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# *The Griffin*

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## **Door of Annapolis Royal's historic Sinclair Inn opens on 300 years of NS history** *by Taunya J. Dawson*

The door of the Sinclair Inn is a gateway to over 300 years of history. The Inn is located at 232 Lower St. George Street, the oldest main street in Nova Scotia, in the former colonial capital of Annapolis Royal. Today the Inn stands in the centre of a National Historic District containing over 135 designated historic homes. The Sinclair Inn is unique among the buildings in that district due to its early Acadian origins. The known

history of the Sinclair Inn is a combination of primary source records and secondary research, but, like many old buildings, it also includes a fair amount of unsubstantiated local folklore.

The current Sinclair Inn is a structure composed of two buildings. According to Barry Moody's research, the first building, fronting on St. George Street, was

*Continued overleaf*



*The Sinclair Inn is labelled "Anderson" in this vintage picture of the oldest main street in Nova Scotia, Lower St. George Street, in Annapolis Royal. The building to the inn's immediate right no longer exists.*

probably built around 1710, before the British occupation of Acadia. The second, larger structure, to the rear of the first, was probably built at some point between 1690 and 1710, although records are inconclusive regarding this date.

The builder and original owner of the first building was Jean Baptiste Soullard, a silversmith and gunsmith from Quebec. The Soullard family built it as a family dwelling. Soullard's wife, Françoise Soullard (*née* Comeau) was born in Port Royal in 1694, and died in Montmorency, Quebec, in 1717, by which time Soullard had presumably returned home to Quebec. The house then passed through several hands, including those of one James Whitehouse, whose wife Rebecca was licensed in November 1746 "to sell strong drink." The "Soullard House" would be open to the public in one way or another for most of the next 250 years.

Local traditions abound regarding the early history of the Sinclair Inn. The first Masonic Lodge meeting supposedly took place in the building in 1738. The then Governor-in-Chief, Erasmus James Phillipps, established the Lodge, consisting primarily of officers of the British garrison. According to Ruth Eisenhower's notes, guests at the Inn included Boston silversmith Paul Revere, French Shore missionary Abbé Jean Mandé Sigogne, and writer Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

Planter immigrant Henry Evans' diary indicates that on 25 June 1760, some of the 45 Planters who arrived on board the schooner *Charming Molly* stayed initially at the Inn. Later on, in 1783, Loyalists fleeing persecution also stayed there. As there are also records from the same period of Loyalists living in Saint Luke's Church and under canvas at Fort Anne, there was clearly limited room at the inn, and we may assume that those who could afford it got it. The early history of the second building still remains a mystery. No known documenta-

tion has survived on the origin of the structure. It is believed that it was built before the Soullard house. The physical evidence of its origins is in the exterior wall cavities, which contain "wattle and daub" fill, a mixture of mud with interwoven twigs or straw. This building technique was widely used by both Acadians and early New Englanders, but later gave way to more sophisticated methods. Moody notes that Annapolis Royal has the only other known examples of this type of wall cavity fill in Nova Scotia.

Local tradition claims that William Skene, a regimental surgeon who arrived in Annapolis Royal with the British Forces *circa* 1714, occupied the house. The principal piece of evidence regarding its origin is a painting of Annapolis Royal *circa* 1757 depicting a building described as "The Skene House". Moody observes that the Skene House bears a striking resemblance to the rear part of the Inn. The location in the painting however is obviously not the current location, suggesting that the second building was moved to its present location at some point between 1757 and 1781. A number of other houses in Annapolis Royal have similarly been moved over time from their original locations.

The current combined structure was created *circa* 1781-1782, when Frederick Sinclair connected the two buildings to create an inn containing approximately seventeen rooms. He made some additional changes, adding a second storey to the second house and placing a new roof over the entire structure, giving the Sinclair Inn its present Georgian symmetry. We know little about Sinclair although he is referred to as "Colonel" by Eisenhower and as "Mr" by Calnek. Calnek tells us that, during Sinclair's ownership from 1791 to 1793, the "large room below stairs" was used for the superior and inferior courts of sessions.

The term "hotel" first occurs in 1842, when the property was pur-

chased by Thomas Gavaza and renamed the Provincial Hotel. It would later be renamed the Farmers' Hotel and the Annapolis Royal Hotel. It was clearly not an easy business to run – the building was in sheriff's hands three times (perhaps coincident with the name changes!). Eisenhower notes that, even in 1850, it was referred to as "a seedy establishment", and had difficulty competing with rival businesses such as the Queen Hotel (destroyed in the 1921 fire) and the Commercial House (opposite the Hay Wharf). The building, however, was used as a hotel throughout most of the 19th century.

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## *The Griffin*

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Please send your submissions to  
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# Meeting House restoration instills student carpenters with appreciation for heritage construction *by Molly Titus*

Every day when I drive, cycle or walk to “downtown” Port Medway and Amena’s Port Store to pick up the mail, I pass the Port Medway Meeting House, the jewel of the village. In the fall of 2001, the building was decked out with figures of young men from the carpentry class from the Bridgewater campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. I had to find out how and why they were there.

