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The Griffin

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President's Report

The Griffin

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

Unless otherwise indicated,
the opinions expressed
in these pages are those of the
contributors and do not
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Nova Scotia.

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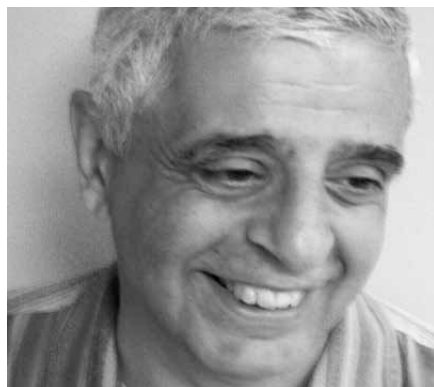
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We welcome submissions.
Deadline for the next issue:
November 1, 2011

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Peter Delefes

Each year, at least one of the Board's regular monthly meetings is held outside the HRM. These 'out-of-town' meetings enable us to become better acquainted with heritage issues across the province and provide a forum for individuals and groups to share information with the Trust about projects and activities in their communities. This past year we had two such meetings: September's meeting was held in Avondale and our June meeting was held in Sydney.

The Sydney Board meeting was held on Saturday, June 11 at the Whitney Pier Historical Society Museum, a modest wooden building rich with artefacts illustrating local history. On the previous evening, a reception for representatives of heritage groups and other arts and cultural organizations was held at St. Patrick's Museum. (Formerly St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church, built 1828-30, this lovely stone building was a Maronite church from 1912 until 1950 and has been a museum since 1966.) Following the Saturday meeting, also attended by Cape Breton Regional Municipality representatives, Tom Urbaniak led fellow Board members on a tour of the CBRM. Members visited New Waterford, Lingan, and Glace Bay, stopping along the way at the historic St. Alphonsus

Church, The Glace Bay Heritage Museum located in the former Town Hall, the Glace Bay Orthodox Synagogue, and one of the former Company houses which is now being renovated for use as affordable housing. In the evening, a dinner was arranged at the historic Fortress Louisbourg. On Sunday morning, Donnie Ward, President of The Old Sydney Society, conducted a walking tour of Sydney's north-end Conservation District. One of the first stops was a tour through a private house, the first of three such late 18th century buildings we visited. It was an enjoyable, productive, and eye-opening weekend!

The Trust has been active over the summer looking for a suitable permanent location for the Morris Office Building. We have engaged the services of a real estate agent to help us search for a lot. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Halifax Metro Non-Profit Housing Association and with Arc, an organization that works with young people, to use the building for affordable housing for at-risk youth.

In September, the Trust will be undertaking a Strategic Planning exercise to set its vision, directions and priorities for the next five years. We have enlisted the services of Jim Neale, a local consultant experienced in multi-stakeholder strategy work and owner of Peak Performance Consulting Services. As part of the process we will be soliciting the view of our key stakeholders and others in the province through personal interviews, an on-line survey and focus group meetings. We will notify Trust members when the survey is posted on-line and will encourage your participation by completing the survey.

Clements House

*Ruth-Anne Lawrence and
Virginia Kleiner*

Central Chebogue is a small community located a few kilometres south of the town of Yarmouth in southwest Nova Scotia. It was on these shores that the first English speaking settlers landed in this area and founded the town of Yarmouth in 1761. The area is rich with history and many of the homes have long and interesting backgrounds.

One such home is the Clements house. It is considered to be the oldest house in Central Chebogue, although the actual age of the house is unknown. Built in Marblehead, Massachusetts, it was dismantled and floated to Nova Scotia in 1769. The owner, John Clements, then had the house rebuilt where it stands today in Central Chebogue.

The home, a one and a half-storey Dutch Colonial-style, features a central chimney, a five bay façade and a gambrel or "Dutch" roof. At one time there was an outside entrance to the basement on the south side. This was later torn down and a new entry to the basement was made on the east side. Otherwise the house remains in its original form.

The Clements house has had many owners. It remained under the ownership of Clements men for the first hundred years. It was then owned by Thomas Perry. Next it was owned by David Pinkney, then his daughter Margaret Pinkney. Earl Bigelow was the next owner and then Lawrence Perry bought it. It has remained under Perry ownership; the current owner is Ronald Perry, grandson of Lawrence. Clements House has been home to large and lively families, such as the Clements and the Pinkneys, as well as a quiet home for seniors such as the Pinkney sisters, the Bigelows, the Perry sisters and their brother, Lawrence.

If walls could talk many a tale would be shared! All who have lived there



Clements house, probably in the 1950s. (Photo courtesy of the authors)

have left their mark in some way on the home and in the community as well. Most notably, Nehemiah Clements, a master mariner and a very prosperous Yarmouth business man, was born in this house. Nehemiah was the grandson of John Clements. He owned several ships, and founded and operated the Clements Line of steamships. He was a progressive businessman at the time and was instrumental in establishing many Yarmouth businesses. He also gave generously toward the building of schools and was supportive of many public interests.

The property was always run as a small farm and boasted well-kept gardens. The one thing that has not changed about this place is the view of the beautiful Chebogue River. As one enjoys the river and its unchanging beauty from the yard, it is easy to close one's eyes and see once again the lovely gardens and neatly trimmed spruce hedge. Hear the lowing of cattle, the bleating of sheep, the clucking of hens, the flapping of a tea towel drying on the line and the laughter of happy children

playing in the sunshine.

Sadly, like many others of its time, the house has been left to fend for itself and Mother Nature has not been kind. The fact that the house is still standing at all is a testament to its excellent construction. It will not be long, though, before this house will only remain in our memories.

Information was taken from Central Chebogue's Story by Ruth B. Perry and Judi Archibald, local historian.

ERRATUM

In the report of Graeme Duffus's talk in the June issue, p. 6, David Stirling's partner's name was given as John Laing. It should have read George Lang (Laing). For more information about this Scottish stonemason's life, see Susan Buggey's entry in The Dictionary of Canadian Biography on-line at <http://www.biographi.ca>.

