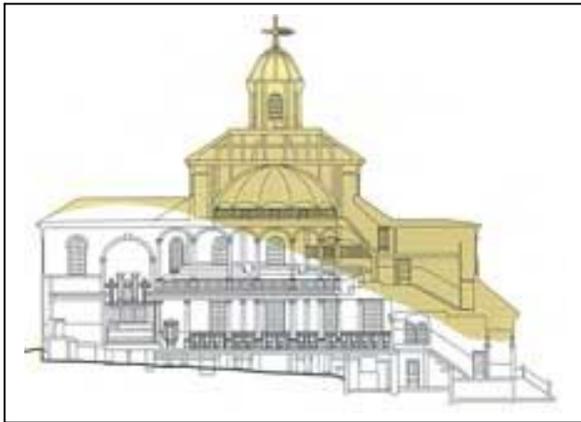


News Release

It has been 15 years since fire destroyed much of **Saint George's Round Church**. To mark this historic event and the process of rebuilding that followed, an **historical presentation** will be held on Tuesday, 19 May, at 7.30 at Saint George's Anglican Church. This highly visual presentation will cover the church's architectural history, the engineering and design process behind the rebuilding, and the task of building the church again. The presentation is open to the public and the free-will offering will be donated to the church and its causes. Sponsored by the **Nova Scotia Home & Building Designers Association**.

We invite you to take a journey back to the 1800's where we'll look at the only heavy timber frame round church in North America. Often described as a "three tiered wedding cake", its circular Palladian design, like that of Halifax's Town Clock, was a product of the architectural taste of Edward, Duke of Kent, commander of the forces in Nova Scotia from 1794 to 1800. Renovations occurred over the next two centuries, once even to accommodate the mid-1800 hoop skirt fashion. Fifteen years ago, in 1994, the strength of the timber frame structure, the congregation, and the community were all tested when a fire destroyed over 40 percent of the structure. (See shaded area).



The decision to re-build led to a wave of support from across Canada as well as from abroad. All of the replacement timbers came from Nova Scotia. The main spoke timber 46' long and over 195 years old, was a seedling when the original church was completed. When Daniel Reagan asked small woodlot owners for their crooked trees, they looked at him with small smiles and shook their heads until he explained that the trees were for a dome roof. Due to Nova Scotian winds, he was able to locate the ninety naturally curved timbers for the renovations of the new dome.

After the dome was in place, the cupola, with its weathervane, was re-installed to commemorate the sighting of Halley's Comet in

1835. Photos of the builders and others involved in the restoration were placed within a time capsule on the weathervane. Replaced, as well, were other items from the original construction, including a rolled piece of newspaper describing the prices of goods and the arrival of merchant ships in the port of Halifax in the 1800's.

Throughout the process of restoring Saint George's Church, the rich history of timber framing, forged by the skilled craftsman of two centuries ago, was uncovered for us to study and learn. Many timber frames standing today are centuries old, and are a true testimony to this most durable and versatile form of building.

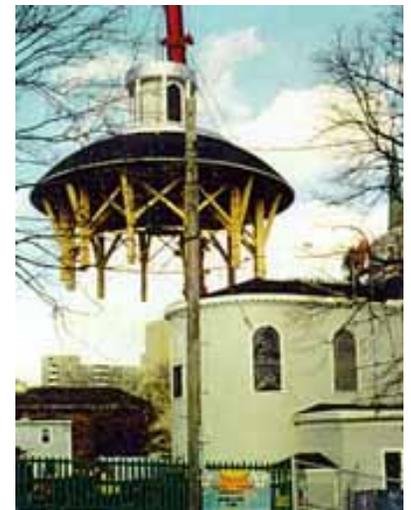
Sensitive restoration ensured that St. George's Round Church has risen again to continue to serve the Halifax community as a centre for social outreach, a venue for musical and other artistic activities, but above all, a place for the elevation and solace of the spirit.

Join us this evening and see how a bit of Nova Scotian history was built, then saved.

Where: Saint George's Round Church
2222 Brunswick St
Halifax, NS

When: Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Time: 7:30 pm



Cost: Free will offering at the door, to be donated to the church and its causes.

The evening's presenters will be **Malcolm Pinto**, Pinto Engineering, **Mac MacKay**, Architect, **Jeffrey Reed**, Department of Tourism Culture and History and **Kimberley Reagan**, TimberhArt Timber Frames.

For more information call (902) 542-3838