I went to Chris Georghiou, an active member of the Medway Area Heritage Society, to find out. He and his wife, Pam, were out one evening at the home of the head of the department of Trade and Technology at the college, Stephen DeLong, when Chris asked what the carpentry students do for practical training. The answer was made to order! On a first-come, first-served basis, the class likes to donate its labour, under instructor Paul MacLellan’s leadership, to one or two non-profit organizations. The Port Medway Meeting House, part of the Medway Area Heritage Society’s responsibility, fitted the description perfectly. The end result was that a class of around 19 students worked to replace sills and shingles and to remove rot, saving whatever lumber they could.

These students are being trained in the latest techniques and are preparing to be part of a workforce which is mainly employed in constructing the large housing units one sees springing up in all Canadian urban centres. I was curious about how they regarded the kind of work they had contributed to restore our Meeting House. So, after class one day, I met with instructor Paul and four of the students, Alex Zwicker, Matthew Leneten, Evan Uhlman and Adam Barnes—names to remember.

Their responses were very similar to those of any one of us who has cared enough to restore a heritage building—a mixture of frustration and pleasure. Recognition and respect for the original builders in 1832 went hand in hand with a conviction that today’s methods are superior. Adam remarked that, whereas today boards are nailed together to form beams, the motto of the day seemed to be “the bigger the lumber the better.” The construction, such as the use of four-foot centres, was crude compared with today. But details such as “the very nice full-length curved ceiling” in the Meeting House showed that the original carpenters knew what they were doing and had an eye for style. Adam’s words that today’s houses are turned out as with a “cookie cutter” and that “back in the 1800s it was all personality” revealed a disarming empathy for a heritage building. The collegiate style of pews, the post-and-beam construction of the platform, and the use of birchbark instead of tar paper were eye-openers for these future masters. They were impressed with the community effort which would have gone into a building like this—after a day’s work volunteers would go to the site to do the heavy work of initial construction, and later the skilled workmen would add the finishing touches. They acknowledged that they had gained an appreciation for the finish carpenters who expressed a unique styling in their cornerboards and mouldings. They felt that builders today should copy the aesthetics of buildings like this one, where the finishing touches counted for more than the structure itself. As Evan said, “They put more

effort into ‘customizing’ their work.”

One or two of the young men had been involved with previous commercial projects adapting old buildings for new use and knew the complications, but when I asked whether they thought there was merit in restoring old buildings, there was a resounding “yes.” “Once they’re gone, that’s it,” said Alex. Matthew added that the destruction of old buildings is a personal loss to people who have always known them. It’s a loss of “something they loved. It takes away their memories, their pride and joy. They want to walk down the street with their kids, telling them the stories of each building.” Filled with enthusiasm, Matthew would sooner “fix an old heritage building to enjoy seeing it for many years.”

Instructor Paul MacLellan summed up the experience by stating that, just as he has been shaped “by every nail I’ve driven,” the work on the Meeting House will, for the students, be “a memory always...more memorable than installing vinyl siding.” Some practical information came out of this time with the students.

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*Student carpenters from the Nova Scotia Community College, Bridgewater campus, at the Port Medway Meeting House they helped repair.*

# Built heritage gaining recognition for its value as an economic driver

by Brenda Shannon, NS Governor, Heritage Canada Foundation

The value of our built heritage will always be found in the sense it gives us of our history, how our forebears lived, and the skills, beauty and practicality they brought to their physical environment. But today people are also beginning to appreciate the economic value of built heritage. As reported by Molly Titus, Anthony Lamplugh and Graeme Duffus in an earlier *Griffin*, the 2001 Heritage Canada Conference, Preservation Pays, looked in detail at the economic advantages of preserving our built heritage. This year's conference will refine this even further by zeroing in on the role that heritage plays in attracting tourists.

And what better place to hold a meeting on the importance of built heritage to tourism than Nova Scotia? This year's conference, 26-28 September, will be based in Halifax with a day-long visit to Lunenburg, our UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the South Shore to find out first-hand what makes a community a tourist destination and what it is that attracts people to come, stay and spend their hard-earned vacation dollars. As has often been said, visitors don't spend these precious dollars to visit high-rise towers or strip malls.

Tourism in Atlantic Canada is big business. In Nova Scotia the Department of Tourism and Culture 2001 estimates show revenues of \$1.22 billion and employment for some 33,500 people, many of them students.

Cultural tourism is an ever-growing part of this market. Visitors are looking for more interesting and challenging vacation experiences. Nova Scotia, with its historic cities, towns and villages, varied outdoor and cultural opportunities and gorgeous scenery is well-positioned to take advantage of this trend.

Mayor Peter Kelly of the Halifax Regional Municipality has graciously agreed to host the conference opening ceremony in Halifax Hall, and the Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture, is the host and keynote speaker at the first luncheon. The women of St. John's Church, Lunenburg, will be putting on a traditional chowder lunch in their historic church hall, formerly the court house, which is now providing space for services while the church is restored and rebuilt following the disastrous Hallowe'en fire.

Heritage walks of Halifax will be featured, and key speakers from Canada and the US will

share their experiences and expertise on the impact, importance and growth potential of built heritage to this important economic sector. Time for questions and answers is built into the schedule.

A dinner in the Halifax Citadel will also be offered. Conference goers will be able to choose between the elegance of the North Magazine or the rough-and-ready Soldier's Library. A wonderful heritage setting and major tourist attraction for a conference finale!

I would like to thank enthusiastic Trust members Peter Delefos, John Lazier, Betty Pacey, Joyce McCulloch, Judith Fingard, Pauline Hildesheim and Anthony Lamplugh who are undertaking a myriad of tasks in connection with the conference.

