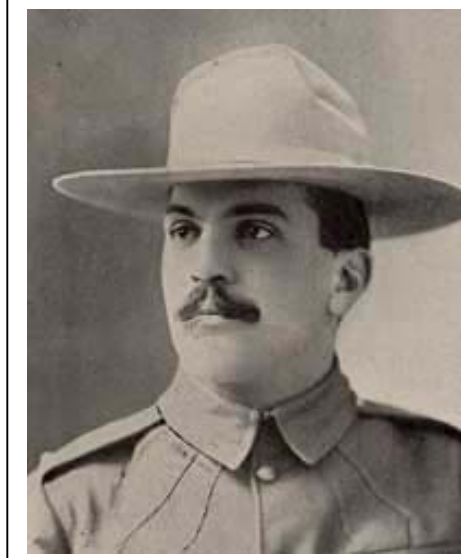


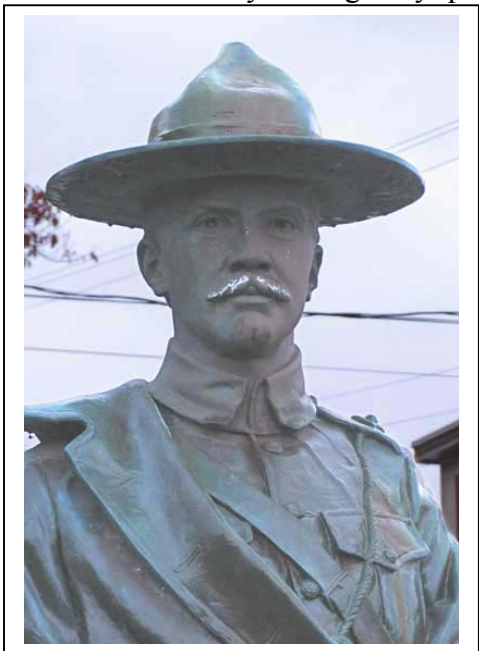
The year was 1899. Queen Victoria had recently celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. The British Empire was at its zenith in power and prestige. But the High Commissioner of Cape Colony in South Africa, Alfred Milner, wanted more. He wanted to gain for the Empire the economic power of the gold mines in the Dutch Boer republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. He also wanted to create a Cape-to-Cairo confederation of British colonies to dominate the African continent. And he wanted to rule over it.

Pressure arose from the *Uitlanders* (foreigners) and the British mine owners to overthrow the *Boer* (meaning farmer) government. In 1895, Cecil Rhodes sponsored the failed coup d'état backed by an armed incursion, the Jameson Raid. Of this raid, Jan C. Smuts wrote in 1906, "The Jameson Raid was the real declaration of war... in spite of the four years of truce that followed... [the] aggressors consolidated their alliance... the defenders on the other hand silently and grimly prepared for the inevitable."



**Harold Borden**

Milner precipitated a war with the Boers. As always, over-confident generals and politicians predicted the war would be over 'by Christmas'. And again, as frequently happened with the British in their colonial wars, they only win one battle - the last one. But they would have to wait two and one-half years for that. Until then, disaster was piled on disaster, military careers were destroyed, 22,000 Tommy Atkins (a common term for British soldiers) are laid to rest in 'some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England', and the Empire muddles on in the heat and dust of the South African veldt.



Of the 300 Canadians who died during the Boer War in South Africa, none touched the heartstrings of the dominion more than the death of young Lt. Harold Borden of Canning, NS. Harold Borden's father was Sir Frederick W. Borden, Canada's Minister of Militia who was a strong proponent of Canadian participation in the war in South Africa, and among those most eager to test Canadian men and war material under battlefield conditions. He could not know the high price he would pay for his enthusiasm. Harold was a prominent officer in his local militia unit but was in the midst of medical studies at McGill University when the Boer War broke out. In addition to being an able student and athlete, Harold Borden was an ardent member of

the militia cavalry. He had joined the King's Canadian Hussars as a trooper at the age of 17 and was commissioned in 1897. That year, along with several other militia officers, he accompanied Prime Minister Laurier to London for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

When the First Contingent embarked for South Africa, the press - ever eager to needle a politician when a weak spot is detected - tauntingly reminded the Minister of his enthusiasm. "Where is the son of the Minister of Militia?" Young Harold, stung by press criticism that seemed to question his bravery and his patriotism, against his father's wishes, signed up for the Second Contingent.

