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The Griffin

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Kent Lodge

By Linda Forbes



On the old Post Road in Wolfville, where it meets an old Acadian path to the Cornwallis River, later the “Ferry Lane” bridle path to the Port Williams ferry, sits a large, elegant but unadorned house in an eighteenth century-style garden. Visitors to the town have taken the house for a museum and the tall, bearded man working outside, for the gardener. In a sense they are not mistaken. Kent Lodge, provincially designated and signposted, is museum-like in its faithfulness to the spirit of the period to which it has been restored by gardener, owner, and retired geologist, Reg Moore and his wife Pat. Research based on the evidence within the Planter house and outside written sources has helped the Moores, with architectural consultants, to decipher the evolution of the building.

The house was begun circa 1761 by a Connecticut planter, John Atwell, with major additions in four stages of development and a final reconfiguring in the 1980s.

However, underlying the west and oldest part of the house is an unconsolidated field stone foundation of dimensions similar to known Acadian foundations, particularly the one at Round Hill, Nova Scotia (ca. 1668) suggesting an older (stage 1) house roughly 17 feet parallel to Main Street and 33 feet parallel to Ferry Lane. The foundation forms part of the south and contiguous west walls of the house and the south and part of the east side of the early chimney. The position of the chimney foundation relative to the house foundation accords with

Acadian tradition, according to discussions the Moores had with Dan Norris, who worked for the provincial Department of Heritage and examined the building around 1980.

Born in New London, Connecticut in 1717/1718 and married in 1749, John Atwell was an original one-share (500 acre) grantee in Horton Township. John Robinson and Thomas Rispin, Yorkshire farmers scouting the province for immigration opportunities, mention a house and barn on the property in their 1774 *Journey Through Nova Scotia*. Atwell does not appear in the province in 1760 but he is recorded as serving on a *petit* jury in 1761. A cabinetmaker and carpenter by trade, Atwell paid for goods, according to a DeWolf ledger dated 1773-85, by “doing carpentry and furniture making”; a list of his cabinetry tools is given in the probate of his estate.

The original Planter house was probably a two-bay, New England salt box colonial such as was popular in Connecticut at the time, according to Dr. Moore. The south-facing house may have had a door off-centre toward the eastern end. Evidence supporting this early form includes a wood post and beam frame with mortise and tenon joints, chamfered beams, and upwardly flaring (corner) posts. The floor joists, round and bark-covered, run north-south, parallel to the sides of the house, at intervals of two to two and a half feet. At the point where the western end’s unconsolidated stone foundation terminates, there is a cellar beam running from the south to north walls. It is flat, marked with adze and axe back cuts, and defines the position of the east or end wall of the original Planter house. This may also be the extent of an earlier Acadian house (stage 1). The plan of the Planter house can be inferred as a common hall with sleeping space above.

In 1774, Atwell drafted a deed of sale of the above property (stage 2 of development), signed in May 1775 and registered in November 1775, to Yorkshiremen Joseph Jackson and James Rimington. The price was 80 pounds. In 1777, using the same property description, the lands and buildings were sold for 130 pounds to Edward DeWolf, son of Nathan DeWolf, a Planter. It is possible that in the interim the first enlargement of the

house was made by Jackson and Rimington (stage 3). Corner posts at both sides (ends) in the front and on the west end in the rear suggest an intermediate, three-bay form before the four-bay form (stage 4) shown in the 1779 elevation by architect Drew Peck. Edward DeWolf sold the property to his brother Elisha in 1780. Again the property description did not change, but the price was 500 pounds, suggesting that further improvements had been made.

Judge Elisha DeWolf was described in *The History of Kings County* (Eaton, 1910) as “the leading man of the village, an important landowner, who built Kent Lodge.” He was at various times a member of the legislature, post master, collector of excise, Justice of the Peace, and assistant judge of the Kings County court; he engaged in agricultural and commercial business and entertained Prince Edward (father of Queen Victoria). During Elisha’s tenure, the main floor joists in the new eastern extension were laid perpendicular to earlier joists (stages 2 and 3). The foundation of this extension is cemented fieldstone. The 1779 drawing shows the south-facing front façade with its off-centre door. On the second floor, diagonal bracing and exterior sheathing have been found where the then-new exterior wall would have formed the eastern end of the house. The foundation for the existing chimney in the original part of the house was extended with cemented stone to the north and a second chimney was built in the eastern part; both chimneys are aligned parallel to the roof ridge. The old roof was lifted and a new roof built to give symmetrical gable ends. The floor plan was probably four rooms on the main floor and front and back bedrooms upstairs.

During Elisha DeWolf’s tenure, the present five-bay form was built (stage 5). Again, the house was extended eastwards. Floor boards in this extension, on the attic level, run normal to the earlier attic floor boards. The newer chimney was also extended to the east, this time on a brick founda-

tion. The main floor bake oven and cleanout of the eastern chimney lie outside the previous eastern limit of the house. Barrel vaulting in brick in the basement crosses the line of the double beam marking the exterior wall of the previous stage (stage 4) and contrasts with the unvaulted cellar supports in the older parts of the cellar. A careful observer will notice that the chimneys are at unequal distances from the gable ends and the position of the windows added to the façade does not repeat the spacing of those west of the entryway. Soft red brick was used as noggin in the end and front foundation walls of this extension. The floor of the last cellar extension was paved with brick and some stone, whereas the earlier cellar is dirt-floored. A summer kitchen, added on the north, abutted the newest part of the house and some of the older parts. Some of the summer kitchen’s fieldstone foundation was exposed during the Moores’ restoration work. Three cranes were found in the cellar, two of which fitted main floor hearths; the third was too large even for the largest fireplace with bake oven. The Moores postulate that it belonged to the summer kitchen hearth.