Preserving the Built Heritage of McNabs Island



Davis-Conrad house. (Photos courtesy of Peter Delefes)

Paul Erickson

In 2002, McNabs and Lawlor islands, located at the mouth of Halifax harbour, became a Nova Scotia Provincial Park. The McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park Advisory Committee subsequently developed a Park Management Plan. The Plan, adopted in 2005, sets forth several goals, including the goal of preserving the cultural heritage of McNabs Island. In 2010, to help them achieve that goal, the Advisory Committee invited the Heritage Trust to designate a representative to serve on the Committee. The current representative is Paul Erickson.

Much of the cultural heritage of McNabs Island is built heritage. To

become familiar with that heritage, on June 28th, 2011, members of the Trust Executive joined members of the Advisory Committee on an Island excursion. Participants were Trust President Peter Delefes, Trust Vice-President (Heritage) Janet Morris, Trust Representative Paul Erickson, Committee Chairperson Royce Walker, Committee Member-at-Large Patricia Manuel, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia Representative Lisa Dahr, and Friends of McNabs Island Society President and Representative Cathy McCarthy. On what turned out to be a beautiful, warm, and sunny day, the group spent several hours trekking around the Island, coming away with an appreciation of how much the Island truly has to offer.

McNabs Island has a rich and varied history, including Mi'kmaw, French, British, and Canadian phases, both military and residential. The Island contains a few privately owned properties; Fort McNab is a National Historic Site managed by Parks Canada and Fort Hugonin is Federal Crown land managed by the Department of National Defense. The rest of the island is Provincial Park land managed by the Department of Natural Resources. The Park land includes a number of features whose built heritage has largely disappeared or been encroached upon by natural vegetation, including the sites of the Finlay Farm and of the Hugonin-Perrin Estate with its extensive Victorian gardens. Largely surviving, recognizable, and still impres-

sive, however, are Fort Ives and the three houses known as the Matthew Lynch House, Jack Lynch House, and Davis-Conrad House. The Park Management Plan especially targets these buildings for preservation and adaptive reuse.

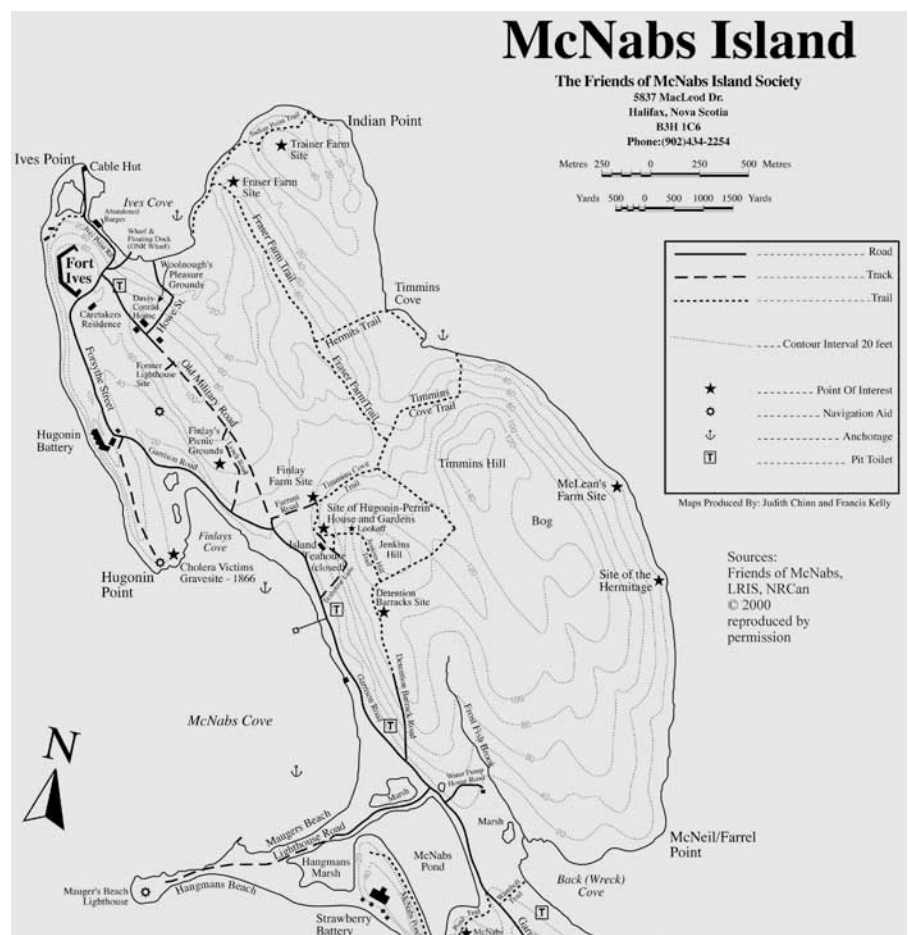
Fort Ives was built in 1874 on the northwest side of McNabs Island at what is now the north end of Old Military Road. Its original purpose was to protect the harbour channel between the Island and both Point Pleasant and York Redoubt. The Fort today comprises, besides the fortifications, several historic buildings and two rifle muzzle-loading guns in their original positions, the only such guns surviving in the former British Empire. Not too far south of Fort Ives along Old Military Road is the Matthew Lynch House, a two-storey wooden structure built in 1931 on the site of a burned cottage formerly inhabited by Peter McNab III, descendant of the man who gave the Island its name. Matthew Lynch was an Island lighthouse keeper but is perhaps better known as the father of Bill Lynch, founder of the Bill Lynch carnival and midway show. Bill Lynch got his start working on the nearby Finlay's Pleasure Grounds. Slightly northwest of the Matthew Lynch House and across an open expanse of lawn is the Davis-Conrad House, a grand, three-storey wooden structure surrounded on two sides by a verandah offering a spectacular panoramic view of Eastern Passage. This house was built in 1905 on the site of the former Woolnough's Pleasure Grounds and later owned by Ralph and Gladys (Lynch) Conrad. Northwest of both of these houses, adjacent to Fort Ives, is the Jack Lynch House, another two-storey wooden structure built in the 1940s and until recently home to a live-in superintendent of McNabs Island. All three of these houses are now unoccupied, although the Jack Lynch House is used in the summer as an occasional base of operations for students who conduct Island tours. A fourth house on the island is the former Island Tea House, built in 1985 from stones salvaged from the foundation of the nearby Hugonin-Perrin Estate. It too is now unoccupied.