Harold was brought to Lord Roberts' attention for his battlefield exploits - during the March to Pretoria - when he swam back and forth across the Vet to draw the fire of the Boers to expose them as the army launched its attack at Coetzee's Drift.

On July 16, 1900, while leading their men to go to the aid of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, Harold Borden and John Burch, companions in a great "adventure," went ahead to reconnoiter the enemy positions. Still green at war after only a few months, they stood up, perhaps a bit too eagerly and unwisely, to get a better look. Both were shot at close range by snipers. Borden died instantly, the first member of his regiment to be killed; Burch died shortly afterwards.

A monument in the family plot marks the empty grave of Harold Borden, who is actually interred at Pretoria, South Africa.

Upon learning of Harold Borden's death Queen Victoria would ask Frederick Borden for a photograph of his much bereaved son. The Queen also granted Frederick Borden a knighthood in what must have been poor compensation for such a loss. Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, Frederick's cousin and fellow Nova Scotian, later wrote of his young relative, "He was a splendid young man of great promise; I remember him well: of great stature, six feet four inches in height, dark, handsome and of fine presence and manner. He was the hope and delight of his father." Prime Minister Laurier praised Harold, while tributes arrived from across Canada, and in 1903 his hometown of Canning, Nova Scotia erected a monument to his memory.

Harold Borden's father Sir Frederick W. Borden was the Canadian Minister of Militia and Defense from 1896-1911. It has been stated that Frederick Borden's greatest contribution to Canadian military reform and the next logical step in Canadian nationalism was the 1906

### The Look-Off



take-over of the British fortresses at Halifax and Esquimalt.

Blomidon Provincial Park is located on the shores of the Minas Basin in Nova Scotia. It is known for spectacular views and the world's highest tides. Blomidon is located on 1,875 acres (7.6 km<sup>2</sup>) of land with 600 ft (180 m) high cliffs. The park offers a 70-site campground (both field and woodland sites), two picnic areas, an unsupervised beach and hiking trails. A 14 km loop connects all of the hiking trails, offering an interpretive trail, lookoffs, and a waterfall.

On a crystal clear day, four counties of the Annapolis Valley are visible, but the view 17 May was less than desirable. The valley below was partially shrouded behind a gossamer veil of fog that rolled down in great sheets of thin gauze off the hills and cliffs. Quoting an 1897 tour guide—"You will be a better man for having stood on Look-Off's loft top. It will clear your eyes and expand your spiritual being and you will leave that breezy eminence with a feeling of exaltation." It was a spectacular panorama of winter's barren fields, intertwined with patchwork plots of lush green growth viewed from the eagle's aerie.

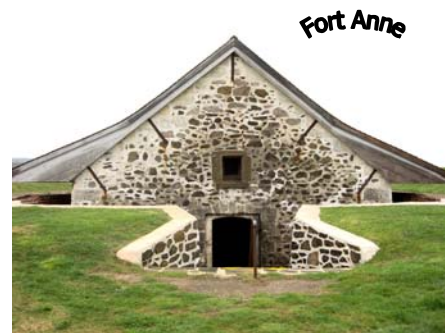
We strolled through the centuries at Annapolis Royal, (2006 Population 444) located in



