

To solicit papers from members and experts within his or her own province on the annual conference topics and to forward the abstracts or to ensure that the abstracts are forwarded to the selection committee.

## SSAC BULLETIN

To solicit articles, criticisms, book reviews, etc. from members and experts within his or her own province for publication in the *Bulletin*.

To keep the Editor informed of provincial activities, conferences, courses, seminars, etc. related to the study of architecture in Canada with as much advance notice as possible.

To prepare periodic provincial updates about activities and people concerned with the study of architecture in Canada for publication in the *Bulletin*.

## MEMBERSHIP

To recruit new members to SSAC and to promote the activities of the Society wherever possible.

To serve as an information source to provincial members on questions related to the Society and the activities and decisions of the Board of Directors.

To bring to the attention of the Board of Directors whatever questions and concerns the members may have in his or her own province.

## Representants Provinciaux Members du Conseil

Voici les principales fonctions des représentants provinciaux membres du conseil d'administration de la S.E.A.C.

## CONGRES ANNUEL

se charger, s'il y a lieu, de l'organisation du congrès annuel de la S.E.A.C.;

solliciter auprès des membres et des experts de leur province des exposés portant sur les thèmes de chaque congrès annuel et s'assurer que les résumés de ces exposés parviennent au comité de sélection;

## BULLETIN DE LA S.E.A.C.

solliciter des articles, des analyses critiques, des recensions, etc., auprès des membres et des experts de leur province pour le *Bulletin*;

annoncer à l'éditeur de *Bulletin*, le plus tôt possible, les activités provinciales, les congrès, les cours, les séminaires, etc., portant sur l'étude de l'architecture canadienne;

rédigier pour le *Bulletin* des mises à jour périodiques sur le déroulement d'activités et donner des nouvelles sur les gens de leur province intéressés à l'étude de l'architecture canadienne

## MEMBERS

recruter des nouveaux membres et faire connaître les activités de la société;

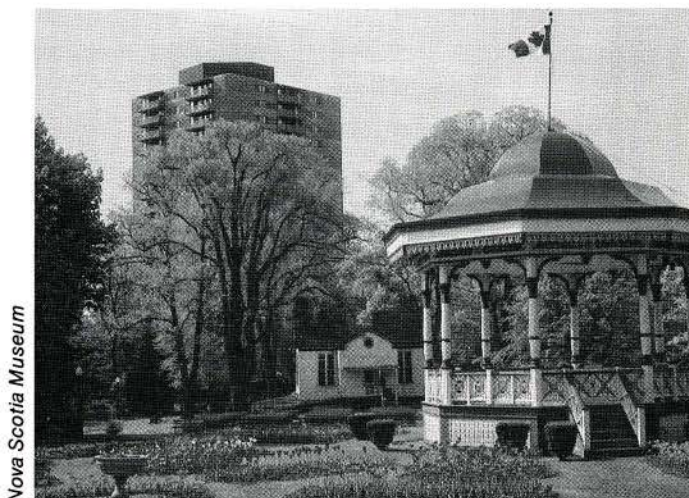
répondre aux questions des membres de leur province portant sur la Société et sur les décisions du conseil d'administration;

servir d'intermédiaires auprès du conseil d'administration pour les membres de leur province.

## Notice

Following the Annual Meeting a pair of reading glasses in a black leather case was found at Bishop's University, Lennoxville and is believed to belong to one of the SSAC delegates. The owner should contact Robert Lemire, c/o The C.C.A., 1440 Ouest Rue St. Catherine, 2nd floor, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1R8, phone (514) 871-1418.

## The Halifax Public Gardens



Halifax's Public Garden's, opened in 1875, remain a beautiful example of Victorian gardens, however, highrise development around this 16 acre park is providing a threatening intrusion.

January 3, 1985

The Mayor & City Council  
City of Halifax  
P.O. Box 1749  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia  
V3J 3A5

Gentlemen:

The Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada wishes to add its voice to that of the Victorian Society, Heritage Canada, The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, The International Council on Monuments and Sites and many others in deploring Halifax City Council's decision to allow large-scale high rise development on the periphery of the Halifax Public Gardens.

This unique and beautiful Victorian garden ought to be protected from such intrusion and, wherever possible, the Victorian environs such as the Summer Streetscape protected. To wake up one day and find the Gardens in a canyon of steel, glass and concrete would be a great loss to the city and to the nation. Already we find large modern structures to the east (The Lord Nelson Hotel) and to the south (Garden Park Apartments and 5770 Spring Garden Road). The Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada hopes the Halifax City Council will see fit to maintain and protect this nationally-significant park and its environs.

Yours Sincerely,

Christina Cameron  
President, S.S.A.C.

January 29, 1985

Mrs. Christina Cameron  
President, S.S.A.C.  
Box 2935, Station D  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5W9

Dear Ms. Cameron:

Your letter of January 3, 1985 concerning high-rise development on the periphery of the Halifax Public Gardens is acknowledged and has been circulated to his Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council and appropriate members of staff.

Yours truly,

I.A. Kerr,  
Deputy City Clerk  
City of Halifax

March 22, 1985

Society for the Study of  
Architecture in Canada  
P.O. Box 2935 - Station 'D'  
Ottawa, Ontario

Attention: Christina Cameron, President  
S.S.A.C.

