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# The Griffin

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# The Griffin

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Nova Scotia**

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Cover image: Halifax Rail Yard, by Michael  
Sherwin, 2019, watercolour on paper, 13½"x21"  
(courtesy of the artist)

## President's Report



*Sandra Barss*

Fall 2022 has been a busy time for students working at the Trust office. Both Natasha, who is completing an adaptive re-use project, and Mikylah, who has worked on accumulated archival material, will finish their terms in the next few weeks. Hayley is documenting various buildings scheduled for destruction and will finish her work in the coming months. It is good to have people working in the Trust's office again.

Emma Lang and I were pleased to attend the National Trust conference in Toronto in mid-October. After our first day, taken up with National Council meetings, we were involved in various seminars and talks about heritage across Canada. It was invigorating and inspiring to be with so many people for whom heritage is such a passion. We were reminded that heritage does not consist solely of buildings, but comprises the spirit of communities and the residents who lived and worked in them.

I also have had the pleasure of meeting several members of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) in various parts of Nova Scotia. It was a delight to meet in person again and to learn what these groups are doing with more

relaxed Covid restrictions. Most report a resurgence of visitors this past summer and look forward to continued rebuilding in 2023.

In my last column, I mentioned St Ann's Church in Antigonish County, of great importance to the Paq'tnkek Nation. Sadly, we recently learned that l'Église Sainte-Marie in Church Point, Digby County, the largest timber-frame building in North America and the only wooden structure of its architectural style, is at risk of being demolished. Though structurally sound for now, the deconsecrated church requires significant work before it can be opened again for any purpose. Unless other uses can be found, and funding made available, the futures are bleak for this and similar structures that require substantial funding to remain viable.

The Trust continues to promote adaptive re-use instead of demolishing and building new structures. We believe that most buildings, regardless of their original use, can find new life by being repurposed. Repurposing not only protects our environment by keeping demolition materials out of landfills but allows these structures to have continued usefulness, well beyond the anticipated life-span of new buildings, while helping to retain the streetscapes and feel of our neighbourhoods and larger communities.

This was part of our focus at a recent meeting with Minister Pat Dunn, of NS Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. We noted the multi-faceted benefit of heritage to tourism, society, and the environment. As pre-eminent architect Carl Elefante says, "The greenest building is one that is already built." We believe it is that philosophy that will most easily help protect Nova Scotia's built heritage.

ARTIST

# Michael Sherwin



*Barely Standing*, by Michael Sherwin, 2022, watercolour on paper, 15" x 21½" (courtesy of the artist)

Michael was born in Halifax in 1957 and moved to Ottawa at the age of 16. He developed a keen interest in painting at the early age of 12 and discovered watercolour at the age of 15. He studied fine art at Algonquin College in Ottawa, graduating in 1977. Over the years, he has worked as a technical illustrator, graphic designer, and (currently) as a user interface designer. Although living most of his adult life in Ottawa, Michael has always been drawn back to the East Coast, inspired by its varied landscapes and rugged coastlines. Working with either watercolour or acrylic, the Maritimes have always been a favourite source of subject matter for him.

A past member of the Ottawa Watercolour Society, Michael exhibited

in a number of the society's juried exhibitions. He has also taught introductory and intermediate watercolour courses with the Adult and Continuing Education program offered by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. Michael is a regular participant in the annual Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts Studio Tour.

Michael returned to Nova Scotia in 2016 and currently lives and works in Shad Bay, close to the sea and landscape that provide inspiration for much of his work.

## HTNS Built Heritage Awards

Do you know a built heritage project (restoration, rehabilitation or renovation) that deserves recognition? Is there an individual champion of built heritage who should be celebrated? Nominations for the 2022 Built Heritage Awards and Award for Excellence in Supporting Heritage Conservation are being accepted through 31 December 2022. Winners will be announced in the spring.

For more information visit:  
[www.htns.ca/nominations](http://www.htns.ca/nominations)

## Our Cover

Michael Sherwin, our cover artist this issue, is the 42nd Nova Scotian artist we have featured on the covers of *The Griffin* over more than a decade. He is as warmly welcome as the others have been. We thank him for his generosity in sharing examples of his work with us. The artists who have appeared on our covers and in our pages have been invariably willing, generous, and eye-opening, sharing new perspectives on our built heritage.

Some readers may find our selection of the cover painting somewhat idiosyncratic (or off track?). The brown boxcar, once the ubiquitous and predominant icon of Canadian railways, is now a rarity in the age of double-stacked containers. The lonely boxcar in this image from the Halifax waterfront evokes nostalgia for the many places around the province where railways once met shipping. See “Moment in Time” on the back cover of this issue.

The other feature in this painting pertinent to our built heritage is the Young Avenue bridge, built across the new rail cut in 1917. As Stephen Archibald reminded us in his blog *Noticed in Nova Scotia* of 15 June 2016,<sup>1</sup> Young Avenue was designed and built as the formal entry to Point Pleasant Park, as reaffirmed by a motion passed in the Nova Scotia legislature in 1896. The rail cut imposed a break in Young Avenue, creating the need for a bridge. This span was designed to be beautiful, with elegant arches (even if rarely seen) and stylish balustrades with pedestals that once sported cast-iron lamp standards.

Michael Sherwin’s cover painting draws a line from the port to the tree-lined avenue, reminding us that there is beauty in the infrastructure of industry, and that the working world of ports and railways created the wealth that enabled the extravagance of Young Avenue.

<sup>1</sup><https://halifaxbloggers.ca/noticedinnovascotia/2016/06/young-avenue-so-sad-and-blue/>



Going Nowhere, by Michael Sherwin, 2022, watercolour on paper, 21" x 18", available for sale (courtesy of the artist)

CORRECTION

## Amos Pewter Building, Mahone Bay

Michael Grunsky has pointed out that the wording in the Trust's 2022 calendar for November does not accurately describe the building shown in the calendar. One of two buildings recognized with a Built Heritage Award to Suzanne and Greg Amos, the old boat shop was

more than doubled in size. The caption should have read: *Originally a c.1880 boat builder's shop (shown here) and adjacent residence, the two buildings have been sensitively adapted as retail space and a design studio. A waterside addition to the boat shop was*

*designed by architect, Michael Grunsky. The owners ... restored these buildings, providing an excellent representation of the town's vibrant main street.*

We are looking forward to an article about the history of this Mahone Bay boat shop in the upcoming issue.



Former boat builder's shop with sensitive water-side addition (at right); adjacent residence out of view behind photographer (courtesy of Betty Meredith)



Close to the Edge, by Michael Sherwin, pre-2010, watercolour on paper, 13½" x 9½", available for sale (courtesy of the artist)

CORRECTION

In the last issue we provided a list of current HTNS Board members. Unfortunately this omitted Andrew Murphy, Past President. Our apologies for this oversight.

## Restoring the Dry Stone Wall at the Little Dutch Church, Halifax

T. E. Smith-Lamothe

*Dry stone walls composed predominantly of slate or bluestone have been prominent features of the cultural landscape of Halifax and Dartmouth from an early date. The ready availability of suitable stone and settlers with the requisite skills undoubtedly encouraged their widespread use. Unfortunately, due to a dwindling number of skilled practitioners and, perhaps, a loss of knowledge about the performance of mortarless walls, a number have been lost to replacement mortared or concrete structures. This article describes an important restoration project to save an historically important wall.*

Earlier this year (2022), the HTNS Buildings-at-Risk Committee approved a grant to the Little Dutch Church, Brunswick Street at Gerrish, Halifax (built circa 1756). The goal was to repair and restore the dry stone wall alongside Gerrish Street. This is a mortarless masonry wall, standing sturdily upright due to its careful construction of stone upon stone, a heritage technique which has few remaining skilled practitioners in North America. With Trust support combined with a grant from Parks Canada and generous donations from the Halifax Foundation, parishioners, and members of the public, the parish engaged Syd Dumaresq, Halifax heritage architect, to develop a scope of work and review the construction activities on-site by John Scott of DryStone Canada and his crew from Ontario.

*the wall reacts like a bicycle chain stretched out on uneven ground - one link may lift, but the whole chain responds to allow for it*

According to Mr Scott, the wall appears on a 1760s map of the nascent Halifax, although the church building itself does not. The wall establishes the southern border of the burying ground and serves also as a retaining wall



*Church and wall from Gerrish Street (courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives, W.R. MacAskill 1987-453 no. 4850)*

adjacent to the sidewalk, which is at a lower grade than the cemetery. The wall is composed mainly of local ironstone slate, bluestone and sandstone, rock types underlying peninsular Halifax. The characteristic reddish slate has been

used for many landmark buildings and walls in Halifax. Once one learns its colours and textures, it can be noticed all around the city.