**Annapolis Royal**

the western part of Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. Known as Port-Royal until 1710, it is one of the oldest continuous European settlements in North America. Settled by Samuel de Champlain and Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Monts in 1605, this region comprises the oldest continuous European settlement north of St. Augustine, Florida. The original community was founded on the north side of the Annapolis Basin in 1605. It was moved to its present site after

being destroyed by British attackers in 1613. Here, the capital of the French colony of Acadia prospered for nearly a century, though it was subject to frequent attack and capture by the British or its New England colonists, only to be restored each time to French control by subsequent recapture or treaty stipulations. Acadia remained in French hands throughout most of the 17th century. In 1710, Port-Royal surrendered for the last time to British forces who renamed it Annapolis Royal after Queen Anne (1665-1714), the reigning monarch. The name is formed through a mix of the former French name Port-Royal and combining the queen's name with that of 'polis', the



**Fort Anne**

Greek word for city.

The French fort was renamed Fort Anne and established as a British garrison. The Fort, built originally around 1703, was designed to defend the capital from seaward attack. Today, much of the original earthen embankments are preserved for tours by the public, as well as some buildings original to the military facility. Under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, Acadia was granted to the British; however the vague boundary definitions saw only the peninsular part of Nova Scotia granted to Britain, and the next half century would be turbulent years as Britain and France acted out the final struggle for Acadia and North America. Annapolis Royal served as the first capital of the Colony of Nova Scotia from 1710 until the founding of Halifax in 1749.

In 1605, the Habitation of Port Royal was built under the leadership of the Sieur de Mons  
**Larry & Twyla**



who, on condition that he establish settlements and cultivate the land, was granted fishing and fur trading rights over a vast area. Initially, this included Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince



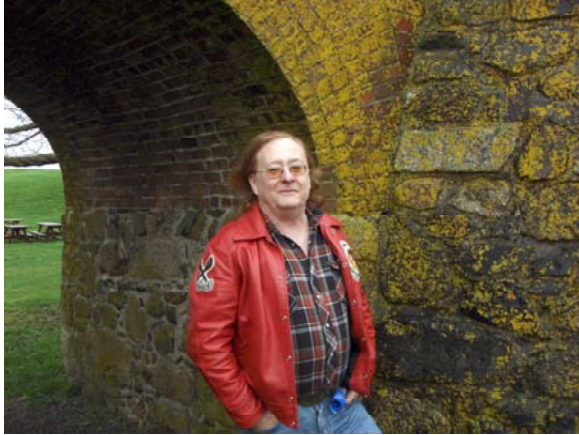
Edward Island, and was referred to as l'Acadie. The French settlers - Acadians - became highly proficient builders of dykes and aboiteaux (sluices) to drain the immensely fertile salt marshes. The Acadians chose to settle these reclaimed lowlands, rather than clear the higher woodland. The new settlement at Port Royal established a strong and enduring bond with the Mi'kmaq people, who not only supplied the Acadians with essential furs, but more importantly, aided them in surviving and

adapting to life in the New World.

I was able to see the interior of the Bailey House. The house at 150 St. George Street was built around 1770, probably by John Easson, a master artificer at the fort. On August 5, 1783, he sold the dwelling, storehouse, and 110 perches of land for 500 British pounds to Joseph Totten of New York, a Loyalist refugee with a wife, six children and four slaves in his household. A strong tradition holds that Edward, the duke of Kent, danced here at a ball during a visit to Annapolis Royal in the 1790s. Joseph Totten was the maternal grandfather of Sir William Robert Wolseley Winniett (1793-1850), a native of Annapolis Royal who became governor of the Cape Coast Colony in Africa and died in Accra (now Ghana). In 1819, merchant James Robertson purchased the property from the estate of

Joseph Totten and sold the house in 1837 to Elizabeth Bailey, widow of Thomas Henry Bailey, barrack master at the fort and son of Loyalist Reverend Jacob Bailey. She and her three daughters kept it as an aristocratic boarding house. "Marm Bailey," immortalized in the writings of T.C. Haliburton, was renowned for the moose muffle soup she prepared.