The remains of Fort Ives, the former Island Tea House, and, especially, the Davis-Conrad House, Matthew Lynch House, and Jack Lynch House are in need of stabilization, maintenance, and repair. The three wooden houses are deteriorating because they lack heat and ventilation. The Heritage Trust would

like to assist the Advisory Committee in identifying potential adaptive re-uses for these attractive properties. Trust members with ideas should contact President Peter Delefos or Advisory Committee Representative Paul Erickson at 902-454-8783 or erickson@ns.sympatico.ca.



Tea House.



(Map courtesy of Friends of McNabs Island. Sources: Friends of McNabs, LRIS, Natural Resources Canada, copyright 2000)

Electric City - New France

Donna McInnis

During its heyday, from 1892 until 1910, the little community of New France was a place ahead of its time. Located 17 miles inland from Weymouth, beside the Silver River, nestled between Little Tusket and Langford Lakes, it occupied a clearing in the woods, and featured a sawmill, substantial dwellings, gardens, barn and kennels, a forge, a chapel, an office. By 1895, the installation of a generator and wiring equipment purchased from Canadian General Electric Co. permitted illumination of the entire settlement: lights in the buildings and lights set on poles all around the square. The effect was so startling that New France earned the epithet "Electric City".

The founders of New France were the Stehelin family, aristocratic industrialists who left Alsace after the Franco Prussian War of 1870, resettling first in Normandy and eventually here in Nova Scotia. The family acquired land rich in lumber and harnessed the power of the river systems for the operation of a sawmill. From the forests of Digby County, they harvested maple, oak, beech and birch, which they sold for flooring and doors, as well as red spruce and balsam fir for framing, and white pine for ships' masts. The mill could saw and trim 15,000 board feet of lumber in a single day. The Stehelins also purchased land, two stores, and a wharf in Weymouth. From there, lumber was shipped abroad on sailing vessels to markets in America and Europe. The New France and Weymouth Railway is a further testament to the vision and determination of the family patriarch, Emile Charles Stehelin. Recognizing that log drives could only be done in the spring and that more reliable transport would lengthen the season for exploiting the numerous sawmills operating between Southville and the Yarmouth Corner, Stehelin began to buy up a corridor of land, to survey