The report of last year's conference, Preservation Pays, is now available and is well worth reading. Also available is the paper, "Exploring the Connection between Built and Natural Heritage," which has been very well received and has brought the importance of preservation to the attention of a very different constituency.

To find out more, visit the Heritage Canada web site: [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org), email: [heritagecanada@heritagecanada.org](mailto:heritagecanada@heritagecanada.org) or phone: (613) 237-5987. ☐

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*Students: continued from Page 3*

For one thing, Paul and they say that today's building inspectors need more training in the inspection of heritage restoration. Bodies such as our own Heritage Trust could examine how to help develop this training.

Another interesting bit of information is that next year's community college curriculum will include an "appreciation" course on architecture, and that

seven community colleges in the province will be looking for hands-on, or "self-identified," projects. Heritage groups could really benefit.

As an opportunity to see the Meeting House, "The Port Medway 2002 Summer Readers' Festival" invites you to attend three Saturday evenings to listen to and meet writers in its informal and friendly setting. The dates and names to remember are July 27, William Weintraub, "Remembering Brian Moore;"

August 10, Donna Morrissey, reading from her new novel, *Downhill Chance*; and August 24, Calvin Trillin, reading from his new novel, *Tepper Isn't Going Out*. The time is 7 pm and the cost is \$7, which includes refreshments in the fire hall after the readings. All proceeds go to the Medway Area Heritage Society to be used to complete the restoration of the Meeting House. For further information, or directions, contact the organizers at [readersfestival@portmedway.com](mailto:readersfestival@portmedway.com). ☐

# The Garden Crest Apartments: What went wrong?

## A preservationist reflects on the lost battle *by Elizabeth Pacey*

With the gutting of the Garden Crest Apartments in Halifax, people may be wondering what went wrong with the preservation process. In reviewing the case, I believe I have the answer. What the Heritage Trust and the Friends of the Public Gardens have had to face, since development was proposed in 1988, is a loss of integrity in a case that was based largely on the word "integrity."

Throughout the saga, there was a loss of professional, political, and finally physical integrity. From the beginning, the city's professional staff report went to some lengths to explain away the tenets of preservation contained in Policy 6.8 of the Municipal Development Plan, which clearly stated that any registered heritage building "shall not be altered in any way to diminish its heritage value" and that its "integrity" must be maintained. The then owner, Brenhold Ltd., was specifically applying for the development agreement under Policy 6.8 so that the heritage designation of the Garden Crest could be "used" to allow higher buildings on the site than would be allowed under the 45-foot height limit in the zoning bylaw.

The staff report also deliberately minimized the fact that the development would cast shadows on the Public Gardens in spite of policy directives not to allow the Gardens to be shadowed. Similarly, professionals working for Brenhold Ltd. created two biased studies. The "shadow study" that purported to assess the effects of new shadows on the Gardens left out certain dates and times when the shadows would be at their most detrimental. The "user survey" tried to show that traffic noise was a greater problem in the Gardens than encroachment from the two proposed shadow-producing high-rises, but those who answered the survey ques-



*A notecard depicting the Garden Crest Apartments, Summer Street, Halifax.*

tions were not aware of the pro-high-rise purpose of the survey, which was so well planned that the interviewers were even instructed to make sure that the unsuspecting respondents were not facing high-rises when the questions were asked!

An unprecedented outpouring of public opposition was expressed during the public hearing, which lasted for three evenings. By the slimmest margin, Halifax City Council voted in favour of the Brenhold development. The policies in the Municipal Development Plan that had promised to maintain the "integrity" of historic buildings had not engendered political integrity.

The Heritage Trust and the Friends of the Public Gardens continued, through court challenges, to argue for the integrity of the Garden Crest. Unfortunately Council's favourable vote supported by staff's opinions and interpretations could not be rolled back. It would take a detailed set of conservation standards, passed by Council, to ensure that such "facadism" would not masquerade as "integrity" again.

Accordingly, members of Heritage Trust and the Heritage Advisory Committee were able to get Council to pass appropriate conservation standards, which should govern heritage development agreements and substantial alterations to historic buildings.

As the years flew by, we hoped that the dreaded development would not actually be built during the five-year time limit that was stipulated in the development agreement. But before the time ran out, Brenhold Ltd. got an extension and then sold their land to developer Chedrawe, who had just demolished the registered heritage gas station on Sackville Street. At first Chedrawe tried to get approval for an even larger development on the site.

However, Terry Smith-Lamothe, the chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee, spotted the changes. Then Philip Pacey, former chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, presented a brief outlining how the new proposal violated the development agreement; he calculated that the north tower would be 34% to 40% wider and the south tower would be one

*Continued on Page 6*

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The Sinclair Inn has figured in the development of local transport. From 1828, it was a stopping point for a tri-weekly (later bi-weekly) stagecoach between Halifax and Yarmouth. The fire that destroyed much of the downtown core of Annapolis Royal in 1921 did not get as far as the Sinclair Inn. In 1924, the building included a livery stable (probably in a now-defunct lean-to structure along the southwest side), and was converted to a garage in 1939.

By 1945, the building was no longer inhabited, but part of one of the large rooms downstairs was used by cab drivers from the adjacent St. George Street cab rank. The same room apparently saw service simultaneously as an antique shop. Sadly, by the 1950s, the Sinclair Inn was described by Eisenhower as being “deserted and in a state of disrepair”.

