

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 2009



Historic Octagonal Troop Barn Gets a New Life

**MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Limited
and Ghost Architectural Laboratory**

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Since the 19th century, the Octagonal Troop Barn has been a landmark along Highway 1 at Granville Centre, Nova Scotia. One of only two surviving octagonal barns in the province, the structure was built in 1888 by William B Troop. Sadly, this recently de-registered building was slated for destruction. Lead by Brian MacKay-Lyons, Architect and Dalhousie University Professor, Robert Cram of Lunenburg disassembled its post and beam wood frame, and had it transported to the farm of Marilyn and Brian MacKay-Lyons in Upper Kingsburg, Lunenburg County. There, it was reconstructed during the annual Ghost Architectural Laboratory, by 35 professional architects, architectural students, and builders, during the last two weeks in June. The Ghost Architectural Laboratory is an international design and build event, and is a research lab for internationally renowned MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Limited of Halifax, under the leadership of Brian MacKay-Lyons and Master Builder, Gordon MacLean. The structure is now nestled in a valley at the edge of the sea, overlooking the LaHave Islands, and will be used for a wide range of community gatherings. Its recent reconstruction was christened by an acoustic concert on June 26th by acclaimed Atlantic Canadian singer/songwriter Lennie Gallant.