The house left the DeWolf family’s hands in 1863. Joseph Hea, Principal of UNB in 1860-61, owned it until 1871, when William H O Haliburton, a merchant, bought it. As a young widow, Haliburton’s younger daughter Laura bought her family home from her brother William in 1894. Laura Cunard Haliburton Moore is credited with adding a “modern” three storey wing, to create Kent Lodge. The summer hotel was named in recognition of Elisha DeWolf’s distinguished visitor, Edward, Duke of Kent, who spent a night in the house during his trip from Halifax to Annapolis. The sender of a 1910 postcard to a Connecticut address described the Lodge as “a well kept attractive place popular with the summer people I imagine. The Earl of Kent stopped here once and other notables have favoured it. One of our favorite sunset strolls is by it.” Laura Moore herself was well-known for her civic activities.



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SCOTIA

Unless otherwise indicated, the
opinions expressed in these
pages are those of the contribu-
tors and do not necessarily
reflect the views of
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SCOTIA

Editors: Linda Forbes &
Janet Morris

Contributors to this issue:
Joan Dawson, Garry Shutlak,
Linda Forbes, Leah Terry,
Kevin Ball, Nancy O’Brien

Submissions are welcomed.
Deadline for the next issue:
May 1, 2008

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

Tel: 902-423-4807
Email material to:
heritage.trust@ns.sympatico.ca

She became the first woman in Nova Scotia to hold public office; in 1920, after the franchise was extended to women, she ran successfully for a seat on Wolfville's Town Council. Acadia University owned the Lodge for



Post Card of Kent Lodge: 1910

a short time. The Victorian addition burned, leaving telltale scorch marks on the attic rafters at the east end of the present building. The university sold the house to the Rand family in 1922. One of the Rand children, Austin, was a 1927 Science graduate of Acadia. He participated in field trips to Madagascar and New Guinea, was Ornithology editor for *Canadian Field Naturalist* in the mid-1940s when he worked for the federal government in Ottawa and ended his career as Chief Curator of Zoology at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. When the present owners bought the house in 1978 from Austin's younger sister Alice Rand, they discovered that one of the rooms had been devoted to Austin's taxidermy.



Elevation 1779

During the course of their restoration, the Moores removed a portico (storm porch) and a triangular window or pediment in the attic, both of which may be seen on the postcard. There was some consternation locally when the window was removed. It was a striking feature of the house for years but was deemed inappropriate for the period to which the building was being returned. They added a two storey ell centred on the back, to

house an entry and utility areas, and divided the north-west corner of the main floor in two, to accommodate a study and an interior galley kitchen adjacent to the keeping room. As a result, they were able to keep the latter true to the period, with its large open hearth, crane and bakeoven, hutches and settle. Apart from these additions (and bathrooms tucked away out of sight), nineteenth century modifications have been removed. Victorian wallpaper has been stripped away; the chimneys have been restored to the DeWolf period; more modern doors and mantels have been replaced with locally obtained, period-correct pieces; a cedar roof has replaced the asphalt shingles; and the new pine floor laid in the keeping room has boards of varying widths, pinned with rose-head nails from Newfoundland. A wall in the main floor entryway was returned to its earlier position, narrowing the hall to its present generous width, after the stove that stood in front of it was removed. Unpainted boards up to 21 inches wide clad some interior walls, the second



floor hall and the twisting back staircase. Furnishings and fittings were selected to complement the house.

When the next Planter conference takes place in 2010, a visit to Kent Lodge will be part of the itinerary, as it should be. For not only is it the oldest house in Wolfville, but it stands as an example of the development of the community from the earliest European settlement, if we accept the evidence of the beginnings of its cellar. Beyond that, it is a living record of the dedication of two people to making a family home true to its roots and a beautiful home it is.

The material used for this article was generously supplied by Dr. Reg Moore. Photographs by D L Forbes. Other illustrations are courtesy of Reg and Pat Moore. Photo on page 1 was provided by the Historic Places Initiative. www.nshistoricplaces.ca

GREEN RESTORATION WORKSHOP

By Kevin Ball

On October 22nd, Heritage Trust and Ecology Action Centre collaborated to offer a Green Restoration Workshop, demonstrating that what's good for the built environment is also good for the environment. The day-long workshop consisted of four presentations - two from the heritage conservation perspective and two from the energy conservation perspective - and a guided tour of Ecology Action Centre's recently rehabilitated hundred-year-old headquarters on Fern Street.

The session began with a case study, an account by Wayne Graszko of EAC of his extensive overhaul of his own 120-year-old Halifax row house. The front and back were extended outwards by a few inches to permit more insulation to be installed in the building's envelope, while avoiding thermal bridging (heat conduction that can occur through wooden structures from inside to outside). Many salvaged materials were used, reducing the consumption of energy and other resources. Despite this, and a lot of sweat equity, the renovation of this 27 x12 foot two storey house, with only two outside walls and a roof, cost about \$12,000, partly offset by a significant grant from Energuide. Wayne now has a house that is pleasant to live in and consumes only \$68 worth of energy per month.

Mike Tavares of Yarmouth, veteran of heritage building conservation projects numbering in the dozens, made the next presentation. Appropriately called Restoration Essentials, it surveyed the key aspects of renewing a building's fundamental functions - keeping the rain and wind out and the heat in - using where possible construction methods which are consistent with the building's heritage character. So, for example, Mike has located Nova Scotian artisans who produce wooden storm windows and wooden doors to original specifications, thus preserving the original character while effectively preventing air infiltration, a major source of heat loss. Helpful, detailed and practical methods were described, dealing with heating systems, fireplaces and insulation, and of special interest, how to respect and preserve the plaster envelope in fine houses.

After lunch, Hal Forbes conducted the first afternoon session. Hal has undertaken numerous restoration projects in Halifax, including his own house. While his motivation is heritage preservation, he is a realist who is not averse to preserving the street façade of a building while enlarging the back to make the project financially viable. If a building requires aesthetic enhancement, Hal is not averse, either, to making changes "in the style of" the historic construction period. His talk was particularly useful on the subject of hiring contractors: "Hire people who are of like mind", "communicate" and "know who's responsible" for the budget. Is there a hard price ceiling or is the cost based on time and materials? And when

restoring heritage properties, everything is available. "If you didn't find it, you didn't look hard enough."