Mr Scott is of the opinion that many, if not most, of the stones are from

the original 1760s wall, although the appearance of the odd brick or beach stone indicates a sequence of repairs in its long history. The Registry of Historic Places in Canada lists the perimeter wall as built in 1919, but this may not refer to the Gerrish Street side of the property. In any case, the wall is a “character defining element” which helped earn the property’s heritage status at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. Mr Scott also thinks the wall was not the work of professional masons, but rather, newly arrived farmers who had first-hand experience in building dry stone walls in Germany and Switzerland. Dry stone walls were built not only to clear fields and pastures of cobbles, but to define property lines and stake a claim to a parcel in the landscape. Anyone travelling to Europe, especially to Ireland or Scotland, can see linear miles upon miles of dry stone walls. As the Little Dutch (“Deutsch” or “German”) Church was founded by early German and Swiss settlers, it is not a stretch to imagine the experienced farmers among them building new dry stone walls here.

*a dry stone wall is incredibly durable and will last for generations with minimal upkeep*

One might expect that dry stone walls would be particularly susceptible to frost-heaving in the Spring. However, as Mr Scott explained, the wall reacts like a bicycle chain stretched out on uneven ground --- one link may lift, but the whole chain responds to allow for it. If constructed properly, with bridging (connecting) stones across its width every meter or so along its length, a dry stone wall is incredibly durable and will last for generations with minimal upkeep. Unfortunately, this particular Gerrish Street wall had a concrete capstone applied on its top at some point in its history. A heavy, stiff feature such as this can interrupt the inherent flexibility of the stone construction beneath. Inevitably, a concrete capstone will shorten the lifespan of a dry stone wall and become the root cause of damage requiring



John Scott and crew at the wall, with the Little Dutch Church in the background (photo courtesy of the author)

both minor and major repairs.

Only about half of the Gerrish Street wall has been completed this Summer, with work on the remaining portions to be scheduled soon. An archaeologist participated in the excavation required during construction, but mostly only a few broken pieces of antique glass were found; no human remains!

The newly restored Gerrish Street wall will serve as an example of “how to do dry stone walls right” for other sites faced with deteriorated stone walls. The parishioners of the Little Dutch Church,<sup>1</sup> the architect Syd Dumaresq, and mason John Scott all hope this “new” wall will last for another few centuries. I asked Mr Scott if, as many masons do, he “signed”

the restored wall somewhere. He does, indeed, sign his mortared masonry walls sometimes, but not his dry stone projects. However, the crew did place a 2022 loonie somewhere among the stones, so, as he put it, “The property will always have money!”

*T. E. Smith-Lamothe is a Halifax architect and artist, current chair of the HTNS Buildings-at-Risk Committee and former chair of the HRM Heritage Advisory Committee.*

<sup>1</sup>The original St George’s

# Rehabilitation of the North Park Armoury, Halifax

*Donald Forbes*

In the closing years of Queen Victoria's reign and the last half decade of the 19th century (1895-1899), a large and formidable new military facility appeared at the north end of the Halifax Common. This was the extraordinary landmark most of us know today as the Halifax Armoury or Armouries (formally the North Park Armoury).

Halifax was founded in 1749 as a strategic counterpoint to the French stronghold at Louisbourg, and later a major base of operations during the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Thus the city was no stranger to impressive military structures: the Citadel (renovated several times); five Martello towers and the various forts of the Halifax Defence Complex; HM Dockyard; and extensive garrison barracks and support structures. In the 1890s, with the progressive and imminent full withdrawal of the British military, the Halifax Armoury was a Canadian project, part of a plan to erect permanent training and recruitment facilities for militia units in major centres across the country.

Canada has a long history of citizen militia units stretching back to New France. During the 19th century, the British North American colonies, and subsequently the Dominion of Canada, raised local militia units for defensive purposes. These units typically drilled in the open air, or in barns or other buildings not purpose-built for military use, but in time they began to erect local drill halls. A good surviving example is the former Drill Shed in Elora, Ontario, built in 1865.<sup>1</sup> Beginning in the 1870s, the Dominion government undertook an ambitious program of building post offices, customs houses, and drill halls across the country, erecting more than 86 drill halls or armouries between 1870 and 1918.<sup>2</sup>



North-side formal entrance structure, with carved "VR" and "1896" at peak, and "Brigade Office" over the door (Griffin photo)

## The Halifax Armoury

The armoury in Halifax was among the small number of Dominion government drill halls predating 1900 and one of the largest to that date. It was one of the last designs of Thomas Fuller, the second Chief Dominion Architect after Thomas Seaton Scott (1871-1881). Described as "one of the most important Canadian architects of the 19th century,"<sup>3</sup> Thomas Fuller (1823-1898) was English-born and trained, with an extensive portfolio of designs in Britain and the West Indies when he immigrated to Canada c. 1858.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

As an independent architect in Canada, Fuller designed the original Centre Block for the Parliament of Canada in 1859 (constructed 1860-1864; burned 1916), and the extraordinary Parliamentary Library (1860-1876), which survived the fire.<sup>3,4</sup> Subsequently, as Chief Dominion Architect from 1881, he was responsible for the design of 80 post

offices (12 in Nova Scotia), and numerous other public buildings (armouries, customs houses, quarantine stations, hospitals, prisons, and much more). In addition to the Halifax Armoury, Fuller's drill-hall designs included the armouries in Toronto (1891-1893), Edmonton (1893), and New Westminster (1895).

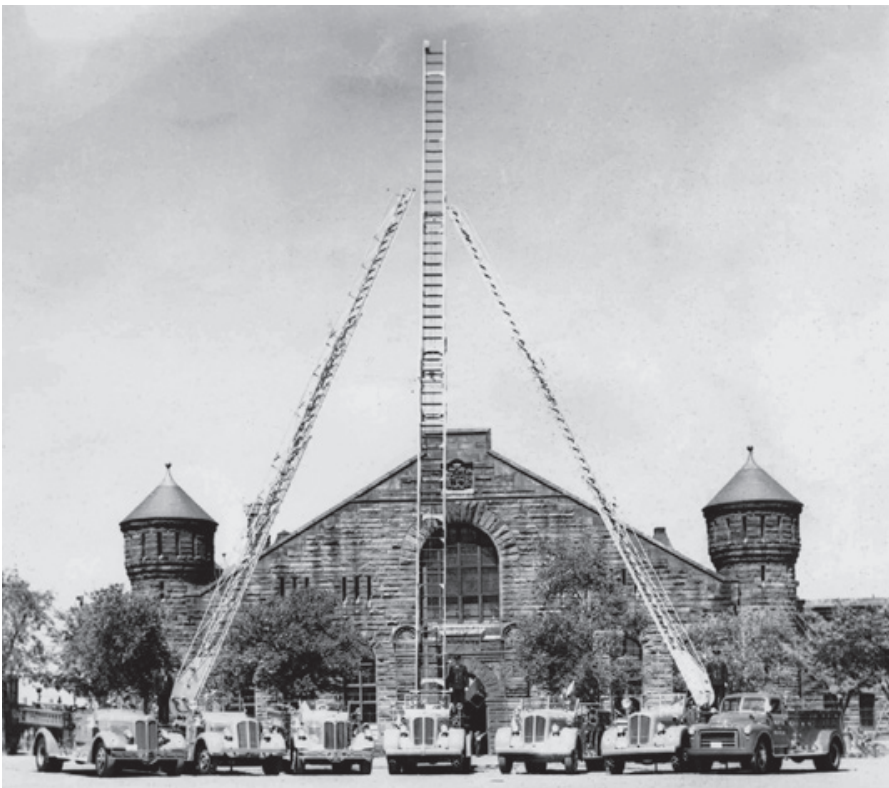
*one of the last designs of Thomas Fuller, ... [who] designed the original Centre Block for the Parliament of Canada ..., and the extraordinary Parliamentary Library*

The footprint of the Halifax Armoury occupies an entire city block, bounded by North Park, Cunard, and Maynard streets and John's Lane (now Armoury Place). With an unobstructed floor area of 15,400 sq. ft (1431 m<sup>2</sup>) and an unsupported roof span of 110 ft (33.5 m), the drill hall was remarkably spacious for its time. It was flanked on the east and





Rehabilitated west façade as seen from the Halifax Common (Griffin photo)



The Armoury in the community: aerial ladder display, probably late 1940s (courtesy of Halifax Municipal Archives, Halifax Fire Department, community outreach photograph series, 102-111-4-1.79)