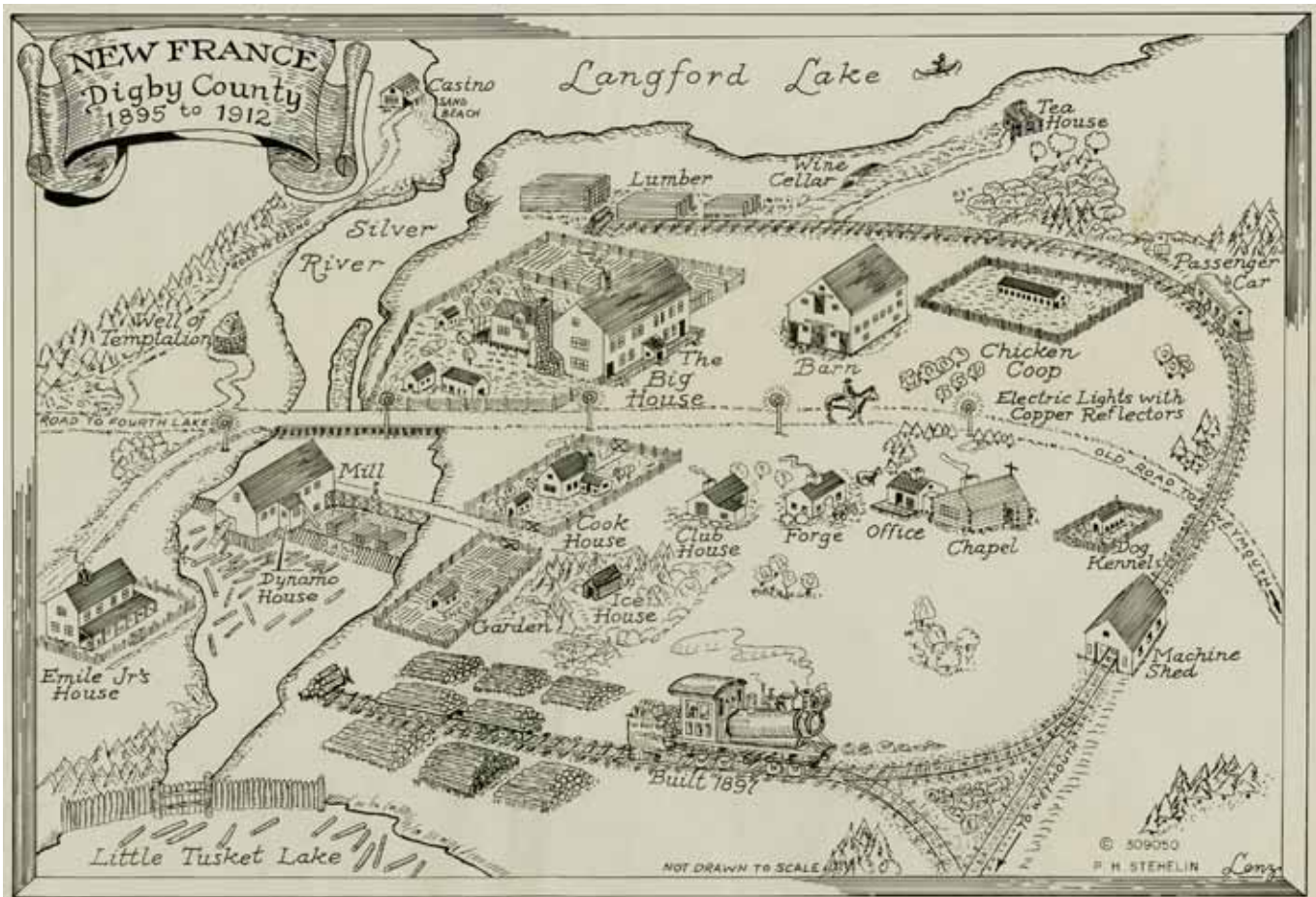


a railroad line, and to lobby the Nova Scotia government for the construction of a road that would run alongside and complement the proposed railway. There was considerable public support in Digby County for the proposal which seemed to promise a rich future for lumber exploitation in the area. The government's protracted hesitation left the road unrealized, but the privately funded railroad went ahead as planned, with pole tracks and with rolling stock, some of which was built by Robb Engineering Co. of Amherst. In 1899 the railroad opened amid fanfare and celebration. In 1907, it came abruptly to an end after fire did irreparable damage to the rails.

The Stehelin family comprised Emile Charles, his wife Marie Thérèse, eight sons and three daughters, various partners and offspring. Theirs was a lively society, melding European culture with that of their Acadian, Black, and Mi'kmaq neighbours. At New France, friends and business colleagues, employees and passing adventurers were received and fêted. Paul H. Stehelin's book, *The*

Electric City, the Stehelins of New France, published by Lancelot Press in 1983, gives an enthralling account of life in the forest settlement – hunting and skating, dances and dinners. Despite the isolation of Electric City, the family maintained contact with France, New York, Boston, Halifax, and the nearby communities of Weymouth and Church Point. The younger children were sent to Collège Ste Anne and to the Sacred Heart in Halifax. One daughter and one son spent several years at sea on a sailing vessel, flitting home to visit periodically. In 1909, the death of the matriarch, Marie Thérèse, took the heart out of the Stehelins' legendary home in New France. The period approaching the first World War was discouraging to the family business. Markets were harder to find. Lumber prices plummeted. The new steam-powered ships were too big for the Weymouth harbour. Freight costs were too high. Germany's militant posturing was particularly disheartening to this family of Alsatian heritage.

Ultimately six sons were called into military service in France. In 1917, there



was a memorable family reunion in Weymouth while the sons were on furlough, but the head of the family died before the war ended, and the saga of New France had come to an end by 1919. The family members dispersed.

So much begun and ended in two brief decades!

The settlement of the estate entailed 9,500 acres of forest land, the buildings and structures of New France, the railroad lands, the Weymouth wharf, buildings and land, and considerable stocks of timber. According to Paul H. Stehelin's memoir, the value of the property was estimated at four hundred thousand dollars at its dissolution in 1919.

Currently, the land on which New France was built belongs to us all. It is

parcel 12 of the 2010 Government of Nova Scotia purchase. Until very recently the land was owned by J.D. Irving Ltd. and managed in partnership with The New France Historical Society.

A visit to the site is rewarding. The woods are lovely, and the lake draws local sports fishers despite a daunting access road. There are passable trails and ample parking. Some stone foundations, wells and old dumpsites remain, and the wooden railway bed and some ties are said to be visible still on the trail. Electric City now resembles so many communities featured in Mike Parker's fascinating book *Buried in the Woods: Sawmill Ghost Towns of Nova Scotia* (Pottersfield Press, 2010). Standing amidst the ferns and lady-slippers, one requires a strong

imagination in order to conjure any vestige of the historic community. The village square and the original building sites have been overtaken by resurgent Nature and are no longer discernible.

Only in the mind's eye can a modern visitor retrieve the magic spectacle of electric lights sparkling in the forest, or catch sight of the bustling activity of saw-mill and railroad in what was a tiny economic powerhouse.

A visit to this site reminds us of the accomplishments of our forebears. It would be fitting to make New France a provincial heritage site.

(Illustrations courtesy of Mike Parker and NSARM)

Truro's Heritage on Display

Hal Oare and Linda Forbes

Organized by the Colchester Historical Society to follow the Heritage Conference at the beginning of June, this tour showcased three houses, a church and a museum within walking distance of the downtown. Conference participants enjoyed a preview of the houses and a special tour of the Willow Street School conversion mid-way through their three-day meeting.

The grand house at 135 Victoria Street was once a funeral parlour but is again a family home. Elaborate paneling and woodwork, inlaid floors, fine tile-decorated fireplaces, and stained glass all impressed visitors, as did the small brass-gated elevator in the foyer. Completely different was the modest stucco house, set among larger homes on tree-lined Dominion Street. The plain exterior made the welcoming interior a surprise. True to its Craftsman roots, the rooms are well-proportioned, trimmed in varnished wood, and have retained their original fittings. It was a pleasure to see the care with which this cosy house has been treated. The third house, a cottage at 24 Victoria Street, has been lovingly updated by its owner but it is the deep garden, an unexpected oasis

behind the house, which elicited the most fervent reaction!

On the 'real' tour on the weekend, St. John's Anglican Church and the Little White Schoolhouse Museum (the old Riverton School) opened their doors as well. How school life has changed! According to the blackboard timetable, the first 20 minutes of the day were devoted to Opening Exercises, comprising Flag Salute, "God Save the Queen," Testament

reading, "The Lord's Prayer", hymns, and Roll Call. Science and History together were allocated 35 minutes at the end of the day, before "O Canada" and Dismissal.

All in all, this tour – supported by local businesses, and bolstered by knowledgeable guides – was a successful mix of building type, style, and use. The passion of the organizers was clearly visible. Well done, Truro!



Little White Schoolhouse museum. (Photos courtesy of Hal Oare)



Dominion Street Craftsman-inspired house.



Under-stairs WC, 135 Victoria Street.



Victoria Street grandeur.



Victoria Street cottage with a lush, hidden garden.



Built-in dresser on Dominion Street. .

Times Challenge Heritage Preservation: The Parrsboro Response

Janet Morris

On May 19 our Museum audience was challenged to consider why people do not register their heritage buildings, and whether heritage buildings, somewhat in vogue a decade or two ago, have seemingly gone out of fashion. The Town of Parrsboro was used as a case study to examine these broader questions.

