



September 2019

Volume 44 No. 3 ISSN 0384 7335

# The Griffin

A Quarterly Publication of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia



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# The Griffin

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

**Patron:**

His Honour  
The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc,  
ONS, QC,  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

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**Layout:** Douglas Porter  
**Printers:** etc. Press Ltd

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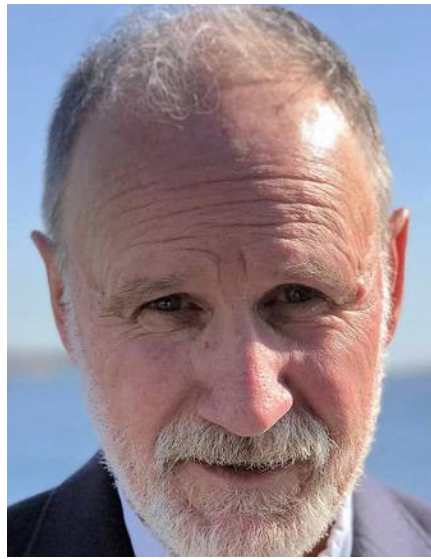
We welcome submissions  
but reserve the right to edit  
for publication. Contributions  
appear in both print and  
web editions.

**Deadline for the next issue:  
15 October 2019**

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## President's Report



Andrew Murphy

Summer kicked off with a great start at the Isle Madame Historical Society, where the Board held its annual out-of-HRM meeting. Following lunch with local heritage property owners and historical society members, we toured several registered heritage properties, including Lenoir Forge Museum with Susan Terrio, the Flynn-Cutler-Robichaud house, the former St John's Anglican Church, and Our Lady of Assumption Church, where Odilon Boudreau was our guide.

Early in August, several Executive members met in New Glasgow with Kim Dickson, our Communications Chair. Kim led us on a walking tour downtown, where we visited the Roseland Theatre building, the site of Viola Desmond's arrest. It is being redeveloped by Jamie MacGillivray, a lawyer who has worked on a number of historic buildings.

Driving home, we stopped in Truro to visit the old Normal College, now converted into an award-winning library by MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects. It was still open, so we were able to wander all around. Our delight was evident to the staff! The library is surrounded by several other old brick buildings, including the old fire hall, which is used

for a lively weekend farmers' market. Truro is one of the towns leading the way with conversion of under-used buildings to residential, often loft-style, use.

The Awards ceremony, held on Historic Places Day in a repurposed furniture factory in Windsor, was a great success. Thanks to the hardworking committee, under the chairmanship of Chris Sharpe, for its diligent approach to evaluating applications, and to committee member, Michal Crowe, for organizing a lovely event.

The end of summer has focused on Brunswick Street. "Laid out in the city's first year as the main street of the North Suburb"<sup>1</sup> it has retained some of the earliest buildings in Halifax: the Little Dutch Church (c. 1756), St George's (begun in 1800), and Akins Cottage (c. 1812). L.B. Jenson described Brunswick Street in the 1960s as "[p]ossibly the most varied and interesting concentration of domestic architecture of the nineteenth century remaining intact in Canada."<sup>2</sup> It still displays a progression of ecclesiastical and residential styles spanning 150+ years. Brunswick Street was designated a heritage area in 1975 and has been identified as a future heritage conservation district under the Centre Plan.

A proposal for a building behind the former St Patrick's Rectory has come before various city bodies seven times. The proposal has stalled at eight storeys, down from 13, in spite of repeated requests by HRM bodies to bring it down further. The City finally agreed to approve the building. At this height it would be visible from the west side of the street and would have a detrimental effect on the east-side streetscape. The Trust has challenged the approval to the Utilities and Review Board.

<sup>1</sup>*Brunswick Street: a Survey of Buildings and Environs.* 1968 report of the Civic Advisory Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings, headed by the late Louis Collins.

<sup>2</sup>*Vanishing Halifax.* L.B. Jenson, Petheric Press, 1968.

Cover image: Seaview Baptist, by Craig Baltzer, 2017, ink and watercolour on board, 8"x10" (courtesy of the artist and Argyle Fine Art)



## ARTIST

# Craig Baltzer

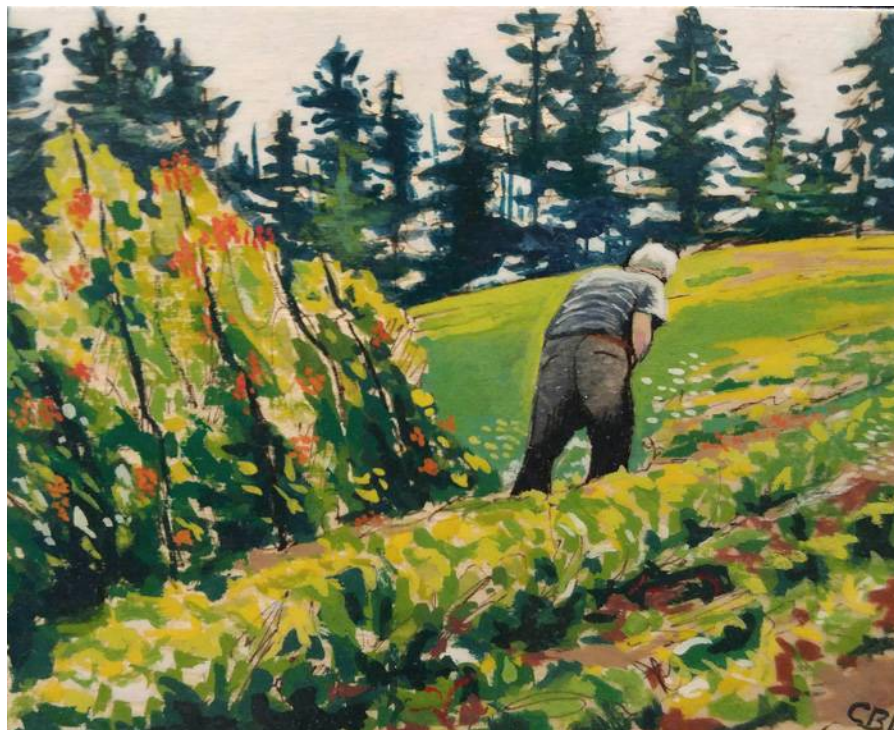
Craig Baltzer is from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He considers himself a visual artist with hands in many pots: painter, photographer, and sketch artist. He attended NSCAD University 1999-2005 and spent much of his time drawing and photographing around the city. He also made frequent road trips to rural areas, exploring abandoned farms and landscapes, including his grandparents' property that would be a recurring theme in both his photography and his painting. Craig's interest in the passage of time and the anthropological study of our global environment have had a great impact on his approach to visual art.

