard, Colchester heritage activist and former partner in Onslow Historic Lumber Company; Art Irwin, heating consultant and former member of the Places of Worship Committee; Elizabeth Pacey, well-known architectural historian and author; and Andrew Powter, international consultant on the conservation of wooden buildings, formerly with Parks Canada.

In late 2014, the group recommended assistance to two buildings

The George Wright House on Young Avenue in Halifax, owned by the Local

Council of Women, needed structural repairs to its dangerously deteriorated front porch. The second recommendation was for a grant to St George's Round Church, as a contribution to the replication of one of the 1889 character-defining wooden windows in the parish hall. The latter donation has been made in memory of former president, Joyce McCulloch, and her husband, Paul, both passionate heritage advocates and stewards of two provincially-registered houses, the Bollard House in Halifax, and the Peter Smyth House in Port Hood.

The committee has publicized the Fund across the province, through local heritage officers, and hopes to increase its profile with the help of our regional representatives and other HTNS members. Individuals and groups may apply for assistance. Applications are evaluated according to the principles in The Standards and Guidelines for the Conserva-

tion of Historic Places in Canada and preference is given to buildings or sites considered to be at risk.

The application process is straightforward

Information can be found on our website (www.htns.ca) under Committees and Buildings-at-Risk, where the form, the Standards and Guidelines, and other material can be downloaded. Three applications are already under consideration for 2015; all relate to places of worship.

St Mary's Polish Church Will be Rebuilt – Parish Grateful to the Heritage Community and People Around the World

St Mary's Polish Church, which was completely destroyed by a fire on the afternoon of Saturday, November 29, 2014, will be rebuilt in the same location in the historic, multicultural neighbourhood of Whitney Pier.

Constructed between 1913 and 1918 in a modified Polish Gothic style, St Mary's was the only Polish church in Atlantic Canada. It is the centre of Cape Breton's Polish community and home to many service projects benefiting the region. In 2013 and 2014, a number of historically sensitive repairs and renovations were carried out, all with money procured through local fund-raising efforts, plus a provincial heritage grant to partially support the project for a new roof.

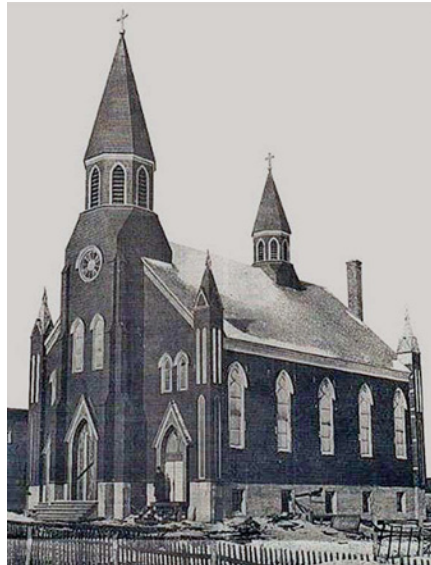
*Constructed between 1913 and 1918
... St Mary's was the only Polish
church in Atlantic Canada*

In 1984, the church was registered as a heritage property by the Province of Nova Scotia. The property is held by the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish as "trustee for St Mary's Polish Church."

The Honourable Tony Ince, Nova Scotia's Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, has written to advise the parish that the heritage registration on the site will be maintained. This news was received with gratitude by parishioners. The character-defining elements included not only architectural features but the site's continuing use by Nova Scotians of Polish heritage for spiritual and cultural purposes.

The parish is working with architect Gary Hanley and parishioners have unanimously expressed a desire for traditional Polish design inspired by the previous church. It is hoped that construction can start this summer.

St Mary's Polish Parish has an active membership of about 100 and main-



St Mary's Polish Church, Whitney Pier, in final stages of construction, 1917 (courtesy the author)



Interior of St Mary's Polish Church during service (courtesy the author)

tains the Polish language and unique spiritual and cultural customs (see article on heritage designation for the parish hall in *The Griffin*, vol. 38, no. 4).

Following the fire, the parish resolved to stay together and rebuild. The diocese has stated that it is supportive of this position. During the rebuilding process, the parish is celebrating Mass at Holy Redeemer Church.

The character-defining elements include not only architectural features but the site's continuing use by Nova Scotians of Polish heritage ...

There have been expressions of support from around the world, and offers to help. Indeed, the parish would like to include a piece in the new church (at least symbolically) of every faith community of every denomination in Cape Breton, plus others that have come forward. Shortly before Christmas, the parish hosted a large tree-lighting ceremony to say thank you to everyone for the kindness and solidarity.

For more information on St Mary's Polish Parish, please go to www.stmaryspolishparish.ca. The parish's office/rectory was only slightly damaged. The address remains 21 Wesley Street, Sydney, NS, B1N 2N1.