Kim Thompson of EAC completed the day with the description and tour of EAC's new (old) Fern Street premises. Little attention was paid to keeping the original character of the building as it had to accommodate the particular needs of a busy office with numerous volunteers and employees. The renovation incorporates both high-and low-tech features. Large solar panels on the roof preheat water, reducing the burning of fossil fuels. Waterless urinals were installed in bathrooms, saving water. Natural finishes were applied to walls, eliminating off-gassing. Numerous other developments in the building attest to EAC's determination to create a functional office space which impacts the environment as little as possible, both in its construction and continuing use.

It was an interesting day. For anyone considering the renovation of a heritage property, or any property, it would be hard to imagine an event which would bring together more expertise and practical wisdom.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Dues

Membership fees are due for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. Send your cheque to our office at: PO Box 36111, RPO Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS B3J 3S9

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Life member	\$500.00

To enquire about your membership, please contact the office at (902)-423-4807 or heritage.trust@ns.sympatico.ca

Old Town Lunenburg: UNESCO World Heritage Site

On 15 November, after the Annual Dinner of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, members and guests enjoyed a fascinating talk by Lawrence Mawhinney, the Mayor of Lunenburg since 1979, on the impact of the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation on the town of Lunenburg.

During his time in office, Mr Mawhinney has seen many changes in the historic town. One of his major achievements, which he modestly attributed to “team work”, was the designation of Lunenburg’s Old Town as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This puts Lunenburg in the same bracket as such sites as the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, the Egyptian Pyramids and the Great Wall of China.

Mr Mawhinney described UNESCO-designated sites as “the historic legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations.” They have outstanding universal values, with distinctive features that are valuable to all. He noted that other Canadian sites were recently nominated for this designation, including the Rideau Canal; nearer to home, the Joggins fossil cliffs and Grand Pré have also been submitted for consideration.

Lunenburg has seen many changes over the years. Established for German settlers in 1753, by the beginning of the 20th century the town had a population consisting mostly of descendants of these people. The prosperous community consisted of about 4,000 owner-occupied residences, and was linked to Halifax by what was considered then a “speedy” three-hour train journey. Originally farmers, many of the inhabitants had become boatbuilders and fishermen and, during Prohibition, rum-runners.

During the last twenty years of the century, the economy saw drastic changes. The collapse of the ground fishery and the reduction of scallop draggers meant that High Liner was no longer a major employer; fishing ceased to be the mainstay of the economy and the supporting ship-building and repair industries also declined.

By the efforts of its citizens, with their well-kept heritage houses, the tourism industry began to fill the gap. In 1992, Old Town was declared a National Heritage District by the Government of Canada. The following year the possibility of UNESCO recognition was explored and the designation was granted in 1994. All this was done by local initiative; the Federal Government owned only one building – the Post Office!

These designations were just the beginning. Lunenburg also attracts tourists by its various festivals – for example, the Boxwood, Folk Harbour and Craft Festi-

vals. The infrastructure needed to satisfy tourists includes signage, accommodation and well-maintained buildings. Provision is made for visiting cruise ships and convention visitors. Special buildings such as the Academy have been maintained, and the Opera House is now being restored.

This success story also brings its own problems. Because of the increased efforts to maintain properties with appropriate materials and to enhance them, property values have risen steadily. There are more seasonal residents, and more pressures for development. Facades of older homes must be maintained, but a balance has to be achieved between the old and the new as “Come from Aways” join the long-established inhabitants. Many residents participated in discussions at a store-front centre where ideas were exchanged, resulting in the development of a sense of community pride. Establishment of heritage guidelines, a heritage home show with local contractors working with natural materials, a heritage carpentry course at the Nova Scotia Community College in Bridgewater, and planning permits that include a “certificate of appropriateness” all encourage home owners to maintain their properties in a suitable and sustainable manner.

The destruction of St. John’s Anglican Church by fire several years ago was a major blow to the town and its heritage district. Once again the local population rose to the challenge, and Mr Mawhinney described the rebuilding and restoration of the church as a tribute to the parish and community, which raised \$6.3 million, with all bills paid and money in the bank for maintenance.

Environmental questions are important; a harbour clean-up initiative was launched in 1997, achieved in 2001, and supported by a treatment plant in 2003. Solid waste management has been in place since 1994.

Adaptive re-use of old buildings is important in a heritage site. The number of school-aged children in Lunenburg has decreased seriously, so the top floor of the Academy is now used by a sailing school. The wharves and industrial buildings abandoned by the Clearwater fish company are being redeveloped as a working waterfront. The waterfront area was saved by local businessmen and by intervention by the Province, which bought up the vacant buildings and is leasing them to their present occupants. Clearwater is even expressing an interest in re-establishing itself in Lunenburg.

All this, including the applications for the federal and UNESCO designations, has been achieved by the town with no extra staffing. Tourism Canada has provided some help, and government money has funded some home improvements, but the town’s budget has remained balanced. The town has its own electrical supply, at a lower cost than the rate paid in Halifax. New business is being drawn to Lunenburg, and the top employer is currently the aerospace industry.

Mr Mawhinney's account is a real success story of a community that came together to preserve what it considered important, in terms of both its economy and its character as a heritage town. He was modest about his own part in the story, but clearly took pride in the observation with which he concluded his talk: "You don't get that in Toronto."

JD

Heritage for Sale \$180,000 269 Water Street, Westport, Brier Island

Offered is the Charles Jones house, located across the road from Westport Harbour. "Charles and his brother Edward purchased the land for the house from Robert Morrell in 1815. Charles and Edward were partners in a prosperous business at Westport. Charles' wharf store was directly across the road from this house. The Jones family was arguably the wealthiest Loyalist family in the County of Digby ... Charles' and Edward's father was Loyalist Josiah Jones (son of Hon. Elisha Jones of Weston, Massachussets)." (See Digby's excellent Municipal Heritage site www.westerncounties.ca/digby for further information.)