### Artist Statement

*The primary focus of my work is local history and urban and rural landscape, with elements of nostalgia and family genealogical study. Documentary photography and illustration with vintage graphic design have largely influenced my aesthetic. The need to document my surroundings and the changes unfolding in the environment have led me to further study using an anthropological approach. The photographic works of Walker Evans and Paul Strand have been two of my strongest sources of inspiration. My current work is a conglomerate of sources: family photographs and instant photography, creating a unique narrative with dreamlike and nostalgic elements that draw the viewer into a sense of fleeting time and memories that have shaped our current existence.*

### Upcoming exhibit

This fall, Craig will be mounting a solo show, "All That Remains," at Argyle Fine Art on Barrington Street. The opening will be on Thursday, November 7, at 6:30 pm. The show concentrates on images from his personal experiences and family images through the years. The visual choices are unique narratives involving familiar individuals not making eye contact, creating an element of mystery and intrigue.



*In His Garden, by Craig Baltzer, 2018, ink and watercolour on board, 4"x5" (courtesy of the artist and Argyle Fine Art)*



*Africville 1958, by Craig Baltzer, 2017, ink on paper, 5"x7" (courtesy of the artist and Argyle Fine Art)*

Our cover image and the drawing above recall Garry Shutlak's article on Africville in the March 2014 issue (*The Griffin*, 39(1), 10-12: [www.htns.ca/pdf\\_Griffin/2014/GRIFFIN.March.2014.pdf](http://www.htns.ca/pdf_Griffin/2014/GRIFFIN.March.2014.pdf)) - Ed

## Celebrating the 2018 Built Heritage Awards

### Michal Crowe

The 2018 Heritage Trust Awards Ceremony took place on Historic Places Day, Saturday 6 July 2019, at the Cedar Centre in Windsor.

The Centre was one of the award winners this year so it was fitting to hold the ceremony in a building that exemplifies the purpose of the built heritage awards. This brick building, constructed for the Windsor Furniture Factory, replaced an earlier wooden factory which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1897 (see accompanying article for further details). Matthias Jaepel bought the building in 2010 and has restored and enhanced it to make it a centre for health and wellness, as well as providing space for an art gallery, boardrooms, and offices. The entire upper floor has been taken back to the exterior walls; its open plan adapts well to host weddings, musical performances ... and award ceremonies.

We had a fine day and a very special venue, enhanced by a grand staircase, sculpture, early summer flowers in profusion, and delicious food. We were also honoured to have Chantal Peng, violinist from Wolfville, 2019 Queen Annapolis, and winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Education Award among others, who is now studying music at Acadia. Her sister Carmen, winner of numerous Kiwanis Music awards, accompanied her on the piano.

Windsor Town Crier, Lloyd Smith, added local colour as he welcomed guests to the ceremony. Mayor Anna Allen echoed his sentiments, recognizing the Cedar Centre and the work done on other buildings by recipients of the awards being presented during the afternoon.

This year we had five winners in four categories, with a geographic spread from Annapolis Royal and Lunenburg to Windsor, Halifax, and Truro. Each building owner or representative gave a

short (nominally 5-minute) overview of the project with illustrations. It was very difficult to condense months and years of work into such a succinct presentation, but the audience was impressed with the successful outcomes summarized so briefly. In the following text, we list the awards by category. Two of the winners have been profiled previously in *The Griffin*, as referenced below. The other three are new to our readers and this issue contains short descriptions of each, based on the nomination materials submitted.

### Adaptive Re-Use of a Heritage Building

The winner in this category was the Town of Truro for the adaptive re-use of the former Provincial Normal College (1877), 754 Prince Street, Truro; see December 2016 issue of *The Griffin*, p. 7 ([www.htns.ca/pdf\\_Griffin/2016/GRIFFIN.dec.2016.colour.pdf](http://www.htns.ca/pdf_Griffin/2016/GRIFFIN.dec.2016.colour.pdf)).

The building now houses the central Colchester and East Hants Public Library. The presentation was made jointly by Christine Blair, Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester; Tom Chisholm, Deputy Mayor of Truro; Ruby Dorman, Chair of the Colchester East Hants Public Library; and Tiffany Bartlett, CEO of the Library. This project was obviously a huge group effort with input from all levels of the

community. The Library has now become a focal point for downtown Truro and is being well used by young and old alike. In addition, a rink has been formed in front of the building; there were wonderful photos of people skating in front of this community landmark. So it is being used both inside and out.

### Joyce McCulloch Award for Preservation and Rehabilitation of a Residential Building

There were two awards this year in the residential category. The first was to Paula Kinley Howatt and Dr Eric Howatt, owners of the Romkey House (pre-1753), 80-82 Pelham Street, Lunenburg. This very intriguing house ("a house within a house") was profiled in our March 2018 issue, pages 10-13 ([www.htns.ca/pdf\\_Griffin/2018/GRIFFIN.mar.2018.colour.pdf](http://www.htns.ca/pdf_Griffin/2018/GRIFFIN.mar.2018.colour.pdf)). Paula Howatt described some of the additional research since that article was published. At the time, the history of the house had been documented back five generations. Paula's cousin Janet Lovekin and her husband Terry have since done further research and the history of the house can now be traced back seven generations. The new research supports the belief that the house was built over the remains of an Acadian residence. The footprint of the older dwelling is contained within the



*The Cedar Centre, Windsor, venue for the 2019 Heritage Trust awards ceremony and winner of the 2018 award for conservation and adaptive re-use of a heritage industrial building (Griffin photo)*





Barry Moody, Annapolis Heritage Society, talking about the discovery and conservation of the painted room in the Sinclair Inn, Annapolis Royal (Griffin photo)



Lively debate at the Trust table, showing wood-framed glass interior partitions at the Cedar Centre (courtesy of Matt Cassidy)

newer “oldest” house. Ongoing research into the Acadian structure will provide information on early history of the town of Lunenburg.

The other winners in the residential category were Dr Elizabeth (Mandy) Kay-Raining Bird and Pierre Stevens for rehabilitation of the 1896 house designed by Walter J. Busch at 5518 North Street, Halifax. Austin Parsons, who undertook the work, gave a detailed description of this meticulous project (see pages 10-11).

### Conservation of an Institutional Building

The Annapolis Heritage Society received this award for the conservation of the Painted Room within the Sinclair Inn (1708-1711), 230 Saint George Street, Annapolis Royal. This project was presented by Barry Moody with support from Wayne Morgan, Harry Jost, and Ken Maher, all from the Board of the Society. The story of the discovery of the murals beneath layers of wallpaper is remarkable. Remarkable because they were only found by an accident. They could so easily have been lost or never discovered at all. The roof of the build-

ing had developed a leak and, as the water dripped down the interior walls, it caused the old wallpaper to peel, thus exposing the paintings. Dr Moody's account of this project appears in an accompanying article (see pages 8-9).

### Preservation and Rehabilitation of a Commercial Building

The winner in this category, for the ingenious transformation of a derelict industrial building into a welcoming healthy living and healing space, was our host, Dr Matthias Jaepel. Further details about this ongoing project can be found on pages 6-7.