In 1983, the building passed from Heritage Canada to the Heritage Foundation of Annapolis Royal. It is currently owned by the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County (HRSAC) whose mandate includes preserving architectural heritage through rehabilitating historic buildings. It owns and maintains the O’Dell House Museum in Annapolis Royal and operates the North Hills Museum on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Society is actively trying to use the Inn as a living model, providing a unique interpretation of architecture and construction

through the ages. Multimedia displays illustrate the tremendous changes made over the years and the various construction techniques used in the building. Featured construction techniques include the previously mentioned



*The Southwest facade of The Sinclair Inn as it appears today. Barely visible is St. George Street, straight ahead.*

wattle and daub, and typical early eighteenth century riven lath walls, bevelled sheathing and interior post covers. There are also interpretative displays describing many of the former owners and occupants of the building. In 1995, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

Research continues to disclose more details of the past 300 years of history, both in documents and within the building’s foundations and walls. Additional interpretative projects are also under way. The Society is currently attempting to open the second floor and to restore the mural paintings that are hidden behind layers of wall-

paper in the main room. Archaeological explorations are planned for the basement.

The Sinclair Inn is a rare artifact, which offers many insights into houses and building techniques of the Acadian and English inhabitants. It has survived periods of both neglect and development, acquiring successive layers that reflect the richness of our architectural heritage. Many events could have destroyed the building, from British, American, French and First Nations raids throughout the 18th century to the ever-present risk of fire (such as the one that destroyed many nearby buildings in 1921). It is arguably the only building of its kind remaining either in Nova Scotia or the rest of Canada. ☐

*The source materials in this article (except where specified) are taken from the holdings of the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County archives, and from various brochures and other materials produced by the HRSAC.*

#### Selected References:

Calnek, William, *History of the County of Annapolis*, 1897, facsimile edition. Milton: Global Heritage Press, 1999.

Eisenhauer, Ruth, unpublished notes on the Sinclair Inn (ND, circa 1950s). Collection of the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County.

Evans, Henry, “Diary of the Charming Molly”, 1760. Cited at: <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/documents/CharmingMolly1760.html>.

Moody, Barry, “The Sinclair Inn, Annapolis Royal: Origins to 1781”, unpublished paper, 1982. Collection of the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County.

*Crest: continued from Page 5*

storey higher and 26% to 30% longer.

Last summer, members of Heritage Trust met with Mayor Peter Kelly, senior members of the municipal staff, and the developer to discuss the possibility of saving more than just the facade of the Garden Crest. On a number of occasions, Chedrawe said he was

interested in saving more of the Garden Crest, and the senior staff were willing to go out of their way to help him do so. At summer’s end, everything seemed in place for keeping most of the exterior of the Garden Crest.

Now the loss of the “integrity” of the Garden Crest this spring is especially galling when so many negotiated in good faith. Even the decision of the Supreme Court of

Nova Scotia, which said the “balconies will be retained” and that the “windows, casing and doors will be reconditioned and repainted,” has been ignored. Instead of integrity, we have butchery. Our historic capital city deserves better for its visitors and for its citizens. The Garden Crest was a true prototype, the province’s first apartment building and one of the earliest in the country. ☐

# The Bridgewater Heritage & Historical Society continues its watchdog role

by Linda Bedford, Secretary, BHHS

The Bridgewater Heritage & Historical Society is made up of five elected officers and a general membership. We currently have 13 paid-up members, including the officers. Because of our small membership, we are currently meeting once a year and holding extraordinary meetings at the call of the Chairman if the need arises.

The society's objectives are to foster preservation and restoration of historic buildings and sites in the Town of Bridgewater and to

gather and publicize information on the history of Bridgewater.

Our relationship with Town Council is limited. We act as watchdogs for current development projects that affect heritage sites in the town and correspond with the Council when required. We have noted that the Town has recently undertaken some heritage-related development projects. The Veterans' Memorial Bridge was officially rededicated and large signs placed on the entrance and exit of the bridge. When a house on LaHave Street at the corner of the same bridge was torn down, the Town bought the property as a green space for beautification. Shipyard's Landing Park was officially opened on King Street with a docking area for water craft, and a small information kiosk was put in place which will eventually hold information for the visiting public. Murals were painted on the river side of the Bridgewater Mall building, depicting the heritage of shipping along the river and on the Exhibition Buildings depicting rural farm life. A Centennial Trail was opened in 1999 with walking paths and a picnic area for the public.

Our current concerns are the lack of public participation in the Society and lack of awareness among the public of the history of the area. We tried to broaden this awareness by co-publishing in Bridgewater's centennial year, *The History of Bridgewater, 1899-1999: Celebrating 100 Years* in 1999. The book can be bought in the volunteer-run gift shop in the Museum, organised by the Friends of the DesBrisay Museum, who co-sponsored its publication.

Recent successes also include the development of a walking tour. In 1995 members worked on designing a walking tour in the form of a place mat, which was eventually copied and circulated

to local restaurants during the town's centennial celebrations in 1999.

In 1998 we succeeded in having a development plan for a restaurant on the river side redesigned to turn the building around so that views of the river were not obstructed. Members made an appeal presentation to the NS Utilities and Review Board and won their appeal, declaring the Town had contravened its own by-laws regarding structures on the river side.

