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The Griffin

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The Griffin

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

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the opinions expressed
in these pages are those of the
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Editorial Committee

Donald Forbes, Dulcie Conrad,
Peter Delefes, Donna McInnis,
Janet Morris, Nancy O'Brien
Tony Edwards (ex officio)

Contributors to this issue

Joe Ballard, Hope Beanlands,
Arthur Carter, Dulcie Conrad,
Christopher Cooke, Peter Delefes,
Christopher Gorey

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publication. All accepted
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Please send your submissions to
Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
PO Box 111
Spring Garden RPO
Halifax NS B3J 3S9
griffin@htns.ca
website: www.htns.ca
tel: 902 423-4807

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Cover image: Nova Scotia Farm, by Christopher
Gorey, watercolour on paper, 22"x29", \$1275
(courtesy of the artist and Teichert Gallery,
Halifax).

REPORT

President's Report



Joe Ballard

Hello. I'm new to this page. I know you've grown accustomed to seeing Linda's face here and you've no doubt come to rely on her observations for keeping you informed; rest assured Linda is still about and helping to form my nascent presidency. Don't go anywhere Linda!

Sometimes I am struck by the illiteracy I encounter with respect to our built heritage. Average citizens and even reporters think a heritage house or other building is only considered "heritage" if it is designated with a plaque. As if that wasn't bad enough, many do not understand what the plaque means. Even the provincial heritage designation conferred upon *Beinn Bhreagh* this summer caused confusion amongst the public with many thinking the designation meant the exclusive estate would now be open for their viewing pleasure, not unlike a museum. So, people are confusing heritage with a plaque and they don't know what the plaque means. I have no grounds on which to blame the misinformed so the only other option is to blame the heritage community. Ouch! Those of us involved in designating need to remember that the actual designation event is an occasion for education – in two ways. First, we should explain what the designa-

tion actually *means*; and secondly, we should add that designated properties represent only a small fraction of our province's rich, but declining, inventory of built heritage.

I hope you all followed this summer's campaign, "This Lighthouse Matters", championed by our friends at the National Trust and the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society. The campaign consisted of \$250,000 in cash prizes awarded to Nova Scotia lighthouses in conjunction with a crowd-funding initiative that raised tens of thousands more. The well-run event was a welcome shot-in-the-arm for preservation in our province.

The focus on these navigational aids, along with ongoing challenges with church preservation, recently saw the two separate issues merge in a visit I made to Victoria Mines. A preservation group there is working diligently to acquire the surplus "stone church." Painted white and perched on an eminence, the dual-steepled church features a monumental façade much out of proportion to the small worship space tucked in behind it. The towering structure has guided mariners for 99 years and this surprising navigational fact boosts the site's heritage value in a way not generally associated with churches. Along with other navigational aids and many other places of worship, this church faces an uncertain future. Please identify a need near you and lend your support.

Three appealing conferences will soon be upon us. Consider the National Trust's *Regenerating Places of Faith*, Sept 24 in Sydney; the Association of Nova Scotia Museums' *Public Places, Community Spaces*, Sept 25-27 in Halifax; and the Nova Scotia Provincial Heritage Conference's *Exploring Opportunities*, Oct 7-9 in Digby.

ARTIST

Christopher Gorey

"Capturing the way light envelops objects has always fascinated me. Whether it is the warm light filtering over a landscape in the late afternoon or the sombre cool light of a rainy day, my subject matter will always be the light. This is not to say that there is no personal attachment to the subjects that I choose to paint. I find though, my first attraction to a particular painting subject usually has to do with what the particular light is doing to the subject."

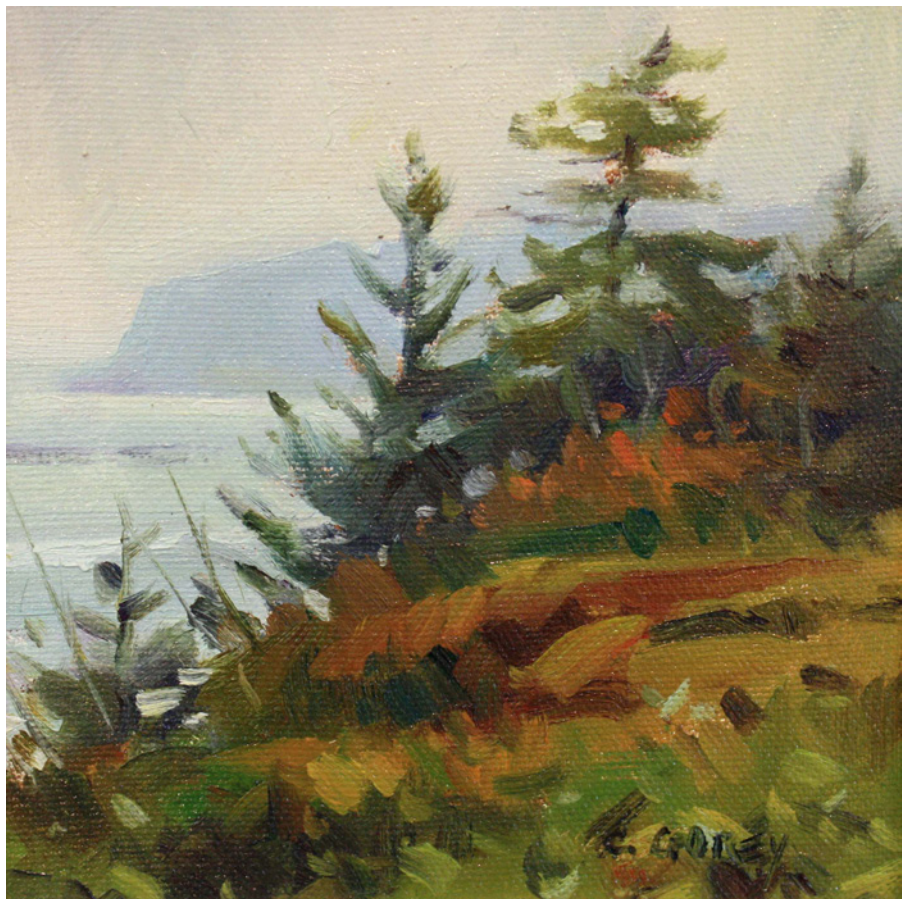
Mr Gorey is a well-known and highly acclaimed Nova Scotia artist working in oil and watercolour. His work is mainly traditional and his influences include the French impressionists, John Singer Sargent, Andrew Wyeth and many of the North Shore artists of Massachusetts, where he grew up.