Conrad Byers, a Heritage Trust Board member and committed heritage representative from Parrsboro, introduced the book published in the Town's centenary year, 1989, entitled *Heritage Homes and History of Parrsboro*. In this compendium, some 350 buildings are photographed, researched and architecturally described. It is perhaps the only one of its kind in the Province (with the possible exception of the pamphlet mapping three walking tours of 55 heritage properties in Maitland, Nova Scotia's first Heritage Conservation District). Very few of the buildings are officially registered, yet people know the buildings as "heritage", and refer to them as such. So why don't they register them? The town adopted a heritage by-law in 1982, within two years of the enactment of the *Heritage Property Act*, yet there is a demonstrated reluctance to have the buildings registered.

The book's introduction relates the history of the Town, which initially was located at Partridge Island, two miles down the road from the present site. A ca 1812 painting shows many homes in the village, of which Ottawa House is the only one remaining on the initial site. Originally known as the O'Hara House, and determined to date from before 1775, the building came into the hands of Charles Tupper in the mid-1850s and he called it Ottawa House, honouring Confederation.

In the 1850s the Town moved to the present site, on property owned by the

Anglican Church. A band hall houses the longest continuously operating citizens' band in Canada; this property is registered. [The Trust has made contributions to its repair and marketing.] The town was the home of Huntley Shipyard, and hosted the last commercial sailing fleet. In exporting wood and coal, speed was not a priority, and Parrsboro was once the second largest port in the Province in tonnage, second to Halifax. The port exported Springhill coal commencing in the 1870s, and became a very busy rail centre. With the 1957 mining disaster at Springhill, the mine was closed, followed by shutdown of the rail yard. However the losses are accompanied with some gains; the Geological Museum is a new attraction for the area, and nearby Joggins has been declared a World Heritage Site.

The Town has recognized the Kipawo, built in 1925, which formerly served as a ferry running between Kingsport, Parrsboro and Wolfville. In 1941 she was commissioned by the navy as H.M.C.S. Kipawo, and today is one of only four ships left of Canada's WW II navy. Post-war, she served as a ferry in Newfoundland. After she was retired in 1977 locals formed the Kipawo Heritage Society with the object of bringing her back to Parrsboro. She is now the home of a successful live summer theatre known as the Ship's Company Theatre.

A number of older buildings in the Town have been victims of fire. There have been some insensitive buildings erected in the midst of their heritage neighbours. A 1960s Royal Bank branch replaced a brick registered heritage building with a bungalow-style bank. RBC ignored heritage regulations, simply tore down the building and paid the fine. Tim Horton's replaced a heritage building with a modern structure, with some effort to be sympathetic to neighbouring heritage buildings.

In its centenary year, the town

sought to boost civic pride by producing this comprehensive book. It seems it has not led to more registrations, though realtors carry the book in their cars and show it to all their clients. Nevertheless, there is clearly some frustration with the registration process. Many feel there are already too many restrictions in making additions and upgrades; registration frustrates the process even further. Some feel that, with the decline of populations in small towns, it is not worth the expense of fixing up their properties. Furthermore, if they do so, their taxes are increased. Registration can lead to difficulty in getting insurance, or can lead to increased insurance rates. Many complain about bureaucratic delays and the lack of financial assistance to heritage property owners; there used to be a provincial rebate of a portion of the HST on building materials, which incentive has disappeared.

Conrad observed that there seems to be a drop in interest in recent years in heritage properties. Studies show that people who grew up in older homes are true appreciators; however, there are fewer and fewer people who grew up in older homes. He noted, too, that baby boomers are too used to "mod cons" - a house with only one bathroom upstairs no longer meets demand. A smaller percentage of young couples is opting for country living. For a while the country seemed desirable as a safe environment for children, and couples were adapting larger homes to bed & breakfast establishments, which one spouse could run from home while raising a family. However, when it came time to sell, owners were finding they could not get a return on their investment. With smaller families, people don't need as much space and they can't afford to maintain it.

So what should Heritage Trust do in the face of these challenges? Conrad suggested we should educate realtors to know the intrinsic value of these build-

Match the Past: Traditional Exterior Trim Meets Modern Doors and Windows

ings. A book such as the one published in Parrsboro helps in this challenge. As a result of the heritage education provided by the 1989 publication, some of the lost trim has been reproduced in old buildings, and some damage reversed. Downtown merchants are putting up story boards in front of their businesses, causing visitors to pause longer than they otherwise may. The town hosts several summer Saturday night events – car clubs come into town, there is a street dance where people dress “nostalgically”. Even winter events have been created, including a story circle evening.

Conrad Byers has suggested that the tide is going out for heritage, and we are responsible to maintain and enhance heritage preservation against this flow. Time is of the essence, and we have to get smarter about publicizing our heritage assets.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Illustrated Public Lecture Series

Thursday, 15 September at 7:30 pm
Barbara DeLory
~ Poetry from Public Art:
Halifax Regional Municipality

Thursday, 20 October at 7:30 pm
Sharon and Wayne Ingalls ~
“Nothing happened over there”:
Researching Prince’s Lodge,
Birch Cove & Rockingham

Thursday, 17 November
Annual Dinner
Venue and speaker to be announced

Museum of Natural History (Auditorium),
1747 Summer Street, Halifax.
For more information,
please call 423-4807.



Photo 1A: Door and trim installed by author in Dartmouth, June 2011.

Bruce MacNab

Windows and exterior doors don't last forever. When it's time to replace them, it's hard to argue against energy efficient units while you're paying over a dollar per litre for heating oil. But you still want your new doors and windows to look like they belong on your older home, especially if you have wooden siding. One of the best ways to make them blend in is to replicate the traditional exterior trim detail. (Photo 1A,B)

Most of our heritage homes feature exterior door and window trim that is about five inches wide. Aside from adding character to a house, the wide trim allowed for the installation of storm windows and shutters. Typically, carpenters installed a flat board to trim a window. Then a back-band moulding was installed around the outer perimeter of the boards. The back-band served a dual purpose; it bulked up the trim to hide the butt ends of siding and it hid the large nail heads used to fasten the



Photo 1B: Traditional trim with board and back-band sitting on sill extensions. Location: Robinson House, Chester.

boards. As a bonus, the back-band was a perfect accent for adding a striking dash of colour to a house.