Tom Urbaniak
tom_urbaniak@cbu.ca
902-563-1226

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
Illustrated
Public Lecture Series

Thursday, April 16

William Breckenridge
Commerce Under the Hill –
Schmidtville and
Spring Garden Road

Thursday, May 21

Sara Beanlands
The Jewish Legion at Fort
Edward (Windsor)

All talks take place at 7:30 pm

Museum of Natural History
Auditorium
1747 Summer Street, Halifax
Information: 423-4807

The Right Connection

Elizabeth Burke

In these times when we are bombarded with tales of economic woes in rural and small town Nova Scotia and the resultant loss or deterioration of our built heritage, it becomes important to shine a light on the positive stories. What better way to start the New Year than with a good news story?

Inspired by a recent restaurant review of the Flying Apron Cookery by Bill Spurr, a friend and I headed off to Summerville, Hants County, to see what all the buzz was about. The experience provided more than a pleasant drive and a gourmet lunch. What I found was an intriguing example of a small business making a big impact.

The Flying Apron Inn and Cookery is owned by Chris and Melissa Velden. The couple moved to Nova Scotia from North Vancouver seven years ago. Chris is an executive chef who did a stint at Bish and later Ryan Duffy's before moving on to start a catering business. Melissa has a background in restaurant management. It has long been their dream to build their own business. While visiting friends in the Summerville area, they discovered that the Avon Emporium/Shipwright Inn was for sale. In April of 2014 they made the purchase and after 10 months of renovations opened the doors.

The original house was built in 1871 in the Gothic farmhouse style with an addition built in the early 20th century and a subsequent addition in 2003. The additions have been sympathetic to the original house style, resulting in a collection of gables with steeply pitched roofs. The interior is a bit of a rabbit warren, which adds to the rustic charm and provides natural dividers between the various enterprises the Veldens have going on under the multiple roofs. Part of the original house is now a cozy gathering room retaining its original exposed beams. In addition to the 36 seat restaurant, the building houses a



The Flying Apron Inn and Cookery, Summerville, West Hants (drawing by Don Forbes from a photograph by the author)

five room inn, a large common room, an art gallery, and a gourmet shop offering a selection of Chris's flavourful dishes to take home or gift. Another part of the building is currently under renovation and will house a cooking school.

The wait staff wear T-shirts with the slogan "We Do Local" and local is what the Veldens and their business are all about. They support local growers and wineries (including the Avondale Sky Winery, recipient of a 2011 HTNS Built Heritage Award). They employ six to eight staff in the high season and engage with the community by making the common room available for jam sessions, as well as providing a venue for community meetings and for local artists to display their work at a low consignment fee of 10%. In addition to support from area residents, the business draws customers from Windsor, Halifax, and the South Shore. When the cooking school space is opened, guests will be able to enjoy a weekend in one of the charmingly appointed inn rooms, each with its own bath, and have fun learning some new culinary skills.

The Avon Emporium had long been an important part of the community. The first addition housed a general store and, during the 1940s, a hardware and

building supply store was included. This was during the heyday of barite mining in the area, when there was much development. In the early 1990s a Swiss couple purchased the property and continued operating the general and hardware stores and started a landscaping business. Later in the 1990s they opened a café and in 2003 the Shipwright Inn.

The Veldens have brought their own talents and new energy to this business located in a small community. In so doing, they have demonstrated that entrepreneurs with special or unique products and services, wrapped together and tied up into an overall good experience, will motivate customers to travel to those destinations. The spinoff benefits to the community and local suppliers are incalculable.

And why stop there? Perhaps a cheese factory would be a good addition to the mix and I understand Chris has beekeeping experience or....

Would that we could find a way to connect more of the right entrepreneurs with the right heritage buildings.

Elizabeth Burke is an interior designer based in Halifax and former Chair of the HTNS Awards Committee.

ARTIST

Mary Garoutte



Yellow Door (Falkland Street), 2013, by Mary Garoutte, oil on board, 12"x15" (courtesy of the artist)

Mary Garoutte is a young, emerging artist who currently lives and works in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Although born in Mesa, Arizona, Garoutte has spent most of her life in Nova Scotia.

Garoutte received her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 2004. Since graduation, she has taught various painting and drawing workshops to adults and children, notably in the NSCAD Continuing Education program. She has also exhibited in group exhibitions throughout Canada and at the University of Ulsan in Ulsan, South Korea.

Garoutte's work is inspired by the historic streetscapes of Nova Scotia, with its heritage neighbourhoods and

vernacular architecture, such as colourful row houses. Major aesthetic influences include the illustrative quality and bold palettes of Canadian artists such as the Group of Seven, the Beaver Hall Group, and Robert Genn; English influences such as the Camden Town Group and figurative painter Lucian Freud; and American influences such as Wayne Thiebaud. Though somewhat contemporary, her work harkens back to the tradition of Canadian painting in the early half of the 20th century. Garoutte's recent paintings incorporate the earthy, jewel-like palette and bold, graphic nature of painting from that period.

Garoutte also works as an arts administrator and private arts instruc-

tor. She is passionate about the local arts scene and is active in various art programs to contribute to the vision of putting Halifax artists and activities on the map.

Mary Garoutte is represented at Argyle Fine Art in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and will be exhibiting paintings of Lunenburg and surrounding area at the Lunenburg Art Gallery from June 30 to July 26, 2015.