Christopher Gorey SCA CSPWC was born in Marlboro, Massachusetts, immigrated to Canada in 1975, and became a Canadian citizen in 1984. He studied at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, graduating B.S.Ed. in 1972. He has exhibited widely in the USA, Canada, and overseas, and is represented by galleries in Cape Breton Island, Newfoundland, and mainland Nova Scotia. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jurors' Award of Merit, Watercolor Art Society of Houston, Texas, in 1999 and the Ambience Award from La Société canadienne de l'Aquarelle (SCA), Montréal, QC, in 2005. He is a signature member of SCA and of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour (CSPWC). Among other commissions, Mr Gorey designed the 1981 and 1987 commemorative silver dollars for the Royal Canadian Mint. His work is represented in numerous public, corporate, and private collections. Mr Gorey resides with his wife, Lynn, in Ingonish, NS, and the Goreys have two children.

Paintings reproduced here and on p. 11 are courtesy of the artist and the Teichert Gallery, Halifax.



Morning Lobster Boat, by Christopher Gorey, watercolour on paper, 12"x16", \$495



Fundy Fog, by Christopher Gorey, oil on canvas, 6"x6", \$325

John Walsh House, Guysborough

Christopher A. Cooke

In 1954, Henri and Minke van der Putten left their native Holland with their young son Michael, to start a new life in Canada. Their initial stay in Nova Scotia was brief, but Henri vowed that one day they would return. Henri worked in several provinces in Canada as a draftsman and eventually as a supervisor of restoration projects with Parks Canada. He was involved with the restoration of Fortress Louisbourg, Fort Beauséjour in New Brunswick, and Fort Garry in Selkirk, Manitoba. These national treasures remain today partly due to his craftsmanship and direction. During this time, Henri wrote a “restoration manual” that was used by many as a guide in such projects. A more modern legacy of Henri’s is the Pictou East Academy in Sutherland’s River, NS, as he was employed to design this education facility.

In 1989, Henri and Minke were ready to retire. Their son Michael was work-



The John Walsh home today (courtesy of the author)

ing in Guysborough County, and they had the opportunity to purchase an old home on Main Street that many of the locals of Guysborough village felt had long overstayed its welcome. It was considered a community eye-sore.

Henri was always proud of his accomplishment in saving the Walsh home, ... he “did it for the community”

The John Walsh house, constructed in 1857 as a family residence and tailor shop, had been vacant for about 15 years. Minke fondly recalls that Henri was not going to “retire and sit around.” But after they had started the work on the house, she wondered what they had gotten themselves into. The roof was re-shingled with cedar (in a number of places there were large holes all the way through), the house had new clapboard put on, and all the original trim work and windows were repaired. Henri was a stickler for detail, and he gathered up as many old windows as possible in order

to have a stockpile to go to should the need ever arise that he had to replace various window panes. The glass in the entire house is period. The project commenced in 1990 and took almost four years to complete inside and out. Henri got to enjoy his retirement once this major project was completed. Unfortunately he passed away at the age of 85, in June of 2013. Minke remains in the beautiful old home and has created a gorgeous oasis of a garden on her lot that extends to the shore of Guysborough Harbour. She chuckled as she described that their multi-coloured house (red, green, and white) was one of the first in the area, and she said it seems many people have started painting their old homes in multiple colours. She concluded by saying that Henri was always proud of his accomplishment in saving the Walsh home, as she said he “did it for the community.”

The home is beautifully finished and has a warm and comfortable feel. Though the rooms are spacious, each feels cozy and lived-in. One of the many



Minke and Henry van der Putten (courtesy of the author)



Front entry, stairs, and hall (courtesy of the author)



The John Walsh tailor shop (courtesy of the author)



The John Walsh home before the restoration began (courtesy of the author)

decorative features is the original corner cabinet in the dining room. A unique feature of the home is the period 1857 tailor shop that remains in the front eastern end of the house. The van der Puttens chose not to repurpose the shop, but to leave it as it was, complete with window shelving, wall shelving, separate entrance, and massive counters. Minke hopes that one day someone will use it once again as a retail space.

This was a project that required hard work, skill, attention to detail, dedication, time, financial commitment, and love and respect for authentic craftsmanship. The van der Puttens, thankfully, had all of these and put them to very good use.

Christopher Cooke is a member of the Guysborough Historical Society

William & Christopher Breckenridge: Commerce Under the Hill - Schmidt's Ville and Spring Garden Road