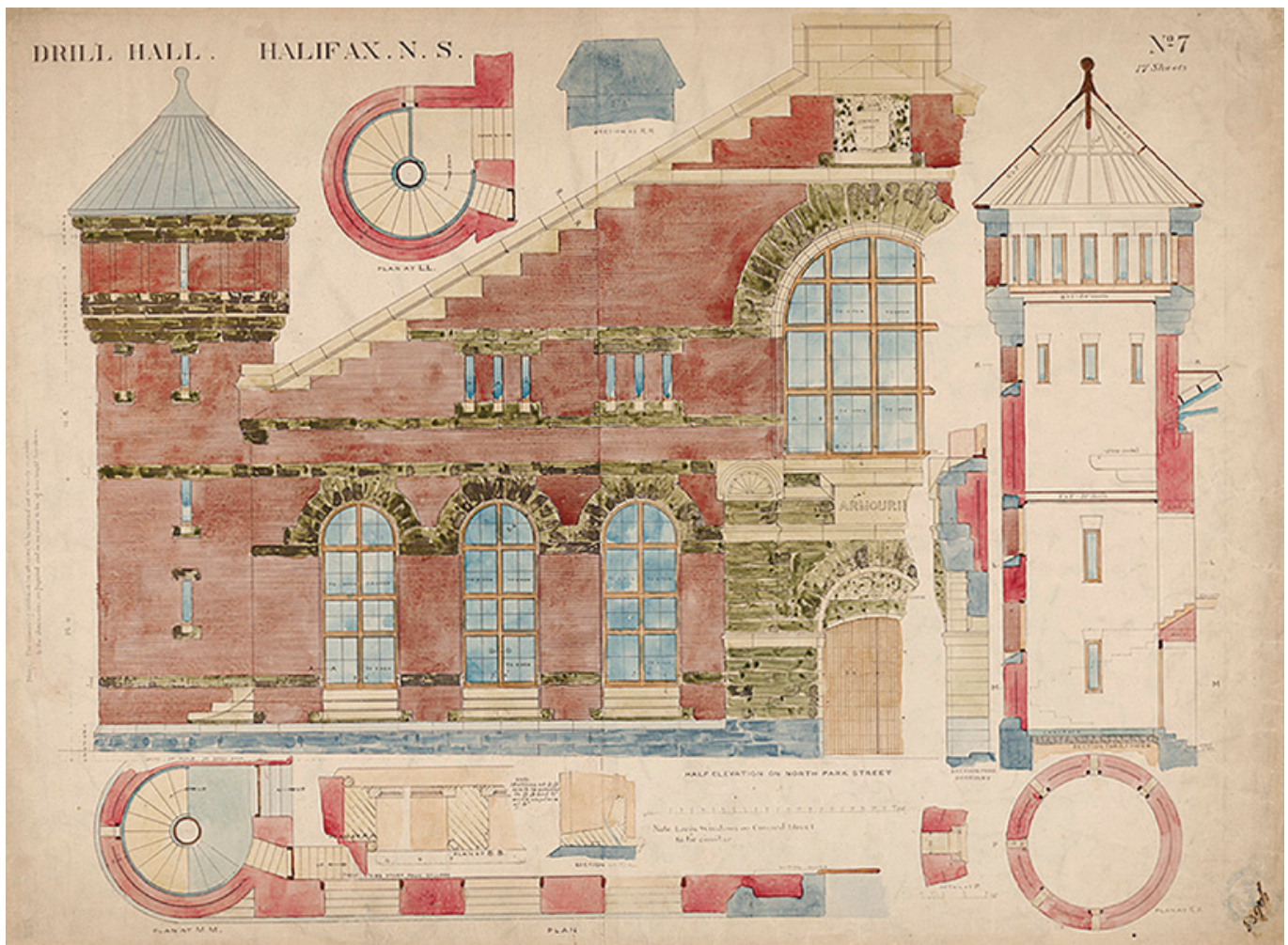
south by two-storey structures housing command offices, meeting rooms, a mess, and a library. Other facilities, some located in the brick-lined, partially barrel-vaulted basement, included a large gun room (accessible through the east end doorway opening to Maynard

Street), two bowling alleys and two shooting galleries, band rooms, and extensive stores. Stables are not shown in plans we have seen, but would have been required in the building or close-by. The building's location facing the north end of the Common created a

bookend to the Citadel at the southern extremity. For the Army, the adjacent open space provided room for outside training, parades, or tent encampments, and greater opportunity to interact with the community from which the militia members were drawn.

With its round towers at three corners and the turreted, castle-like, formal entry structure facing Cunard Street, the Halifax Armoury was considered "one of the most magnificent" by a reporter from the *Evening Mail*.<sup>6</sup> In its primary, military role, the building was an important facility for militia training and recruitment. It was also used in the mustering of troops for the South African War (1899-1902) and the First and Second World Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945). In addition, the Armoury supported the civilian population in times of peace and of crisis. For example, immediately after its completion in 1899, the building hosted an elaborate fundraiser for the Halifax Infants' Home, during which it was transformed into a place of beauty, including carpets and potted plants.<sup>7,8</sup> In crisis, as following the 6 December 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion, which blew out windows, severely damaged the roof, and destabilized the west façade, the drill hall functioned as a relief centre for large numbers of displaced civilians.

The Armoury is an iconic landmark



Architectural “half elevation on North Park Street” and partial plan, including spiral stairs in towers, titled “Drill Hall. Halifax. n.s. No 7/17 Sheets” (courtesy DDC, originally from Public Works Canada [now Public Services and Procurement Canada], “DWG 7 Public Works Nov 7 – 11”)

in the City of Halifax. It has served as a highly recognizable backdrop to royal visits, civilian activities, concerts, exhibitions, and photo shoots, such as the 1940s promotional shot of the Halifax Fire Department ladder brigade.

### Heritage Value

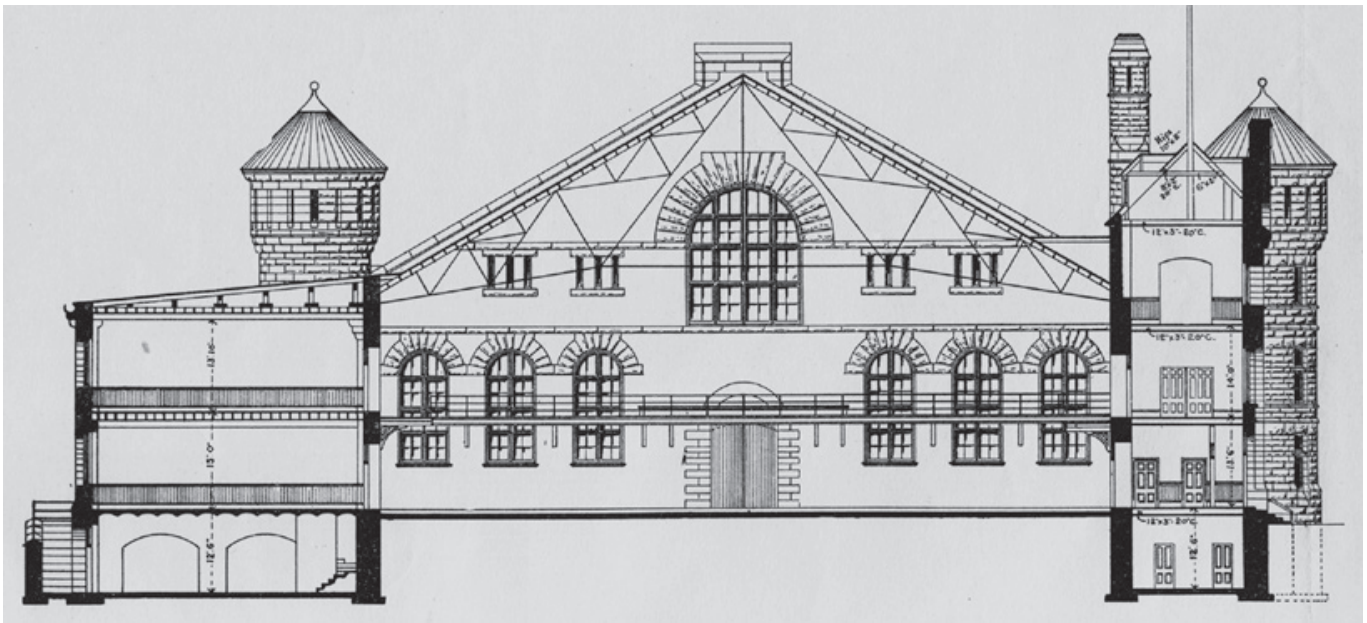
The Halifax Armoury was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1989<sup>9</sup> and a Classified Federal Heritage Building in 1991;<sup>10</sup> it is also a registered municipal heritage property.<sup>11</sup> It is recognized for its historical associations, its architectural merit, and its landmark status in relation to the site adjacent to the Halifax Common and nearby Halifax Citadel.