Mary Garoutte Fine Art
5682 North Street, Unit 102,
Halifax, NS, B3K 1N4
By Appointment Only.
marygarouttefineart.wordpress.com



Sunset on Agricola Street, 2013, by Mary Garoutte, oil on board, 24"x36" (courtesy of the artist)



Red Swing, Hydrostone Park, 2014, by Mary Garoutte, oil on board, 23"x22" (courtesy of the artist)



Red Bicycle, Young Street, 2014, by Mary Garoutte, oil on board, 36"x36" (courtesy of the artist)

Built Heritage Awards Ceremony, Halifax Hall, February 2015



Halifax City Hall, venue for the February 2015 awards ceremony and recipient of award for the Masonry Conservation Program (photo courtesy of Halifax Regional Municipality)

Linda Forbes

The threat of cold and stormy weather postponed our celebration of the 2014 Built Heritage Awards, but nothing could dampen our enthusiasm for the recipients. A week later than planned, the elegant setting for the reception in Halifax Hall and the address by our host, Mayor Mike Savage, underscored the importance of our capital city and its heritage buildings to Nova Scotians.

For The Trust, our Awards ceremony is a high point of the year, when we recognize conservation work that has been done within the past five years on heritage buildings or other examples

of Nova Scotia's built heritage. This year at the ceremony on February 20th, we fêted four Nova Scotia buildings, an iconic ship, and an exceptional person:

- Moidart, Creignish, Cape Breton (residential);
- Miller Dermatology Clinic, Halifax (commercial);
- Halifax City Hall, Halifax (institutional);
- Government House, Halifax (institutional);
- HMCS *Sackville* (stewardship); and
- Richard Corkum (excellence in supporting heritage conservation).

Each of the award recipients will be profiled in this and subsequent issues of *The Griffin*.



Example of completed restoration of decorative detail on Halifax City Hall (photo courtesy Halifax Regional Municipality)



Moidart, historic stone house in Creignish, award recipient in the residential category (photo courtesy of owner Lorrie MacKinnon)

Moidart, a rare 200 year old example of Cape Breton vernacular domestic architecture, was at risk of falling to ruin. Instead, this stone home built to withstand the wind has been lovingly rehabilitated by the great-great-granddaughter of its Scottish builder and original owner.

The Miller Dermatology Clinic, a late Victorian house on Coburg Road in Halifax, demonstrates how a large family home on what is still primarily a residential street can be repurposed without losing its essential residential appearance. In fact, its colouration and corner location make the house stand out on the street and the building now sets a high standard for the neighbouring homes to meet.

Both Government House, the home of the Lieutenant Governor, and Halifax City Hall's exterior façade underwent extensive conservation work over the past few years. Such complex repairs

demanded special expertise from the workers and the professionals overseeing the work. The successful completion of both projects represents a significant investment in the long-term preservation of two iconic Nova Scotia buildings.

HMCS *Sackville* is the second-built and last surviving of the Flower-class corvettes and was launched in 1941. The corvettes of the Royal Canadian Navy were vital to the protection of convoys maintaining the lines of supply across the Atlantic during WW II. The ship was employed as a scientific research vessel after the war, but has now been restored to its war-time configuration. The Canadian Naval Memorial Trust was recognized for the ongoing care required by such a vessel and the important role *Sackville* plays in representing a class of ships and the Battle of the Atlantic, which brought the war to Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia.

Rick Corkum, former building

inspector with Kings County, was an exceptional recipient. Partly through his interest in and knowledge of the historic buildings in Kings County, he has been able to bring special understanding of the needs of such buildings to the inspection process. He has employed the principle of minimal intervention, as recommended in the federal Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, while achieving the public protection demanded by his role as a building inspector. Since his retirement from Kings County, he has been warmly welcomed in Lunenburg County where he is now working part-time. Unfortunately, driving conditions prevented his travelling to the ceremony in February. Laura MacNutt, chair of the Awards Committee, and Board member Beth Keech will present Mr Corkum's certificate to him at a later date.

Miller Dermatology Clinic, 6088 Coburg Road, Halifax



Side elevation on Henry Street (courtesy of the owners)

The property at 6088 Coburg Road was the recipient of an HTNS 2014 Built Heritage Award in the Commercial category. The following is an edited version of text by Dr Rob Miller submitted in support of the nomination.

The building is a late Victorian home, which served for more than a century as a private home, rooming house, dentist's office, business offices, and from 1981 until 2012 as a medical office for four dermatologists and their staff.

In 2012, it was decided that the building itself was looking old and tired and in need of a facelift. Under the supervision of Debbie Miller and with the expertise of Fine Designs Contractor, Earle Woodill, the entire building (4

floors) went through major conservation on the outside and renovation on the inside.