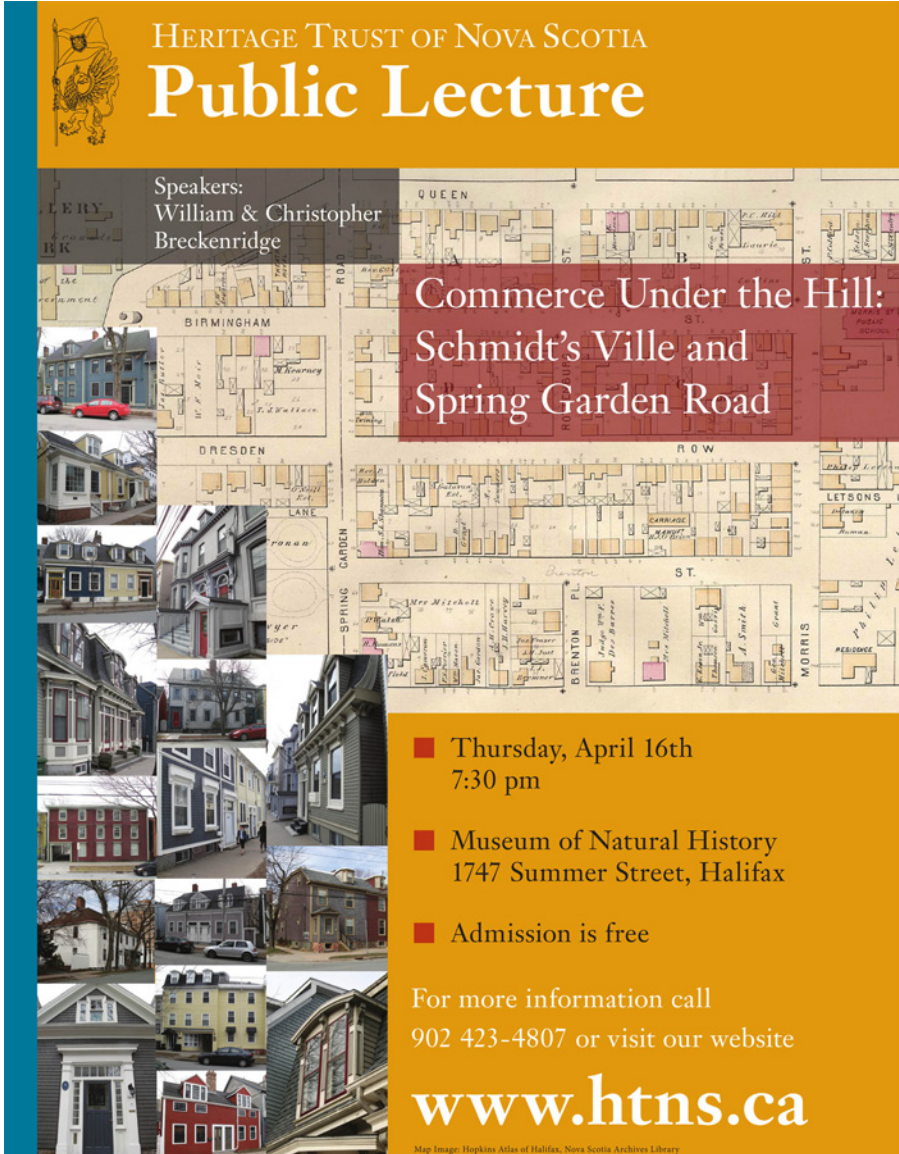
Dulcie Conrad

These past few months, two highly dedicated and motivated twin brothers, William and Christopher Breckenridge, hit the local lecture circuit with research involving Canada's founding history located smack-dab in the middle of downtown Halifax in the neighbourhood known as Schmidt's Ville (Schmidt-ville). Their research tells us how important Halifax was in the period prior to Confederation and why so many locals, including Joe Howe, fought against the union of Nova Scotia with the Canadas.

Spring Garden Road once was home to Canada's richest family estates, headed up by well established business owners such as Edward Morrison

Schmidt's Ville is the area bounded roughly by Spring Garden Road and Morris Street to the north and south, and by Queen Street and South Park Street on the east and west. It is close to such notable historic features as the Halifax Public Gardens; Halifax Citadel (the "hill" of the lecture title); Royal Artillery Park, which houses the historic Officers' Mess and Cambridge Military Library; the old Provincial Court House; the Old Burying Ground, where the body of the man who burned down the White House lies; Government House on Barrington Street; St Mary's Basilica; and the old St Mary's School complex, which has just gone on the development market. Historic maps can be found at: <http://novascotia.ca/archives/virtual/maps/plate.asp?ID=10>.

As the Breckenridges pointed out in their April 2015 HTNS lecture, English Canada was effectively founded in Halifax. The city's wealth and future development held high promise, but all of that changed after Confederation. Unfortunately, instead of building on that heritage, as European countries



HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA
Public Lecture

Speakers:
William & Christopher
Breckenridge

**Commerce Under the Hill:
Schmidt's Ville and
Spring Garden Road**

- Thursday, April 16th
7:30 pm
- Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax
- Admission is free

For more information call
902 423-4807 or visit our website
www.htns.ca

Map Image: Hopkins Atlas of Halifax, Nova Scotia Archives Library

have done so successfully, with millions flocking to their shores all year round to admire their history, spending countless dollars to do so, decision-makers in this region have chosen to obliterate many references to our past by erecting duplicate Toronto high-rises in the name of economic progress. This trend has already affected parts of Schmidt's Ville, leading to the call for a heritage

conservation district.

According to archival records, Spring Garden Road once was home to Canada's richest family estates, headed up by well established business owners such as Edward Morrison. He made his money selling flour, food and corn, no doubt to the navy and army stationed here. His business was located on the wharf at the foot of George Street.

Then there was piano merchant George Fraser (Mayor of Halifax 1881-1884), who lived on Queen Street. A former Premier of Nova Scotia, P.C. Hill, lived at the corner of Queen and Morris. Rev. Dr Gilpin, principal of the Halifax Grammar School, lived at 26 Spring Garden Road with his wife Amelia Haliburton, the daughter of "Sam Slick" writer Judge Thomas Haliburton. Another worthy resident of the area was Chief Constable Nicholas Power who lived on Dresden Row. He was noted for saving the future King George V by forestalling an attack in 1883 to blow up the battleship *HMS Canada* and somewhat controversially was awarded the King's Police Medal in 1915 for doing so.

William and Christopher's family immigrated to Canada four generations ago and set up shop in Schmidt's Ville, where they have remained ever since. They both love every inch of the neighbourhood, every nook and cranny, where they explored and played as children. They know their history too, not only from hands-on experiences but through their university studies and their abiding interest in their own personal genealogy. They believe the whole area is worthy of saving to provide affordable family housing. Unfortunately, because of its ideal downtown location, it has begun to attract major development, and the cost of owning some of the remaining small properties has been rising rapidly.

"It just fell on our heads along with the old plaster and horse hair"

William and Christopher tell me that most of their research has been done through the Municipal Archives, which is over in the Burnside Industrial Park in Dartmouth. To encourage more people to learn about our heritage, they think this important facility should be more centrally located and accessible for university and other students of the city's history.

Because of their interest in rehabilitation, the Breckenridges have also made some interesting discoveries. Once,

when making necessary improvements to their grandmother's ceiling, they discovered a priceless relic – church magazines from St Luke's [pro-]Cathedral (destroyed by fire on December 14, 1905). "It just fell on our heads along with the old plaster and horse hair."

Rev. Dr Gilpin, principal of the Halifax Grammar School, lived at 26 Spring Garden Road with his wife Amelia Haliburton, the daughter of "Sam Slick" writer Judge Thomas Haliburton

Recently, the Halifax Regional Municipality appointed a volunteer committee, the Schmidtville (Schmidt's Ville) Stakeholder Steering Committee, on which William sits as co-Chair. As we go to press, the committee is holding an open house and community workshop on September 9th to discuss the proposed Schmidtville Heritage Conservation District. An on-line survey

is also open for input until September 25 – see <http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/schmidtville>.

