

HERITAGE LETTER

news from the Heritage Division's Heritage Property Program * Summer 2007

The Heritage Property Program is pleased to present the twice annual heritage letter for provincial heritage property owners, providing updates on the program and related issues affecting heritage property owners. Contact us with your comments, suggestions and stories.

Advisory Council on Heritage Property

Peter Sheehan, Chair of the Advisory Council on Heritage Property, welcomed two new members: Peter Newbould, Grand Pre; and Ken Isles, Mount Uniacke. In addition, Brian Cuthbertson was appointed Vice-Chair.

Frank Harrington, former member of the Council, passed away in January 2007. He will be long remembered and appreciated as a professional who served the Province and contributed his expertise to not only designing significant pieces of architecture, but to help protect Nova Scotia's built heritage.

Heritage Properties: Recent Recommendations

On March 23, 2007, the Advisory Council on Heritage Property recommended the Pioneer Cemetery, New Glasgow for inclusion in the Provincial Registry. The cemetery was established and fronts along the East River, which provides a peaceful backdrop for this historic graveyard. The cemetery is the resting place of early settlers to the area, including Rev. James MacGregor (1759 - 1830) and James William Carmichael (1819 - 1903), and contains many original and historic grave stones and monuments, with their detailed inscriptions still visible.

Outreach Activities of the Heritage Property Program

Kevin Barrett, Program Coordinator, has served as a heritage advisor on restoration projects for two historic properties - Fort Ives and Government House. Fort Ives is a project lead by the Department of Natural Services to restore the military facilities of Fort Ives (McNab's Island). Government House is a project lead by the Department of Transportation and Public Works to completely restore this significant heritage property. The CBC has begun to film this project for a documentary to be aired once the project is complete.

A number of residents contacted the department about the pending demolition of the Kentville Roundhouse, a unique example of industrial built heritage and the last roundhouse in Nova Scotia. The Program Coordinator, at the request of Honourable Len Goucher, Minister responsible for the *Heritage Property Act*, visited the roundhouse on June 8, 2007. He advised the Mayor of Kentville (owner of the property) of the building's heritage value and the opportunity to have the building registered as a provincial heritage property, and offered to meet to discuss the matter. This offer was not accepted and the town's Council decided to demolish the Roundhouse on July 9, 2007.

A joint presentation with African Nova Scotia Affairs on heritage opportunities (such as new heritage registrations, funding opportunities and promotion of the community's built heritage) was made in the Windsor area on June 13, 2007. This meeting was attended by 20 local residents.

Heritage Property Grants

The Heritage Property Program has routinely provided grants to support registered heritage properties in Nova Scotia. In 2006-07, with a grant budget of \$50,000, approximately \$22,000 was awarded for Conservation Work, \$1,000 for Conservation Advice, and \$15,000 for Provincial Tax Rebate. This year, staff are pleased to advise owners of a new sales tax rebate offered to heritage property owners from the Department of Finance. This rebate will reimburse property owners for the provincial portion of the HST paid for materials used to conserve their property. For more information, please contact our office at 902-424-5647.

Municipal Notes

- ❑ The development of new Heritage Conservation Districts are well underway in many communities in Nova Scotia. Staff of the Heritage Property Program have recently met with heritage staff of the Town of Yarmouth, the City of Sydney (Cape Breton Regional Municipality) and the Town of Shelburne to discuss their pending applications.
- ❑ The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) has been involved with a Regional Centre Urban Design Study. This study will develop a strategy for future development in HRM's urban cores and methods to protect its rich built heritage. Input from both Kevin Barrett, Coordinator, Heritage Property Program and Jill Scott, Manager, Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative was provided.

Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative

The Nova Scotia Historic Places Initiative (NSHPI) has been working within the Heritage Division for the past few years. The program offers new opportunities to celebrate heritage in Nova Scotia and to educate stewards of heritage on the proper conservation of their properties. The on-line Register of Historic Places is a searchable database that is available to anyone interested in heritage. To access the Register, please visit www.historicplaces.ca, or the Nova Scotia version at www.nshistoricplaces.ca. If your property is not on the Register, please contact the NSHPI Senior Registrar at 902-424-4379.

NSHPI also provides advice on the proper conservation of historic places. Jeffery Reed, Standards and Guidelines Officer, will be promoting the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* to ensure property owners and heritage officials are aware of this tool that is used across Canada. For more information, please call 902-424-3727.

News from Advocates of Heritage

- ❑ The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has been active in community outreach programs, including a workshop series, an awards program and building awareness of heritage issues with their publication of the *Griffin*. For more information, please go to their website: www.htns.ca.
- ❑ The Provincial Heritage Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia has also been active in promoting heritage in Nova Scotia. It has developed the L. B. Jenson Heritage Award to celebrate heritage in Nova Scotia. For more information, please go to their website: www.nsheritageproperties.ca.

Heritage Conference - Embracing the Heritage Advantage

The 2nd annual heritage planners conference was held in Amherst on March 22-23, 2007. Titled *Embracing the Heritage Advantage*, this conference included discussions with developers and heritage experts, and provided candid approaches to developing a registered heritage property. The audience for this two-day session included 84 people ranging from heritage planners and officers, municipal councillors, members of the Advisory Council on Heritage Property and various Heritage Advisory Committees, to property owners and advocates of heritage. Tours of the community and great discussions over dinners followed. Watch for news about next year's conference to be held in Yarmouth. If interested, please call 902-424-4634.



Heritage Property Program

The Heritage Letter is produced twice a year.

Enquiries should be sent to:
Kevin Barrett, Coordinator, Heritage Property Program
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6