As the Shand family was intimately linked to this building, staff from the Nova Scotia Museum, managers of the Halliburton House and Shand House museums in Windsor, offered to make a presentation on the history of the family. Clifford Shand Jr, who was a passionate rider and promoter of cycling in Nova Scotia, rode a high-wheeler (penny farthing) and used to practise in the winter months on the upper floor of the building, in the area where the awards ceremony and reception were held. The Museum staff kindly brought a high-wheel bicycle to display and to provide the opportunity for photos. The original bike was damaged in a fire, but does reside in the Shand House.

After the ceremony, the museum staff very kindly opened the Shand House for an hour so that guests could visit. We are most appreciative to Michael Huggins, Nova Scotia Museum Site Manager, for enabling staff members Rosie Browning, Senior Heritage Interpreter, and Karen MacBride to attend the ceremony, enhancing the Windsor flavour of the event.

### 2019 Awards

*Should you know of a building deserving of recognition, please ensure your nomination package is submitted to Heritage Trust by 31 December 2019. For details, please see: [www.htns.ca/aboutAwards.html](http://www.htns.ca/aboutAwards.html). The 2019 awards will be presented in 2020.*

# Cedar Centre, 69 Cedar Street, Windsor

*Matthias Jaepel*

*The Cedar Centre was awarded the 2018 HTNS Built Heritage Award for conservation and adaptive re-use of a heritage industrial building. The following text is edited from the description submitted in support of the nomination.*

## How it all began

It wasn't hard to recognize the unique features of 69 Cedar Street: a wooden post & beam structure, large hand-hewn ship's knees, exterior walls of New England brick, set in American bond (also known as common or English garden bond). The building offers a floor area of about 20,000 square feet (1858 m<sup>2</sup>) on its two levels combined.

A brief look into the archives revealed a building with an interesting, quite diverse history. Originally a furniture factory, the building hosted over the years an RCMP office, an elementary school, a furniture warehouse, a laundromat, and finally a store for furniture and appliances.

My idea was to transform the building into a modern health-care clinic with the capacity to feature art and space for community activities and events.

The first (ground) level would have enough space to allow a medical exercise clinic to operate in conjunction with massage therapy, osteopathy, and other health-care disciplines – a multi-disciplinary clinic where all health professionals work co-operatively. The lower west end would host a therapeutic pool and spa area. The upstairs would comprise some offices next to a yoga loft and a community space for a variety of functions such as exhibits, weddings, meetings, or workshops.

We had two general guidelines for the renovation: First, a compromise had to be found between bringing the space up to a modern standard and keeping it authentic with all its cosmetic imperfections. Second, the space had



*Natural wood and glass characterize the yoga studio on the upper floor (photo courtesy of the Cedar Centre)*



*Old brickwork with new main entry and canopy (photo courtesy of the Cedar Centre)*

to be functional. We had to subdivide while keeping the bright, spacious atmosphere.

## What have we achieved so far?

The entry and waiting area had to be spacious and bright, with a formal character, but inviting, warm and comforting. Although some walls were needed in order to create more functional space

(as well as to render the space heatable), these premises were never compromised. The 90 transom windows and 30 French doors keep the light floating and the space transparent.

In contrast to the brightness and heavy structural elements of the first floor, the upper level is dominated by natural wood, brick and glass. Both, the wooden floors and the wooden ceiling





Reception area with multiple French doors and transoms allowing light into the lower interior space; main staircase visible in the background through vertical window; large timber knee (circled) can be seen at far right (photo courtesy of the Cedar Centre)



Artwork and gallery space with upper-floor offices (photo courtesy of the Cedar Centre)

had to be maintained. Here, too, the space had to be subdivided, yet the many glass panels and windows allow the light to spread and keep an overall atmosphere of spaciousness, with spaces well connected.

The 120-year history of 69 Cedar Street is well documented and reflected

in the building's form and various details. The interior elegance establishes a balance with the many imperfections and traces of the industrial past.

After two years of renovations beginning in 2010, we were able to take possession of the centre. The Medical Exercise Therapy and Training (METT)

clinic was ready to open its doors. It was joined by other health providers, including a massage therapist, psychiatrist, and osteopath.

As it turned out, the space is a fantastic place to exhibit and experience art. The first art shows happened in 2012. Since that time, we have shows coming and going every year. We did a big leap in 2016, with four exhibitions. Currently sculptures from Ian Startup, Nistal van Beuren, and Kara Sawka are on display. Our artist in residence is David Howells. His work has a constant presence at the Cedar Centre.

The east end of the Cedar Centre awaits you with our new "in-café" with outside seating. Original art decorates this end of the building as well and the new garden layout with fountain and wall-climbing vines does make this place "the next cool place to stop" in Windsor.

### Ongoing development

Recent negotiations might lead us into a different direction: There is a plan to implement a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) clinic at the centre. PTSD is a long-neglected psychological condition affecting many of our armed forces personnel and veterans, as well as civilian first-responders. Appropriate treatment facilities are long overdue. We hope to offer a multi-disciplinary clinic where various professionals working co-operatively, hand-in-hand, can optimize the therapeutic approach for better outcomes.

The successful renovation of the historic building that houses the Cedar Centre provides spacious and inviting premises in which to launch this and other healthy living initiatives.

*Dr Matthias T. Jaepel, MSc, PhD, is a leading Medical Exercise Specialist who runs and operates Platypus METT Inc. He developed the concept for the Cedar Centre for Active Health and Living and has led the transformation of the old furniture factory to the bright but warm and nurturing space it represents today.*

## AWARD

# *Painted Room, Sinclair Inn National Historic Site*

*Barry Moody*

*The Annapolis Heritage Society received a 2018 HTNS Built Heritage Award to recognize its remarkable preservation and conservation of the painted room in the Sinclair Inn. The following description is adapted from the nomination package.*

When the historic Sinclair Inn (1708-1710) was acquired by the Annapolis Heritage Society<sup>1</sup> in 1992, it was already known that there were murals on the walls of the upstairs front room. A leaking roof in the 1960s had allowed water to cascade down the northeast wall, causing the wallpaper to fall off, revealing badly-degraded painted scenery. The rest of the walls remained covered with multiple layers of wallpaper. Priorities for the badly deteriorated building meant that the costly job of restoring the painted room would have to wait.

*Priorities for the badly deteriorated building meant that the costly job of restoring the painted room would have to wait.*

In 2014, the Society sought funding and the expertise for the removal of the wallpaper and the stabilization and preservation of the room. With major private funding in place, the federal and provincial governments joined as partners in a \$325,000 project. Anne Shaftel was the professional conservator for this work. The wallpaper was carefully removed; heating, humidity control, fire barriers and a fire detection system were installed (a real challenge in a 300 year old unheated structure); a small theatre was constructed in an adjacent room; a 22-minute film about the room and the restoration was made (in both official languages); and pamphlets and other advertising were produced.