Fuller designed an imposing,

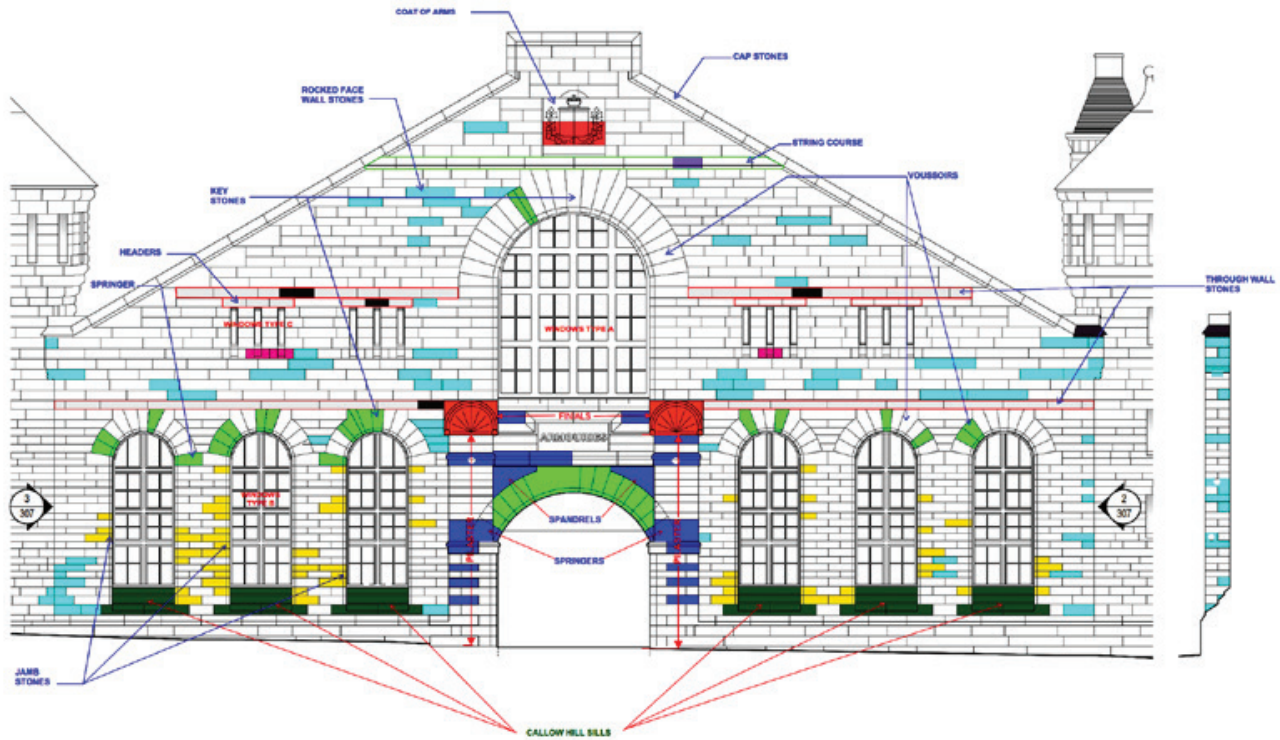
fortress-like building in a robust, Romanesque-revival style, constructed of rough-faced, red-brown, Pugwash sandstone on a granite foundation. The building presents two distinct façades. Facing North Park Street and the Common, the west elevation is a seven-bay gable end with a central arched and castellated troop entrance beneath a large round-arched window surmounted by the Canadian coat of arms carved in sandstone, and flanked by triplets of narrow, embrasure windows. Each of the six ground-floor windows is round-arched and two storeys high. This face is flanked by two cylindrical stair towers topped by turrets with conical roofs. The north elevation, facing Cunard Street, presents a central, three-storey, tur-

reted, castle-like, formal entry structure, between two rows of six round-topped windows of the same dimensions as on the west façade, providing natural light to the interior of the drill hall. This façade is, again, flanked by cylindrical towers with turrets, the left-hand tower being a third one at the northeast corner of the drill hall. Additional character-defining elements include decorative details such as carved and finely tooled stonework, “stringcourses, corbelled banding, and deeply set windows with ... heavy mullions with wide voussoirs set above.”<sup>12</sup>

The wide roof span, providing a then-extraordinary unobstructed space, was achieved by the use of steel trusses of a type patented in 1854 by Albert Fink for use as railroad bridges. Another



Section looking west, reported to be as drawn by architect, Thomas Fuller, published in *Canadian Architect and Builder*, v. 11, no. 2 (February 1897), showing interior of west façade, Fink truss framework supporting the drill-hall roof, north entry structure ('castle') at right, and shed extension on south side at left (source:www.regimentalrogue.com)



Detail from "North Park Armoury, West Wall Rehabilitation. Exterior Masonry Interventions" (courtesy DCC and DFS Inc. Architecture & Design); various shades of grey (colour in PDF) distinguish types of repair and stone: dark grey (green) in ground-floor window sills and medium grey (magenta) below embrasure windows designate use of resistant Callow Quarry sandstone from Herefordshire, England; other shades indicate intervention using less-resistant Beckwith sandstone matching the original stone from Cumberland County, Nova Scotia



Interior of west façade, showing Fink trusses supporting the roof, large scale of the drill hall (only a small part of which is visible), and the two-storey office complex along the south side (Griffin photo)

innovation was the use of electric light, which allowed for militia training in the evenings after work. As stated in the Phase II review document,<sup>7</sup> this armoury “set a new standard for functional design, combining revolutionary indoor training facilities and recreational spaces ... The integration of recreation and training was conceptualized by Fuller, with the intention of creating a more inviting and enjoyable experience for young recruits.”

### The Rehabilitation Project

The *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* defines conservation as the overarching term comprising preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration.<sup>13</sup> The Armoury project includes aspects of all three, but the primary focus is rehabilitation, defined as “the sensitive adaptation of a historic place ... for a continuing or compatible contemporary use, while protecting its heritage value.”<sup>13</sup>

Following the heritage character statement in 1990<sup>12</sup> and later assessments in which deterioration of stone-

work, windows, doors, and widespread deferred maintenance were identified, a major conservation project was launched in 2017. This followed a pilot project in 2012 to determine appropriate methodologies, suitable mortars, and a source of matching sandstone for replacement of the most severely degraded wall components.<sup>6</sup> The work was managed by Defence Construction Canada on behalf of the Department of National

Defence (DND) through the Directorate for Defence Construction Project Delivery (DCPD). The project has drawn on the expertise of numerous architectural, engineering, and heritage consultants and the craft skills of heritage window conservators and masonry experts.

Phase I, completed in 2022, first addressed the most pressing conservation issue, the outward lean (28 cm out of plumb) of the west wall, requiring extensive stone replacement and repair. Because the building is to continue serving as an operational facility, Phase 1 also included widening of the west wall vehicle entrance, originally sized for troops and horses, to accommodate armoured vehicles. Otherwise, the design has remained true to Fuller’s specifications.

The preparation for Phase II of the rehabilitation project is now well underway. This will include: “rehabilitation of north, east, and south exterior masonry walls [and] remaining portions of the west wall; structural roof reinforcement and replacement of roof shingles; replacement of the rain gutters and downspouts; ground level concrete slab ... repair, excluding the [granite] perimeter foundation wall; heritage conservation of windows, doors, and [other] historic woodwork; rehabilitation of integral building systems (e.g., electrical, mechanical, fire protection, communications, lightning control).”<sup>7</sup> Other components include “design upgrades to comply with the current Building Code while



Part of refurbished window sill (Callow sandstone) at left, with finely tooled ribbing on jamb stones, west façade (Griffin photo)

considering the Heritage aspect of the building.<sup>7</sup> Proposed system upgrades include the installation of geothermal heating and cooling, backup power generation, and a solar power array on south-facing parts of the roof.

### A Handsome Heritage Structure Fit for the Future

The Armoury conservation project is meeting a high standard. “The focus is on rehabilitation of the building’s interior and exterior elements to preserve the historic character, while providing an enhanced and sustainable operational facility ... for the long term,”<sup>7</sup> meeting the needs of the anticipated occupants: the Princess Louise Fusiliers, the Halifax Rifles (RCAC), two cadet corps, and clothing stores.

It is gratifying to see the commitment to heritage conservation on the part of DND and the clear acknowledgement that a refurbished historic structure more than 120 years old can continue to serve its original purpose, with enhanced capability and secured heritage value into the foreseeable future.



Row of windows lighting the drill hall and the ‘castle’ in the middle of the north façade (Griffin photo)

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the generous advice and assistance of DND architect Rosanne Howes, Project Manager (DCPD, Ottawa), and Joyce Yates, Cultural Resource Manager (DCC, Halifax). The prime consultant on Phase I was DFS Inc. architecture & design, with sub-consultants Trevor Gillingwater Conservation Services Inc.; KIB Consultants Inc.; Octavio Ébéniste, Window Conservator; and CBCL Engineering. In Phase II, the prime consultant is Eastpoint Inc., with sub-contractors Robertson Martin Architects; Julian Smith & Associates, Architects; David Edgar Conservation Ltd; John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd; and Craig Sims, Window/Heritage Building Consultant. In addition, both phases have and will involve numerous construction suppliers and contractors. The DCC lead in Halifax is Dean MacMullin, Coordinator, Construction Services (DCC).

<sup>1</sup>Canadian Register of Historic Places, former Elora Drill Shed, <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=11748&pid=0> (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>2</sup>List of Armouries in Canada, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_armouries\\_in\\_Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_armouries_in_Canada) (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Fuller, in *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950*, <http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/1578> (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>4</sup>Mindenhall, Dorothy. *Thomas Fuller: Architect for a Nation* (Victoria BC, Lakehill Books, 2015), 158 p

<sup>5</sup>Thomas, C.A. “Fuller, Thomas” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 12, (University of Toronto/ Université Laval, 2003), [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/fuller\\_thomas\\_12E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/fuller_thomas_12E.html) (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>6</sup>Howes, R. *The Search for Red Sandstone*. Power-Point deck, Project Manager, DND (2017), PDF file, 79 p.