The building is a late Victorian home, which served for more than a century as a private home, rooming house, dentist's office, business offices, and ... medical office

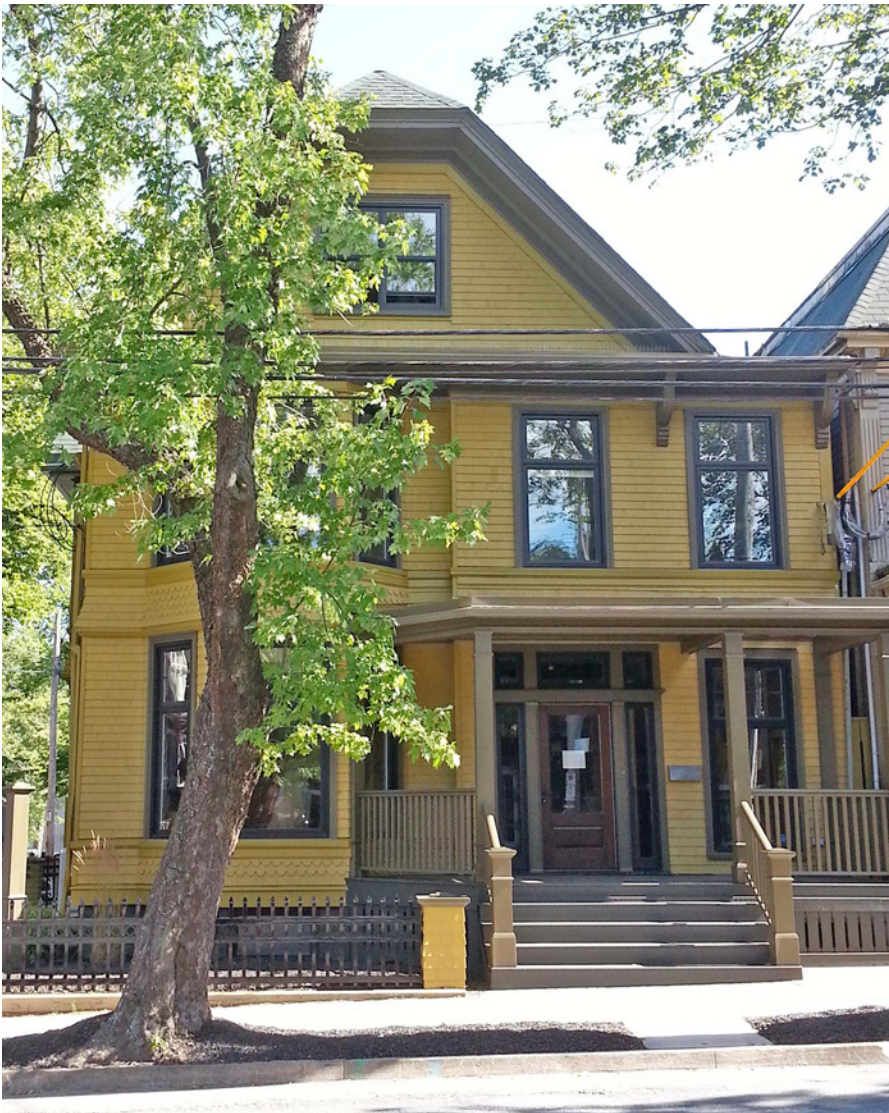
As the building had no heritage designation, we were able to make modifications (to the exterior and interior) to reflect the Victorian style, but also to make it a functional and practical office space. In particular, the entry was enhanced with sidelights to open up the front lobby, to make it more welcoming to our clients and create a more

enjoyable environment. The enclosed stairs leading to the second floor were replaced with a sweeping curved staircase crafted in the Annapolis Valley.

The outside of the building was completely re clad with pre-painted cedar shingles and a deck was installed on the third level, where there is an apartment. All of the windows were replaced. To make the home/office as heat-efficient as possible, air exchangers were installed throughout the building and the basement sprayed with foam insulation. The chimneys were removed as they posed a threat of falling over and the furnace was replaced with a newer furnace that vents at ground level. The picket fence surrounding the office was replaced with large cedar-shingled posts con-

LECTURE

Glenn Taylor: The Lost Churches of Halifax



Streetfront façade on Coburg Road (courtesy of the owners)

ected by iron railings. All of the colours, both interior and exterior, were chosen to reflect the Victorian taste for a deep colour palette.

All of the colours, both interior and exterior, were chosen to reflect the Victorian taste for a deep colour palette.

The grounds have been landscaped with a selection of evergreens, tall grasses, and rock designs to enhance the curb appeal of the property.

As Haligonians, we feel very proud of our city, known for its multitude of

trees and beautiful homes. We wished to enhance our city by rehabilitating an old Victorian home and hope that others will aspire to do the same.

Dr Rob Miller and Debbie Miller were on hand to receive their award at the Built Heritage Awards ceremony in February 2015.

For over 250 years churches have been built in Halifax County. Churches have also been abandoned, burned down, blown up, sold or, to use a more modern term—repurposed. Many churches and synagogues too have simply disappeared—in most cases buried under a new development. There are, however, many that still stand as homes, businesses, museums, and daycares. Haligonians and visitors to our city pass by such churches on a daily basis, in many cases oblivious to their existence. They are, for all intents and purposes, lost.

Glenn Taylor has been out looking for these lost churches and to date has found over thirty-five of them with the stories they can tell us...if we take the time to listen.