In 2002 we still do not have enough membership to actively pursue projects which involve manpower. We will continue to act as a watchdog and co-sponsor publications with the Friends of the DesBrisay Museum Society's publication committee. ☐

## NS heritage societies' news exchange: a new series

Linda Bedford's report on the Bridgewater Heritage & Historical Society (BHHS) marks the beginning of a new series in which local heritage societies will have a chance to report on their structure and activities and exchange ideas and experiences. Here is your opportunity to tell heritage-minded people across the province what you have been doing and what your current concerns are. Share your ideas. It's not all about struggles with bureaucracy — the BHHS's walking-tour place mats sound like a great idea! Don't wait to be invited or have your arm twisted. Send your heritage society's news and views to Joan Dawson for publication in subsequent issues of *The Griffin*. As a general guide, we would like to know about your society's organization, objectives, relations with the town council or other municipal body, past successes or failures, and current concerns and activities. Let us hear from you!

[joan.dawson@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:joan.dawson@ns.sympatico.ca)

## Yarmouth's Milton Horse statue and fountain could be relocated

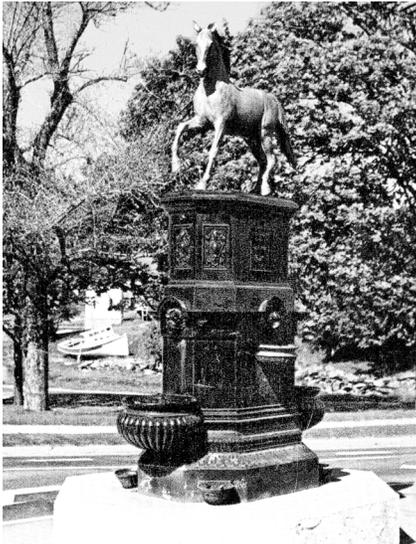
*The following was abstracted from a story by Arthur Porter in the April 2002 issue of "The Historigram."*

The Town of Yarmouth Council is once again commissioning a traffic study, with one recommendation that the Milton Horse statue and fountain be relocated. Not everyone agrees that the old landmark should be moved and a petition by the Yarmouth County Historical Society is being circulated to obtain signatures against such a move.

The statue and fountain was a gift from the town's benefactor, Miss Clara Killam, and designed by a Mr. J.L Mott of New York.

When erected in May 1893 it was quite a splendid structure, both eye-pleasing and useful. Its

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*The Milton Horse Statue and Fountain in Yarmouth*

*Fountain: Continued from Page 7*

primary purpose was that of a public drinking fountain.

At the base of the pedestal there was a drinking bowl for dogs, higher a trough for horses and cattle, and above that a fountain with chained metal cups for humans. The whole was surmounted by a prancing bronze black stallion.

As the automobile replaced the horse, and cattle were cared for in herds, the need for a water trough was reduced. The cups were removed and the faucets replaced by a push-button allowing a flow of water until the button was released, so that until the mid-1920s one could still quench one's thirst from a moulded dog's head.

However, the old landmark has weathered its share of damage and vandalism. In 1961, while trying to clear an access to the hospital during a heavy February snowstorm, the snowplough struck the fountain and the horse crashed to the ground. The dozens of pieces were scooped up and left at the side of the road, destined for the Town Dump. However, at a meeting that night, Town Council took a hand, ordered the Town Engineer to collect the pieces and send them to Lunenburg Foundry for repair, and in due time, the old horse

was returned to its rightful position.

In August 1922 the face of one of the dogs was blown off by a home-made bomb. This also was repaired and replaced. On several occasions the statue has been defaced with spray paint as an initiation prank, but in 1986 a different kind of vandalism resulted in the horse's ears being broken

off. Only one was recovered but another made by the Town Engineer meant that both could be replaced.

The troughs may no longer be in use by animals but Henry Reed of the Milton Improvement Society sees to it that where water once flowed flowers now flourish, every summer, and the old stallion still surveys the passing scene. ☒

—DEB

## HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA Datebook

### Third Thursday of the Month Public Lecture

Unless otherwise stated, a public lecture, part of an ongoing program sponsored by the HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, September to June, in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Parking in the two museum parking lots and across Bell Road at the Vocational School. Everyone welcome. For information, telephone 423-4807.

### Thursday, June 20 Annual General Meeting, 7 pm

Illustrated talk, 8 pm

*Speaker:* Dianne Marshall, Halifax historian

*Topic:* George's Island: The Keep of Halifax Harbour.

*Place:* Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax.

### Sunday, June 2

#### GOLDEN JUBILEE TEA, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 2 pm

The Honourable Myra Freeman, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, will be hosting a *Golden Jubilee Tea* in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. An open invitation to attend is extended to all members of the HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA.

### September 26-28

#### HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE: "Discovering Heritage Tourism", Halifax, NS

Events include an opening reception, talks, the Foundation's Annual General Meeting, dinner at Halifax Citadel, walking tours of the city, and a day trip to Lunenburg for guided tours of Lunenburg World Heritage Site. Conference sessions will be held at the Westin Nova Scotia Hotel.

For details: *Mail:* Heritage Canada Foundation Annual Conference, 5 Blackburn Ave., Ottawa, ON K1N BA2; *Fax:* 613-237-5987; *Web site:* [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org).