<sup>7</sup>“North Park Armoury – Phase II” in North Park Armoury Rehabilitation, unpublished planning documents courtesy of Defence Construction Canada and Department of National Defence.

<sup>8</sup>The Infants’ Home, designed by J.C.P Dumaresq, was built in 1899 at the corner of Tower Road and Inglis Street. It was demolished eight years ago by Saint Mary’s University (see *The Griffin*, 39 (3), September 2014).

<sup>9</sup>Canadian Register of Historic Places, Halifax Drill

Hall National Historic Site of Canada, <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=13395> (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>10</sup>Parks Canada, Directory of Federal Heritage Designations, Halifax Armoury, Classified Federal Heritage Building, [https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page\\_fhbro\\_eng.aspx?id=4372](https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_fhbro_eng.aspx?id=4372) (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>11</sup>Halifax Regional Municipality, Registered Heritage Properties, <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/business/planning-development/Website%20Update%20Dec%202018.pdf> (accessed 2022-11-19).

<sup>12</sup>Adell, Jacqueline. *Armoury, North and Park Streets [sic], Halifax, Nova Scotia*. Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, Report 90-141 (Ottawa, 1990).

<sup>13</sup>Canada’s Historic Places, *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Collaboration (2nd Edition, 2010), <https://www.historicplaces.ca/media/18072/81468-parks-s-g-eng-web2.pdf> (accessed 2022-11-20).

## Once Upon a Time – When a Road Trip Becomes a Fantasy in Oxford, Nova Scotia

*Michal Crowe*

In August, my friend Beth and I decided to take a road trip to explore Oxford. The “Alphabet Store” in Oxford was suggested as a destination for a couple of curious ladies in search of whimsical treasures. The experience was beyond our wildest expectations. Leaving from Black Point, Pictou County, we travelled via the Trans Canada (NS Hwy104). It is a long drive and it seemed we would never get there. Arriving in Oxford, at first we found the town to be small, with little to see except for the frozen food plant, few stores, and a pub for food.

### **A discovery**

Then we found GJDE Enterprises on Water Street. The building was purchased in 1974 by George Mosher, but now is owned and managed by his son, Eric. The name of the store reflects his family’s names: George and Joan, his parents; Deborah, his sister; and Eric himself. Thus, the “Alphabet Store.” For shoppers keen on the largest range possible of gift items, it takes a while to examine the sweets, craft supplies, clothing, home decor, toys, books, cards, garden ornaments, or seasonal items. I felt I should stand on a turntable and slowly be turned around in order to see everything.

Eric realized that the community needed more than a general store and he has developed a “destination” retail experience that includes preserves, Christmas ornaments, whimsical gifts, and treasures galore. As there is so much to see and admire, we were in the shop for almost an hour, pausing periodically to chat with the owner. There was a treasure trove of items from which to choose, plus a knowledgeable and enthusiastic owner to discuss our purchases. Truly a shopper’s dream.



*Beth Skerrett, Eric Mosher, Michal Crowe in the store (courtesy Beth Skerrett)*



*Vintage photo of street façade at 24 Water Street (courtesy Eric Mosher)*



Vintage interior view of the store (courtesy Eric Mosher)

**There was more**

Beth and I are keen gardeners, so inevitably talk turned to gardens. At that point Eric asked if we would like to see his garden. We all popped out the back door, but the first thing in view was a well maintained, magnificent, old barn. So, naturally, we had to look at that first. Recently it has been resettled on a secure foundation by the well-known Rushton Brothers of Pictou County. Evidence of a long life is documented in the barn, with dates of yearly planting of seeds and of weather events (e.g. "Jany 1st 1937 temperature 60°/ ice all out - no snow / Jany 15 no snow ..." [entirely plausible, as ECCC historical climate data record a maximum temperature of 12.2 °C = 54 °F at the Nova Scotia Agriculture College in Bible Hill on that New Year's Day - Ed.]).

The gardens are extensive and include nooks for resting, pathways, a vegetable garden, a dry stream bed, a grape arbour, and a large area under improvement and development.

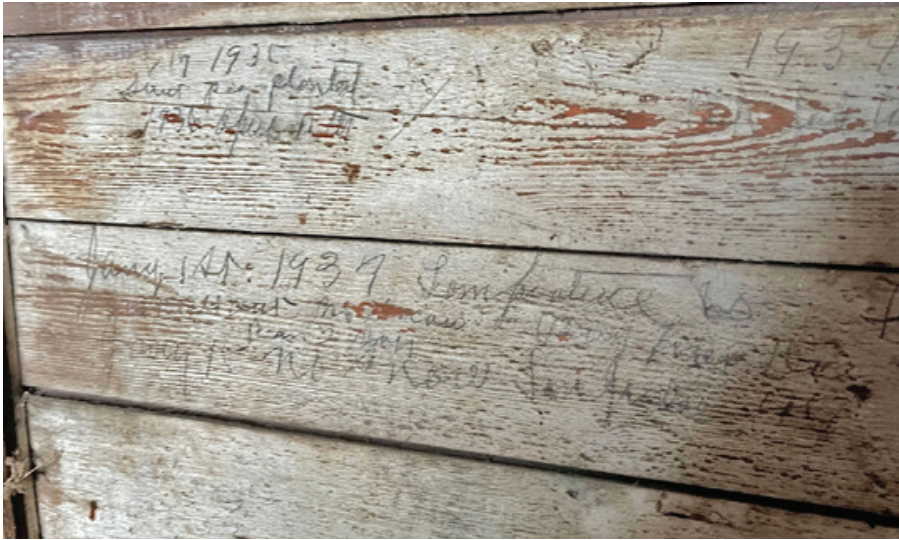
On our way back to the store, we looked up and realized that the build-

ing was more than just a store, as it had three floors. Another "Aha!" moment.

We were informed that Eric lives above the store, as he did whilst growing up. And upon questioning, we learned that the third floor was a theatre. It seemed we had stumbled upon a magical place. By this time,

Beth and I were rather hungry and were encouraged by Eric to find lunch at the Sandpiper in the nearby village of Port Philip. The restaurant is set by the beautiful seaside a short drive away and, yes, I would recommend it.

We returned to Oxford immediately after lunch, as Eric had extended an



Inside barn wall, with hand-written dates of planting and weather (author photo)



*Eric at base of upper stairway to third-floor theatre from kitchen box-office window (author photo)*

invitation to view his apartment and theatre. As owner, Eric simply put a little sign on the front door of the store, announcing he was closed for half an hour or so (how charming, in this day and age), and then we were escorted upstairs to see the rest of the building. Our own private tour. We felt so lucky and privileged.

### **Life in the store**

The apartment is well maintained, with an eclectic collection of styles and furniture, and decorated with some of Eric's art. The living room is particularly attractive, with its tall ceilings. The footprint of this room is about half the size of the building.

Eric grew up in the store, owned and operated by his parents. He went away

to study at Mount Allison, earning a BFA, and later at Rochester Tech in New York, for a Master's degree. Needless to say, he helped out in the store while he was young, and knew all there was to know about the business. Eric recounts a charming story of how his father would have a special Easter window display featuring live pastel-coloured chicks for sale.

His mother retired from the business before she passed away in 2011, but his father worked almost until his death in 2013. When Eric returned to Oxford in 1985, he joined the family business. His dad was rather taken aback when Eric announced he was changing it from a general store (devoted to day to day essentials like groceries and hardware) to a gift shop.

### **The theatre**

The current entrance to the theatre is a steep set of stairs to the left of the apartment (formerly on the outside of the building). The stairs were an enticing introduction to the theatre space, which is the entire upper floor. The room smelled of warm wood, dust, and the echoes of past performances.

Eric told us that, in the past, this was one of three theatres in Oxford. In addition to local performances, variety shows, and travelling musicians, interesting speakers were featured also. The projection room, which still exists, is lined in tin to prevent fires. Moving pictures were shown starting around 1913. Admission was five cents, and the ticket window was part of the apartment kitchen.

Although the theatre seats are no longer in situ and the theatre is not in top notch condition, the stage is there. With props, seasonal decorations, and boxes spilling various items onto the floor, the sense of what it had been and indeed what it might be again, was grasped easily. Eric enjoys using the space as his studio, as well as hosting parties and amateur performances. The afternoon sun was streaming through the windows at the back of the building, making the room quite bright and warm; as it was very quiet, we were all immersed in our own thoughts of what had happened in the past or what one could do with the space. Looking at a sequined mask on the floor, it was easy to conjure up what a marvellous evening had taken place long ago.

### **History**

The store had its beginnings in 1897, when A.E. Smith purchased a property from J.H. Reid and created a general store and grocery. Smith's daughter, Bertha, and son-in-law, Leslie Asbell, took over the store in 1942 upon the death of Mr Smith.