Unless you specify otherwise, modern doors and windows come with a slim exterior trim called brick-moulding that measures 1" by 1½". Sills are no longer the same either. In fact, many modern windows don't even have traditional sills. Likewise, today's steel door thresholds look rather skinny compared to the two-inch thick hardwood ones of years gone by.

To copy the traditional trim detail you must order windows and doors carefully. Most vinyl windows can be ordered without brick-mould. Wooden units should be ordered with extended sills—this means the window sill or door threshold is left about 6 inches long on both sides of the frame. (Photo 2) Suppliers 'spec' this detail as "sill horn extensions."

When you buy exterior trim materials, avoid finger-joint pine products in favour of solid pine. Boards with knots are perfectly fine for exterior trim. However, the knots should not be

large or loose. To help hide knots, they should be dabbed with a tinted shellac sealer. After all cuts are made, the entire board—including the back—should be primed prior to installation. Back-priming exterior trim prolongs the life of the wood and makes the face paint less likely to peel. All exterior trim should be installed over splines (strips of tar paper or Blue Skin) that will divert water away from the walls when caulking fails or wooden boards crack allowing water to pass through the surface.

When installing the trim boards, the top piece should cap the two side pieces. Where the top and sides meet, a lap joint must be used to provide protection from water penetration. Carpenters once did this with chisels and handsaws (Photo 3) but a modern carpenter will use a rabbeting bit in a router. With care,

the original back-band can be reused (as seen in Photo 1A). But don't worry if it is rotten or damaged, because traditional spruce back-band can still be purchased.

Occasionally, modern units with brick-moulding are installed where the originals had a wide heritage trim. To fill the resulting gap, installers fill the space with random boards or siding. Sometimes the results are disappointing as with recent renovations at the Eastwood Manor house, a registered heritage property in Dartmouth. Hopefully this simple yet elegant detail will be properly preserved on other Nova Scotia heritage properties.

Bruce MacNab is a Red Seal journeyman carpenter who has taught apprenticeship and communications at NSCC. Photos by author.



Photo 2: Close up of a sill horn extension on door frame manufactured by Peter Kohler Windows and Doors, Debert.



Photo 3: Back side of head-lap detail. This self-flashing joint was crafted with hand tools many years ago. Note: The vertical grooves diverted rain water in lieu of caulking.

Preservation Through Education - Provincial Heritage Conference 2011: Streetscapes, Cultural Landscapes and Contemporary Technology

Andrena Teed

The Heritage Conference took a refreshing look at aspects of conservation generally not included in the conversation – mapping our archaeological heritage, streetscapes, and the unique and usual aspects of the landscape that we often overlook.

The conference opener, titled *Mapping the Past*, was an excellent audio-visual presentation by speakers Mark Hebert and Ada Cheung, using contemporary technology to illustrate how that same technology can be effectively used to map and present any manner of historical or geographic information about our heritage properties and our landscape. Using sophisticated remote sensing technology, it is possible to draw maps that reveal the layers of settlement in an area. By using Google Sketch Up, communities can create interactive 3-D models of heritage sites that would allow users to view the exteriors and interiors of buildings as well as the landscape. A gaming element to a model like this would intrigue younger persons, perhaps developing their interest in historic properties.

While we have no trouble identifying century-old buildings worthy of preservation, we seem to struggle with recognising the value of our landscapes and streetscapes. Buildings in isolation lose their context – they are interesting to look at, but they make little sense when the streetscape that gave them substance and placed them in an historic setting is gone. At this conference, two plenary presentations addressed this issue: *The Truro Fence*, by Joe Ballard, and *Widening the View: Under-Represented Registered Heritage Properties*, by Jeffrey Reed. The concurrent session, *Vinyl Seduction*, by Joe Ballard, also touched on this issue.

The Truro Fence was a visually appealing presentation about an unrecognised

heritage item – fences, especially late Victorian fences. Fences add value to a property, they define the visual and spatial relationships of gardens or yards and buildings, and they add an element of order and perspective to a building. Mr. Ballard's premise was that fences are design features that should complement the property by enhancing the architecture and visual appeal of the buildings.

Vinyl Seduction was equally entertaining and informative. Mr Ballard feels very strongly that the widespread use of vinyl siding as cladding for historic buildings compromises their historical integrity. Vinyl siding disguises the individuality of the buildings with the removal and subsequent disappearance of architectural details and the limited choice of colours available for body and trim. There seems to be a lack of understanding or respect for the built heritage when vinyl siding (or as he termed it – "imitation siding") is installed, because the streetscape degenerates into a bland sameness.

Heritage consultant Jeffrey Reed further underscored the need to determine and recognise our historic places as a story of culture as well as history. He spoke about the loss of places, especially places that are perceived as so common that we've overlooked them, and not noticed their loss until we realise that a piece of our built and cultural heritage is missing. His theme was that our landscape portrays the relationship between our selves, our culture and the land, and provides us with a community of memories. It is essential that we acknowledge what is vanishing, and then set ourselves a task to protect the most common aspects of our heritage before they disappear.

Nova Scotia is in the early stages of recognising the importance of our cultural and built landscapes. Kevin Barrett, in his overview of the *Heritage Property Act*, indicated that the purpose of that act is to identify, promote and

protect properties with heritage value. This extends to the cultural landscape, which includes land use, traditional practices, land patterns, spatial organisation, and the visual relationships in the landscape, including ecological, water, vegetation and built features. Substantial alteration of the landscape alters its heritage value. There is, at this point, no compiled list of significant landscapes. Criteria for recognition and regulations for conservation and maintenance are still to be determined. This is an aspect of heritage conservation in which Heritage Advisory Committees and persons interested in the conservation of our built heritage can get involved, by sending suggestions for historical or significant cultural landscapes to Kevin Barrett at the Heritage Property Program of Nova Scotia (BARRETKL@gov.ns.ca).