Glenn Taylor presented this lecture in January 2015 in the HTNS Illustrated Public Lecture series. For those who missed it, he will be presenting the talk again on Sunday April 12, 2:00-3:30 pm, at St Peter's Anglican Church in Rockingham, 3 Dakin Drive, Halifax, NS, B3M 2C9; for information, call 902-443-1969.

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA
Public Lecture
Glenn Taylor
The Lost Churches of Halifax
Thursday, January 15, 2015
7:30 pm
Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax
Admission is free
Everyone welcome
For more information call 423-4807 or visit our website

The Griffin at 51 - Looking Back and Moving Ahead

Peter Delefos

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia (HTNS) launched its quarterly publication in January 1964, five years after the founding of the Trust. Thus our last issue of *The Griffin* in December 2014 marked the completion of 50 years of HTNS newsletters. In its earliest format, *The Heritage Trust Newsletter*, as it was originally called, was printed on both sides of a single sheet of 8½ by 14 inch paper. It continued in this format until 1976, with the addition of a couple of pages over the intervening 12 years.

By 1976, the Heritage Trust was firmly established, with a number of significant built heritage conservation successes to its credit. The editorial committee felt that the newsletter should take on a newer look. In the February/March issue of that year, the newsletter went to a smaller format and the masthead had a new emblem, a griffin, the mythological symbol that is the traditional guardian of treasure. With the body of a lion and the head of an eagle, the griffin is carrying a Nova Scotia flag and is moving forward while looking back over its shoulder at the past. Henceforth, the HTNS quarterly was to be called *The Griffin*.

In 'Our origins – the Griffin logo', in the December 2004 issue of *The Griffin*, Nancy O'Brien explained how the Heritage Trust's emblem was designed by Donald Cameron MacKay, heraldic specialist and then Principal of the Nova Scotia College of Art (now the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design). A reproduction of a page from the D.C. MacKay Papers showed the original drawing of our Griffin emblem with his handwritten notes on various elements of the design.

The first *Heritage Trust Newsletter* of January 1964 contains a number of articles which provide today's reader with a flavour of the issues and events of interest to Trust members 50 years ago. In that first issue, Trust president Robert



Buchanan wrote:

"All of us would do well to reflect for a moment on the undeniable fact that the passage of 1963 has taken with it an ever increasing toll of the remaining examples of Nova Scotia's unique and proud past. It is heartening to note an awakening awareness throughout the province of a need for the preservation or restoration of those still remaining."

The following event was reported, featuring the originator of our Griffin emblem:

"Donald C. MacKay, Principal of NS College of Art, gave a talk on Nova Scotia silver at the December meeting of the Trust. Tracing silversmithing from the French regime he told of Loyalist craftsmen working in Onslow, Guysborough, Shelburne, Halifax and Windsor."

There is an item on plans for a Miners' Museum for Glace Bay.

"Mrs Henry Cohen of Sydney travelled to Ottawa to discuss plans for a worthwhile project for the Sydney area. Her thoughts turned to coal mining. Thus was born the idea of a Miners' Museum."

Her plan gained the approval of Mr. John Fisher, Head of the Centennial Committee. A committee was formed and an architectural contest arranged to select a plan for the new museum building."

In the June 1965 issue of the *Newsletter*, an article entitled 'Individual Trust Members Encourage Preservation' described the Trust's efforts to save the Halifax waterfront buildings from demolition:

"Miss Marion Stevens' article in the 1965 Atlantic Advocate, on waterfront preservation in Halifax, has created a wider awareness of the Water Street buildings whose preservation has been urged in a Trust brief to Halifax City Council. Mr. Lou Collins has been tireless in pleading the case of historic preservation, both in talks to societies and on television. The Trust prepared a display on Historic Waterfront Buildings in Halifax. This created considerable interest when on view for a month in the Halifax Memorial Library."

Some specific examples of conservation projects were highlighted in an article 'Three Steps in the Right Direction':

"The past year has been an encouraging one with several buildings about to be conserved and restored for modern use in the new Nova Scotia. We are pleased to note: 1. The proposed restoration of the Black-Binney House, Hollis St, Halifax, by the Corps of Commissioners. 2. The purchase of Creighton's Ltd., Halifax, originally the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, by the Royal Bank of Canada, to be restored to its original condition. 3. The restoration of a Victorian house in Hantsport to be used as a community centre, a worthy Centennial Project. Our own project, to provide a period type door and to restore the woodwork around it, in the old church in Auburn, NS, is nearing completion."

The first issue of *The Griffin* under that name (vol. 1, no. 1, February-March 1976) carried items on Heritage Canada awards. One was to the Trust "for its



Part of historic streetscape of Brunswick Street, by L.B. Jenson, including Hope Cottage and the Old Dutch Church (reproduced from *The Griffin*, v.1, no.1)

long and active campaign to remind Nova Scotians of their heritage through the publication of books, public tours, and the various representations to save historic buildings on the waterfront, [on] Granville Street, and to protect the view from Citadel Hill." Another award went to Lou Collins for his long-term commitment to conserve Nova Scotia's heritage; a third was to Janusz and Maud Rosinski "for their restoration of Thorndean and the Sawyer house" on Inglis Street; and another went to John Fiske of Historic Properties Ltd "for the restoration of the seven historic waterfront buildings and the historic buildings on Granville and Hollis streets." This issue also carried an

article on Brunswick Street and efforts to conserve its heritage architecture:

"Some years ago, when the Brunswick St area began to be seriously threatened by demolition and redevelopment, Heritage Trust took an interest in the future of the historic neighbourhood. In the years that followed, Heritage Trust and the Landmarks Commission urged the City to retain and rehabilitate Brunswick St. Last May, Halifax City Council declared the Brunswick St area a "Housing and Heritage Conservation Area." Since then representatives of Heritage Trust have met with Mayor Morris and representatives of other interested groups to discuss plans for the rejuvena-

tion of the area."