# City Rambles: The Grigor House, a Gothic pile that's been a home and a hospital

by Garry D. Shutlak

This splendid asymmetrical L-shaped Gothic brick, stone and wood cottage was erected on lots 245, 246 and 247 in the fields formerly owned by Andrew and John Smith, more commonly known as Smith's Fields subdivision.

John Henry Grigor, a teller of the Bank of British North America, was the son of the Honourable Doctor William Grigor and Catherine Louisa, fourth daughter of James Forman. He married Samuel Locke's daughter Letitia in September 1862. The following month he purchased the land and the following year began construction of the house.

Built by George Lang, the style of the building is strongly reminiscent of "Fernwood," designed in 1862 by architect David Stirling for James Thomson.

Unfortunately J. H. Grigor died at the age of 32, December 19, 1863 at his home at Freshwater Bridge, the former Trider house. The unfinished residence was put up for sale by James Forman, who was appointed the administrator of the estate. It was purchased by George Lang for £1,000 (\$4,000) Mr. Lang was owed \$2,890 by the estate. It appears that Mr. Lang completed the house, adding a stable and coach house to the property. It was purchased in September 1868 by John R. Murray of T. Boggs & Company, hardware merchants, for \$6,200. In 1878, James W. Murray, assistant Commissary General, occupied the house, living there until 1881. The accompanying photograph from the Royal Engineers' fonds/collection dates from this period.

Among the group of other nineteenth century tenants were Louisa M. Morrow, widow of James B. Morrow, Ann Brown, widow of Daniel M. Brown and Alexander M. Little. In 1895, Donald F. Archibald, High Sheriff of Halifax County, took up resi-



*The Grigor house in its heyday. The current owner, Dr. Gaétan Lang, opened the venerable Halifax residence to the public for several performances in the 2001–2002 St. Cecilia Concert Series. The home's civic address is 1067 Bland Street.*

dency and with various members of his family lived there until 1912.

Between 1913 and 1916, the house became the Halifax Hospital for Women with E. Kirk MacLellan, physician, and Millicent Demme, superintendent.

It reverted to a private residence in 1917 occupied by John F. McCarthy, collector at Farquhar Brothers, plumbing and heating contractors. In 1929 Willard W. & Ella Murray acquired the property. Mr. Murray was a sleeping car conductor with the Canadian National Railway until his death in 1936. Mrs. Murray occupied the house until her death in 1964, living there for many years with her daughter Aileen and her husband Royce N. Pitman. The family occupied the house until 1998, a tenure of sixty-nine years.

In 1960, the fourteen-unit "Seaforth" Apartment building was erected on the lawns and gardens of the property. In 1963 the

street address became 5470 Victoria Road and in 1965 it was changed to 1067 Bland Street, its present address.

In recent years the owners have removed the wooden addition which, if not original to the house, is shown on Hopkins *City Atlas of Halifax, 1878*. This addition may have been the coach house mentioned in earlier advertisements.

Another building on the property worth noting is the small stable building on the edge of the property at the intersection of Victoria Road and Bland Street. It became 19 North Bland and was converted into a grocery store in 1898. The street address was later changed to 1069. The first grocer was Samuel F. Archibald who was followed by assorted others until 1988 when it became an interior decorating establishment and in 1996 a tailor shop. In 2000/01 it was converted into a rental unit. ☐

# Programs sponsored by other societies

Many of the following organizations have fax or e-mail. To obtain numbers or addresses, please contact the group concerned by phone.

## ***Amherst Township Historical Society***

Regular monthly meetings are held September to May, the fourth Tuesdays, 7:30 pm in Cumberland County Museum, 150 Church Street, Amherst. Contact 667-2561.

## ***Art Gallery of Nova Scotia***

1723 Hollis Street, Halifax. For full details on Gallery hours, admission, exhibitions, lectures, films, concerts, tours, etc. Contact: Nancy Keating, 424-8935, or the Gallery, 424-7542.

***Until October 2002*** - In the Alice Hoskins Gallery International Art (23) "An Expression of Faith: Sacred Art of Centuries Past", a small Gothic chapel, re-created in AGNS, provides a fitting setting for this exhibition of artistic and historical significance.

## ***Bedford Heritage Society***

9 Spring Street, Bedford, NS, B4A 1Y4.

For dates of meetings/programs, contact Marvin Silver, 835-0317.

## ***Canadian Authors Association - N.S. Branch***

Meets 2 pm, fourth Saturday of the month, September to May, at various venues. Contact: Murdina Skinner, 434-5658.

## ***Charles Macdonald Concrete Hous***

19 Saxon Street, Centreville, NS. Sunday Talks at the Museum are held from 2-4 pm the fourth Sunday of the month. For speakers and topics, summer hours,

details of events and programs, contact Steven Slipp, 455-0133, or Fred Macdonald, 582-7901.

### ***Saturday, June 8***

4th Annual Concrete Golf Tournament and Awards Banquet - Eagle Crest Golf Course and Concrete House Museum.

### ***Sunday, August 24, 4 pm***

Annual Picnic at Blue Cottage, Huntington Point. Bring own chair, plate and cutlery.

FOR RENT. The Blue Cottage is available for weekly rentals during the summer. Rustic, with kitchen, hot water and flush toilet. Contact: 582-7901.

## ***Chester Municipal Heritage Society***

Old Chester Train Station, Box 629, Chester, NS BOJ 1J0. Saturday, August 24, 10 am - 4 pm, Harbour House Tour: 5 houses, tour and tea at Chester Legion Hall, Duke & Union St.; \$20. Contact Duncan McNeill, 275-2482.

