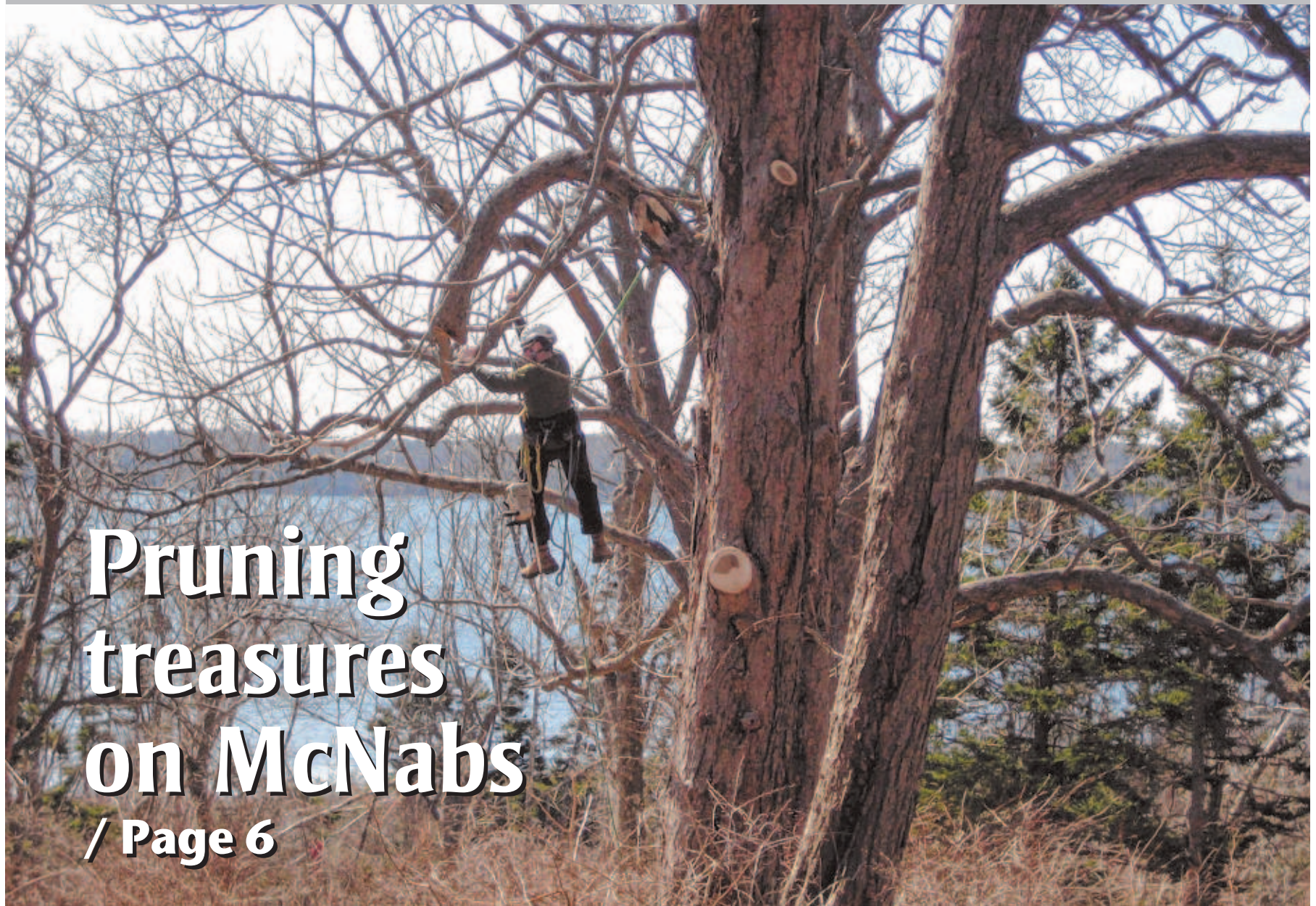


Dartmouth HRM East Community Herald

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA



Pruning treasures on McNabs / Page 6

A group of professional arborists volunteered to trim overgrown trees on McNabs Island recently. A Victorian garden on the island once rivalled the Halifax Public Gardens and the Friends of McNabs Island are trying to rehabilitate some garden features.