After passing out of the hands of the Bailey family, the house, although never substantially altered, was long neglected. Now handsomely restored and well preserved, Bailey House is a private residence and bed and breakfast. Many of the old features remain, though it has been remodelled with modern amenities. The floor is of rough-hewn



**Larry Power  
Fort Anne**

French forts built between 1643 and 1792. Fort Anne was a 17<sup>th</sup> century Acadian capital and the British capital from 1710 to 1749, a 1755 Deportation site and Canada's oldest National Historic Site and sits on the most fought over piece of land in Canada. The gently rolling slopes of Fort Anne are covered with a dense carpet of plush emerald green grass, gracefully and immaculately manicured and the lingering damp scent of just mown grass. Several old structures remain, including a powder house and the Black Hole, also a powder house, but serving as a holding cell for prisoners. There is a moss and lichen covered stone arch bridge connecting two embankments. The fortification overlooks the Bay of Fundy, preventing any unannounced ships navigating into the harbour.

timber with gaps between the boards and the front door is original, and as the new owner pointed out, "It has seen battles." Indeed, it shows evidence of musket shot and other battle scars.

Along Upper and Lower St. George Street are 24 historic buildings and other significant historic sites including Fort Anne, a former Mi'kmaq encampment, home to an early French wheat field, site of a 1629 Scottish fort, as well as four successive

**Field Officers' Quarters**



The Field Officers' Quarters, Fort Anne c. 1797--this building is one of the most enduring symbols of Annapolis Royal - its image has been incorporated into the logo of the town's National Historic District. The field officers' quarters were constructed in 1797 on the

order of Prince Edward, commander-in-chief of British forces in Nova Scotia and later duke of Kent. Initially, built to house two field officers, use of the officers' quarters changed over time. During the first half of the nineteenth century, various people occupied it, including the hospital assistant, officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers, and their families. The officers' quarters became a museum and park office in 1918.



There was a delicious heavenly and yeasty scent beckoning from the old green house to east of the gardens, and we drifted right on over, following that smell to the bakery, housed in back of the family home. There was also a small dining room that looked out at a giant old oak tree surrounded by early-spring bloomers of hyacinth and what I believe might have been a variety of bougainvillea. A hummingbird feasted on the

**Twyla Woodring**  
**Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens**

sweet nectar, delighting us by darting from one flower to another.

We learned that this family had come from East Germany about five years ago and opened the bakery. The daughter related that they had it better than most other parts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, due to fact that East Germany was isolated from the rest of the Communist Bloc.

**Larry Power**  
**Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens**



Larry would never try any new foods and stuck to what he was familiar with. But I had to try schnitzel (a fried breaded pork cutlet) sandwiche and a Hungarian Goulash. The sandwiches were served on hard yeast buns with thick slices of tomato and lettuce. The goulash was made with tomato, zucchini, parsnips and red sweet peppers. The meal was completed with sweets from the bakery.

A short distant further up the street is the 10-acre Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens. The Historic Gardens comprises several themed gardens representing different periods in history. La Maison Acadienne et Potager shows an early French settler's dwelling, the Governor's Garden is reminiscent of the period following 1710, while the Victorian Garden reflects the prosperous days of shipbuilding and vigorous trade of the 19th

century. The site of Annapolis Royal has been associated with gardens since the 17th century. Paths through other display areas including several plant collections, the largest being the Rose Collection, which displays more than 230 cultivars in their historical context, link the themed gardens. The Innovative Garden demonstrates modern horticultural methods and newly introduced plant material.

### Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

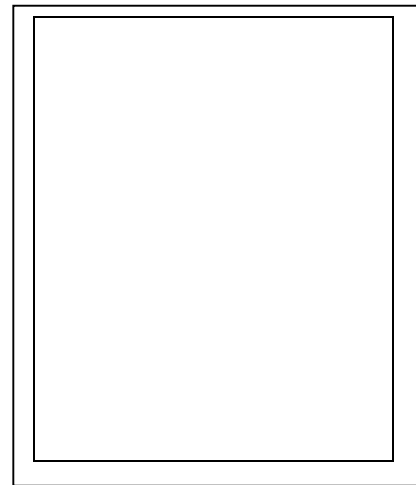
Since tourist season had not yet begun, we walked the Historic Gardens without paying. And although, it was before this height of flower-blooming, there were many tulip gardens and fruit trees in full blossom. The garden, reminiscent of old European gardens and gardens of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century settlers, was



awesome. It is hard to imagine the labour-intense effort it must take to keep this place picture perfect. Each small plot of flowers was edged with grass, trimmed precisely, and flowers growing semetrical rows, soldiers in the dress uniforms on parade. Arbors were strategically placed to frame some distant vista. Although the roses had not began to bud, it was easy to imagine the riot of colours and scent that would prevade the entire garden very soon. I also saw fiddlehead fern, which is edible. Larry had told me about them, and I was hoping to try it, but did not find any on menus or for sale. The walkways wind through and past all the gardens. Again, it was the lack of litter that impressed me the most. Maritimers have much proud, honour and respect for the natural beauty that is theirs to enjoy day in and day out.

### Grey Owl

With just a few days remaining we cut across Nova Scotia on Highway 8 to Lunenburg, arriving well after dark. The street lights, beacons in the dense fog, did not diminish the beauty of the mansions along the main thoroughfare. Again the SUV was our humble abode for the night while we were seranaded by the droning carcophany of foghorn in lighthouse in Lunenburg Harbour. We watched the DVD *Grey Owl* (or Wa-sha-quon-asin, from the Ojibwe wenjiganoozhiinh, meaning "great horned owl" or "great grey owl") was the name Archibald Belaney (September 18, 1888 – April 13, 1938) adopted when he took upon a First Nations identity as an adult. He was a writer and became one of Canada's



first conservationists. In his articles, books, and films, he promoted the idea of environmentalism and nature conservation. In 1931, he wrote several articles for the Canadian Forestry Association (CFA) publication *Forests and Outdoors*.

In 1935 and 1937, he successfully toured England (including Hastings) in Ojibwa costume to promote his books and lecture about conservation. His aunts recognized him, but remained silent until 1937. In his latter tour he also visited the court and met princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. The tours fatigued him badly, and in 1938 he returned to Beaver Lodge, his cabin at Ajawaan Lake. Grey Owl died of pneumonia on April 13, 1938. He is buried near his cabin.

In 1999, the film *Grey Owl* premiered, directed by Richard Attenborough and starring Pierce Brosnan in the title role. The film received mixed reviews and received no theatrical release in the United States. Attenborough had seen Grey Owl at the London Palladium theatre as a teenager along with his brother, the naturalist David Attenborough. On a Michael Parkinson chat show in 1999, Richard Attenborough mentioned that they were both very affected by seeing Grey Owl, perhaps influencing their future career paths.

Larry and I enjoyed the movie, especially since it was about a subject that is near and dear to my heart, the conservation and protection of our Planet Earth that man, in his 'infinite wisdom' has chosen to prowl like a ravenous wolf, all in the name of greed and progress.

Quoting from the writing of Frank Herbert, "The thing the ecologically illiterate don't realize about an ecosystem is that it's a system. A system! A system maintains a certain fluid stability that can be destroyed by a misstep in just one niche. A system has order, a

#### Lunenburg, Nova Scotia



flowing from point to point. If something dams the flow, order collapses. The untrained miss the collapse until too late. That's why the highest function of ecology is the understanding of consequences.'