The 2-1/2 storey colonial style house was built in 1816. It features six fireplaces, two massive chimneys (each with four flues), six bedrooms and curving narrow back stairs leading to servants' bedrooms on the third floor. There is a 9-ft. brick hearth with 6-ft. fireplace in the original kitchen, complete with beehive Dutch oven. The house has exposed beams in one room and many features such as original doors and locks and bubble glass in some of the older inside windows.



The house is insulated; storm windows are wooden. One wall has new shingles; the other three sides were re-shingled within the last 20 years, as was the roof. There are two full baths, one with tub, one with shower. Large attic for storage space. There is a 20x60

ft. shop in the backyard and also a 20x40 foot in-ground swimming pool (needs new liner). Included in the sale are over 9,000 used books now listed on the Internet and shelved in several of the rooms in the house.

Contact: Caroline Norwood (902)-839-2219

Photos provided by Caroline Norwood



President's Report



The Trust has been busy since the previous issue. In early December, the Trust was one of three heritage groups selected to make a presentation to the Standing

Committee on Finance of the House of Commons. The Trust had sent a series of letters and briefs to the Committee, asking for federal tax credits for the cost of repairing heritage buildings. The impressive event was held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, with Members of Parliament seated around white-clothed tables, a booth for simultaneous translation, and a row of microphones. The presenters, who came from various parts of the country and represented interests like business, the environment and aboriginal affairs, were each allowed five minutes to make a pitch. This was followed by questions from the MPs. Fortunately several MPs showed interest in our proposal, and I was able to chat with them during the break. Subsequently, the County of Annapolis and Halifax Regional Municipality expressed support for tax credits for heritage buildings as well.

The Trust's HRM committee has attended several meetings about "HRM by Design". This urban design exercise is now focused on the original town plot of Halifax and some land to the south and north. In this area there are 170 municipally-registered heritage buildings. These buildings are currently protected in the zoning-by law by height limits, limits being challenged in the urban design process. If the height limits were increased, an owner would see financial benefits in intensifying the land-use of the site by replacing his building. Municipally-registered buildings would be at risk. The views of Halifax harbour from Citadel Hill are also at risk. In mid-January, Elizabeth Pacey and I were interviewed by HRM Mayor Peter Kelly on his weekly program on Eastlink Television. On January 31, Vice-President Mark Stewart, David Murphy and I called on the new provincial Minister of Heritage, Hon. Bill Dooks. Mr. Dooks is from Musquodoboit Harbour and we presented him with a copy of the Trust's book on the Eastern Shore. Again, we asked for money. The Province gives only a maximum of \$500 annually per registered heritage building to assist with repairs, a fraction of the amount available a few years ago. We asked the Minister to request an increase from the Hon. Michael Baker, the Minister of Finance. We also asked him to strengthen the Heritage Property Act and to give preference to heritage buildings when the Province is choosing space for its own use.

Leah Terry, Jill Cooper-Robinson, Janet Morris

and Linda Forbes worked hard so that our first Open House party could take place on Heritage Day, February 18, in the Trust office. Despite rainy weather, cake, coffee and chat were enjoyed by many. The same week we learned that the Ministry of National Defence had called for tenders for the demolition of the century-old buildings at Fort Hugonin on McNab's Island. The Trust and other groups and individuals contacted federal officials and this demolition has now been put on hold. On February 20 and 21, Treasurer Fred Hutchinson, representing the Trust, travelled to Ottawa to discuss the formation of a National Trust for Canada. He met the Minister of the Environment, Hon. John Baird, as well as his Parliamentary Secretary, officials from Parks Canada, and representatives from other Trusts.

On February 25, the Hon. Bill Dooks announced the first provincial heritage strategy. The strategy is the result of work done by the Voluntary Planning Task Force. This group heard many presentations and received hundreds of briefs and letters and made 59 recommendations to improve the protection of heritage. The strategy does not take action on these recommendations, but promises to study them and to implement a number in the next five years. On February 28, Elizabeth Pacey and I met with the new Roman Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Mancini. I presented him with recommendations from the new Religious Buildings Committee of the Trust. Elizabeth spoke about the historical and architectural importance of St. Patrick's Church on Brunswick Street, St. Mary's Boys and Girls Schools on Grafton Street, and St. Mary's Glebe, originally known as the Bishop's Palace, on Barrington Street.

On March 17, Armour Group Limited argued in the Supreme Court that the Peter Martin Building at 1870 Lower Water Street is not a registered heritage building. Many of you have probably eaten in the dining room of Sweet Basil's Restaurant on the ground floor of this building. If Armour wins the case, it proposes to demolish the building and erect a nine-storey office tower. The Trust has been assisting HRM to defend the building.

I would encourage you to fill out the awards nomination form included with this newsletter to bring to our attention outstanding work in heritage. We feel there is much great work happening within the province worthy of recognition through our Awards Program.

As we go forward, I would like to thank all the members of the Trust for your support in 2007 and encourage you to renew your membership. I look forward to working with you in 2008.

There is much to be done!
Sincerely,

Phil Pacey

**Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
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**Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
PO Box 36111, RPO Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3S9 CANADA**

Built Heritage Award Nomination Form
Deadline May 15, 2008

Each nomination must include a completed nomination form, accompanied by the required supporting documents. Please submit your application to the Heritage Trust office by the deadline listed above. Please provide sufficient information to support your nomination; lack of complete details could render an application ineligible. Special consideration is given to projects involving an adaptive re-use of a heritage building.

Nominated Property (name of property):

Name & Address of Owner:

Owner's Telephone/Fax/E-mail:

Address/Location of nominated property:

Name of nominee (s) if other than owner:
(any two members of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia may submit a nomination)

Category: (Circle one): Residential Built Heritage / Commercial Built Heritage

Signature of nominee:

Consent of Owner (if other than Nominee):

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents for this Heritage Trust award are to be presented in a three-ring binder, or other manageable format.

The nominator should include:

- Research and/or photos used in support of the interior and/or exterior restoration.
- A series of photos representing the restoration project before, during, and at the conclusion of the project, with explanation as necessary.
- Architectural plans - original plans, if available, and alterations to the building during the project.
- Letters in support of the nomination (if any).
- A written summary of why the nomination is deserving of a Heritage Trust Built Heritage Award.