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has made important contributions to the preservation of the province's built heritage, a critical component of our cultural landscape, an economic driver for the tourism industry, a reminder of our shared past, and a gift to future generations. Looking back through 50 years of newsletters, we see evidence of hard-won progress and success, but also a reminder of the effort still required to make the case for preserving our heritage.

Peter Delefes is Past President of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

BUILDING AT RISK/HERITAGE FOR SALE

Former Presbyterian Church, Londonderry

About 130 years ago, using log rollers, the men of Londonderry moved a steep-roofed church up the hill to High Street, where it sits today, blanketed by snow, and waiting to move again. At the time, Londonderry (Acadia Mines) was a thriving Colchester community of iron miners and workers. A picture of the village in 1880 can be seen at <http://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/data/pubs/ftmif/mif07.pdf>.

This simple clapboard building has a plastered ceiling shaped like an inverted ship's hull. Presbyterian communion tokens have been found inside. Labelled with the name of the church and a date, the tokens signalled membership in good standing in the congregation. Until his death a few years ago, a neighbour cared for the building and bought it when the church closed. Now,

the young purchaser of the family land would like to see the church moved. A relative is looking for a new guardian for her childhood church.

Phil Leil, who moved St Matthew's Anglican Church from Walton to Avon-

port, has had a look and suggests it can be moved, but would have to be cut in two because of its height. For more information, please call Fonda Smyth during the day at 902-893-5358 or e-mail fonda33@hotmail.com.



Former Londonderry Presbyterian Church looking for a new home (Griffin photo, March 2015)

A Nova Scotia Traditional Trades Network

Austin Parsons

You want to fix your heritage home and you want to do it right. Now what? This article is not about what is right. It is about an idea to get beyond “Now what?”

Several questions come to mind when an owner starts a renovation. Who can you consult? Who can do a design? Who can you call to get the work done? Who can you call to get that piece of architectural millwork, window, or rough lumber? The answers can be exceedingly difficult to get.

The heritage industry is a niche. The mainstream doers and suppliers may not have the necessary expertise, products, or materials needed to complete repairs or major work on a heritage building.

I know I am writing to the choir. Simply put, it takes a certain mindset to work on a heritage building and a passion to operate a business with a focus on the historic. The challenge is to find those people with the mindset, and the products and materials from the passionate.

Today in Nova Scotia, these people

or products cannot be found by sourcing one website or directory. The reality is that the people and products can be found through a hodge-podge of sources and contacts. Some information can be found on the web, other information a result of contacts and colleagues, the rest through blind luck. Finding out the ‘someone’ or the ‘something’ can be a frustrating process.

If you are starting cold and/or do not know who to talk to, you won’t get the answers you want. At worst, you could wind up giving up and abandoning the idea of a heritage renovation. It doesn’t have to be this difficult.

One idea that could make the search easier would be to create a central database made up of those who can restore/replace the various pieces, parts, and systems of a heritage building. The Heritage Trust could spearhead such a project. One name for the directory could be the Nova Scotia Traditional Trades Network. The directory’s sole purpose would be to list the heritage consultants, designers, trades, regulators and suppliers who are interested and can work on Nova Scotia’s heritage buildings.

The directory could be placed on the Heritage Trust’s website as part of the header line. An owner would click the tab and a table formatted like the one below would fill the computer screen. The table would be made up of a set of links to other webpages or websites of companies or individuals with their contact information. This is a first draft. No doubt, there is overlap within the columns and rows. It does give an indication of how this could benefit an owner who is interested in conserving his home. Hopefully, it also provides enough information for a discussion.

Why the Heritage Trust?

Why should the Heritage Trust take this on? The Heritage Trust is impartial because it plays no favourites when it comes to the doers. As well, an owner visiting the Heritage Trust website would have some assurance that the individuals and businesses identified in the Network are legitimate. This assurance also represents the risk to the Trust due to the possibility of a bad reference.

The advantages to the Trust include the potential more people would complete a heritage project. The directory

Nova Scotia Traditional Trades Network

designers	trades	manufacturers	suppliers	resources
architects	masons	blacksmiths/foundries	stone quarries	magazines
engineers	carpenters	window & door makers	architectural millwork	bookstores
consultants	electricians	appliances	light fixtures	internet
general contractors	cabinet makers	furniture	doors, windows, general hardware	government
historians	plasterers	upholsterers	canvas shops, paint shops	funding sources
regulators	framers, roofers	timber frame	roofing slate	schools
historical societies	house movers	sawmills	clapboard, shingles	guilds

would also drive web traffic to the Heritage Trust, increasing its exposure within the community, reinforcing the idea that the Trust is a source of expertise when it comes to heritage, and building on the Trust's goodwill. It is also one other way to promote the Heritage Trust's legacy.