Suggested reading:

- Erickson, Paul. 2004. *Historic North End Halifax*. Nimbus, 181 p. ISBN 978-1551094984.
- McGuigan, Peter. 2007. *Historic South End Halifax*. Nimbus, 183 p. ISBN 9781551096025.
- Tattie, Jon. 2013. *Cornwallis: the Violent Birth of Halifax*. Pottersfield Press, 238 p. ISBN 9781897426487.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

Illustrated Public Lecture Series

September 17 7:30 pm

Joe Ballard

Exploring a Victorian Pleasure Ground in Truro

October 15 7:30 pm

to be announced

November 19 7:30 pm

Clair Rankin

**A Heritage Tour of St Peter's, Cape Breton Island:
the Village on the Canal**

Museum of Natural History Auditorium

1747 Summer Street, Halifax

[entrance on lower level from parking lot]

Information: 423-4807

Steven Schwinghamer: Exploring Lawlor Island - History and Heritage Resources

Hope Beanlands

Lawlor or Lawlor's Island is a small and enchanting piece of land of approximately 55 hectares (136 acres), with an amazing and unique history of habitation and use. Located in Halifax Harbour, immediately southeast of McNabs Island and opposite MacCormack's Beach in the community of Eastern Passage, it is separated from the mainland by the body of water also called Eastern Passage. The island is currently covered with trees and other vegetation and, except for ruins obscured by deadfall, and a few iron crosses, there is nothing to indicate its historic use as a quarantine station. The island has been deserted since the last family of caretakers left sometime during the 1950s and its present inhabitants are mainly deer, blue heron, and osprey. Lawlor Island is owned by the Province of Nova Scotia and is part of McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park. It is intended as a natural area and not open to the public. Nevertheless, there are indications that the public continue to visit and enjoy the island.

The Heritage Trust lecture in June, 2015 was presented by Steven Schwinghamer, an historian at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. This illustrated talk provided an overview of the island's use within its historical and political context over the past 150 years.

Occupation and Use of Lawlor Island

Evidence of habitation on Lawlor Island stretches back several millennia, reflecting seasonal (summer) occupation by the Mi'kmaq. Although Lawlor Island has not had the benefit of intensive archaeological investigation, a verified shell midden on neighbouring McNabs Island indicates likely Mi'kmaq use of Lawlor Island dating back about five thousand years. A recent archaeological reconnaissance identified at least one area deemed to have high potential for



Cemetery at north end of Lawlor Island, with steel crosses and stone marker in memory of Arthur Amero from Tusket, Yarmouth Co., died 27 September 1901 (courtesy of Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, photographer: Ben Mahar)

evidence of First Nations use. It is also known that the island was settled and used for agricultural purposes. In 1821, a Mr James Lawlor, an island resident, believed that his sheep were stolen. Historical documents show that he offered a reward for the conviction of the person or persons who had committed this crime.

Over the years this island has been known by many different names. It can be assumed that the island was given a name by the Mi'kmaq, but this name remains obscure. In 1750 the land now called Lawlor or Lawlor's Island was identified as Bloss Island, named after Captain Bloss who built a "very good house" on the island. In 1758, it was called Webb's Island and, in 1792, Carroll's Island. Historical documents also refer to the island as McNamara's Island (1821), Duggan's Island (1829), and later Warren's Island. Six acres were under

cultivation in 1829 and records indicate that nine people lived on the island at that time. By the 1860s it was called Lawlor Island and in 1866 was acquired by the Province of Nova Scotia for use as a quarantine station. In this role, the island served as an integral component of the control and management of communicable diseases in Canada until 1938. In the more recent past, the island was used as a military hospital during the Second World War.

Quarantine Facilities in Eastern Canada

The institution of formal quarantine in Canada can be traced back to 1721, when colonial authorities in Quebec imposed control on vessels arriving from Mediterranean ports in response to an outbreak of plague in France. Before being permitted to land, ships' captains were asked a series of ques-



Remains of the main wharf near the north end of Lawlor Island in 2010, with rusted steel of the disinfection unit barely visible through the trees (Griffin image, photographer: Donald Forbes)

tions regarding the health of those on board and were also required to disclose the ports visited en route. Failure to comply with these procedures could result in corporal punishment and the ship's cargo being burned. Continued

use of these procedures is credited with preventing the spread of the plague to the inhabitants of Quebec in the 1720s. However, quarantine was only effective if there was adequate detection. Masters of vessels were not always forthcoming

with the true situation regarding the amount of illness on board. Travellers also had a vested interest in not having their journey disrupted. Detection of communicable disease was complicated by the belief that only steerage or "hold" passengers needed to follow the required cleansing procedures. Travellers in cabin accommodations had not been exposed to "the squalor below decks", and thus were not considered contagious or a risk to health.

... quarantine facilities became an urgent priority in 1866 when the SS England arrived with several new cases of cholera ...

In response to a continued public health threat from shipboard contagion, quarantine facilities were established for the ports of Saint John (Partridge Island, 1785 - 1941) and Quebec (Grosse Île, 1832 - 1937). The facilities on Partridge Island were initially used in 1816 and the first communicable diseases hospital was built in 1830. Halifax had not yet become a major oceans arrival port, but was vulnerable to contagion as it was used as a common port for the



Remains of Winter Hospital, Lawlor Island (courtesy of Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, photographer: Steven Schwinghamer)

refuge and recovery of ships battered by Atlantic storms. However, no quarantine facilities existed for the Port of Halifax until the latter half of the 1860s. The lack of quarantine facilities became an urgent priority in 1866 when the *SS England* arrived in port with several new cases of cholera on board.

This vessel, carrying over 1200 passengers, arrived in April 1866. On the voyage across the Atlantic, 46 passengers had died of cholera. Quarantine facilities on McNabs Island were hastily improvised, using existing construction barracks to house the passengers for five days while they were observed for symptoms of cholera. Individuals who did not become ill were able to continue their journey. The Health Officer of the day took charge of the situation and arranged the cleaning and fumigation of the ship, assisted by the police and the Sisters of Charity. A naval vessel from the dockyard, the *Pyramus*, was used as a hospital ship to treat about 400 sick passengers. At the time there was no known effective medical treatment. In an attempt to prevent the spread of the disease the dead were suspended in coffins behind the *SS England* and in a boat astern the *Pyramus*. Approximately two hundred and fifty people perished in total. Having completed quarantine, the *SS England* was released nine days after arrival in Halifax, leaving 55 convalescing passengers behind on McNabs Island. There was an assumption that the outbreak was contained, but sadly this was not the reality.

Lawlor Island Quarantine Station

As a location for a quarantine station, the island posed some challenges. It is surrounded by shallow water and there was only one location for anchorage of ocean-going vessels. The shallow water around the island often froze during the winter, impeding access to the quarantine facility for up to three months. Despite the shallow approaches, no wharf was put in place for the station until the summer of 1876. To complicate the situation further, the island lacked a natural spring. This was a serious

deficiency considering the requirements for cleaning, bathing and disinfection of bedding and clothing and so several wells had to be dug.