Preserving our landscapes and streetscapes was an underlying theme at the Heritage Conference. While heritage preservation may be rooted in the past, to develop as a continuing concern it must present itself in a contemporary format to a modern world. It is up to us, on Heritage Advisory Committees and in heritage and historical organisations, to be pro-active in creating awareness of the importance of our landscapes, streetscapes and the individual buildings that reflect our cultural heritage. That advocacy is, in a broad sense, an aspect of education that may lead to the preservation of our built heritage, from buildings to street lamp-poles to sewer covers, preserving landscapes so that future generations will know and understand Nova Scotia's varied cultural heritage.

Andrena Teed is a member of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Municipality of Digby. This year's conference was based in Truro's Fire Hall and its Provincial Normal School Science Building, home to the Colchester Historical Museum and Archives.

Planters of Cobequid, Nova Scotia (Now Colchester County)

Janice R. Zann

May 7th, 2011 marked the official opening of an exhibition at Colchester Historical Museum in Truro, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Cobequid Planters in 1761 on the shores of the Minas Basin. These were the first English speakers from New England and Ireland who were to be settled ("planted") in the townships of Onslow, Truro and Londonderry. Each township of 100,000 acres had been laid out by the Chief Surveyor for the province, Charles Morris (1711-1781), on lands made vacant by the expulsion of the Acadians six years earlier.

The colourful exhibition, entitled *New Beginnings - Planters in Cobequid 1761 to 1780*, takes visitors back to those early days, with participants dressed as prominent members of the newly established society. The display features documents, artifacts, and videos. There is material to explain the importance of Charles Morris, and of early arrivals such as James Lyon, Reverend David Smith, and Reverend Daniel Cock, along with the settlers referred to as the Cobequid Rebels for their support of the American Patriots during the Revolution.

Very quickly these early planters were producing flax and manufacturing linen cloth, hence the adoption of the blue flax flower as the logo for the anniversary. Flags depicting this symbol have been placed on graves of Planter ancestors.

An interesting exhibit regarding house construction methods contains a description by two Yorkshiremen, Robinson and Rispin, who visited the area in 1774. A scale model of the house as described is also on display.

Their houses are generally built square and chiefly of wood, with chimneys of brick in the centre, so contrived as to convey the smoke from all the different fireplaces. The windows are all sash'd, and as they pay no duty for them, they are very numerous



Bill Canning, Cathy von Kintzel and Elinor Maher.

and render their houses light and pleasant. They all build with post and pan [post and beam or timber construction]; when they get about three yards high they take it in a little; about two yards higher they fix their chamber windows, and above them their roofs; some build a storey higher. After being boarded, they appear very neat and compleat houses. They board the outside up to the roof, with what they call clapboards, which are about four inches broad, a quarter of an inch thick on the lower side, and exceedingly thin on the upper, so as to lay on each other's edge. They wainscot the inside and make it very neat. Their roofs are covered with planks, on these they fix what they call shingles, which are pieces of board, about eight inches long, four broad, and a quarter of an inch thick at the bottom, and thin at the top, and are used much in the same manner as we do slate in England. All the houses have cellars under them and are in general very convenient.

An important highlight of the opening was the announcement of the launching of a two-volume work, the culmination of eleven years of painstaking

research by authors Carol Campbell and James F. Smith, entitled *Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nova Scotia, 1761-1780*. Published in two volumes by the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, the 500 page books will sell for \$40 per volume, with all proceeds going to the Colchester Historical Society Archives. These volumes will provide a valuable resource for genealogists and the general public interested in the accurate facts about these early settlers.

In addition, Cape Breton University Press is publishing *Necessaries and Sufficiencies - Planter Society in Londonderry, Onslow and Truro Townships, 1761-1780*, a 260 page book, by the same authors, which will be distributed by Nimbus Publishing. It is described as "a social, political, cultural and material microhistory of 18th century daily life in the district of Cobequid, now part of Colchester County. Eight vignettes from a cross section of immigrants detail migration and settlement and the evolution of New England and Irish cultural mores in this wilderness setting."

The museum exhibit will be in place for the remainder of the year.

HERITAGE FOR SALE

The Reverend James Smith House, Later the Strathlorne Hotel

5305 Highway 289, Upper Stewiacke, Colchester County

This elegant, and largely intact, house set on 11 acres was built for the Reverend James Smith ca. 1833 and named Strathlorne after his ancestral Perthshire home. It is a provincially-designated property.

The Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative web-site describes it thus:

The Reverend James Smith Property is a large one-and-a-half storey wood frame structure with two inset chimneys and a rear kitchen addition added in the 1930s. Of most architectural interest is the Greek Revival detailing in the front elevation and entrance design. The most obvious element is the large, projecting pediment supported by four slender columns, and corresponding pilasters on the façade. Also of interest are the small, knee windows

at the second floor level, beneath the pediment...Especially given its age and location, this building's exterior is not common in Nova Scotia, and is of considerable architectural importance.

Smith was a carpenter's son and is said to have completed much of the interior work himself. The 2800 square foot home has four bedrooms, eight working fireplaces, wrought-iron hardware, slate hearths, original wood floors and panelling, an 1880 barn, drilled well and modern septic. The land includes a large pond, woods and pasture.

MLS # 20053153 \$160,000
Contact Richard Matheson of Country Real Estate Brokers at 582-3969.



The Reverend James Smith House, Later the Strathlorne Hotel.

EDUCATION

The Nova Scotia Provincial Heritage Fair 2011



Austin Miller, North Colchester High.

Janice R. Zann

Despite the lack of funding and therefore cancellation of the National Heritage Fair, this year Nova Scotia students were able to participate in a Provincial Heritage Fair due to the generosity of the Department of Education and Scotiabank.