The Changing Face of Truro

By Janice R. Zann

With the opening of the newly revamped Inglis Place (formerly Inglis Street) at a cost of \$30,000, the first stage in the multi-million dollar makeover of the town of Truro has begun. While Ekistics, the firm hired for the purpose, turned thumbs down on pedestrianizing of the street, the newly surfaced sidewalks, trees, faced granite blocks for seating, and attractive light fixtures are a definite improvement to downtown.

Part of the makeover is to highlight the old Normal College and to beautify its surroundings. This architectural jewel, designed by Halifax architect Henry Busch, opened in 1878 for the training of Nova Scotia's teachers. It continued to do so for 143 years. However, there are still worries as to its future. Collier International, the firm hired to assess the building for adaptive re-use, will release its findings in February. Town Council is firmly committed to its restoration. Their main concern, of course, is the cost involved. The firm of MacFawn & Rogers was hired to oversee the work, but the finding of the necessary funds is a major concern.

Once a suitable use has been found for the Normal College and its restoration completed, along with the removal of the present Library, it will be an outstanding sight from Prince and surrounding streets. This will be so especially with the planned re-creation of the original heritage gardens of 1878 leading up to it.

The Regional Library on Prince Street, constructed in 1968 directly in front of the Normal College, has proven no longer suitable for the much more diverse functions of a modern library. Therefore, the Town is considering a design by MacKay-Lyons and Sweetapple Architects for a facility on the corner of Prince and Young Streets, which would be more than twice the size of the present building. It would occupy the space created when Truro's Civic Centre was demolished, and would entail the removal of the old Fire Hall. The latter's façade would be retained and incorporated into the new building.

Sadly, another empty space has been created downtown by the demolition, after a fire on a cold December night in 2006, of the beautiful 1893 Queen Anne Immanuel Baptist Church on Prince Street. This space will soon be occupied by a block of 27 apartments. This was the plan even before the accidental fire caused by squatters who were living in the former church. The owner had been unable to obtain

insurance for it.

By late 2008, two new elementary schools will have opened, replacing the five existing schools. Two of the replaced schools, Willow Street and Alice Street, are landmark buildings with long histories, remembered (mostly) fondly by many adult Truronians. One would hope that these buildings will be converted into housing units, rather than having them torn down. Attempts to have them registered have so far been unsuccessful.

The construction of a new hospital will commence in the very near future. This will result in still another vacant building. With the acute shortage of accommodation in nursing homes for seniors, it would seem sensible to convert the present hospital for such a purpose. I know of two successful examples of such hospital re-use in Ottawa and Sydney, Australia.

Truro has lost many of its historic structures over the past twenty years, including Colchester Academy, Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the former Immanuel Baptist Church, and the small Irving gas station built in the 1920s on Inglis Street. We cannot afford to lose the provincially-registered Normal College, the finest of Truro's remaining heritage buildings.



The Village Street of Mabou

The final lecture of the 2006-07 series was given after June's Annual General Meeting by Jim St. Clair. Jim spoke about a topic very dear to his heart: the fate of unassuming old buildings in small communities with dwindling populations. The examples he took were the buildings on the main street of Mabou, in Inverness County, Cape Breton.

The community of Mabou came into being through the efforts of William McKeen, an ancestor of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia of the same name. McKeen established the settlement in the mid-nineteenth century when he came to the area from the mainland. The main highway from Port Hastings originally bypassed the village site, but McKeen established a store at the head-of-tide at the mouth of the Mabou River, while his brother operated a sawmill higher upstream. From these beginnings, a planned village was laid out by a surveyor named McKenzie, designed with the buildings facing the highway and with their backs to the river. Only as the village began to expand was a bridge constructed over the river.

Jim took us on a virtual tour of the village street, examining some of the early buildings. One of the first to be constructed was a hotel, designed to house visiting merchants. It was added to over the years, and at one time had a ballroom where elegant New Year's Eve parties were held. Across the street was the Cameron house and general store which, along with the hotel, originally dominated the village street. This building has been made into apartments, and nothing is left of the original interior. One of the earliest structures is the kitchen of an uncared for, uninhabited house with chimney stack in the basement for three fireplaces, that dates back to the 1840s-50s. Nearby is the house once owned by Flora MacDonald's great-grandfather, also falling into disrepair. Once an elegant house, its front door boasted top and side lights, and the house itself had three upstairs fireplaces. Another old building was once a grog shop, then a general store, a carriage and wheelwright's shop, then a store again; today it is a bakery by the name of Shining Waters. Between 1860 and 1870, another store was built by Peter Smith, which later became an auditorium; today it houses the Bridge Museum.

A number of buildings in Mabou were once owned by the MacMillan family. One of them, two buildings deep, is now run as a pub by women of the Rankin family. It retains much of its original structure, as it was when constructed in 1853-54 and operated as a store by the MacMillans. It is a narrow commercial structure, and has seen many uses over the years. It is well maintained by its present owners. Another MacMillan building started life as a tailor's establishment, with a house for the owner and a section where his apprentice

worked. It, too, is well maintained. Across the street is a building dating from 1871 in the Greek Revival style but with altered windows. Once owned by a McPherson of Cluny, it is now home to the MacDonalds. Another Greek-Gothic style house built by the MacMillans has seen changes to its windows and other alterations.

Away from the main village street, two buildings on a back street were built for a shoemaker and his apprentice in the 1870s. With Gothic-style peaks, one is parallel to the street, the other at right angles. Mabou's businesses in the late 1800s also included two hotels and a building to house workers on the newly constructed railroad.

There was plenty of business in the late 1800s and the community prospered. Each family had a barn behind the house and kept a cow, which was taken every day by one of the children to a pasture at the end of the village street. At the turn of the century, when the merchants were most affluent, several houses were built on a grand scale with verandahs, and a new hotel was built in 1915 which later housed students attending school in Mabou. In 1920 a building was constructed to serve as an agricultural hall for western Cape Breton. It was designed by Leslie Fairn, and has survived so far because of its distinguished architect.