## ***Colchester Historical Museum***

29 Yonge Street, Truro, NS. For summer hours, programs and exhibits, contact 895-6284.

## ***Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum***

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth. Contact: 434-0222.

***Saturday, June 15, 4:30 to 6:30 pm***  
Rhubarb Rhapsody - corn chowder, shepherd's pie, dessert buffet of variations on rhubarb. Adults, \$7; children under 10, \$5.50.

### ***Saturday, July 20, 10 am to 3:30 pm***

Garden Day - displays and activities related to gardening; guided tours of museum gardens; demonstrations. Admission Free.

### ***Saturday, July 20 - 2 to 4 pm***

Strawberry Social — strawberry

shortcake, with extra large and light homemade scones, fresh local strawberries, real cream, tea and homemade lemonade. Adults \$6., Children \$5.00

### ***Sunday, August 11, 7 pm***

19th Century Flavours - atmosphere, sounds and tastes of the 19th century. Full course meal based on period recipes. Entertainment. Reservations required. \$25 per person.

### ***Sunday, August 25, 2 pm***

Garden Party - light classical music and songs performed in the Rose Garden. Afternoon tea, buffet style, with a variety of sandwiches and sweets. No reservations; tickets available in advance. \$8 per person. Party and Tea in tearoom in case of rain.

The Heritage Farm Rose and Kettle Tea Room will be open from mid-May to mid-October, from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Saturday; noon-4 pm, Sundays and holidays; offering an all-day menu, luncheon menu and afternoon tea. The Tea Room also offers personalized catering services for Sunday brunches, dinners, parties, receptions, showers, etc., for groups of 40 or less. Details: 462-0154.

## ***Costume Society of Nova Scotia***

c/o Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7. Meets 7:30 pm third Monday of the month, September to May. For venue and programs, contact 826-2506 or 429-0790.

## ***Cumberland County Museum***

150 Church Street, Amherst, NS. For summer hours and program details, contact 667-2561.

***Saturday, June 8*** - Museum Day

***Saturday, July 6*** - Garden Tour

*Saturday, July 27* - Heritage Field Trip  
*Friday, July 5-September 15* - Exhibit  
*Saturday, August 10* - Antique Mechanical Fair

### ***Dartmouth Heritage Museum***

100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth.  
For summer hours, programs, special events, contact 464-2300.

#### ***May to September***

"Like a Weaver's Shuttle" - special exhibit celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Halifax Harbour Ferry Service.

***Meeting Space for Rent:*** suitable for meetings, presentations, workshops and classes. Seats up to 50, depending on room use. Ground floor space, wheelchair accessible, washrooms, kitchenette, parking. Equipment available by arrangement- includes tables, chairs, audio-visual, presentation easel, select catering supplies. Fee: \$10.00 per hour-minimum 3 hours rental; weekends and evenings included. Call ahead to arrange room viewing, 464-2300.

### ***Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage***

For details of workshops and programs, phone 1-800-355-6873.

### ***Fort Sackville Foundation/Scott Manor House***

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford.  
For spring and summer events, exhibits, hours, etc., contact 832-2336 or 835-1924.

### ***Friends of McNabs Island Society***

For details about the Oral History of McNabs Island Project conducted by Professor Jim Morrison, Saint Mary's University, and Ron McDonald, Parks Canada historian, contact Cathy McCarthy, 434-2254, or Victor Dingle, 463-4761.

*Sunday, June 2, 10 am to 4:30 pm*  
(rain date June 9)

McNabs and Lawlor Islands  
Annual Beach Sweep and Cleanup - leaving from Murphy's on the Wharf at 10 am.

### ***Fultz House Museum***

33 Sackville Drive, Lr. Sackville, NS.  
For summer hours and programs, contact 865-3794.

### ***Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia***

Programs, time and place of meetings, contact 454-0322.

### ***Kings Historical Society and Old Kings Courthouse Museum***

37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville, NS. For summer hours, meetings, programs, and exhibits, contact 678-6237.

### ***Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society***

Memory Lake Heritage Village, Lake Charlotte, NS.  
Take a stroll back in time through the 1940s, an era of transition. Open daily from June 1 to October 2, 10 am-5 pm; Cookhouse, 11:00 am-5 pm and every Saturday from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm for Heritage Dinners - by reservation only. For prices and details, contact 845-1937.

Eleven buildings have been, or are in process of being, restored to the period 1940-1950, and community volunteers demonstrate and discuss village life in the 40s. Each weekday has a special focus: *Monday* - School Day; *Tuesday* - Gold mining; *Wednesday* - Forestry; *Thursday* - Homestead Day; *Friday* - Fishing; *Saturday* - Community Day; *Sunday* - a quiet day, often with an afternoon service in the church. Reunions, conventions, weddings, birthdays and other special events by arrangement.

*Saturday Heritage Dinners, 6:00-8:30 pm* Each meal based on the food of one of Nova Scotia's ethnic groups. Price \$15.75 plus tax. Pay bar available. Reservations required no later than Friday of that week.

*Saturday, June 22, 10 am-5 pm*  
(rain date June 23) Second Annual Antique Car Show (including the Village's 1938 Nash LaFayette).

*Saturday, July 13 - 10 am to 4 pm* Second Annual Model Boat and Ship Festival. About 50 model ships, including radio-controlled, steam and sailing models; crafted by members of the Maritime Ship Modelers Guild.