This is the largest single project ever undertaken by our Society and required years of planning and searching for

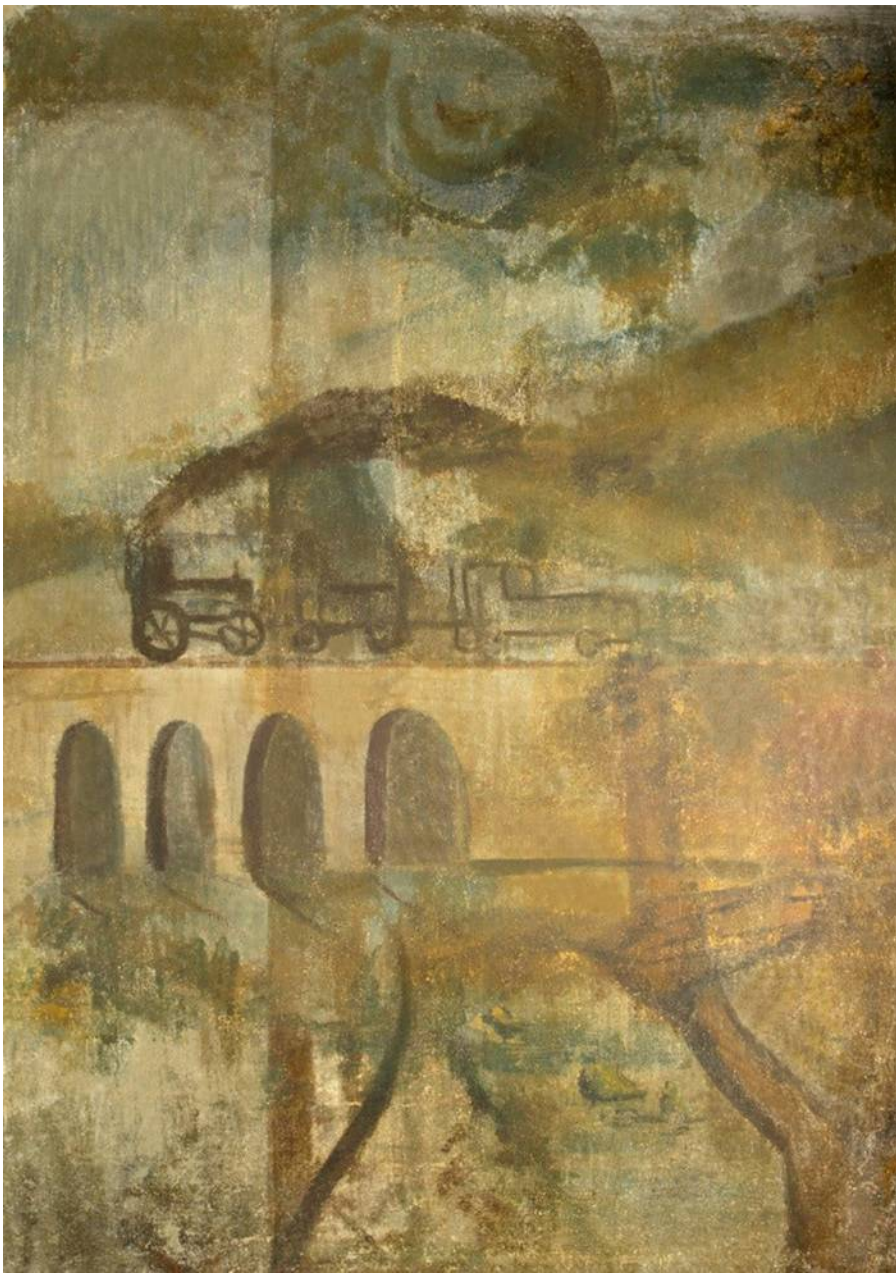


*Example of painted landscape – bay with hills, trees, and sailing vessel – above and to left of fireplace mantel (courtesy Annapolis Heritage Society)*



*The Sinclair House Museum, provincially registered heritage property and National Historic Site, Annapolis Royal, NS (courtesy Annapolis Heritage Society)*





Example of painted landscape – early train on viaduct (courtesy Annapolis Heritage Society)

funds. Once the project was underway, daily supervision was necessary, dealing with the many planned and unexpected issues that arose.

*This is the largest single project ever undertaken by our society and required years of planning and searching for funds.*

The results exceeded our expectations. The removal of the wallpaper revealed stunning murals covering all three walls and in remarkably good condition. The variety of images surprised us. They range from landscape (mountains, bays waterfall, and many trees) to boats with men fishing, to the portrait of an unidentified officer, to a train crossing a stone viaduct. Several images, including a possible Crusader's tent, suggest

a Masonic connection (the room was used for Masonic meetings about the time of the paintings).

Although paint analysis indicates a date of creation of approximately 1841, thus far we have been unable to determine anything about the artist(s). It is clear that the images were not produced by the same person who created the Crosscup painted room in nearby Karsdale. There is some indication that more than one person may have been involved, and that possibly the images were applied over earlier images (painted columns in all four corners underneath the present images). A lot more research will be necessary to answer the many questions that the murals raise.

*The removal of the wallpaper revealed stunning murals covering all three walls.*

The painted room is open to the public from June to October every year, and has added an important new dimension to our presentation of the Sinclair Inn, the second oldest wooden structure in Canada, as well as of the history of the visual arts in Nova Scotia. In 2018, approximately 8000 visitors viewed the room and watched the film presentation. For those who cannot visit in person, a virtual tour of the room is available at: [annapolisheritagesociety.com/the-painted-room/](http://annapolisheritagesociety.com/the-painted-room/)

*Barry Moody is Professor Emeritus in History and Classics at Acadia University, with a particular interest in 18th century Nova Scotia and the New England Planters. He is a founding member of the Annapolis Heritage Society.*

<sup>1</sup>The Annapolis Heritage Society was established in 1967.

## 5518 North Street, Halifax

*Austin Parsons*

*The owners of this Halifax home were presented with the 2018 HTNS Joyce McCulloch Award for preservation and rehabilitation of a residential building. The following text is edited from the description submitted in support of the nomination.*

Henry Frederick Busch designed the residence at 5518 North Street as a two-storey, wood-frame, and cedar-shingled home, erected in 1896. Its architecture is Victorian Plain Style with elements of Classic Revival and Italianate. Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird and Pierre Stevens presently own the home and contracted Parsons Lumber Company Limited to complete the exterior conservation of the front and rear walls, beginning in 2016. The work required both shop and on-site components and extended from the summer of 2016 to the fall of 2018.

It was an advantage that a layer of aluminum siding installed sometime in the 1970s or 1980s had partially protected the home's character-defining elements, and others had had enough maintenance to be distinguishable. This evidence provided guidance and defined the project as a restoration, as set out in *The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (2010).

With the siding removed, the as-found character-defining elements were wood shingles on both walls and a band of decorative scalloped shingles across the front. These elements were in addition to those not hidden by the siding, including: solid wood (pine), double-hung, true divided-light single-pane windows; an asymmetrical two-bay façade framed by a dentil cornice, corner boards, pilasters and a baseboard; tiered, three-faceted bay windows with dentil cornices and window surrounds; a capped front entryway with panel door, transom windows, sidelights, fluted pilasters, mullions, panels, and a dentil cornice with matching corner twin brackets.