William McKeen, the founder of the village, had a house outside the village, where he raised his 24 legitimate children. (He is reputed to have had others). Clayton Farm is now a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

Jim stressed that many of the buildings in this once-prosperous village are now suffering from either insensitive alteration or neglect. Each one has a story to tell, but a dwindling local community, lack of funds and lack of awareness make preservation difficult. He urged Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to consider mounting a conference on built heritage that would encourage the appreciation of vernacular architecture not only in Mabou but in other rural communities.

JD

Elliot & Hopson: the Sydney Year

By Garry D Shuflak

I have previously written about this firm and its work in the Towns of Amherst and, in particular, Windsor after the Great Fire of 1898, where they were the architects of choice for many of the citizens of that community. The firm of Elliot & Hopson was created in 1895 when Dartmouth-born architect Edward Elliot (1828-1901) took English architect Charles H Hopson into partnership. Edward Elliot was an active architect practising in Halifax and Dartmouth. Halifax City Hall, Point Pleasant Park gates, and the Nova Scotia Furniture Building, Barrington Street, are the most notable examples of his work. The firm grew with the 1897 addition of John W McKeil as draughtsman; in 1898 with the additions of Frank M Burton and Edward Hopson; and in 1900, with Charles R Thorne. Richard A Johnson joined the firm in 1902.

Elliot & Hopson was the only Halifax firm of architects to locate in Sydney, opening its office in 1900 in the Commercial Bank Building. With the exception of Mr Elliot, all members of the firm lived from time to time in Sydney. The earliest example of the firm's work there was the Presbyterian Church in North Sydney in 1900. The following year the firm designed the residence for the curate of Saint George's Anglican Church and the town hall in Sydney and a North Sydney high school. The firm also oversaw construction of the Renaissance-style Bank of Montreal building on the corner of Dorchester and Charlotte Streets. Mr J A Taylor of Taylor and Gordon, Montreal was the primary architect.

After Mr Elliot died in 1901, the firm changed its name to Hopson Brothers. The firm lost the services of Charles R Thorne, its chief draughtsman, due to illness the same year. Frederick M Burton left the firm to start his own practice in Sydney the following year. In the fall of 1902 Richard A Johnson became a junior partner in the firm. The next year Messrs Hopson left Sydney and removed to Alabama. When the Hopson brothers left Nova Scotia, R A Johnson took over the firm with offices in Halifax and Sydney.

Charles H Hopson (1861-1941) was trained first in Reading and later in London. He moved to America in 1885 to practise in Philadelphia and Newark, before coming to work under Elliot. He returned to the United States, working in Washington, DC and marrying Mary Groves of Selma, Alabama in 1894. The following year he became Elliot's junior partner. In 1903 he moved to Selma, where he practised for 12 years before moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1915. He also worked in Indiana and Pensacola, Florida. Church architecture was his specialty. He designed Ponce De Leon Methodist Church (1915) and Rock Springs Presbyterian Church in 1922.

John William McKeil (1878-1937) was born

and raised in Halifax. He removed to Selma to work for Charles H Hopson in 1903. By 1909 he was a partner in the firm of Chambers, McKeil & Company.

Like his older brother Charles, Edward G or H Hopson (1877-19__) was born in Reading. At the age of 22, he enlisted in the C Battery of the Royal Canadian Field Artillery and served in South Africa (December 1899- January 1901). He returned to Elliot & Hopson in 1901. After 1903, we have no idea of his whereabouts.

Frederick M Burton (1872-1940) was born, raised and educated in Halifax. The son of J W Burton, he gained practical education as an architect working in Canada and the United States between 1893 and 1895. Returning to Halifax, he joined the firm of Elliot & Hopson. He moved to Sydney when the firm opened its office there and after Mr Elliot's death, opened his own firm. In 1903 he returned to Halifax and opened his own offices. After 1906 he was associated with the firms of Harris & Horton, H E Gates, and W M Brown. He was engaged by the Halifax Shipyards from 1919 until 1925, when he was employed by C A Fowler. In 1930 he went to work for the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests where he stayed until 1933. We know of no building that he designed in his own right.

Charles R Thorne (1881-1914) was born and raised in Dartmouth. He apprenticed with Edward Elliot and opened his own firm in 1906. He was moderately successful designing residences and stores in Dartmouth and in 1912, opened offices in Halifax. He won the competition to build Hawthorne School but unfortunately, he died before the school could be built. For many generations of Haligonians, the old Halifax Ferry Terminal was his best known building.

Richard A Johnson (1871-1949) was born in Nova Scotia, the son of Anglican clergyman Richard Johnson. He was apprenticed in 1889, most likely with Edward Elliot. After a couple of years he removed to Boston where he practised with a number of firms, becoming chief draughtsman of architect W G Preston, before returning to Halifax and becoming a junior partner with Elliot & Hopson. In June 1903, R A Johnson formed a partnership with R B Whitten. Johnson's offices in the Harrison Building, Barrington Street closed in 1920 and he moved to the same Hollis Street building as H E Gates. During the remainder of his life he taught periodically at the Nova Scotia Technical Education Office or worked with Walter J Busch. Johnson designed the A M Bell Building, Granville Street, one of the first openly concrete buildings in Canada; the fire station at the corner of Prince Street and Bedford Row, now McKelvie's Restaurant; the Burbidge Apartment Building, Spring Garden Road and Robie Street; residences on Young Avenue, Henry and South Streets and Coburg Road; and a large addition to Oxford Street School. In Dartmouth, he designed Christ Church's new Parish Hall (1906), the

concrete French Cable Company building (1914), and in 1920, the New Emmanuel Church, Windmill Road and Christ Church, Woodside (St Albans), Woodside.