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NAVIGATING DIVORCE

For people just out of a marriage or relationship, the future can appear bleak. DivorceCare, a program at Stevens Road United Baptist Church, can help divorce survivors cope, writes Brenda MacDonald. / **Page 3**



FOSTERING DIVERSITY

When the municipal election rolls around in October, advocates for the black community are hoping a series of workshops will mean some candidates who represent people whose voices aren't always heard. / **Page 11**

Group reveals Victorian gardens on McNabs

Professional arborists from HRM, NB Power and NSP pump up volunteer effort

By **PAT LEE**
Staff Reporter

In a bygone era, the Victorian gardens on McNabs Island were said to rival the Halifax Public Gardens.

The gardens were designed by Englishman Frederick Perrin of the Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce family, who bought the property on the island in Halifax Harbour in 1885.

His home overlooked a terraced lawn surrounded by exotic and native plantings, including purple-leaf European beech, several large horse chestnuts and a group of English hawthorns.

The garden also included Japanese maples, hemlocks, cedars, lilacs, roses, mock orange and Japanese barberry, among others.

Lo these many years later, the gardens have long grown over, hiding their former beauty in a tangled mess of foliage.

But for the first time in more than 50 years, a team of professional arborists spent a recent Saturday on the island cleaning up the gardens and other areas, pruning back old growth, taking down dead trees and cleaning up dead-fall left by hurricane Juan.

“We got all this work done. It was amazing,” said Faye Power, the former lightkeeper’s daughter who lived on the island until she was 10. “It was such a shame to see none of this being tended.”

Now a member of the Friends of McNabs Island, she was one of 17 volunteers who helped the 22 arborists clear up trimmed brush after the professionals had done their work, which often found them suspended high in the air.

The arborists came from around the region and are employed by a number of firms or utilities, including Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia Power and New Brunswick Power.

The volunteered expert labour was



A volunteer arborist trims a tree on McNabs Island during a recent cleanup organized by the Friends of McNabs Island Society.



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AUCTION

In accordance with the Warehouseman's Lien Act; there will be sold by public auction, the abandoned properties stored at Atcan Self Storage 7095 Chebucto Road, Halifax NS B3L 0A1, 2021 Brunswick St Halifax NS B3K 2Y5 and 91 Tacoma Drive, Dartmouth NS B2W 3E8. The auctions will take place on Saturday, the 21st day of April 2012, starting at 10:00AM at 7095 Chebucto Rd and continuing at other locations until completed.

Please note: Onsite parking will not be available at the auction sites.

The personal effects and belongings of the following tenants will be sold:

Joseph Bogue	Kely Lyons
Brian Cooper	Sheldon Duke
Jeremy Durno	Eileen Marshall
Rhonda Bonn	Mitchell Walker
Robert Maidment	Elodie Detchevery
Desmond & Nina Lambert	Mike Hirschbach

Items to be auctioned include miscellaneous household goods, furniture, toys, etc.

AUCTION

McNabs

continued from / Page 6

worth about \$10,500.

Although the island is a provincial park, much of the care and upkeep, including a new trails project, is undertaken and paid for by the Friends.

The society raised \$60,000 to repair the gardens and put in a new trail system.

“If we don’t do it, nothing gets done,” said Power, whose father Colin Cleveland was the last lighthouse keeper on the island, retiring in 1957.

She said the gardens project is the baby of Cathy McCarthy, the tireless president of the organization.

“The Victorian gardens have been a pet project of Cathy’s. She’s been the driving force.”

Power said McCarthy, who could not be there that day, will be particularly happy the arborists, lead by Stan Kochanoff, were able to find a dwarf maple in the garden, crowded out by fir



A number of professional arborists, above, lent their skills to the Friends of McNab Island Society to help clean up an old Victorian garden and overgrown trees.

trees.