The facilities aside, human error proved as much a source of difficulty in quarantine as any other factor at Lawlor Island. The original questions used in 1721 to determine if there was a risk of exposure to a communicable disease remained fundamentally unchanged and the authorities were at the mercy of the information provided by each ship's captain regarding the health of the crew and passengers. This was particularly true in November 1871 when the *SS Franklin* arrived in Halifax.

Approximately 30 of the 600 passengers on board the *SS Franklin* died of cholera on the voyage from Europe. The captain provided this information to the harbour pilot, but reduced the toll to three adults and six children in his official report to the medical officer. Unfortunately, the medical officer did not inspect the ship, speak with passengers, or read the ship's log. The ship was allowed to dock and workers from the city boarded to replenish her water and coal. When the pilot came aboard the ship to take her from the harbour, he learned of two more deaths while the ship was docked, and that the bodies had simply been dumped in the harbour. The effects of a ship docking with cholera and leaving the port of Halifax without being quarantined were profound. Deaths occurred that could have been prevented and outgoing traffic from the port of Halifax was forced into quarantine at ports all over the world. As Steven Schwinghamer stated in his lecture:

"This episode speaks to the interweaving of politics, public health, and migration. Ian Cameron argues that the public outcry into the conduct of the medical officer raised such a demand for professional accountability that in 1872 the Provincial Medical Board was formed - a body which later became the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. This ... episode also propelled the need for quarantine facilities back into public and political view."

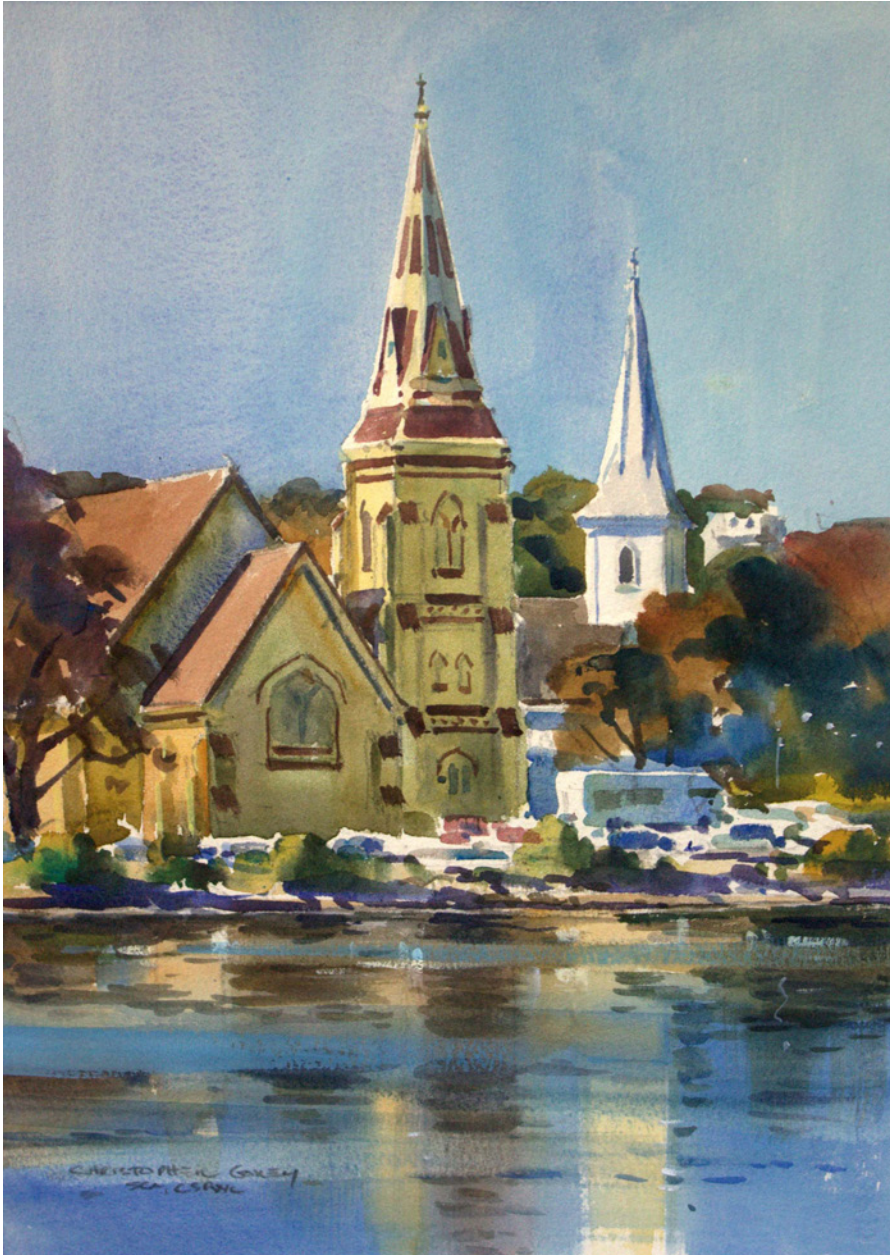
Immediately, work began to improve the facilities on Lawlor Island and two quarantine sheds were constructed over the winter of 1872. The station had sporadic cases of infectious disease but no major medical challenges occurred over the next twenty years. Significant improvements were made to the quarantine station in the mid 1890s, adding first- and third-class detention buildings and a disinfection apparatus.

By the turn of the century, the authorities in Halifax considered the Lawlor Island Quarantine Station complete. Most of the facilities were located at the north end of the island near the deep-water wharf. These included the bath and disinfection facility, the third-class buildings, the doctor's house, smallpox unit, and a small cemetery.

The winter hospital, an additional contagious disease hospital, and some other facilities were located near the middle of the island. There was a shallow wharf on the Eastern Passage side of the island and the first and second-class buildings were also located in this area. A water tower was built in 1923 and supplied the facility with fresh water, thus enabling the quarantine of a large ship.

The lecture included a survey of the surviving remnants of the quarantine infrastructure on the island today. For the most part, these are foundation ruins, difficult to access through the dense undergrowth. The disinfection unit constructed of double steel walls can still be found at the north end of the island near the remains of the deep-water wharf. A cemetery with surprisingly few graves is located in woods at the northernmost point of the island.

Eventually, advances in the control and containment of communicable disease left the island under-used. In 1938, the Lawlor Island quarantine facility was closed.