The following buildings are associated with the firm:

- 1900 Saint Matthew's Presbyterian Church (Wesley United), North Sydney
James McVey Building, Charlotte Street, Sydney
Engine House, Sydney
- 1901 Anglo-Gothic Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Bridgeport
St Joseph's Catholic Hospital, Glace Bay Manse, Glace Bay
Bank of Montreal, Sydney
Curate's residence, Saint George's Anglican Church, Sydney
Town Hall, Sydney
Publicover Building, Charlotte Street, Sydney
High School, Sydney Mines
Alterations and renovations to Falmouth Street Church, Sydney
New Court House, Sydney
Club House and reading room, Blowers Street for Saint Joseph's Church, Sydney
Plans for a Colonial-style residence for Mr Shields, general manager, Dominion Coal Company, Sydney
- 1902 Three storey glass, pressed brick and stone Falconer Building, Charlotte Street Sydney
Two storey W A Forbes Block, Charlotte Street, Sydney
Brick residence for Graham Fraser, Sydney Mines
Three storey glass and marble building for Captain John Carlin, Charlotte Street
Union Bank Building, North Sydney
- 1903 Three storey brick building for Angus McLeod Block, Sydney
Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Charlotte and Townsend Streets, Sydney
- 1905 New church for Saint Andrew's Congregation on the corner of Main and Queen Streets, Sydney Mines
Saint John's Presbyterian Church (United), Port Morien
Hospital, Glace Bay
Manse, Glace Bay

For additional information on Richard A Johnson we suggest you read the entry in *Architects of Nova Scotia: A Biographical Dictionary 1605-1950* by Maud Rosinski. For additional information on R B Whitten see the above book or my article in the last issue of *The Griffin*.



St. Joseph's Hospital



Union Bank



St. Matthew's Church

The Struggle to Bring Halifax its First High School

David Sutherland, recently retired professor of History at Dalhousie and President of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, delivered the Trust's February lecture. His topic was Halifax's first high school, which was established in the building that now stands on the north-east corner of Sackville and Brunswick Streets. The construction was begun in 1878 and classes began the following year. This represented a delay of over 10 years since the Legislature had passed the Free School Act designed to make education more accessible to the general public.

There were many reasons for the delay in providing a public high school for the citizens of Halifax. Sir Charles Tupper wished to create "county academies" throughout the province, except for areas such as Pictou where there was already an established school, although that was in fact not free. In Halifax, too, there was already a secondary school in place, the Halifax Grammar School. It was an exclusive institution, begun by Loyalists and chiefly serving the Anglican establishment. Despite receiving a subsidy from the government, it was not subject to the School Commissioners. Under its headmaster, Edwin Gilpin, it had built up a large endowment fund, but the school itself left much to be desired. When it moved from its original quarters on Barrington Street to new premises on Spring Garden Road, Gilpin lived in the house while classes were held in the barn, which lacked the most basic facilities. The school provided an old-fashioned, Anglican-oriented curriculum to about 60 male students from the age of 13 upwards.

The move to provide a more universally accessible school came from the Rev. George M Grant, a Presbyterian who, in 1874, addressed the Nova Scotia Education Association on the need for reform in the system, advocating higher standards, better salaries for teachers and fewer, but better, schools. His words were heeded, and a meeting was held in Halifax to discuss implementation of his ideas. It was agreed that a public high school should be established to provide education beyond the level of the common schools.

It was still some years before Halifax benefited from a new secondary school. The Halifax School Association was created to lobby for the new school and for an elected school board to replace the appointed commissioners. But the authorities feared that this would lead to sectarian strife; a functional system of separate Catholic and Protestant common schools was already developing and they had no wish to disturb it. In 1874, the Association's draft legislation for an elected school board died on the order paper. But a better system for an appointed board, with rotating membership lasting three years, was instituted and by 1876 attention was finally shifted to the acquisition of a new high school to replace

the Grammar School.

The reformers wished to see legislation to divert the \$20,000 in the Grammar School's endowment fund towards the new school. The Bishop and the establishment objected, but eventually a compromise was reached. The city would take over the endowment fund; the Grammar School would cease to exist; Edwin Gilpin would be offered the headship of the new school or a pension; and scholarships would be established for poor but deserving boys (no girls were admitted at this time). Other students would be charged \$40 per annum.

Further delays were caused by the problem of the location; the site had to be both central and cheap. From several proposals, the site on the corner of Sackville and Brunswick Streets was chosen. Objections were raised because of the unsavoury reputation of that area (known as "Knock-him-down Row"). The board said it was being cleaned up and the derelict property was bought for \$7,500.

The architect selected to design the building was Henry R Busch, who also designed the Normal School in Truro, and a contract for construction went to Robert Brunton. It was a large building, with eight big classrooms on the first and second floors, as well as cloakrooms, offices and a staff room. There was also a science room with a sliding wall opening onto a laboratory; the top floor had an assembly hall with capacity for 500 people. The basement housed a gymnasium, janitor's quarters and a suite for the school commissioners. There does not appear to have been a library and David has been unable to determine where the lavatory facilities were. The projected cost had initially been \$29,000 but the final bill, including furnishings, came to \$45,000.

The cornerstone was laid with full Masonic ceremonies and a band playing, in July, 1878, but the mayor's speech was washed out by a rainstorm. Construction went ahead, and the school opened the following year. Gilpin was appointed Principal, with three assistant masters. The science master held a PhD from Heidelberg; with good teachers and an up-to-date curriculum, the school offered a five-year program for boys of 13 years and up. Graduates who had completed the program were deemed eligible for college and several of the early graduates went on to Dalhousie.

Despite the intention to offer "free" education to the deserving poor, a relatively small number of students received these scholarships. Most of the students were the sons of merchants, professional men, civil servants and the military. Enrolment remained at about 100 for some years. Girls were not admitted until 1885, when students from the county were also admitted. The school was renamed Halifax County Academy. It served the families of Halifax for over half a century.