“I was saying to Stan, ‘I know there’s a maple here somewhere. I know it’s her pet.’ And we finally found it.”

Power said the turnout of arborists was so good that they were able to tackle other projects, including pruning and cleaning up linden trees and a camperdown elm on the Conrad estate (Gladys Conrad was the sister of Bill Lynch, the fairgrounds king).

She said they also did trail-clearing work for future trail construction.

The work crews also cleared around

the A.J. Davis Soda Pop Factory, which operated before and during Prohibition, producing soda pop as well as a special concoction called Pure McNab.

Volunteers are expected to be back on the island over the next several weeks to continue the cleanup. She said it’s possible the arborists might be back another time, too.

The Friends of McNabs Island Society will hold its annual meeting on May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

(plee@herald.ca)

Granville Street tower plan to get public hearing

The controversial Skye Halifax property will move to a public hearing with regional council defeating a motion last week that called to reverse that decision. Regional councillors voted Feb. 21 to move the proposed twin 48-storey towers to the public forum, despite the fact that at 150 metres they are more than double the height restrictions for that part of downtown.

United Gulf Developments Ltd. had an initial agreement that would have let them move forward with two 27-storey towers, dubbed the Twisted Sisters, on the same Granville Street site. But the developer returned to city hall with a taller vision after the initial proposal had expired.

Coun. Bob Harvey (Lower Sackville) asked council to change its original position, saying the proposal was “an assault on the downtown plan” and blatantly violates HRM by Design.

Other councillors worried that United Gulf Developments Ltd.’s proposal would set a precedent that other developers could follow if it were approved.

special advertising feature

HALIFAX’S OLDEST FUNERAL HOME, J.A. SNOW PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE TITANIC STORY

By Carol Dobson – special features writer

It’s a story that lives on a century after the massive ocean liner RMS Titanic slipped underneath the ocean on a clear April night a little over 700 miles from Halifax.

In those early days of mass communication, stories abounded about the ship, some true, others that became apocryphal legends. But one story has endured – the story of how Halifax stepped up to honour those who perished that fateful night as it has on so many other tragic events since.

The personnel of Halifax’s oldest funeral home, J.A. Snow played a significant part in the Titanic story.

“White Star Line’s agents in Halifax took two important actions that led to the recovery of the bodies of several victims. Firstly, they chartered the cable ship Mackay-Bennett to recover as many victims as possible from the ocean, and secondly they contracted J.A. Snow—the largest such firm in Nova Scotia at the time—to prepare any bodies that were recovered for burial,” John A. Snow, of Snow’s Funeral Home, says.

John R. Snow, the son of the firm’s founder set sail on the Mackay-Bennett with the supplies his trade required – 125 coffins, all of the embalming fluid in

the city, sail canvas, iron to weigh bodies that would be buried at sea, and ice. Of the four ships from Halifax, the Mackay-Bennett and Minia would recover the majority of the 337 bodies that were found. The bodies of 128 victims were buried at sea and 209 were brought to Halifax. Of those brought to Halifax, 59 were sent home to loved ones and 150 were buried in three of this city’s graveyards.

Snow’s also marshalled undertakers from throughout the region to assist in preparing these bodies for burial. Sadly, their task would prove to be a dress rehearsal for a larger event five years into the future, the Halifax explosion.

“The attention of people around the world was focused on newspapers for weeks after the disaster, seeking the latest news about the sinking of the so-called unsinkable mammoth ship,” Snow said. “As the effect of the tragedy registered with the general public and the families of victims, Snow’s Funeral home worked tirelessly in the days and weeks following the disaster to ensure the remains of the people who perished were given a dignified final goodbye.”

Snow’s has never forgotten the role the company played in the Titanic story and, on April 15, a monument honouring the victims will be unveiled at its 339 Lacewood Drive location at 7:00 p.m. with presentations and a reception to follow.

Invitation

Please join us for an evening of remembering & honouring the RMS

TITANIC

passengers and crew and those who were there to help in a great time of need.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH, 7PM
339 Lacewood Drive, Halifax