

# Fine Central Streets Work of Early Town Planners

Charlottetown's early town planners were men of vision, who left their hallmark in the well-laid-out streets of the main parts of the city which are among the finest in Canada. The original plans by Mr. Morris, surveyor general of Nova Scotia, existed as far back as 1768, but were changed in 1771 by Governor Patterson.

The Governor's plan allocated an area of 7,300 acres, of which the town proper occupied 270, with 565 acres reserved for a Common. The roads to St. Peter's and Prince Town were thirty feet wide, and those to the pasture lots twenty feet. The roads covered 64 acres. The remaining 6,401 acres were divided into pasture lots of twelve acres each. The town lots were eighty-four by one hundred and twenty feet.

The five principal streets fronting on the river were to be 100 feet in breadth, and the others eighty feet. The present sites of the market building and St. Paul's church were reserved for a church, court house and jail. What is now Dundas Esplanade was reserved for an Ordnance yard. The land along the shore, from Prince Street to Pownal Street, was set apart for store houses and a market place.

The space corresponding to Connaught Square was named Fitzherbert Square but was farther east. It faced Queen Street, ran back to Pownal and lay between Sydney and Dorchester Streets. Kings Square was called "North Square"; the others bore their present names. Great George Street was the only street named on Governor Patterson's plan.



**Murphy's Irish Jaunting Cart**  
Corner Grafton and Great George Streets  
Craswell Studio (Copy)

## Varied Residences Of Early Governors

A small building which stood about where the Royal Bank now stands was used for a market. At this time there was a Methodist meeting house on Richmond Street back of the London House, and a Catholic church was built near the site of the present Basilica. When the last wooden chapel was erected the small one was removed to a piece of ground nearby where for many years it was used as a school house. The old Kirk in 1820 was the fourth church erected in Charlottetown and was considered at that time a very fine building. These were all the public buildings in the city up to 1830.

## EARLY SCHOOLS

Among the earliest schools established in Charlottetown was one taught by Mr. Alexander Richardson about the year 1780. This school was held at St. John's Coffee House, which stood on the corner of Queen and Dorchester Streets where the Duncan building subsequently stood. Mrs. Bulpit, wife of the Rev. John Bulpit, the first Methodist preacher, opened a school about 1810 and it was kept for many years. Her granddaughter, Mrs. Edward Robertson, taught in the same house which was the Methodist parsonage at that time, situated back of the old London House near the church. This was thought to be the first school in Charlottetown taught by a lady.

In 1820 Mr. Creamer, grandfather of the late Mr. Henry Harvey, taught in a house which

stood on the site of the present Legion home on Grafton Street. Alexander Brown, before taking a situation in the Central Academy (forerunner of Prince of Wales College) had a private school about 1824. At this time the British Government allowed a certain sum each year to be expended for educational purposes.

In addition to these schools Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard kept in St. Paul's school room what would now be called a kindergarten, then called an infant school.

At the legislative session of 1829 a committee for promoting classical education presented their report, recommending the establishment of the Central Academy.

It was at Rocky Point, not Charlottetown, that the Island's first Governor, Walter Patterson, took up residence when he arrived here with his commission in 1770. Later, however, he removed to a house on Queen Street.

Governor Fanning, who followed him in 1786, occupied the whole block within Great George, Prince, Richmond and Sidney Streets, having his mansion erected upon the south corner, which would be about opposite the present Trinity Church. The remainder of the block was laid out in orchard and garden. It was not

until 1850, after the house was destroyed by fire, that the land was sold in building lots. Governor DesBarres, the third Governor, resided in the Common west of the brook at Spring Park.

Governor Douglas Smith, with his family, chose his quarters in the old Barracks, and his successor, Colonel Ready, for the first term of his administration, made the Barracks his home. Afterwards he erected a stately house at Holland's Grove, on the block bounded by Fitzroy, Prince, Euston and Great George Streets.

Governor Sir Arctus W. Young on his arrival also selected the same place, where he lived until the present Government House was completed, when he became its first occupant. He died there in 1835.

## EARLY LANDMARKS

The first Court House was built, not on its present location but on the western corner of Queen and King Streets. The building was owned by John Cambridge and was rented to the Government at thirty pounds a year. The first Episcopal church services were also held in this building by the Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay, who was the first Protestant clergyman stationed on the Island.

In 1802 a new Court House and an Episcopal church were erected on Queen Square near Queen Street. The church was opposite Beer & Goff's store on Richmond Street and the Court House was on the site of the recently removed scales house.

## Two Local Worthies

Two memorable citizens of Old Charlottetown, of whom unfortunately no likenesses survive, were Michael Doolin and John Hatch. Michael it was who attended to the gas lamps with which the streets were lighted every evening and extinguished every morning. He carried on his shoulders the short ladder by which he climbed to each lamp, and his figure was as familiar to his fellow citizens as the regular passage of the hours themselves.

Mr. Hatch was the Town Crier. "Auction Sales!" "Lost Child!" "Money lost and found!" were the subjects of his publicity; and "O Yes! O Yes!" was his stentorian cry at every street corner.

According to an article by the late Mr. Benjamin Bremfer, the Hatch family lived in a small apartment in the east end of the Temperance Hall (the present Guardian office). The family consisted of John, the crier, and his very aged mother. Mr. Bremfer recalled that "both were dead when a boy. Mrs. Hatch used to attend divine service in the old Wesleyan Chapel, and was dressed in black with a poke bonnet extending several inches from her face. During the sermon she would express her feelings by piously wagging her head from side to side — that motion of her bonnet being expressive of her appreciation of the preacher's remarks."

of Robertson and Cameron, which we suppose is intended to Crown all the rest."



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