Eric's father, George Mosher, purchased the property in 1974 after it had been vacant for some time. It took many years to restore the theatre and half of the shop, as it had been neglected dur-



## *Adaptive Re-Use in Halifax's Downtown Core*



*Third-floor theatre (author photo)*

ing its vacancy. More information can be found in a history of Oxford by Wendy Hargreaves Hunter<sup>1</sup> and a recent book by Mike Parker on general stores in Nova Scotia.<sup>2</sup>

Looking ahead, Eric has great visions for the future of Oxford. His part of the change is the construction of a bistro and garden centre next to his store. The previous building on the lot was Fowlers Barber Shop, which has been demolished. Work on the bistro was halted due to the scarcity of labour and building materials imposed by Covid. The work is expected to recommence in the spring.

### **Reflection and thanks**

This summer travel adventure is not an in-depth look at the history of Oxford, the architecture of the town, nor indeed the history of this building. It is about the discovery of a hidden gem of Oxford history – of Nova Scotia history – standing in plain sight and how an old building can become the kingpin of the community. Its history was discovered by us quite by accident, simply because we were open to discussing garden-

ing, exploring a heritage building, and sharing time with someone who has a great deal to offer. Appearances can be deceiving, and it makes me wonder what other exciting stories are waiting to be discovered in other buildings around the province.

Grateful thanks are extended to Eric Mosher for his time, for his stories, and for sharing the history of his home and property with us. An ordinary day was transformed into a memorable experience to share with others.

*Michal Crowe is a member of HTNS and the Editorial Committee. She is a frequent contributor to The Griffin.*

<sup>1</sup>Hunter, Wendy Hargreaves. *Oxford – Recollections of a Small Town 1791-1991* (Oxford, NS, author, 1991), 87 p.

<sup>2</sup>Parker, M. *A Little of Everything: General Stores of Nova Scotia – Remembering the Old Days, Old Ways* (Lawrencetown Beach, NS, Pottersfield Press, 2022), 260 p.

Two significant projects are underway along Barrington Street in downtown Halifax, adding residential units into historic streetscape anchor buildings. As reported in *AllNovaScotia.com*, Steve Caryi is wrapping up work on the former National Film Board building, originally the Saint Mary's Young Men's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society Hall, at civic number 1572. This project with architect, David Garrett, has inserted 21 residential units into the structure, the façade of which was saved when the building was largely destroyed by fire in 1991. This brick building with decorative sandstone elements on a granite base was designed by J.C.P. Dumaresq and erected in 1891. It was designated a municipal heritage building in 1985.

Mr Caryi has now applied for permits to convert the historic Freemasons' Hall at 1533 Barrington Street to partial residential use. This remarkable 1924 Beaux Arts building, designed by S.P. Dumaresq, was refurbished by Mr Caryi, again with architect David Garrett, after he purchased it in 2008. Also a registered municipal heritage building, it is an important landmark structure in the precinct of Saint Mary's Basilica and Glebe House across the street. Occupying an entire block face on Salter Street, the building's Barrington Street façade has strong neo-classical elements, described in a staff report to the Heritage Advisory Committee (23 July 2008)<sup>1</sup> as having "six sandstone pilasters surmounted by a frieze and entablature, creating a classical temple effect." This report outlined the proposed exterior alterations undertaken to repurpose the building to Class A office space. The current proposal is to convert the upper two floors to residential units.

<sup>1</sup><http://legacycontent.halifax.ca/boardscom/hac/documents/HACRptforJuly2308.pdf>

# Mahone Bay Centre: from Old School to Vibrant Community Centre

*Bob Sayer*

It's an extraordinary success-against-the-odds story. In 1914, the citizens of Mahone Bay supported the building of a grand, almost monumental, new school. The pride of the community. In 2001, Town Council put the neglected and dilapidated building up for sale in the expectation of commercial/industrial development. The only takers were a group of citizens who believed the old building was worth preserving and upgrading. They bought it for \$1. There followed a brilliant example of both community commitment and leadership, and of successful adaptive re-use of a community building.

## Mahone Bay Academy

There are two sections of building, representing two phases of development: the original 1914 school and the early 1960s addition.

Boehner Brothers of West LaHave were the selected architects in 1914. They were also builders and subcontractors, who built their own materials, including doors, sashes, mouldings, and church, bank, and other furniture and fittings. They were sawmill owners, and also had a shipyard. They were used to designing and building on the grand scale. Their work included the Liverpool Court House, the East LaHave Church, and St Anne's Church, Glace Bay, among other public and commercial buildings throughout Atlantic Canada.

*In 1914, the citizens of Mahone Bay supported the building of a grand, almost monumental, new school.*

The school was built amazingly quickly. The school trustees' call for tenders was completed in April 1914. They appointed respected local builder-carpenter, Warren Eisenhauer, to supervise construction. He worked very closely with Fred Boehner and various subcon-



*Mahone Bay Academy, date uncertain (courtesy of the author)*

tractors. There were regular notices of progress in the local papers. The *Bridge-water Bulletin* of June 9th reported, "The contractors for the Academy finished the concrete foundations on Saturday and the carpenters will commence work the latter part of the week."

The community had approved the building of the new school after a series of public meetings, followed by a specially called vote of local ratepayers. The trustees raised the \$18,000 building costs by selling \$100, \$500, and \$1000 debentures at 5% interest paid half yearly. The *Halifax Chronicle* called it, "A splendid bit of financing ... This perhaps is a record in Nova Scotia."

The school opened in September 1914. It was a classic of its time. The building was a good example of combined Italianate and Second Empire architecture, with a grand entrance and central bell tower surrounded by a steep-sloped mansard roof and cornices. The wood-shingled exterior was defined by large symmetrical windows with bracket hoods and sills. There are fine interior staircases, quality wood-

work everywhere, spacious corridors and cloakrooms. There were two side stair entrances: one for boys and the other for girls. Philip Lohnes (long-time mayor in the 1960s and 1970s) recalled being strapped for daring to use the wrong entrance! The bell that was to toll over the town for some 50 years was ordered through Sears: a No. 28 from the American Bell Foundry Co. of Michigan. It was transported by train and ship, and hauled into place by block and tackle with a team of horses or oxen.

*The school was built amazingly quickly. ... call for tenders was completed in April 1914 ... The school opened in September 1914*

The original central part of the building, well preserved, is still an impressive sight for visitors. In 1984, seventy years after the original work, the school board received a report on the state of the building prepared by W.N. Horner & Associates Consulting Engineers. It is interesting to read their comments on the old section. It gives an indication of the



Mahone Bay Centre, showing 1914 Academy building and part of the 1960s addition (photo courtesy Peter Delefos)



Aerial view of the Mahone Bay Centre, showing both parts of the building (courtesy of the author)

resilient work done by the 1914 builders, and of present and ongoing challenges the Mahone Bay Centre took on.

*The original three-storey timber frame structure was well constructed in its day with large timbers and generally superior grade materials ... There is a large unfin-*

*ished attic space with a bell tower ... The floor systems are of narrow strip hardwood ... The building, while basically structurally sound, has sustained direct water damage through chronic wall/tower leakages as well as window condensation and infiltration, resulting in some decay of wood.*

The second major phase of construction, a new wing attached to the northeast side of the school, was completed in 1961. The architect was J. Philip Dumaresq of Dumaresq & Associates, Halifax. The builders were Acadia Construction Ltd of Bridgewater. There had been a huge amount of public discussion. A "Public Meeting of Ratepayers" had been called July 25th, 1960. The Town Council minutes record that "approximately 40 ratepayers attended... Councillor Beazley explained in detail the proposed plans for a new addition...and also the cost involved...several questions were asked...answered by Councillor Beazley." A Plebiscite was called (and carried) with the following question:

Do you approve of the proposed borrowing...of a sum not to exceed...\$180,000 for the purpose of erecting an addition to the present school building consisting of six academic classrooms, administration block, auditorium, chemistry laboratory, provi-



*Going at it in the Gym (courtesy of the author)*

sion for Home Economics and Industrial Arts?

Unfortunately, in times of fiscal struggle for the Town, the project was under-budgeted, and frugal decision makers cut out the two last named specialist classrooms, and had the auditorium-gymnasium built cheaply with a floor of tiles glued on concrete. The Horner Report of 1984 described the new section (extended to 10 classrooms in 1985) as being "... of lower quality materials ... The addition (has) extensive wood decay and decomposition in roof eave/wall interfaces, exterior doors and windows in particular, in a very advanced stage indeed. Moisture is present in exterior walls as is obvious by plaster dampness, crumbling, and several sections falling off."

The writing was literally on the walls. The building was deteriorating and needed extensive repair and upgrading. Despite modest improvements that followed the report, the "old school" was in poor shape when, in the late 1990s, the school board announced it was to be closed as soon as the construction of

a new one was completed. The formal closing came in June 2000, marked by a well-attended final reunion celebration.

