Interpretation Plan: Scott Manor House

Approved: May 26, 2022

Introduction

Scott Manor House operates as a community museum engaged in preserving the history of Bedford as well as serving as a centre for community heritage. Scott Manor House was built circa 1770 and remained in private hands, having nine different owners, until it was purchased by the Town of Bedford in 1991. With the provincial government amalgamation of all municipal governments within Halifax County in 1996, ownership passed to Halifax Regional Municipality. Scott Manor House was officially named a Municipal Heritage Property in 1992 and a Provincial Heritage Property in 1996. The Scott Manor House's exterior, for the most part, reflects its original construction; however, the interior reflects the late 1940's as it was extensively renovated by the last private owners of the house. Fort Sackville Foundation volunteers coordinated many upgrades to Scott Manor House such as uncovering many of the original fireplaces, replacing all windows on the second floor and attic, refinishing the floors and adding lighting fixtures in several rooms in the late 1990's and early 2000's.

The Fort Sackville Foundation (FSF) was established in 1988 under the Societies Act of the Province of Nova Scotia with the prime objective of finding ways and means to acquire and preserve the historically significant Scott Manor House and the Fort Sackville site. In 1992 the FSF developed a management plan for the preservation and operation of the Scott Manor House that was accepted by the Town of Bedford and by 1995 the FSF was able to open the Scott Manor House to the public on a consistent basis. A long-term lease agreement was struck with the Town of Bedford, and was transferred to Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) at the time of amalgamation, which lasted until 2018. Presently, there is a ten-year lease agreement between HRM and Fort Sackville Foundation dated October 10, 2018 which states in part "the leased premises shall be used as a local and regional museum and historic attraction, to host community events and community group meetings and such other uses as are supportive to the historic nature of the leased premises and its place within the community of Bedford." The FSF, for thirty years, has been pleased to provide this public service for the community of Bedford and surrounding areas.

In keeping with the mission statement and lease agreement, this interpretation plan will outline objectives and outcomes of the Scott Manor House's interpretation program. It contains themes and topics of the museum's exhibits and interpretation programming. An outline of the Manor House's current interpretative offering is available in this plan. Suggestions for future offering are also included.

Mission Statement

The Fort Sackville Foundation collects, protects, preserves and promotes the history and cultural heritage of Bedford.

Objectives and Outcomes

Objectives	Outcomes
Encourage an appreciation of the unique architecture of Scott Manor House and its significance as part of Nova Scotia's built heritage.	• Gain an understanding of the architecture of the Scott Manor House.
Connect the history of the founding of Halifax to Scott Manor House and Fort Sackville.	• Gain insight into the history of the area as it relates to the development of Nova Scotia. • Gain an appreciation of the location and its importance in the early defence of Halifax in 1749.
Develop an awareness of the life of Scott Manor House's builder, Joseph Scott, from 1749 to 1780.	• Learn about the early structure of governance in Nova Scotia. • Learn about colonial life in Halifax.
Make use of the "old kitchen" and its original fireplace to show how some domestic tasks were accomplished in the mid 1700's.	• Compare and contrast current activities and tools with those from the past.
Connect the development of Bedford to its location on major transportation routes.	• Be inspired to learn about colonial roads, the two great roads and the impact of the building of the railway.
Show the importance of Bedford Basin and the river systems in the development of industry from mid 1700's to mid 1960's.	• Gain an understanding of the importance of industry in the growth of Bedford.
Make use of Scott Manor House's collections, including photographs, monographs, artifacts to give glimpses of life in Bedford in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.	• Develop a curiosity about life in past centuries.
Relate the development of municipal government in Bedford, highlighting the Town of Bedford period.	• Learn how the growth of Bedford influenced governance structures.
Encourage people to enjoy the ambiance of Scott Manor House and develop pride in its existence as a centre of community heritage.	• Return to see more, learn more and enjoy the surroundings.

