

## **STORIES FROM THE RICH PAST OF OUR PARISH**

*These historical stories are submitted weekly by our Heritage Chairperson, George Munroe.*

### ***The Purchase of the Rectory, by Cyril Read***

The Rev. Mr. Aitkin had forced the Lunenburg Parish to undertake a rectory at a time when it did not have sufficiently strong support from the people of the Parish. Vestry meetings had been poorly attended and many postponed due to lack of attendance. The present rectory had been purchased as a partially built house in 1818 and it took until after the Rev. Mr. Cochrane's arrival in 1824 to complete and make it habitable. Mr. Aitkin knew that the Bishop and the SPG would support him in his demand for a rectory and the people knew that it was necessary and so he continued to force the issue. The parish had been renting a house at the rental of 15 pounds per year.

The town in those days was not very well known except for potatoes and cabbages and so could not have been very prosperous. The house had been purchased by money supplied by a warden and several parishioners with the understanding that they would be reimbursed by the parish. At one annual meeting one warden interrupted the other so frequently that the meeting broke up. This was the situation the young minister Mr. Cochrane found, however he did live up to the promise made to the SPG by the vestry on behalf of the congregation. The money loaned to purchase the rectory was repaid in full.

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