### **Proposed disposal**

The building's ownership reverted to the Town of Mahone Bay and the community debate began. The Town rezoned the property to allow for redevelopment for "a range of commercial and light industrial uses," and requested proposals. The county paper headlines included: "Mahone Bay School for Sale" ... "Former school property up for grabs." The fear of losing the building was such that the 2000 Reunion Committee determined, at the least, to save the bell. It was removed from its tower and, refurbished, placed in the new school library.

### **The Mahone Bay Centre**

When no commercial development offers were received, Town Council reluctantly turned the deed of the property over to the Mahone Bay Community Centre Society, "desirous of establishing an Arts, Cultural and Community Centre." The low-risk agreement, with stipula-

tions on investment and improvements, was negotiated at the princely sum of \$1.

So began over 20 years of extraordinary growth and success. They started with the struggle just to survive: to clean the building; to stop the leaks in roof, windows, walls, and toilets; to pay the enormous heating bill; to find tenants. They proceeded through major triumphs in building improvements, acquisition of major grants and donations, the large-scale involvement of volunteers, and the attraction of a full house of tenants. And most importantly, winning the hearts and support of the community and Town Council.

There were key milestones of achievement. Financial stability, sound business planning, and a stable range of rent-paying tenants created the conditions for improved banking services that included a mortgage and line of credit. The Centre's application for registered charity status was approved and donors could be given tax receipts. The Town granted regular tax exemption as its ongoing contribution. A major breakthrough was the successful application for large ACOA grants. They were used for a new roof and a complete overhaul of ventilation and heating systems. All this was accompanied by thousands of hours of volunteer 'grunt' work that included pulling down ceilings and walls, stripping and laying new floors, painting, and decorating. Success breeds more success and confidence. The building acquired such respect that a number of families donated funds to have particular rooms upgraded and named after family members.

Among the list of adaptive improvements and achievements are:

- Installation of 109 new energy-efficient windows; blown-in wall insulation; insulation panels laid on attic floor; new furnace with baseboard heating and room thermostat controls.
- A major auditorium-gym renovation that included new lighting and painting, and replacing old tiles with cushioned wooden flooring. A dark and dingy space was replaced by a bright

venue for dances, drama, and film presentations, concerts, conventions, festivals, large public and private meetings ... as well as for the local soccer and other sports organisations. A real 'before-and-after' transformation!

- Reorganisation of old classrooms for particular needs, by: combining two to create a large conference room; subdividing others to provide studios for artists; making a fitness centre and community kitchen; restoring original ceilings in original 1914 part of the building; redecorating meeting rooms and installing acoustic boards.

- Attraction of a wide range of permanent renters, plus (pre-Covid) some 60 local organisations being regular or occasional renters.

The building is still a work in progress, with maintaining authenticity always a prime concern. The very latest (2022) projects include a \$146,000 grant that enabled conversion to geo-thermal heating and cooling systems. The most recent news was a provincial grant towards replacing 150 m<sup>2</sup> of very old (perhaps original) shingles on the back wall.

The Centre is officially declared The Heart of the Community. Long may it keep beating!

*Bob Sayer is a longtime South Shore educator, historian, and columnist. His third book, Mahone Bay: from Mi'kmaw Treasure to Town of Talents, will be available in December 2022. He is an inductee of the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame and the Canadian National Soccer Hall of Fame. He can be reached at bobsoccer66@eastlink.ca.*

## Clyde River Church Survives Fire

On the morning of Friday 9 July 2021, the tall steeple of St Matthew's United Church in Clyde River, Shelburne County, was struck by lightning and set on fire. The call went in at 8:42 am and the fire crews had to come from Shelburne and Barrington (23 and 12 km, respectively). By the time they arrived, the belfry and steeple were ablaze. Happily the fire was extinguished. There was water damage, but the church was saved.

Built in 1875, this striking Gothic revival structure, with fine decorative detail in good condition, was built to replace the earlier Presbyterian church (dating to 1838, which was then used as a temperance lodge, and burned in 1959). There was discouragement and

talk of demolishing the church after the lightning strike, but a community group came together, the Clyde River Society and Cemetery, with the goal of saving the much-loved community landmark. It has been a major struggle to acquire the building, to resolve bureaucratic and insurance challenges, and to bring in the funding required, but the small pyramidal cap being installed on the tower now will keep the rain out and allow the church to be retained.

Thanks to Craig Hutchinson for the photo and information. The Society's Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083162538829>



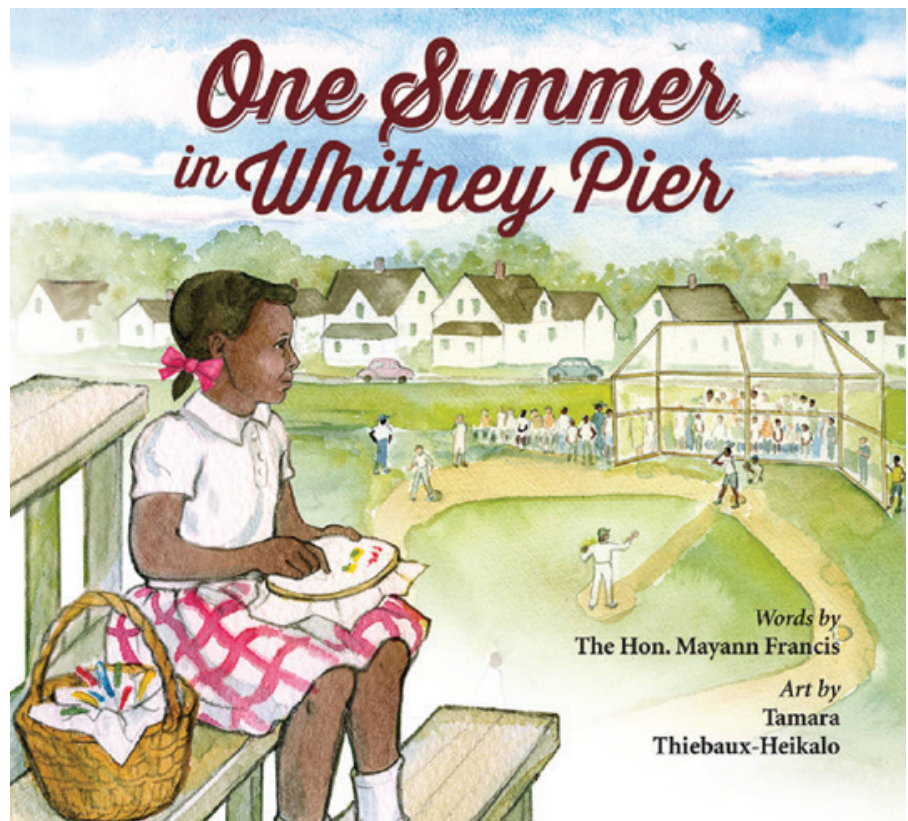
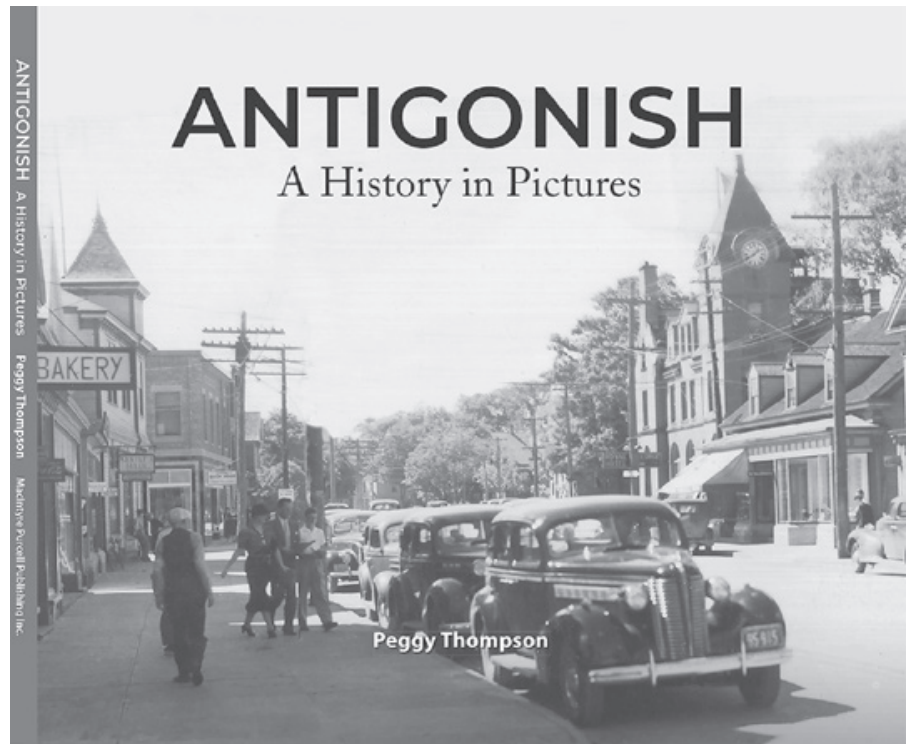
## Gifts of Reading

