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SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA

# BULLETIN

SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'ÉTUDE DE L'ARCHITECTURE AU CANADA



## Editor's Desk

Should you be wondering if your copy of the fall *Bulletin* was lost in the mail . . . despair no longer. The September publication never made it to the press. Indeed the dearth of submissions made it advisable to wait until December. Happily we are able to present a double issue which appropriately rounds off a very successful year by recalling the St. John's Conference while casting an interested eye towards the promising forum to be held in Quelph, June 6-9, 1984. Enclosed with this issue you will find a Call for Papers Notice as well as a Quelph '84 poster.

This issue focuses on a theme of particular importance to those concerned with the cultural heritage of the Canadian built environment. The attempts to revitalise downtown cores have been underway for a sufficient period that evaluation of these programmes is now possible. John Stewart, Director of the Heritage Canada Foundation, Main Street Programme, provides a look at



Conference delegates tour Brigus first stop on the O'Dea/Pocius travelling road show.

how their system has developed over the past three years. A provincial perspective is offered by John Thorpe, Co-ordinator of the Nova Scotia Main Street Program. Significant questions are raised by these papers. How much control should local business persons have in the alteration of older downtown facades? Should by-laws precede or follow redevelopment? Is renovation and restoration a fad? Readers' comments are invited.

While headway is being made in conserving our city cores another form of conservation has taken pre-eminence in the building industry, that of energy conservation. The inaugural efforts at energy efficient houses have resulted in problems of air pollution and structural condensation. John Wells, a biologist at Memorial University, together with Philip Pratt, a St. John's architect, have designed a "Greenhome" which may offer building solutions for Canada's north.

The *Bulletin* will soon enter its ninth year. Your participation as contributors and critics is encouraged. It is especially important that regional board members forward news from their respective provinces which would be of interest to SSAC members. With your help we can continue to develop, expand and be a more positive tool for the study of Canadian architecture.

Don Lovell

## Annual Meeting 1983

The St. John's Conference was a first class affair with an exciting combination of formal presentations and a two-day tour to various towns and outports north of St. John's. The noteworthy events at the four-day rendezvous in Newfoundland are enumerable, however several highlights should be recorded. The intrepid tour guides of Shane O'Dea and Gerald Pocius rose to the occasion with incisive comments and wit, meals at Harbour Grace United Church Hall and Trinity Parish Hall were gastronomic delights (unless one was allergic to cod) and a stop at the Bonavista lighthouse brought new meaning to the song "This Land is Your Land". The inception of a keynote address by Christina Cameron, who presented a stirring insight into the work of Charles Bailargé, was a precedent for future meetings. Of course, the visit to Leonard Snow's estate to view his unique presentation of YARD ART won the bizarre humour award.

A hearty vote of thanks is extended to Shane and Gerald for their outstanding planning, preparation and execution of the 9th Annual Meeting.