*Front entry, 5518 North Street (Griffin photo)*

The project was to be a minimal intervention. However, as work progressed, the decision was made to replace in-kind as well as repair due to the degree of deterioration encountered. When an element was repaired, work was limited to removing existing paint to bare wood, tightening joints, priming and painting. The best example of this approach is the front entryway.

When an element was replaced, it was studied and replicated. The windows are an example. The windows remained single true divided lights. Sashes and window boxes were made with traditional joinery without glue. Lights were glazed with linseed oil based glazier's putty. The hardware and double-hung systems were restored. There was one addition to the windows' construction: interlock bronze weather-strip.

Between 2016 and 2017, the

shingles were removed from the front and back walls. Rotten parts were addressed and the walls re-shingled by hand nailing pre-stained solid wood shingles using type 316 stainless steel shingle nails, following traditional kraft paper lap installation practice. Windows that were either restored or replaced in-kind were reinstalled. The panels under the bay windows, along with the row of scalloped shingles between the first and second floors, were replaced. Copper roofs were put over the bay windows and entryway. Corner boards and trim were replaced following original profiles. In recognition of this restoration cycle, a bird carving by Luke Pitman was incorporated into the west front corner board. The building was repainted in a three-tone colour scheme selected by the owners.

During the fall of 2018, the entryway





Street façade at 5518 North Street, Halifax, showing also part of neighbouring municipally registered heritage property at 5516 North Street (Griffin photo, 2019-08-26)

was restored. The transom, sidelights, and front door were repaired at the Parsons shop; the door frame was rebuilt on-site. Once this work was complete, the elements were brought back to the site and reinstalled. The final piece of work was the installation of sprung bronze weather strip and door sweep.

*Austin Parsons has extensive experience in the conservation of heritage wooden structures. He is President and operator of Parsons Lumber Company Ltd in Black Point, St Margaret's Bay.*



Detail of bay, corner boards, and new carving incorporated in corner board to mark the restoration project (Griffin photo)

## Bridgewater's Built Heritage Award



*The 'Ramey House' on LaHave Street, Bridgewater (courtesy of the author)*

### *Peter C. Oickle*

On June 24, the Bridgewater Museum Commission and the Bridgewater Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) presented the community's 2019 Built Heritage Award during a regular Town Council meeting. Museum Commission Chair Peter Oickle and HAC Chair Wayne Thorburne, with the assistance of Mayor David Mitchell, presented the annual award to Allen Mossman. Allen has restored and maintained his LaHave Street property to reflect its status as the oldest residence in the town.

The award program began a few years ago and recognizes local property owners for restoring and maintaining their properties in a manner consistent with their time in history.<sup>1</sup> Annually a member of each group reviews potential properties, and receives input from the town planning department through Nick Brown, before a recommendation is made to each board. Once approved, representatives of the boards meet with the owner to ensure they are willing to accept the award.

The Mossman home overlooks the LaHave River at 553 LaHave Street and has commonly been referred to as 'The

Ramey House'. The original bones of the home date from the early 1770s, when Bridgewater began to rise on the banks of the river and was known as East Bridgewater at the time. Bridgewater was incorporated as a town in February 1899. This home has been the residence of many families throughout the years including five generations of the Ramey family. Benjamin Ramey bought the home in 1851 and was the first Ramey to inhabit the dwelling. A lumber merchant, Benjamin kept livestock on the property and also had a barn which sat behind the house.

Records tell us that the first owner was John Bolman (Johann Daniel Bollmann), a German-born surgeon who resided here for 54 years. Bolman came to North America with the Hessian Baron de Riedesel Brunswick regiment. While in the American Revolutionary War, he served under General Burgoyne and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, having been wounded. While a POW, he provided medical services to British soldiers and was part of a prisoner exchange, being sent to Halifax. He married the widow of Philip Knaut, Johanna, and they had 11 children. Bolman also owned land in the

Bridgewater area. He served as Lunenburg Township representative in the House of Assembly. He was also one of the first Health Officers appointed in the colony of Nova Scotia in 1799.

Architecturally the structure is of typical early-settler style; a plain and simple design is its hallmark. The second-storey windows sit tight to the eaves. Through the years, the original exterior cladding, including trim elements, has been lost, but the structure conforms to the size of the original home.

The first building to be recognized with Bridgewater's built heritage award was the former Union Bank Building, King Street, currently the business of Babylon Draperies. This building was constructed in the months following the Great Commercial Street Fire of January 1899. It is flat-iron in style and has also been a photography shop, home of the Sanitary Dairy restaurant, and a tailor shop. Two private dwellings on Pleasant Street and another on south King Street have also been recognized.

Throughout the town many residences have been restored and maintained to approximate their original façades. For future awards, there are many excellent candidates that reflect the rich built heritage of the town.

*Peter Oickle is Chair of the Bridgewater Museum Commission and a member of the Board of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.*

<sup>1</sup>Bridgewater also has a program of municipally registered properties. The HAC has been endeavouring to add one property each year to the bank. Built heritage awards do not confer registered status on the property.



## MacNeil House, Malignant Cove, Antigonish Co.

*Janet Morris*

*Listing agent: Diana Pereira, ViewPoint Realty Services, 216 Main Street, Antigonish, NS B2G 2B9, 902-870-1201, dianapereira@ns.sympatico.ca, www.viewpoint.ca  
Asking price: \$139,000*

We invite readers to head towards the warm waters of the Northumberland Strait and meander along Route 245 to the hamlet bearing the somewhat intimidating name of Malignant Cove. The community was named for a ship, *Malignant*, that sailed during the Revolutionary War, and whose fate is described by a nearby road called Shipwreck Lane. There was an effort to rename the community 'Milburn' in the early 20th century, but that name didn't 'float'.

There is a suggestion that some of the shipwreck's timber may have been used in the construction of this Cape Cod-style residence, believed by Kenneth Gilmour of the Nova Scotia Museum to have been constructed in the late 18th century. This was based in part on the central chimney design with steep staircase to the upper level hugging the chimney. The lands in the area were initially settled by the 83rd Regiment of Foot, disbanded after the American Revolutionary War.

The first resident of this house is believed to have been a John "Brown" MacNeil, who came here in 1785 (and who likely gained some prosperity through farming the land so as to build this house). The present four-bedroom, one-bath residence sits on almost five acres of level, mostly cultivated land. Modifications include a porch or ell addition, as well as a mid 19th century mantelpiece and mouldings. Recent upgrades include a new roof and new concrete cellar. The current owners have been careful custodians of this house since 1986.



*Exterior view showing 6-over-6 and 9-over-6 windows, central chimney and provincial heritage plaque (courtesy of Diana Pereira)*



*Kitchen fireplace with stove (courtesy of Diana Pereira)*

The living room or parlour is decoratively painted and has been documented by the Trust's Painted Rooms project ([paintedrooms.ca/node/28](http://paintedrooms.ca/node/28)). The wall below the chair rail is marbled, while the upper wall is a cloudy style, crowned with a stylized stencilled border, and above this is a double zigzag design topped with a curtain and tassel motif.