Lunenburg (2006 population: 2,317) is a port town in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia and was founded in 1753 and named in honour of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, (George II), who was also the Duke of Brunswick-Lunenburg. Lunenburg is the birthplace of the world famous schooner, *Bluenose* and her daughter *Bluenose II* which remains an important tourist attraction in the town, her home port. Tourism is now Lunenburg's most important industry and many thousands visit the town each year. A number of restaurants, inns, hotels and shops exist to service the tourist trade, including the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

Out and about, early the next morning in the pouring rain, we took pictures of many of the old historic structures, perhaps more than any other place we visited. It is difficult to describe the beauty of block after block of these carefully painted clapboard ladies, most of which would double the size of my house, and in some cases, triple the size. The charming architectural style includes Cape Cod, Neo-Classic, Scottish, featuring five-sided dormers, Gothic Revival, Second Empire and Queen Anne Revival. A typical feature of Lunenburg architecture is the "Lunenburg Bump" which features a projecting Scottish dormer. The proprietor of Pineapple Creek Gifts said that when one of these houses is purchased, you sign an agreement to keep it in good repair, including painting as often as needed. Due to the salt air, they require painting about every two years. "My house is one of the smaller ones. It costs about \$3,500 to get it painted," she said. And, geez, I gripe about painting every 10 years.

St. John's is Canada's second oldest Protestant church and was undeniably one of the country's most outstanding examples of Carpenter Gothic architecture, wherein features traditionally rendered in stone are interpreted in wood. Designations as a Provincial Heritage Property (1982) and a National Historic Site (1994) are further testament to its unique value. The evolution of the architecture of the Church building is intricately woven into the rich tapestry of the Town of Lunenburg. From the first days of the simple Meeting House structure in 1754, a section of which remains, to the addition of side aisles in 1892, the architecture of this church spoke of the



**St. John's Church**

evolution of an immigrant town – first struggling simply to establish a presence in the New World, then thanking God for blessings of safety and prosperity through the expansion of an increasingly majestic building.

As the social history of the town evolved, St. John's has remained at the center of daily life and of major historical events. The building is awash with centuries of human experience - experience that has shaped and been shaped by the history of its community,

its province, its country. Like other National Historic Sites, St. John's Church is a testament to the human spirit that forged Canadian society. Through painstaking preservation and restoration of this magnificent landmark, the march of centuries that has been the life of this Church, can continue.

The spires of this building rise in somber majestic elegance skyward, reflecting the spiritual bent of the early settlers and remains an integral part of their lives. It was just



one of the many churches, tucked in every rural community and around every bend of the road throughout the Maritimes, that I referred to as the black and white churches. Some were Catholic while others were Anglican and United Baptist.

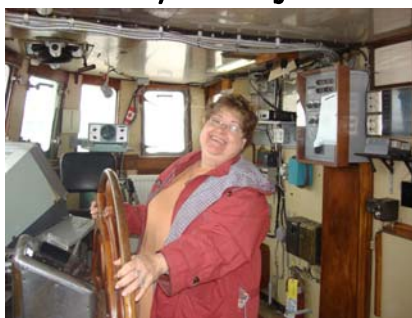
The Lunenburg Academy stands high above the "Old Town" and commands a spectacular view of the harbour, a remarkably beautiful and fully restored

Municipal, Provincial and Federal Heritage site. Completed in 1895, the "Castle on the Hill" is excellent company for the more than 70 fully restored and picturesque heritage buildings that lie below.



Larry Power  
Twyla Woodring

At first, we were unsure what the building might be used for. Exploring possibilities, maybe a church, school or hotel. This remarkable building, an architectural masterpiece, of unusual architectural



style enhanced by an abundance of decorative Victorian designs, sometimes referred to by the term "Gingerbread". The Academy is like all other structures in the city, lovingly cared for and carefully painted.

The breath-taking Lunenburg waterfront is the home of the world-class Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic. The Museum commemorates the fishing heritage of the Atlantic coast of Canada. Housed in brightly painted red buildings, with vessels floating at wharfside.