Mahone Bay, by Christopher Gorey, watercolour on paper, 22"x18", \$750

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1784: (Un)Settling Antigonish

Saturday Sept. 26 & Oct. 24
10:30 am and 1:30 pm

Antigonish Heritage Museum

20 Main Street, Antigonish, NS B2G 2E9
A healthy community knows its history

902-863-6160; antheritage@parl.ns.ca;
Facebook: Antigonish Heritage Museum

A participatory theatrical and musical pilgrimage will transport you back to 1784 and the first permanent European settlement of Antigonish by Colonel Timothy Hierlihy and his company of United Empire Loyalists at Antigonish Harbour, homeland of the Mi'kmaq. Pilgrims all, we'll resound to Mi'kmaq and Irish songs and rituals, featuring the harp music of the Hierlihy family's native Ireland. In the way of pilgrims, we will settle—or unsettle—for ourselves the past and the present of the place we call Antigonish.

\$20 seniors and unwaged, \$25 others, includes shuttle service to the site from the Antigonish Heritage Museum. Tickets available from Antigonish Heritage Museum.

The Music Room (Rotunda) at Prince's Lodge - a Personal Family Connection

Peter Delefes

Peter Delefes is a former President of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. As Vice-Principal (1976-1983) and Principal (1985-91) of Grosvenor-Wentworth Park School in Birch Cove, and as a member of a family which owned property where the Round House is located (1929-1972), he has close personal and family ties with the Prince's Lodge community. This article is about his family's connection to the Round House.

Much has been written about Prince's Lodge and its connection with Prince Edward, Duke of Kent (4th son of King George III and father of Queen Victoria), who was the garrison commander in Nova Scotia from 1794-1800. While in Nova Scotia, accompanied by his mistress, Madame de Saint-Laurent, Prince Edward resided at the country estate of Governor John Wentworth on the shores of Bedford Basin in what is now called Prince's Lodge. The focus of this article is the Music Room or Rotunda (or Round House as it is more familiarly known), which my family owned for a period of time before and during World War II. On the parcel of land just to the north of the building, my grandparents built a small cottage after the war. As the title indicates, our family's long association with this wonderful heritage building is what prompted me to write this piece.

The Rotunda was ... where the Duke's regimental band would perform for the Prince, Madame de Saint-Laurent, and invited guests

Shortly after Prince Edward's arrival in Halifax in 1794, Governor Wentworth offered the Prince the use of his villa and country estate at Rockingham, where the Prince and Madame de Saint-Laurent could enjoy the privacy and natural beauty of the surroundings. The villa was



Temple of Aeolus, one of the ornamental temples at Kew Gardens where Prince Edward spent much of his childhood. It is believed this inspired Prince Edward's design for the Round House at Prince's Lodge (author photo)



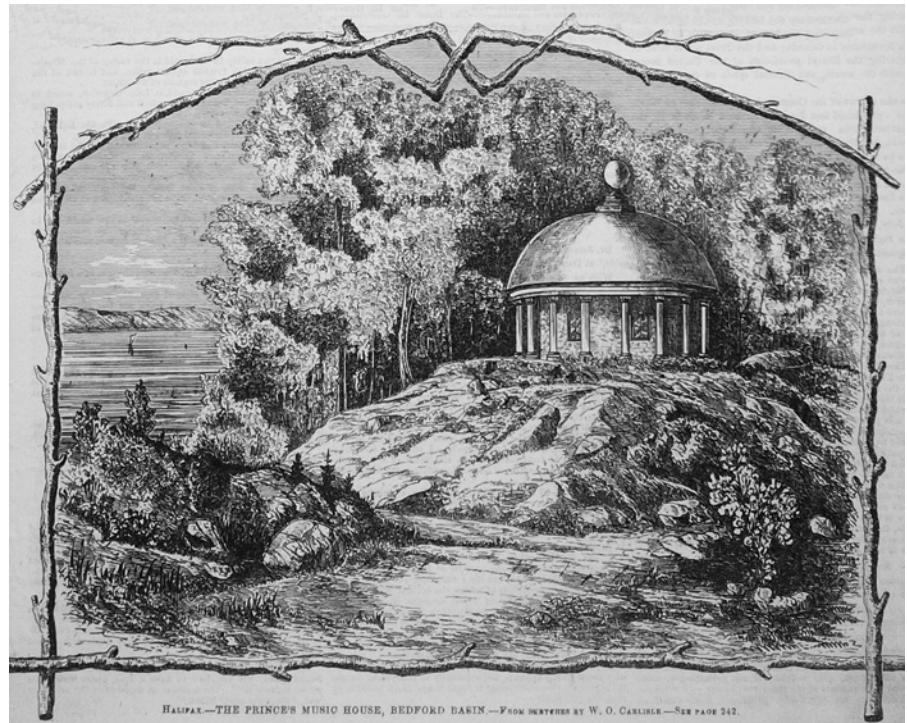
Members of the Greek community pose for a photo on the slope beneath the Rotunda in 1936. Rev. Pitsonis, the Greek Orthodox priest in Halifax, is seen at the top left in the photo. Seated to his right is James Karas (photo courtesy of the author)

officially known as Rockingham Lodge. The Wentworths' fine country house was a three-storey structure built in the Georgian style, replete with a portico and pediment at the entrance. This building became the home of Edward and Julie during the remainder of their

stay in Halifax. It appears that Prince Edward was given some latitude by Governor Wentworth to make improvements to the property, as he set about transforming it by employing English landscaping designs – serpentine paths, water features and decorative orna-

mental buildings such as those he was familiar with at Kew Palace, in London, where he spent much of his childhood. Because of Prince Edward's association with Wentworth's villa, Rockingham Lodge, it became known as Prince's Lodge and the name was extended to the local community.

The Rotunda (Music Room, Round House or Belvedere) was commissioned by Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent. Along with the Town Clock and St George's Round Church, it forms part of his rich legacy to Nova Scotia of civic built heritage. The Rotunda was situated on a knoll at the water's edge and could be clearly seen from the lodge. It was the site where the Duke's regimental band would perform for the Prince, Madame de Saint-Laurent, and invited



Drawing of Rotunda by British army painter, W.O. Carlisle. The drawing appeared in the Canadian Illustrated News in April, 1872 (the original page from the Canadian Illustrated News was left to Peter Delefes by the late Gertrude Tratt)



Family outing at the cottage built after the war at Prince's Lodge (beneath the Round House) – Peter Delefes (on tricycle) with grandfather, James Karas, 1948 (photo courtesy of the author)

guests. Thus, it was referred to as the Music Room although the performances did not take place inside the building, but on the lawn surrounding the Round House, where the guests could enjoy a panoramic view of Bedford Basin. It is thought that the unique design of the Rotunda was inspired by the ornamental Greek-Revival temples found at Kew Gardens.