Re: Your letter of January 3, 1985  
Mayor and City Council

Dear Ms. Cameron:

How presumptuous of you and your group from your Mid Canada situation, to voice an uninformed opinion on a development which will complement, upgrade and enhance a parking lot rooming house situation on one of the more pleasant streets in Canada, i.e. "Spring Garden Road."

We are building a single condominium tower 165' - 0" from the Spring Garden Road sidewalk in the middle of a 1.8 acre site. Please refer to our enclosed landscape plan where the percentage of green area and formal Garden will be unique in Canada.

You were mentioning the possibility of The Public Gardens being ringed by modern steel, glass or concrete buildings. This is absurd and impossible as the City owns the northern boundary, a recreation area called the Wanderers Grounds, to the west is the Camp Hill Cementary and two apartment houses, to the south a heritage protected Convent of the Sacred Heart, 5770 Spring Garden Road a ten-year-old 19-story apartment house well set back from the street and a beautifully designed large eight-storey apartment house next to a park. On the easterly exposure the Lord Nelson Hotel built in the 1920s plus a parklot and a newly refurbished YMCA. Thus it is impossible to ring the Gardens with new high rise development, it is a fairy tale and pure invention on your part.

For your groups further information, please find a copy of the recent (March 8) article in the Mail Star which outlines the 2½ year struggle that we have gone through to develop this site. Our client spent much time and money on wind tunnel analysis of the whole area, plant physiology and winter shadow studies which were turned over to the City last April. The consensus of the consultants was that no harm would come to the Public Gardens by building a tower or towers where we propose.

Remember we work and live here, we have a great fondness for this attractive and modern city where the old and the new blend and complement each other. We have designed the Nova Scotia Museum, Historic Properties and Founders Square on Prince and Hollis Street. Haligonians have a strong feeling for the past and we also have some thought for the future and what is best for our City.

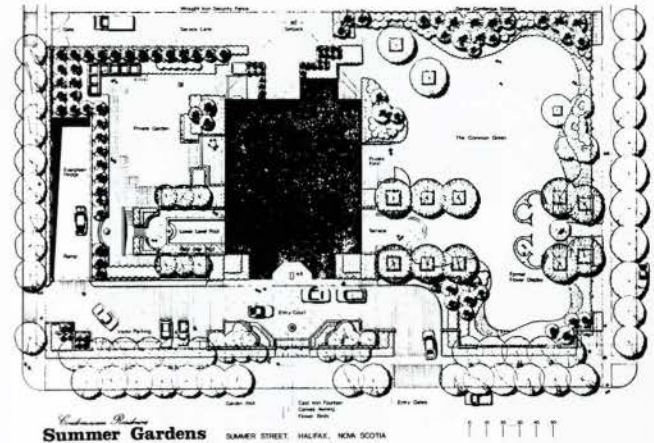
Yours very truly,

H.G. Rounsefell, P. Eng.  
Vice-President  
Duffus Romans Kundzins Rounsefell  
Limited

May 22, 1985



Hart House, 1898, located at the corner of Summer Street and Spring Garden Road was recently torn down.



Mr. H.G. Rounsefell,  
Vice-President,  
Duffus, Romans Kundzins, Rounsefell,  
5991 Spring Garden Road,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 1Y6

RE: Your letter of March 22, 1985  
Mayor and City Council

Dear Mr. Rounsefell:

Ms. Cameron has asked me to reply to your letter as the Nova Scotia representative on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada.

First of all, I must point out that the Society has a Board of Directors which is representative of all provinces and territories in Canada, plus an executive which may or may not be "Mid Canada."

As our letter stated we are adding our support to the Victorian Society, Heritage Canada, The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, The International Council on Monuments and Sites, we were not discussing the merits of your proposal nor will we.

I see little absurd or impossible in the idea that the Gardens may in future be ringed by modern steel, glass and concrete buildings. Fifteen years ago the only large scale building bordering on the Public Gardens was the Lord Nelson Hotel, since that time the Garden Park Apartments and 5770 Spring Garden Road have been added. The city may own the northern boundary of the Public Gardens, but they also owned the southern boundary since the Commons used to extend from Cunard Street on the north to South Street on the south. Indeed your proposed building 5770 Spring Garden Road, the Garden Park Apartment, Spring Garden Terrace, the Embassy Towers and the Professional Building are all on Commons land, which past councils leased out for 999 years, so that the land being Common land controlled by the Council does not guarantee that high-rise development will not occur. Therefore it is not "a fairytale or pure invention on our part."

You may work and live here, but often those closest to heritage are the most likely to destroy it. Please remember that the Nova Scotia Museum is built on the Commons, that Historic Properties was saved by interested individuals, The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the predecessor to the Halifax Land Marks Commission and the Halifax Heritage Advisory Committee not by Duffus, Romans, Kundzins, Rounsefell. Lastly I should wait until Founders Square is completed before taking credit for it. It is doubtful that either Historic Properties or Founders Square was done for altruistic reasons but rather for the profit to be made from them.

Your obedient servant

Garry D. Shutlak  
Nova Scotia Representative  
Board of Directors, Society  
for the Study of Architecture  
In Canada

**Editor's Note:** Since 1970, some 34 Victorian period buildings located around the Halifax Public Gardens have been demolished. On June 3, 1985 the Hart House, built in 1898, was torn down. Further information may be obtained by contacting: Friends of the Public Gardens, P.O. Box 3030, Halifax South, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3G6.