The nearby warm waters of the Northumberland Strait and its extensive uncrowded beaches, as well as the gentle landscape, make this an inviting property. It has great historical interest and has been a provincially registered heritage property since 2010. This house, these lands, and this area have an interesting story for Nova Scotians and visitors.

## Claire L. Halstead: At Home with the Horses of Halifax

*Donald Forbes*

How did the Bell Road stables become home to the horses of Halifax and the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers? Dr Claire Halstead set out to answer these questions in a fascinating lecture to a full house following the Trust's Annual General Meeting on the evening of June 20, 2019.

Of course, there were many stables in the city prior to the advent of the internal combustion engine. At one time the Dartmouth ferry used horsepower (nine horses!). In 1866, horse-drawn trolleys were introduced in Halifax. And from the earliest days of firefighting in the city, horses pulled the hand-pumpers, then steam-pumpers, and the hose and ladder wagons<sup>1</sup>. Horses pulled carriages, coaches, and every form of delivery vehicle, and were stabled in backyards and livery buildings throughout the community. They were ubiquitous partners in civic life, as visible in the city then as motor vehicles are today. As Claire noted, the presence of the horses was familiar and it was "not only felt, but also smelt!"

The first formal mounted police unit in Halifax was established in 1905, highlighting the need for stables and city workshops. The building was erected by George Lowe, one of the first contractors in the city to use concrete in construction<sup>2</sup>. Completed in 1908, the 'City Works Shops' comprised "a wagon shed, blacksmith shop, paint shop, plumbing office, sewer department, and stables for the mounted police division"<sup>3</sup>. The stable had a large arched roof and a trapezoid footprint because it sat at an angle to Bell Road; the street frontage, however, was parallel. This area came to be known as City Field. Not long after, the police acquired their first motorcycle in 1912 and the first motorized fire pumper came into service in 1913<sup>1</sup>.

The Halifax Riding and Driving Club was established in 1932. The club brought together horse owners and



*Horses and riders atop the Citadel (photo courtesy of Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers and the speaker)*

would "traverse the city." The founder of the riding club, M.B. (Dick) Zwicker, promoted the idea of teaching 'city' children to ride and providing a riding experience for those who were unable to keep their own horses. As a result, this became the first riding school in Atlantic Canada. A 1935 film, *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer*, caught Zwicker's attention, and he was well aware of the RCMP and Royal Canadian Dragoons musical rides. Zwicker conceived the idea of a children's musical ride and, in 1936, the junior riders made their debut at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition.

The Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers included 16 riders, between 8 and 14 years old, and quickly acquired a reputation for their equestrian skills, courage, and discipline. They made such an impression that they were invited to the 1938 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, all expenses paid<sup>4</sup>.

With the coming of war in 1939, the Halifax Lancers found opportunities to serve their community. In response to

military priorities, they moved into the city stables on Bell Road in 1942. From that base, they played a prominent role in the 1943 Victory Parade and supported the War Finance Committee with a performance at the Grand Parade in Halifax.

Following the war, they were invited to the 1947 New England Horse Show in Boston. The Halifax Lancers paraded through the streets to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the relief received from Boston immediately after the Halifax Harbour Explosion. Many more performances followed across the Maritimes and at the CNE in Toronto, while they continued to contribute to civic life in Halifax, including standing guard on Citadel Hill.

Then, in 1949, fire struck on the same day they were to receive regimental colours. They saved 36 horses but lost four. The concrete exterior of the stables saved the building, although the interior was gutted, and subsequently rebuilt with the help of the people of Halifax.





*Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers in formation on the Halifax Common, with Armoury in the background (photo courtesy of Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers and the speaker)*



*Stable viewed from paddock (photo courtesy of Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers and the speaker)*

Dick Zwicker died in 1954, after which the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers were incorporated as a non-profit riding school under a new board. In 1956, RKO-Pathé produced an international short film about the Halifax Lancers which those in attendance at the lecture had the pleasure of viewing. Entitled *Canadian Lancers*, the film focused on a young girl who desperately wanted to become a Lancer but was too young. Over the years, the Halifax Lancers have

prospered and continued to attract new members with a Lancer branch of the Canadian Pony Club, extensive press coverage, and continuation of a high quality lesson program for children and adults and a therapeutic riding program. There have been various threats, including a proposal to redevelop the site for a Science Museum and Aquarium in 1966, a proposed Jubilee Road extension in 1968, and even the initial draft of the Halifax Common plan in 2019. The

stable was struck by a highly contagious respiratory infection, strangles, in 2018 and went into several months of voluntary quarantine. But the riders carry on. In 2017, they opened for the RCMP Musical Ride on the Garrison Grounds and in 2019, they are riding again at full capacity.

The building continues to belong to the city. A large part of it was removed in the 1970s. However the stable remains, serving its original function, and is a municipally-registered heritage property. Character-defining elements, as summarized in registration documents, include the centrally located property with “stables, paddock, and an attached enclosed riding ring”<sup>3</sup>, along with features of the building such as its “concrete ... construction with timbering; cement string course between storeys; cement pilasters on front façade; irregular angles of the building [trapezoid footprint]; wooden arched ... rafters ... and ... roof; large six-over-six sash windows; and oversized door openings to accommodate large animals”<sup>3</sup>.

While some members of the public may perceive riding as an élite sport, the original purpose of the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers was to enable a riding experience for city children who would

not otherwise have the opportunity. This mandate remains unchanged today. The Halifax Lancers' objective is to build better lives through horsemanship, with a mission to make riding accessible. The non-profit riding school carries on these roles and maintains its strong tradition of excellence.

Dr Halstead concluded her talk with a "Thank You from the Horses of Halifax."

*Claire Halstead is an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University and the historian for the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers (now known as Halifax Lancers).*

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>See our last issue: Jeff Brown, A brief history of fire houses in Halifax, *The Griffin* 44(2), 10-13 (2019).

<sup>2</sup>George Lowe later built Fire Station no. 3 (now no. 2) at Robie and Morris (now University), featured in the last issue. It included a stable building behind with a design similar to that of the Bell Road building, with arched roof and oversized doors.

<sup>3</sup>Canada's Historic Places, 1690 Bell Road, Halifax, formally recognized in 2001 ([www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=3316](http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=3316)).