As a young boy in the late 40s and early 50s, I can remember spending weekends at the cottage ... gather[ing] mussels from the shore and swim[ming] at the rock-strewn beach

My maternal grandmother, Mary Karas, arrived in Halifax in 1911 from Constantinople, Turkey, where she had been living with a sister since leaving her native island of Naxos, Greece, at the turn of the century. Her sister was married to an Armenian doctor in Constantinople. When she came to Halifax in 1911, she married James Karas, who had

left his village of Katouna, Greece, in the late 1880s to join the masses of people working on the building of the Panama Canal. From Panama, he responded to a call for miners in Cape Breton and, for a period of time, worked in the mines before arriving in Halifax in 1907. As such, he was one of the first Greek immigrants to settle in Halifax. Shortly after his arrival, he met another Greek immigrant, John Pearl, whose Greek surname was Margaritis (which, in English, translates to Pearl). He informed my grandfather of his eligible sister, Mary, living in Constantinople. Thus, the arrangement was made for my grandmother to come to Halifax to wed James Karas (originally Karamesiris). My grandfather was a merchant and had a confectionery business in south-end Halifax. Over the next decade, largely at my grandmother's initiative, they acquired a number of properties in the Barrington Street and Morris Street area. One of the properties at 28 Morris Street is now a Municipal Heritage Property and part of the Haliburton Inn. Its current civic address



Members of the Greek community enjoying a picnic along the shore at the Rotunda in 1935. Mary Karas is seated in the front row, with the child and the lady holding flowers to her left (photo courtesy of the author)

is 5170 Morris Street. They were living in that residence at the time of the Halifax Explosion. I remember my grandmother telling me that the only damage to the building from the explosion was the dislocation of the pipe from a coal stove resulting in my grandparents being covered in soot. During World War II they had a restaurant, Karas' Luncheonette, on the corner of Morris and Barrington. When I was born in 1943, the family was living in premises above the restaurant. It was my first home.

In 1929, Mary Karas acquired the property at Prince's Lodge where the Rotunda (Round House) was located. Because the CNR had a right-of-way on either side of the railway cutting, a small section of the Round House was owned by my grandmother and the rest was on CNR's right-of-way. During the 1930s and into the war years, my grandparents used the Round House and the property as a weekend retreat. As part owners of the building, they maintained and upgraded the structure. By the mid-1930s, there were about 35 families of Greek origin in Halifax. On Sundays, after

church, they would gather at Prince's Lodge to have picnics. The photographs of the gatherings show the families with their children seated on the knoll on the north side of the Rotunda and posing at the long picnic table erected near the shore. The local restaurant suppliers would provide refreshments and large containers of ice cream, which would be kept cool by being immersed in the Basin. At the end of the war my grandparents built a small cottage at the base of the north side of the hill. As a young boy in the late 40s and early 50s, I can remember spending weekends at the cottage. We would gather mussels from the shore and swim at the rock-strewn beach. My grandmother had hired someone to build a retaining wall along the shore to prevent erosion. I remember the sink in the kitchen had one of those manually operated hand pumps. There was a freshwater spring in the rail cutting which provided a regular source of fresh, clean water. One of my chores when we were staying at the cottage was to cross the railway tracks and fetch the spring water.

Recently, I visited the site with a friend. A flood of memories overtook me. The north side of the knoll where the cottage once stood has been overgrown by shrubs and small trees. There is a small piece of the cottage foundation still visible, but otherwise no sign that there had ever been a dwelling on the north side of the hill. The retaining wall is long gone. The side of the hill where the photos of the Greek community picnics were taken, now covered with shrubs and bushes, seems precipitously steep. I wondered how those 50 or 60 people in the photo could manage to sit on the hill without sliding off. We walked around the Rotunda porch and enjoyed the magnificent view of the Basin, a view which must have captivated the Prince's guests while they were enjoying the music of the regimental band.

The Round House, which is owned and maintained by the Province, is one of the unique buildings of Nova Scotia and a legacy of Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent. I have fond memories of my own connection with the property and am proud of my family's stewardship of the site, including the Round House.

Suggested reading:

The following are two excellent books for those wishing to glean more information about Prince's Lodge and the buildings associated with Governor Wentworth and Prince Edward in the Prince's Lodge area:

Ingalls, Sharon and Ingalls, Wayne. 2010.

Sweet Suburb: a History of Prince's Lodge, Birch Cove and Rockingham.
Tantallon: Glen Margaret Publishing,
272 p. ISBN 1897462182.

Naftel, William D. 2005. *Prince Edward's Legacy – The Duke of Kent in Halifax: Romance and Beautiful Buildings.*

Formac, 96 p. ISBN 9780887806483

REGENERATING PLACES OF FAITH

A WORKSHOP FOR RURAL AND SMALL URBAN COMMUNITIES



Thursday, September 24, 2015, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

New Dawn Centre for Social Innovation, 37 Nepean Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Places of faith anchor and shape our communities. Yet many congregations are facing declining attendance and insufficient funding to maintain and operate their buildings. These important community assets are in a period of transition, both in rural and in small urban areas. What is their future? Whether it is to keep the doors open, make strategic real estate decisions, or meet community needs in new ways, their future depends on urgent collaboration among community organizations, elected officials, faith group leaders, the business community, universities and more.

This one-day workshop will share inspiring examples and proven strategies that faith groups and community organizations can apply in Cape Breton and beyond. There will be time for some applied problem-solving as well. The session will be presented by two national organizations – the **National Trust for Canada**, and **Faith & the Common Good** – working in collaboration with Cape Breton University and the Sydney Architectural Conservation Society. The organizers gratefully acknowledge the funding support of ACOA and the CBU Tompkins Institute.

Register online at www.nationaltrustcanada.ca/regeneration-places-faith or complete the registration form below and return it to the National Trust along with the \$20 workshop fee. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

For more information: info@nationaltrustcanada.ca or toll free 1-866-964-1066.

REGISTRATION FORM

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address: _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Workshop Fee: \$20.00

Method of Payment Visa MasterCard Cheque (payable to the National Trust for Canada)
 Pay at door (cheque or cash only)

Name on Credit Card: _____

Expiration Date: Month _____ / Year _____ CVV (Security code on back of card): _____

Credit card number: _____

Please submit the completed registration form as follows:

Fax: 613-237-5987

Mail: Places of Faith Workshop

Email: info@nationaltrustcanada.ca

National Trust for Canada

190 Bronson Avenue

Ottawa (Ontario) K1R 6H4

For more information: info@nationaltrustcanada.ca or toll free 1-866-964-1066.