Themes and Topics

Themes	Topics
Scott Manor House is an unique example of a mid to late 1700's large Dutch colonial family home.	• one of the last remaining gambrel - roofed buildings in HRM • two wishbone chimneys • hand hewn beams • stone foundation • original fireplace • original floor boards in the attic
Scott Manor House is one of the oldest buildings in Halifax Regional Municipality.	• Built next to Fort Sackville circa 1770 • Nine individual owners • Remained in private hands until 1991. • Municipal Heritage Property • Provincial Heritage Property
Joseph Scott was active in public life.	• Born in Ireland • Came with the British settlers to establish Halifax • Owned a shop on the Halifax waterfront • Quartermaster for Governor Shirley's American Provincials 67th Foot Regiment • Justice of the Peace • Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas • Surveyor of Lumber • Member of the House of Assembly
The daily life of a mid 1700's family was shaped by economic and social influences.	• Gardens • Oversized fireplace with original crane arm • Beehive bake oven • Costumes • Costumed guides
Bedford enjoys a favourable geographical location in Nova Scotia.	• Old Post Road • Intersection of the Two Great Roads • Nova Scotia Railway extended tracks to Bedford 1854/5 • Lister Development • "Great Hotels" Era
The Bedford Basin, the Sackville River and the Nine Mile River allowed for the	• Lumber/saw mills • Grist mill

development of mills that gave rise to commerce and residency.	• Woolen mill • Paper mills • Ship building • Box factory • Chocolate mill • Fish Hatchery
Life in Bedford changed with inventions that made daily activities more quickly and easily completed.	• Flat irons • Cooking/baking utensils • Writing desks
Bedford was Incorporated as a town in 1980.	• Four mayors • Fire department • Police Department • Town crier

Target Audience

The target audience of the Scott Manor House interpretative program is Bedford community members, residents of Halifax Regional Municipality and those who have an interest in daily life or architecture of colonial times. Interpretation should provide engaging and relevant information.

Current Offerings

1. Scott Manor House
   Scott Manor House is open to the public throughout July and August. The Manor is staffed with summer employees who offer tours of the house, highlighting the architectural features. Exhibits consist of a variety of household items that cover a wide range of time periods.

2. The Grounds
   The grounds (2.15 acres) are open to the public throughout the year. The well-maintained grounds can best be appreciated during warmer months when gardens and benches can be enjoyed.
    Of note are:
   - Interpretative panels on Scott Manor House and Joseph Scott
   - Granite Ordinance Marker showing W.D. (War Department) and broad arrow

3. Fort Sackville Site
   The Fort Sackville Site is easily accessible from the Scott Manor House driveway. There are three interpretative panels:

- Pisiquid Trail
- Fort Sackville 1749 – 1779
- Fort Sackville 1779 – 1851

4. <u>Resources</u>
   Our resources provide glimpses of Bedford's history through many different collections that are available in-house to researchers.

   a) **Photographs, digital images** – Bedford people, landmarks, and events dating from the late 1870's.
   b) **Monographs and Historical Booklets** – written by Bedford historians and published by Fort Sackville Press, covering a wide range of local history topics, such as Bedford organizations, schools, churches, cemeteries, land development, leisure activities, people, and landmarks (railways, post office, parks, rifle range, ships, etc.). Several of our publications also can be found at the Bedford and Halifax Public Libraries.
   c) **High school yearbooks –** select years, various schools
   d) **Information and studies about Scott Manor House**
   e) **Family Files** – names from the 1926 and 1930 local phone books, and other Bedford residents/families from later years
   f) **Scrapbooks-**containing newspaper clippings about Bedford residents and events dating from 1906
   g) **Obituaries** - of Bedford residents from 1906
   h) **Bedford cemetery plot plans** - for Brookside Community Cemetery
   i) **Fonds** – papers/documents collected by prominent Bedford residents and organizations
   j) **Topic Folders** – a wide range of local history topics
   k) **Paintings/artwork –** of Bedford landmarks and scenes, some by Bedford artists
   l) **Maps** – street maps, property maps, topographic maps, hydrographic maps, maps of roads and railways, and others. Dating from the 1750's.
   m) **Audiotapes** - of presentations on historical topics
   Books - about Bedford, Nova Scotian and Canadian history

5. <u>Presentations</u>
   Speakers cover topics of historical interest at evening general meetings of the Fort Sackville Foundation which are open to the public.

Possible Future Interpretative Offerings

<u>All suggestions are dependent on availability of human resources.</u>

1. Creation of a Working Collection, a group of artifacts that can be handled by visitors. This would give visitors a tactile experience and allow them to see the artifacts up close and, depending on the artifact, see how it works or was made.

2. School program (example: old kitchen)
3. Mi'kmaq history in relationship to Bedford
4. Online Interpretative Offering
5. Workshop on crafts related to time period of Scott Manor House