<sup>4</sup>Archives of the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers, cited by Claire Halstead in: Canada's Young Ambassadors: the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers, *Active History* (2017) (<http://activehistory.ca/2017/02/canadas-young-ambassadors-the-halifax-junior-bengal-lancers/>)



*Halifax Lancers' stable, Bell Road façade with 'pointed' corner (Griffin photo)*

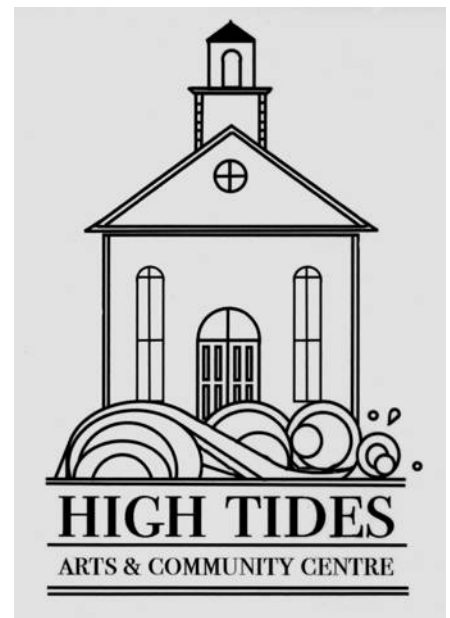
## ADAPTIVE RE-USE

### *Landmark Former Church in Maitland Hosts Original Drama*

In 2016, the Culture, Heritage, and Art (CHArt) Society took possession of the former St David's United Church (1858) and adjacent Church Hall (c. 1900), prominent landmarks on Church Hill in Maitland. With several grants, including modest support from the Trust, the society has made great progress in maintaining the buildings while transforming them into a community arts and culture facility. Formally opened in May 2018, the High Tides Arts and Community Centre is home to the Maitland Launch Festival, "Up-and-Coming" concerts, poetry readings, a summer film festival, and even local internet (with a hub in the steeple). High Tides will be open to the public during Hants County's *Doors Open for Churches* weekend, Sep. 7-8. Live theatre has brought the per-

formance space to life. *The Floundering Fathers of Confederation*, an original rollicking comedy by Nettah Burry, about politicians from the Canadas trying to persuade Nova Scotians to accept Confederation, marked Canada's 150th anniversary. Maitland, prospering as a shipbuilding and merchant community at the time, had many community members who opposed the confederation project.

This year's production, *Women Embrace the Sea*, celebrates the many women who sailed on local ships or played other related roles, including the teaching of navigation. The play will run Oct. 18 and 19 at 7 pm, Oct. 20 at 2 pm (tickets at the door). For more info: [www.hightidescentre.ca](http://www.hightidescentre.ca).





## Partnership with Historic Nova Scotia



Sharon Murray

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia is partnering with Historic Nova Scotia to provide additional on-line access to stories published in *The Griffin* (in addition to the conventional PDF access on the Trust's website). We hope that this initiative will broaden the reach and audience for HTNS material.

*Historic Nova Scotia* is a website and free mobile app that explores Nova Scotia history through place-based stories (<https://historicnovascotia.ca/>). The project is hosted by Dalhousie University Libraries and works in partnership with a growing number of heritage institutions, including the Nova Scotia Archives, Nova Scotia Museum, and now the Heritage Trust!

Through our partnership, we will republish selected articles from past issues of *The Griffin* as stories on the *Historic Nova Scotia* website/app (with the authors' permission, of course). Our first story is now live, a shortened version of Janet Morris's piece on Trinity Anglican Church, Halifax, from the June 2008 issue of *The Griffin*: <https://historicnovascotia.ca/items/show/132>

Stories like this will help build awareness of the rich trove of knowledge and history housed in *The Griffin* and boost the on-line profile of the Heritage Trust.

Sharon Murray is an historian and archivist currently working as the Coordinator for Historic Nova Scotia.



*Halifax's Trinity Anglican Church has had several iterations, locations, and buildings since the congregation first formed in 1855. The church's most notable building was erected on top of the Garrison Chapel's 1846 granite foundation in the North End, and became known as the 'Church-on-the-Green' for its ample grounds.*

Trinity Anglican Church, initially part of the parish of St. Paul's-Salem Chapel, as it was first known, was first situated on Jacob Street below Citadel Hill. In 1866, a large brick church christened "Trinity Church" was opened on the Jacob Street site. By the early 20th century, the religious fervour of the era could not be accommodated by this edifice. When the Imperial Troops departed the city in 1906, the Garrison Chapel on Crosswell Street, which had been the church for the troops since 1846

ARTIST *Craig Baltzer*



*Lunenburg*, by Craig Baltzer, 2017, ink on paper, 5"x7" (courtesy of the artist and Argyle Fine Art)

## How It Went: Doors Open for Churches along the Eastern Shore

### Philip Hartling

On August 17-18, eight Victorian and Edwardian churches between Tangier and Harrigan Cove participated in the Trust's Doors Open for Churches. Linda Forbes, Past President of HTNS, commented, "Places of worship are becoming endangered, especially in rural Nova Scotia. While most are still well used, some of these buildings are no longer in active use for worship and need to find new purposes if they are to remain the beacons for their communities."

The eight churches – Holy Trinity Anglican (Tangier), the former St James United (Spry Bay), St Peter's Roman Catholic (Sheet Harbour), St Andrew's Anglican (Watt Section), St Margaret's Anglican (Sober Island), St James Anglican (Port Dufferin), St Michael's Roman Catholic (East Quoddy), and St Mary's Anglican (Harrigan Cove) – had a total of 317 visits, which included a Sunday afternoon concert at the St James United Church Heritage site, Spry Bay.

Not only were visitors able to see the interiors, many churches enhanced their visits with displays, food, and a concert. Lauralee Kennedy, Bernice Logan, and other parishioners at Holy Trinity Church had a display on the church's history and also showed a handmade quilt made by the Woman's Auxiliary in 1943. The quilt, in excellent condition, has embroidered names of men and women from the church who participated in World War II. Interestingly, the quilt was found under a mattress in a spring frame bed in a house being renovated in 2014. Holy Trinity also showed Michael Lei's 3D virtual model of the former All Saints Anglican Church, Popes Harbour.

Karen Crowell, Betty Burris, and The Friends of St James U.C. Heritage Society, Spry Bay, held a Sunday Afternoon Musical program featuring storyteller Kenneth Boutilier and the musical talent of Elmer, Josey, and Foster Beaver. Rose Scrivens volunteered in St Peter's



*Philip Hartling welcomed visitors to St James Anglican Church in Port Dufferin with archival display boards and samples of baking from recipes in a former Woman's Auxiliary cookbook (Griffin photo)*



*Appreciative visitors from Virginia take in displays and architecture at St James Church, Port Dufferin (photo courtesy of Gail Hartling)*

Church, Sheet Harbour, where visitors could see the grotto of the Virgin Mary. Philip Hartling at St James Church, Port Dufferin, showcased four display boards of photographs, maps, and an architectural plan of the church, as well as organizations and present and former rectors. Visitors from as far away as Virginia, Massachusetts, and Alberta were given a brief history of the church and sampled cookies, sweet breads and squares from recipes in the Woman's Auxiliary and Guild cookbooks from the

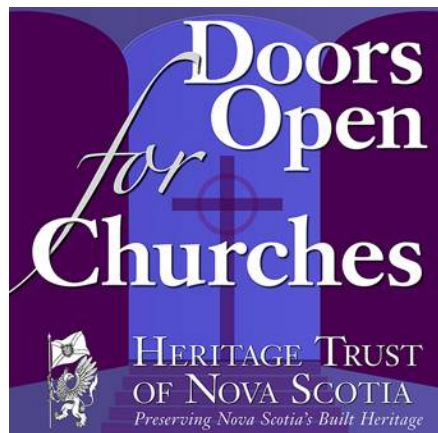
mid-1950s. Linda Watt at St Michael's Church, Quoddy, had photographs from the church's 100th anniversary. Volunteers Erna Balcom and Carol Martin (St Andrew's Church, Watt Section), Leslie Munroe (St Margaret's Church, Sober Island), and Leon Levy (St Mary's Church, Harrigan Cove) also distributed brief histories of their respective churches. The many volunteers who opened their churches enabled Doors Open for Churches to be a success.