Students across the province from grades four to nine were, as always, most creative in their choice of subject matter, and a number of projects relating to built heritage were awarded certificates by Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

Projects relating to engineering feats such as the Shubenacadie Canal, the bridges connecting early short rail lines, Louisbourg Lighthouse, the Tatamagouche Creamery, all received praise. Special awards went to Michael Congdon of West Colchester High school for *The Planter Family of Joshua Ells – History and Homes* and to students from Halifax Regional School Board, Hannah Machat and Jessica Gillespie-Friesen for *La Maison Evergreen*, and David McNair for *Emerson Hall*.

Teachers and students are to be commended for their participation in this worthwhile event. Heritage Trust is most grateful to the judges who gave up their time to attend the various local Heritage Fairs as well as the Provincial Heritage Fair.

Bridgewater loses one of its heritage buildings to fire

Linda Bedford, Bridgewater Heritage and Historical Society

The Town of Bridgewater suffered a great loss on June 4, 2011 when one of its registered heritage buildings was engulfed in flames. The Fairview Inn has a long history in the town and has stood on the same ground for the past 95 years.

John L. Doyle first opened an inn, originally known as Fairview Cottage, on Queen Street about 1863. It then was operated as the Fairview Hotel until a devastating fire destroyed the building on January 9, 1916. The owner, W.E. Awalt, was determined to rebuild on the same site. Boehner Brothers of West LaHave were hired to design a new hotel and Rupert Newcombe, to build it. Just nine months later they had a grand opening. Over the years, a number of different owners introduced modern conveniences inside, but the overall exterior of the building continued to retain its historical character.

It is yet to be determined what will happen to the Inn, but the citizens of Bridgewater have truly lost one of their heritage gems.

See the town's web-site (<http://www.bridgewater.ca/heritage/home.html>) for information on its three heritage properties, as well as walking tours.

Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference

Sept. 22-24, var. locations, Halifax
The African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT) is an international cultural tourism initiative that promotes socially conscious travel to sites identified as relevant and important to the global narrative of people and culture of African descent. It is designed to educate visitors and safeguard the core values and creativity of African cultures and history. The annual conference draws hundreds of dignitaries, scholars and tourism operators from around the world.
<http://adht2011.com/about.asp>.

Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

441 St. George St., Annapolis Royal
Fri., Oct. 28, Goblets & Goblins. A bewitching evening of wine and merriment in the Historic Gardens!
www.historicgardens.com, 532-7018.

Colchester Historical Society

29 Young St., Truro
Sept. 22, 7:30 pm, Beth MacMichael, "Fort Belcher."

Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society and Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Dr., off Cole Harbour Rd.
Sept. 10, 4:30-6:30 pm, Corn Boil & Ceilidh, \$12 adult, \$6 child, corn on the cob, selection of seasonal home-made salads, gingerbread cookies, beverages – everything fresh, local and delicious.
Oct. 2, Oct. 9, 6:30 pm, Harvest dinner, \$25 adult, \$15 under 12 yrs. Turkey, ham, seasonal vegetables and all trimmings, pumpkin pie or gingerbread. Adv. reservation & ticket purchase required.
Nov. 27, 11-3 pm, Annual Craft & Bake Sale, free admission. Both heritage houses filled with crafts and Christmas gift ideas, selection of seasonal home-baked treats, door prizes, complimentary hot spiced cider.
www.coleharbourfarmmuseum.ca, 434-0222.

Industrial Heritage of NS

Maritime Museum of Atlantic
Meets first Monday, 7:30 pm.
www.industrialheritagens.ca

Maplewood/Parkdale Community Museum

3005 Barss Corner Rd., Maplewood
Sept. 10, 12:30-5:30 pm Heritage Blueberry Festival, \$12 adult, \$6 child, under 5 free. Lunenburg County sausage & pudding, sauerkraut, Solomon Gundy, smeltz potatoes, hodge podge, sauerkraut salad, blueberry pie & grunt with ice-cream. Local crafts, baked goods, demonstrations & entertainment.
<http://parkdale.ednet.ns.ca>

Musée des Acadiens et Centre de recherche West Pubnico

Sept. 6 to Oct. 1, African heritage and culture exhibit, wall hangings, cloth, masks, dishes, furniture, sculptures, jewellery.
Sept. 24 to Oct. 5 Craft Splash, workshops, demonstration of traditional skills.
Dec. 6, 7 pm, Christmas story, "Le tapis de Grand-Pré" followed by apple cider, \$3.
Dec. 11, 4-6 pm, Yuletide tea, \$10.
Dec. 18, 7-9 pm, Christmas carol sing-along, snacks, \$7.
www.museeacadien.ca, 762-3380.

NS Archaeology Society

Rm. 165, Sobeys Bldg, SMU
Meets fourth Tuesday, 7:30 pm.
www.novascotiarchaeologysociety.com/

NS Colony of Mayflower Descendants Conference

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, Yarmouth County Museum.
Gary Archibald, archibaldg@eastlink.ca or 742-4195.

Royal NS Historical Society

Public Archives of NS
Meets third Wednesday, 7:30 pm.
Sept. 21, Blakeley Lecture, Sandra Barry & Pat Townsend, "Life and the Memory of It: Elizabeth Bishop's Nova Scotia Archival Heritage."
<http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/rnshs/>

Tatamagouche Creamery Square

39 Creamery Rd., Tatamagouche
Oct. 15, 11-7 pm, Railway Days, in cooperation with Train Station Inn, commemorating 50 years since the last passenger train ran through Tatamagouche. Telegraph demonstrations, scavenger hunt, guided & self guided tours, authentic railway meals from several different railways served in the dining car.
www.creamerysquare.ca.

Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield

Urban Farm Field off Rockingstone Rd., Spryfield
Sept. 10, 2-4 pm, Harvest Fair (rain date Sept. 11).
www.urbanfarmspryfield.com/

Yarmouth County Museum

22 Collins Street
Self-guided walking tour www.westerncounties.ca/yarmouthheritage/pages/collherit/collwalk/walk2.html
<http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ednet.ns.ca>, 742-5539.

Yarmouth 250

Too many events to list! Something for every taste.
<http://yarmouth250.com/events/>, 742-8946.