



ADAM JACOBS PHOTO

Morning Tide house in Chester was the recipient of a Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia award.

Chester home honoured by heritage trust

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CHESTER — The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has recognized a local property for the work done by its owners.

Philip Mitchell and Mark Narsansky, with the help of Cole-Built Inc. general contracting, were awarded the 2010 Residential Award by the trust for restoring Morning Tide, the home on 19 Water Lane.

This triple-gabled, Carpenter Gothic Revival-style house was likely originally constructed circa 1875 by John Butler, a local merchant. The exterior of the home retains most of its original integrity, and the house is a valuable contribution to the heritage of the community.

"When we look at the nominations we tend to look for something that maintains the integrity of the heritage of the property," said Janet Morris, co-chair of the heritage trust awards committee. "We don't expect people to use square-head nails and things of that nature, but there are things we look for."

The owners cleaned and restored the wood shingles, replacing shingles only where necessary. The exterior trim was repaired where possible and new trim was milled to match existing historical pieces. The 1870s fascia was restored, windows were replaced with windows matching the originals, and an addition including a lovely screened-in porch was designed in keeping with the original house. The exterior was landscaped,

dry stone retaining walls repaired and matched, and a picket fence and arbour added to replicate those typically found in Chester.

"The issue of fidelity to the original is a bit of a sliding scale," Ms Morris said. "There are a number of factors that must be weighed."

Anyone who visited this house during the 2010 Chester House Tour was able to view the traditional interior reworked with modern conveniences. Exquisite cabinetry and woodwork, reproduction fixtures and hardware, and lovely antiques belie the work involved in the total restoration of the interior.

Carol Nauss, president of the Chester Municipal Heritage Society, host of the Chester House Tour, confirmed the home was a big hit.

"Everybody was highly impressed by what had been done to the home," she said. "You just couldn't ask for a better restoration."

Prior to the purchase by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Narsansky, Morning Tide was just one of many older homes in Chester.

"It had always been in use," Ms Nauss said. "Basically, it was the same inside as it always had been. It wasn't derelict or anything. And the restoration they did, they have all the modern conveniences but it doesn't seem obtrusive. They made it all fit. It's quite the job."

The nomination of Morning Tide was supported by the Chester Municipal Heritage Society, Lunenburg Chiselworks, the Chester Trust and Cole-Built Inc.