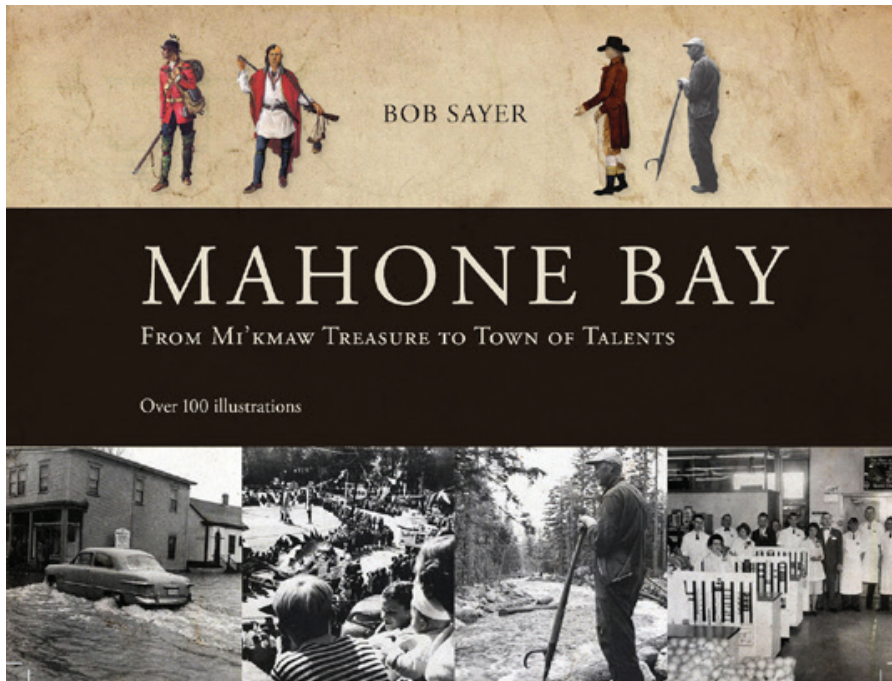
There is nothing quite like finding a new book under the Christmas tree. If you are looking at your shopping list and trying to find the perfect present for your family or a friend, look no further than your local book store and Nova Scotia authors.

Trust members may have a particular interest in those featuring architecture or the history of a house, but houses are located in towns and villages and there is a wonderful mix in the new books. Everything from Joe Ballard's *Sketches of Historic Truro*, illustrated with charming drawings by Minette Murphy (Nimbus; this book was featured in our June 2022 issue), to a book titled *A Little of Everything: General Stores of Nova Scotia*, by Mike Parker (Pottersfield Press). And then there is Peggy Thompson's *Antigonish: a History in Pictures* (MacIntyre Purcell Publishing). Administrator of the Facebook group Old Photos of Antigonish Town and Antigonish County, she has assembled what has been described as the definitive photographic record of Antigonish.

During the settlement of Nova Scotia, villages sprang up in locations driven by the proximity to water, either rivers or the sea, or near mines or other resources. Some survive to this day as thriving or not-so-thriving rural communities; others ultimately dwindled and died. Historian Joan Dawson has captured some of this vanished history in her earlier books, such as *Nova Scotia's Lost Highways, the Early Roads that Shaped the Province* and *Nova Scotia's Lost Communities, the Early Settlements that Helped Build the Province*, to name but two from a lengthening bookshelf. Earlier this year, we were treated to yet another, *Nova Scotia's Historic Inland Communities: the Gathering Places and Settlements that Shaped the Province* (Nimbus).

There are dozens of books on discovering our province through travel, a real inspiration to explore a waterfall or scenic view you have not visited before. Getting to your chosen desti-





nation will take you through new and unfamiliar territory and you will be able to gather new memories of our beautiful countryside.

Although not published this year, two books from 2019 are worth consideration. Len Wagg's *Nova Scotia from the Air, Then and Now* (Nimbus) likewise caters to the nostalgia in all of us. Speaking of nostalgia, *The Legend of Gladee's Canteen - Down Home on a Nova Scotia Beach*, by David Mossman will bring back memories of summer snacks at Hirtle's Beach on the South Shore. Sisters Gladee and Flossie showed their father that women can be successful entrepreneurs.

For young people, you might consider a delightful new memoir by the Hon. Mayann Francis, former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Titled *One Summer in Whitney Pier* (Nimbus), this is the story of a young girl's lonely summer turned community success. As reviewed by Lisa Doucet in *Atlantic Books*, "Francis's warm and loving ode to life in a small community, where friends and neighbours are akin to family, deftly

captures a spirit of place and time."

Author and broadcaster, Laurent d'Entremont has a new book, hot off the press, *The Man in the Wrinkled Suit*. This is his seventh book relating stories from the Acadian Pubnico area (available from the author for \$25, including postage, at PO Box 72, Lower West Pubnico NS BOW 2CO). And Mahone Bay historian Bob Sayer, author of the article on the Mahone Bay Centre in this issue, has a new book out this month entitled *Mahone Bay: From Mi'kmaq Treasure to Town of Talents*. Also self-published, this will be available from the author (bob-soccer66@eastlink.ca).

During the pandemic we have been exhorted to "Buy Local." Now is the perfect time to do so, thus supporting our burgeoning pool of authors, local publishers and, of course, our bookshops. Merry Shopping, Merry Reading, and Merry Christmas to all.

– Michal Crowe

## The Man in the Wrinkled Suit

More timeless stories by  
a long-time storyteller



– Laurent d'Entremont

### Helen Creighton Folklore Society Grants-In-Aid-2023-2024

For thirty years, the Helen Creighton Folklore Society, through its Grants-in-Aid Committee, has supported a variety of folklore/historical research projects and activities across Atlantic Canada. Projects have included an Oral History methods workshop in Sherbrooke Village, the digitizing of marine records in Shelburne, and much more. These projects can make important contributions to Nova Scotia's intangible heritage.

For more information, go to: [www.helen-creighton.org/activities/grants-in-aid/](http://www.helen-creighton.org/activities/grants-in-aid/)

## An Arrival at the Bridgewater Station

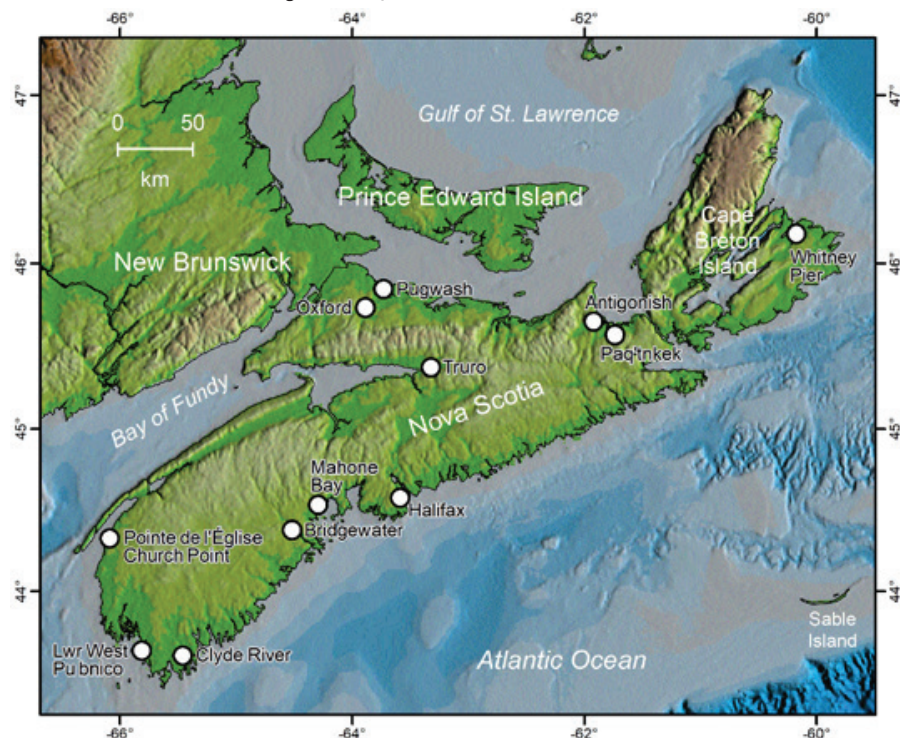


We assume it was the train arriving from Middleton on a summer afternoon that drew this crowd, but something more was going on, as the presence of the militia suggests. The boxcar has Nova Scotia Central Railway livery, which implies a date prior to purchase of the NSC by the Halifax & Southwestern Railway in 1902.

The station opened in 1889 for the line from Middleton through Bridgewater to Lunenburg. It remained in service until 1976. Sadly this magnificent building burned down in 1982.

Photo and colourization courtesy of Paul Harmon (using MyHeritage), original with permission from Richard Pernette. Thanks to Michelle MacRae of the DesBrisay Museum for archival assistance.

### Locations of subject matter in this issue



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