*Saturday/Sunday, July 27/28* Webber Family Reunion.

*Saturday, August 10, 10 am-5 pm* Antique Show and Tell. Bring your own family heirlooms. Conservators will be on hand to identify and advise on their care. Stroll through the Village and enjoy various displays of antiques.

*Saturday, August 24, 10 am-5 pm* Family History Gathering. Family history researchers working on Eastern Shore names will be on hand to offer advice and help in making family connections.

### ***Lunenburg Heritage Society***

Activities in the aftermath of last year's burning of St. John's Church on Hallowe'en: details of restoration, fund-raising events, etc., contact Sue Kelly, 634-4565.

### ***Macdonald Museum***

Old Schoolhouse, Middleton, NS.  
For summer hours, exhibits, etc., contact 825-6116.

### ***Mahone Bay Settlers Museum and Cultural Centre***

578 Main Street, Mahone Bay, NS.  
For summer hours, programs, etc., contact 624-6263.

## ***Mainland South Heritage Society***

***May 30, 7:30 pm***

The Mainland South Heritage Society will have noted genealogist and historian Terry Punch as their special speaker at the Captain William Spry Community Centre, 10 Kidston Road in Spryfield. All welcome. For further information, call 479-3505.

***Saturday, June 15, 1:30 pm***

Join members of the Mainland South Heritage Society and CRABapple Mapping Project in a walk of historic Jollimore Village; meet near the boat launch at the Dingle parking lot. Their new brochure, "Historic Jollimore Walk", will be distributed. For further information, call 479-3505.

## ***The Medway Area Heritage Society***

"The Port Medway 2002 Summer Readers' Festival", held in the Port Medway Meeting House (1832):

***Saturday, July 27, 7 pm***

William Weintraub, "Remembering Brian Moore"

***Saturday, August 10, 7 pm***

Donna Morrissey, "Downhill Chance"

***Saturday, August 24, 7***

Calvin Trillin, "Tepper Isn't Going Out"

All programs followed by refreshments in the Fire Hall. Admission is \$7, all proceeds going to the completion of the restoration of the Meeting House. For further information, and directions to the Meeting House, contact the organisers, readersfestival@portmedway.com.

## ***Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society***

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month from September to July, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street, Halifax. For programs and speakers, contact 424-7490.

***Saturday, June 22 (weather date June 29) - 2.5 hours***

Sambro Lighthouse - short boat trip from Sambro Head and visit to the island. \$20 per person.

***Saturday/Sunday, July 13/14 (weather date July 27/28)***

Seal Island Light. Two-day off-shore trip 18 miles out to sea off Cape Sable Island, SW Nova Scotia. \$70 per person.

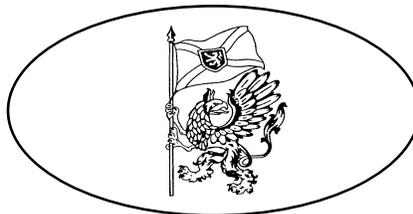
***Saturday, August 17 (weather date August 18)***

East Ironbound Island, Mahone Bay. Cost: TBA.

For details, reservations, etc. on all these trips, contact Dorothy MacLeod, 423-8034.

## ***Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum***

Barss Corner, Lunenburg County. For summer hours, events, etc., contact 644-2033.



## ***Parrsborough Shore Historical Society***

Ottawa House, Parrsboro, NS. For summer hours, exhibits and special events, contact Susan Clarke, 392-2051.

## ***Rockingham Heritage Society***

Information regarding membership, programs, projects, etc., contact 443-3436 or 443-7043.

## ***Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society***

For times, venue, programs, contact Bob Harvey, 864-8666; cell ph.: 483-8666.

***Fall Program***

***18 September*** (Phyllis R.Blakeley Lecture): Jennifer Smith, "Provincial Social Policy During the Stanfield Era."

***16 October:*** David R. Jones, "Acadians and British Policy: Politics in a Military Borderland."

***20 November:*** Malcolm MacLeod and Cameron MacLeod Gibson, "Heaven is Herds and Crops: The Life and Career of Malcolm MacLeod, Regional Farm Editor, 1878-1935."

***11 December:*** Brian Cuthbertson, "The Melville Island Prison."

## ***Sherbrooke Village Museum***

Sherbrooke, NS. Contact 522-2400  
***Sunday, June 9, 2 pm***  
Grand Opening of McDonald Brothers Sawmill.

## ***Waverley Heritage Society***

1319 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley. For summer hours, events, etc., contact Annie Blois Smith 861-2427'

***Saturday, June 1, 9:00 am-12 noon***

Perennial Plant Sale at Waverley Legion Hall, Rocky Lake Drive.

***Fridays, July/August, 2-4 pm***

Friday Summer Teas. Admission free, donations welcome.

## ***West Hants Historical Society***

Box 2335, 281 King St. Windsor, B0N 2T0, ph. 798-4706, fax. 798-8535, email, whhs@glinx.com.

## ***Yarmouth County Historical Society and Museum***

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS  
Unless otherwise stated, the Historical Society meets the 1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm; and during the winter at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday presents a program of Armchair Travels with a variety of speakers and places. Attendance at Society meetings is free, but there is a charge of \$3.00 for the Travel Series. For details of activities, exhibits, and use of research facilities, contact 742-5539.