JD

Programs Sponsored by other Societies

Acadian Museum & Archives

898 Hwy 335, West Pubnico
April 2, 7:30-9:30pm Acadian Kitchen Party
May-October, Hand carved ducks exhibit
Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm Craft demonstration
Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday, except July, August & December
www.museeacadien.ca

Black Loyalist Heritage Society

May 17 10am-3pm, Annual auction & plant sale, Birchtown Community Centre
June 7-8 7pm, St. Paul's Church, Birchtown Museum Days: Ardyth & Jennifer, 18th Prince of Wales dancers. Desserts for sale, \$10.00 adults/\$8.00 students
Many more events are planned.
Contact: 875-1310

Cole Harbour Heritage Society & Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth
April 6 1-5pm Beading Workshop \$5/person
May 11 Mother's Day Tea 1-4pm \$8 adult/\$5 child
Contact 434-0222
www3.ns.sympatico.ca/farmmuseum

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth (former home of Dr. Helen Creighton).
January 25-April 26, The Roaring Twenties: From Flappers to Rum-Runners
Contact: 464-2300.

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage

1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, NS
For information on upcoming workshops call: 423-4677

Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, Lunenburg

2008 Season May 17th-October 18th

Friends of McNabs Island Society

March 29 Dinner & Silent Auction, Call Faye Power, 443-1749

Highland Village Museum

Iona, Cape Breton
May 1 Gaelic Day
May 17 Songs in Spring
June 1 Season Opening Day
June 9 St. Columba's Feast Day
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/hv>

Halifax Citadel National Historic Site

2008 season opening May 7
Regular firings of the noon day gun (every day except December 25)

Local Council of Women

989 Young Avenue, Halifax
Information: 422-8485
Notice: George Wright's 1904 house is available for rent for special occasions.

Mainland South Heritage Society

Meets the last Thursday of each month from Sept to May, excluding Dec., Captain William Spry Community Centre
June 14 10am-noon Guided walk to historic Rockingstone, meet in the parking lot of the Captain William Spry Community Centre
Watch for news of our summer/fall festival of events at Fleming Park & Sambro (celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Sambro Lighthouse)

Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1679 Lower Water Street, Halifax. All programs are held at the Maritime Museum, 424-7490.

Nova Scotia Archaeology Society

Meets at the NS Museum of Natural History, Summer Street
March 25th, Commemorating Beaubassin & Fort Laurence National Historic Sites: Public Archaeology in a Contested Landscape. (Charles Burke, Parks Canada)
April 22nd, "A Traveler's Guide to the Windsor Road, 1818: Based on the Maps of John Elliott Woolford". (Joan Dawson), speaker.
May 27 "New Sites & Future Visitors: An Update from Mi'kmaq". Leah Rosenmeier, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

Pier 21 National Historic Site

March 12-April 19th Greeks of Halifax. An exhibit organized by the Greek community of Halifax, including a photo exhibit, stories, costumes, artefacts and more
April 23rd 7-9:30pm, California Wine Fair in support of Pier 21, tickets \$45.00, call 425-7770

Rockingham Heritage Society

April 23rd 7:30pm Guest speaker Jay Underwood "Nova Scotia Railway", Rockingham United Church Hall, 12 Flamingo Drive. For more info: 443-2064

**Royal Nova Scotia
Historical Society**

Meets third Wednesday of the month, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 7:30pm; each session begins with a short business meeting, followed by a presentation. For more information contact The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society P.O. Box 2622, Halifax, NS B3J 3P7, website: www.nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs
April 16, 6:30pm, Annual Dinner, Dalhousie University Club, Paul Bennett, "Thunderclap of Reform: Hilda Neatby's So Little for the Mind & the Halifax Grammar School Experience 1953-1958". Please contact David Sutherland for more info: 454-6557)
May 21, Judith Fingard, "Re-imagining Africville c.1850-1950"

**Scott Manor House/Fort
Sackville Foundation**

15 Fort Sackville Road, Bedford.
Information: 832-2336
April 12, 6:30pm Bedford Heritage Dinner (pot luck dessert). Speaker Clary Croft

Sherbrooke Village

Sherbrooke, NS 522-2400
June 8, Sheep Shearing Day
June 14 & 15, Museum Day

**Urban Farm Museum
Society of Spryfield**

The Society meets the second Monday of every month at the Captain William Spry Community Centre, 7:30pm
May 17, Plant Sale 10am-Noon, Captain William Spry Community Centre
Contact info: 10 Kidston Road, Halifax, NS B3R 1M8, Marjorie Willison, President 477-6102
E-mail: mwillison@ns.sympatico.ca

Waverley Heritage Museum

1319 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley; Open any time by appointment. Annie Smith, Curator: 861-2427, would be happy to show people around.
The Heritage Society meets the second Tuesday of each month

Wallace And Area Museum

13440 Hwy 6, Wallace
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm, Sat. 1-4pm.
(902)-257-2191
e-mail: remsheg@auracom.com

**West Hants Historical
Society**

West Hants Historical Museum, 281 King St., Windsor. Contact 798-4706
May 1, 7:30pm AGM, 281 Kings Street, Peter Landry, Topic: "The Lion & the Lily: History of NS 1600-1760"; lunch follows
May 29, The local Homeware store: special sale, tax-free day, lunch, door prizes. Tickets \$5.00. All funds will go to the Society which plans to restore the façade of the building.

Wolfville Historical Society

Operates Randall House Museum, 259 Main St/. Wolfville, Contact: www.wolfvillehs.ednet.ns.ca

**Yarmouth County Museum/
Historical Research Library**

22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, NS
Meeting: first Friday of the month; Armchair & Travel series; second Tuesday of the month in the gallery: watercolours (\$3/person)
Feb 9-April 5, Bruce Jaqhard, carvings
Jan 8-April 15, William Wilson
Cowell

**Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
Illustrated Public Lectures
Spring 2008**

April 17, 7:30pm
**"George Ramsay 9th Earl of
Dalhousie"**
Speaker: Dr. Marie Elwood

May 15 7:30pm
**"The Day the Ships Came In.
Port Williams Inland Port of
the Valley"**
Speaker: Ken Bezanson

June 19th AGM 7:10pm
(lecture to follow) 8:00pm
**"Exposée on the moving of the
Malagawatch Church"**

**All lectures take place at
the Museum of Natural
History, 1747 Summer
Street, Halifax**



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

**THURS. JUNE 19, 2008 AT
7:10PM
MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY (BASEMENT
LEVEL) 1747 SUMMER
STREET, HALIFAX,
NOVA SCOTIA**