One Other Reason

Over the past twenty years, the international heritage community has recognized that cultural heritage of the built environment involves both buildings and people. While the Heritage Trust has shown some movement in this direction, it has not fully embraced the concept.

By completing this project, the Heritage Trust would demonstrate that our local heritage cultural value is not just about buildings, but about buildings and people.

In Nova Scotia, the people mentioned above are (by and large) those that work in the heritage industry. If we are not more active in supporting these people and businesses economically, they will go away. Once gone, it will be more difficult, if not impossible, to maintain our heritage buildings in the right way.

Austin Parsons owns and operates Parsons Lumber, building wooden windows and doors using traditional methods. He is an Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture at Dalhousie University, where he is leading the development of a Building Conservation program. He is currently working on a 'Lunch and Learn' program directed towards the building industry.

Apology

Allen Penney has called our attention to a number of errors in the report of his May 2014 lecture on Clifton in the September 2014 issue of *The Griffin*. We regret the possible impression that these errors arose with him, and hope to carry a clarification in the next issue. – Ed.

Announcement: Heritage Canada – The National Trust

Natalie Bull

As many of you know, Canada is facing a looming crisis on the places-of-faith front. Faith groups as a class are the second largest real-estate holders in Canada after the Government of Canada itself, yet many congregations are facing declining attendance and insufficient funding to maintain and operate what are sometimes large and very complex structures.

The National Trust is tackling this issue on several fronts. We are seeking your help in two areas:

(1) To point us to key individuals with expertise and experience with places of faith (e.g. business planning, fundraising, adaptive re-use, and real estate development for church buildings and groups) who might be valuable additions to national and regional training teams; and

(2) To build on the collection of case studies that demonstrate successful renewal and/or adaptive re-use of these buildings:

- Cases where faith groups and community organizations have been able to "keep the doors open" through new partnerships and new activities that generate revenue; and
- Cases where faith properties have been adapted and developed in ways that respect heritage and community values.

The Ontario Heritage Trust has made a good start - <http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Ontario-s-Places-of-Worship/Conservation/Case-studies.aspx>.

Natalie Bull is the Executive Director for Heritage Canada – The National Trust and can be reached in Ottawa at 613-237-1066 ext. 222 (nbull@heritagecanada.org).

Erratum

Nous regrettons la faute grammaticale dans le titre de l'article au sujet de l'Église Ste-Marie et la Communauté de Pointe-de-l'Église, à la page titre, ainsi qu'à la page 6 du numéro de Décembre 2014 (*The Griffin*, vol. 39, no. 4). On fera la révision dans la version digitale au site Web, mais cette notification devra suffire pour les abonnés papier.

We regret the grammatical error of gender in the title of the article on the Church of Ste-Marie and the Community (la Communauté) of Church Point, on the cover and on p. 6 of the December 2014 issue (*The Griffin*, vol. 39, no. 4). This will be corrected in the digital version on-line but this notice will have to suffice for paper subscribers.

Exploring Heritage Stewardship

This session will help us to understand the effects that good heritage stewardship has on the local economy, the environment and tourism. What does the community consider to be its heritage and how can this be identified and stewarded? How can a community begin to develop a heritage development program? Community based examples will be presented.

Richmond County Municipal Administration Building, Arichat
Tuesday, April 14
9:30 am -3:00 pm, Free
Speaker: Jeffrey Reed

Sponsored by the Municipality of the County of Richmond, Heritage Cape Breton Connection, and Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Please pre-register before April 10 by calling 902-226-3980

Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

Colchester Historical Society

29 Young Street, PO Box 412, Truro, NS, B2N 5C5
Heritage Luncheon, Friday April 10, 12 noon,
Truro Fire Service Community Room, \$12.

AGM and Public Lecture, Halifax: Glimpses of the Past (old Halifax from a boyhood perspective on the outskirts of the city), by Malcolm MacLeod, Thursday April 23, 7:30 pm, Colchester Museum.
Edward Cornwallis: Hero or Horror? by John Tattrie, Thursday May 28, 7:30 pm, Colchester Museum.

Fleeing a Crumbling Empire, early 20th century immigrants to Colchester from Lebanon and Syria, Saturday June 13, 2 pm, Colchester Museum.

DesBrisay Museum

130 Jubilee Road, Bridgewater, NS
A Crash Course in Historic Costume and How to Fake it! with Jenny Milligan, costumologist, May 16, 12:30–5:00 pm, \$25, limited space, registration required.