## Update on Doors Open for Churches in Nova Scotia 2019

Doors Open events have been scheduled this year in many parts of the province. Further details on churches, addresses (with maps), and dates can be found on the Heritage Trust website (<https://www.htns.ca/events/doors-open2019.html>).

As we go to press, successful Doors Open weekends have already drawn many visitors to churches in Lunenburg, Halifax (Eastern Shore), Guysborough, and Shelburne counties. Upcoming events include East Hants on the weekend of September 7-8 and more on subsequent dates. See the accompanying article for some post-event reflections on the weekend at the Eastern Shore churches described in our last issue. Comments from other areas included gratitude to the volunteers who greeted visitors, former residents, or descendants of families associated with their churches. There was also a sense of achievement in drawing attention to



these important community landmarks, and a degree of satisfaction in the many worthwhile conversations that these events made possible.

Please note that where the event covers two or more days, some churches open on only one of those days and hours vary from church to church. Please consult the website or call the Trust

for further details. Details on the Cape Breton events, which coincide with Celtic Colours, can be found on the latter's website (<https://celtic-colours.com/schedule/>). Please see the 'Community Events' listings and select 'educational'. The full list of events for 2019 is as follows:

**Cape Breton** (during Celtic Colours):  
October 11-19

**Guysborough County:**  
Saturday and Sunday August 24-25

**Halifax County (Eastern Shore):**  
Saturday and Sunday August 17-18

**Hants County:**  
Saturday and Sunday September 7-8

**Lunenburg County:**  
Saturday and Sunday August 10-11

**Pictou County:**  
Saturday September 21

**Shelburne County:**  
Saturday and Sunday August 24-25

**Yarmouth County:**  
Saturday September 21

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### ARTIST *Craig Baltzer*



Grey Lady, by Craig Baltzer, 2019, ink on paper, 5"x7" (courtesy of the artist and Argyle Fine Art)

## Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

### Friends of McNabs Island

**Fall Foliage Tour of McNabs Island Provincial Park:** Oct 20, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. (Rain date Oct 27). Two Departure Points: Halifax: Murphy's on the Water and Eastern Passage: A&M Sea Charters (latter sold out). Cost: \$20 (members and youth under 16) \$25 (non-members). Tickets on sale via [Eventbrite.ca](http://Eventbrite.ca). More info: [info@mcnabsisland.ca](mailto:info@mcnabsisland.ca)

### Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia

33 Ochterloney Street, Suite 100, Dartmouth, NS  
**Melancholy and Mania: the Nova Scotia Hospital in 1878,** Deanna Foster, Sep 28, 2 pm.

**Mutiny on the Bounty: the Nova Scotia Connection,** Ray Blakeney, Oct 26, 2 pm.

**10th Annual Brickwall Busters,** Nov 19, 7 pm.  
More info: 902-454-0322; [novascotiaancestors.ca](http://novascotiaancestors.ca)

### Hammonds Plains Historical Society

**A History of Nova Scotia – A Historical Perspective Reflecting Nova Scotia's Communities and Peoples,** Leo Deveau. Sep 30, 7 pm, Hammonds Plains Community Center (2041 Hammonds Plains Road).

**What's In a Name – Exploring the Names of Hammonds Plains Landmarks,** Nov 25, 7 pm, Cornerstone Wesleyan Church (1215 Hammonds Plains Road).  
More info: [hammondsplainhistoricalsociety.ca](http://hammondsplainhistoricalsociety.ca)

### East Hants Historical Society

**First Power: Cyril Parks,** Myrtle White. Sep 10, 7:30 pm, Noel Fire Hall.

**The History of Epidemics in East Hants,** Art Burton. Oct 8, 7:30 pm, Elmsdale School.

**WW I Reprised,** Fred Anthony. Nov 12, 7:30 pm, High Tides Hall, Maitland.

More info: [ehhs.weebly.com](http://ehhs.weebly.com); Facebook

### Memory Lane Heritage Village

5435 Clam Harbour Road, Lake Charlotte NS  
**Heritage Dinner & Musique Royale Concert,** Sep 14, 5 pm, \$55.

**Nova Scotia Forest Festival,** Oct 26, 11 am to 4 pm.  
**Traditional 1940s Christmas Dinner,** Nov 16 and 17, 6:30 pm, \$28.

**Walk Through Bethlehem,** Nov 23. 4 - 7 pm.  
More info: 845-1937; 1-877-287-0697; [info@heritagevillage.ca](mailto:info@heritagevillage.ca); [www.heritagevillage.ca](http://www.heritagevillage.ca)

### Ottawa House Museum

1155 Whitehall Road, Parrsboro  
**Rug Hooking Workshop,** Sep 21. Limited space: please register at 902-254-2376  
**Christmas Tea and Bake Sale,** Sep 29, 2 - 4 pm.  
**Talking about the weather: storms and odd facts,** Oct 6, 2 pm.  
More info: [ottawahousemuseum.ca](http://ottawahousemuseum.ca)

## Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Illustrated Public Lectures

September 19  
Scott Robson

**Nova Scotia in 1819: pictures by J.E. Woolford, words by Lord Dalhousie**

October 17  
Tom Gribbin

**Public Parks in Nova Scotia: Historical Perspective**

November 21  
Martin Hubley

**The Watercolour World project**

All talks take place at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month

Museum of Natural History Auditorium  
1747 Summer Street, Halifax  
Access from visitor's parking lot

Information 423-4807

### Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Public lectures held at Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax. Free admission.

**The 1960s Tourist Campaign in Nova Scotia,** Phyllis R. Blakely Memorial Lecture, Sara Hollett, Sep 18, 7 pm

More info: [www.rsnhs.ca](http://www.rsnhs.ca); [facebook.com/TheRoyalNovaScotiaHistoricalSociety](https://facebook.com/TheRoyalNovaScotiaHistoricalSociety)

### Yarmouth County Museum and Archives

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth NS  
Monthly society meeting and lecture, first Friday of month (Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6) 7:30 pm

**Revealing of Sarah Corning Statue,** Sep 14, 2:00 pm.

**Baked Bean Supper,** Oct 5, 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

**Christmas Tea:** Dec 7.

More info: [yarmouthcountymuseum.ca](http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ca); Facebook; [ycmassistant@eastlink.ca](mailto:ycmassistant@eastlink.ca)

## Locations of subject matter in this issue