National Trust
for Canada
Bringing heritage to life



Fiducie nationale
du Canada
Le patrimoine en vie



Programs Sponsored by Other Societies

Bridgewater

Brookside Cemetery Tour, Saturday Sept. 26, 2:00-3:30 pm, guided by local historian, Peter Oickle, who will take you back in time to meet the people who shaped Bridgewater's history. Tickets \$5, purchased on site with exact change. Meet at cemetery entrance off York Street, 10 minutes before tour. In case of inclement weather, tours will be rescheduled. 902-543-4033 (DesBrisay Museum)

Cape Breton Centre for Heritage and Science

Lyceum, 225 George Street, Sydney, NS B1P 1J5
Abbass Studios Exhibit, back by popular demand. Abbass Studios Ltd, Old Sydney Society, and the Beaton Institute have come together to update last year's exhibit, providing refreshed content of new images with even more photos that document the history of Industrial Cape Breton. Tues.-Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, continues until November.

Colchester Historical Society

29 Young Street, PO Box 412, Truro, NS B2N 5C5
Truro in the 1950s as told by Frank Cameron, Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 pm. Frank Cameron, much loved TV personality and author of *I Owe It All to Rock and Roll (and the CBC)*, will reflect on his days at CKCL, Rocky Jones, his career refereeing hockey and other asides. 902-895-6284

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

471 Poplar Drive, Cole Harbour, NS B2W 4L2
Harvest Dinner Sunday Oct. 11 and Monday Oct. 12 at 6:30 pm, advance ticket sale required, adult \$28 and under-12 \$14
902-434-0222; coleharbourfarmmuseum.ca

Halifax Women's History Society

Official launch will be on the morning of Thursday Oct. 29 at Halifax City Hall.
<http://halifaxwomenshistory.ca>

Highland Village

4119 Highway 223, Iona, NS B2C 1A3
Celtic Colours Milling Frolic Oct. 9, 2015 Join us for a traditional milling frolic in a period setting at the Highland Village. Refreshments served, museum admission charges apply, 2:00-3:00 pm. 902-725-2272; 866-4GAELIC (1-866-442-3542); highlandvillage@gov.ns.ca

Kings County Museum

37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville, NS B4N 2E2
Kings Historical Society meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm Sept. to May
902-678-6237; kingscountymuseum.ca

Memory Lane Village

5435 Clam Harbour Road, Lake Charlotte, NS B0J 1Y0
Traditional 1940s Christmas Dinner, Sat. Nov. 14 & Sun. Nov. 15, candlelit concert in Memory Lane Church at 5:00 pm, cash bar opens 6:00 pm, dinner 6:30 pm, \$25.
An authentic 1940s Christmas dinner served by lamplight in our traditionally decorated Cookhouse. No turkey! 902-845-1937 for reservations

NS Archaeology Society

Theatre A in the Burke Building, Saint Mary's University
Fourth Tuesday at 7:30 pm
www.novascotiaarchaeologysociety.com

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Lectures on the third Wednesday at 7:30 pm
NS Archives, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax, NS B3H 1W4
Phyllis R Blakeley Memorial Lecture, "To stimulate the acquisition of general knowledge and to promote sociability": The Young Ladies Club of Baddeck, Sharon MacDonald, Sept. 16
In defense of Mi'kma'ki: Mi'kmaq military power in Northeastern North America (1675-1761), Tod Scott, Oct. 21

The Legacy of Gordon Sidney Harrington, 1909 to 1925, Carole MacDonald, Nov 18
Material Life and Landscape along the St Mary's River in Northeastern Nova Scotia, 1840-1910, Meghann Jack, PhD candidate, Department of Folklore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dec. 9.
<http://rnshs.ca>

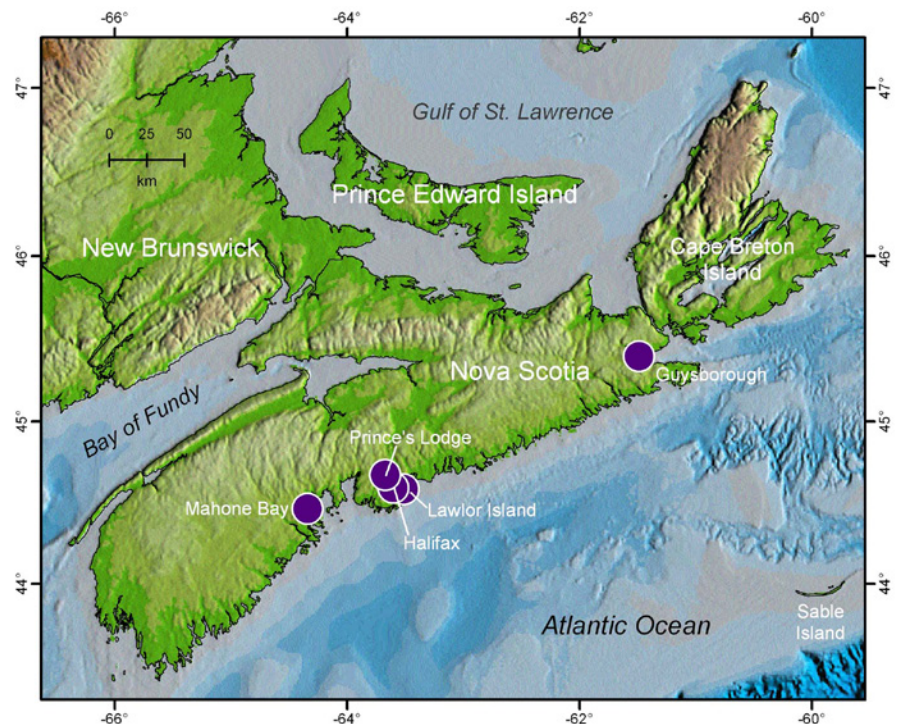
Shelburne

Whirligig and Weathervane Festival Sept. 19-20 includes art show, sale, and rug hooking display
902-875-3205 (John Brown); johnlucy646@hotmail.com

Stewiacke Valley Museum and Historical Society

5445 Highway 289, Upper Stewiacke, NS B0N 2P0
Wednesday to Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to Sept. 20. **Afternoon social** Tuesday Sept. 15 1:00-3:00 pm (by donation). 902-671-2118

Locations of subject matter in this issue



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