Writers' Workshop for Aspiring Writers, with author Carol Bruneau, Saturday May 30, 9–5 pm, \$50, registration required.
Contact: 902-543-4033, desbrisaymuseum.ca

Doors Open Halifax

Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, 10 am – 4 pm
Mandate: to make available to the general public free access to buildings of historical, contemporary, or architectural significance and to generate interest in our built environment, 35 venues confirmed for 2015
Contact: info@doorsopenhalifax.com, 902-402-0733 <http://doorsopenhalifax.com>

Friends of McNabs Island Society

25th Annual General Meeting, Small Craft Gallery, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax, with guest speaker: **McNabs Island: Protecting Halifax and the North Atlantic during Wartime**, Roger Sarty, Wilfrid Laurier University, Wednesday April 22, 6:30 pm.

Government House

1451 Barrington Street, Halifax
Evenings at Government House
Thibodeau Village: Community Engagement, Archaeology, and the Discovery of an Acadian Past in a Nova Scotia Planter Landscape, by Sara Beanlands, Tuesday April 21, 6:30 pm for 7:00-8:30 pm.
Registration required: call 902-424-7001.

Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia

Meetings are first Monday of the month (except April, when the first Monday this year is Easter)
Life in a Steamer (1840) – Thomas Chandler Haliburton's Interest in Steamships, by Richard Davies, Monday April 13, 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Isle Madame Historical Society

708 Veterans Memorial Drive, PO Box 223, Arichat, NS, B0E 1A0
Antique Photo Roadshow, with Jenny Milligan, who will date old photos, June 5
Workshop on Dating Photos and Placing People in Family Trees, June 6
Tea in the Museum, every Tuesday, July 28 – August 26, 2-4 pm, \$5 per person.
Contact: islemadamehistoricalsociety@gmail.com, 902-226-2880, <http://imhs.ca/>

Richmond County Municipality

Arichat, Tuesday April 14
Public Session to Explore Heritage Stewardship, with guest speaker Jeffrey Reed, exploring how heritage stewardship can be a contributing factor to community development, environmental management, and tourism; and guest speaker Catherine Arsenau, describing projects of the Sydney Architectural Conservation Society. The session is free with lunch provided. Contact the municipal office to register: 902-226-2400.

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Lectures are on Wednesdays, September to May inclusive, 7:30 pm, at the Nova Scotia Archives, 6016 University Avenue (at Robie Street), Halifax, unless otherwise noted.

Relevance of Sir Thomas Roddick's Leadership in Medicine in 1876-1912 to the Establishment and Implementation of Public Policy in Canada Today, by Dale Dauphinee, May 20, 7:30 pm.
For further information, see <http://www.rnshs.ca>.

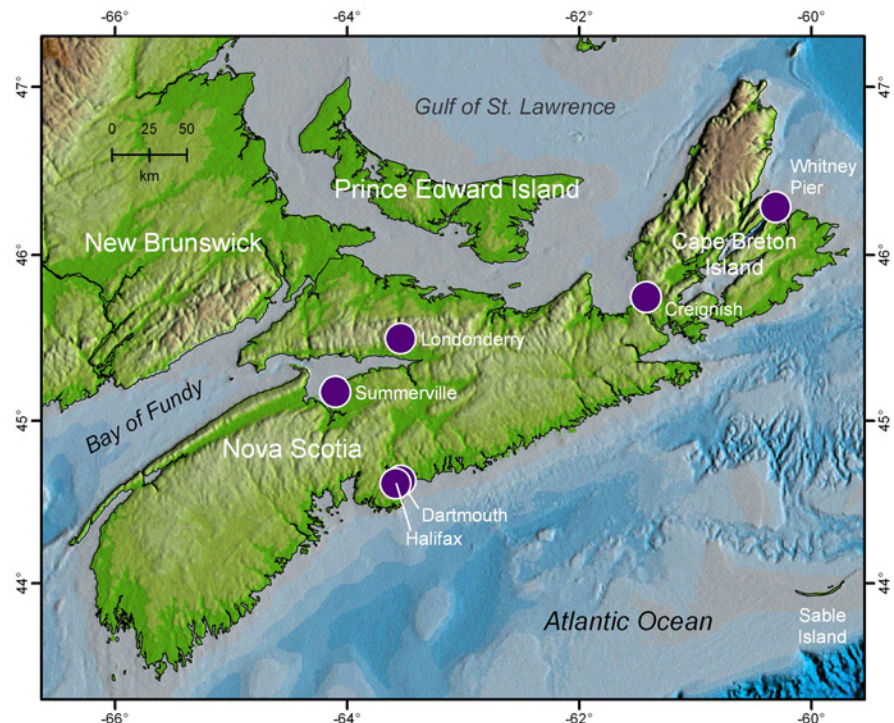
Wolfville Historical Society

259 Main Street, Wolfville, NS, B4P 1C6
How History and Fiction Meet, by John Johnston, April 8.
Contact: 902-542-9775, wolfvillehs.ednet.ns.ca

Yarmouth County Museum and Archives

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS B5A 3C8
Mayflower Connections, Judi Archibald and Wilfred Allan talk about the many Mayflower connections that are so rich in the Yarmouth area, Friday April 10, 7:30 pm.
Mad Hatters Tea Party, come and have tea, sandwiches, and sweets, fancy hats or fascinators required! \$10 per person, Saturday May 2, 1–3 pm.
Contact: Yarmouth County Museum and Archives, 902-742-5539.

Locations of subject matter in this issue



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