

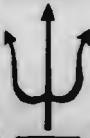
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CENTRE FOR NFLD. STUDIES  
FEB 20 1992  
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY  
OF NEWFOUNDLAND

FEBRUARY, 1992

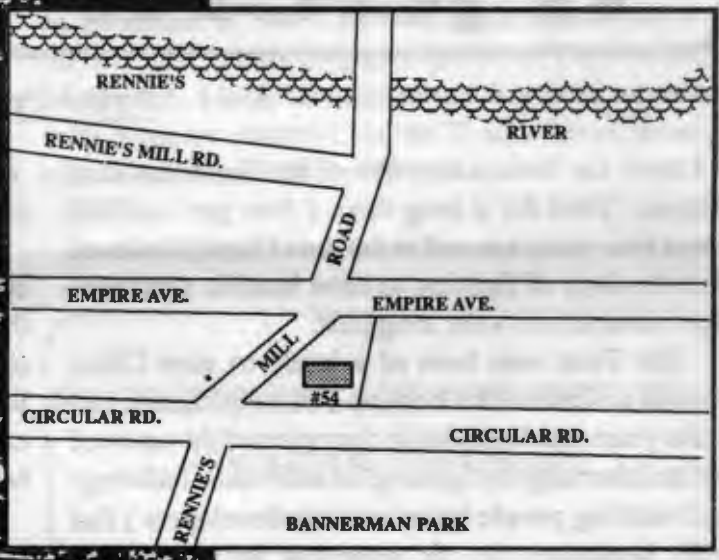
the

PAST PRESENT FUTURE



# trident

## BANNERMAN HOUSE IN DANGER OF BEING DEMOLISHED!



The City of St. John's is considering a proposal allowing demolition of the 1849 landmark; Bannerman House on Circular Road. This proposal has caused the Newfoundland Historic Trust and the local heritage community considerable alarm. Located at the intersection of Circular and Rennie's Mill Roads (see map), Bannerman House is one of the oldest structures in the city and a significant element of the Rennies Mill Road National Historic District.

To permit demolition of this structure makes a mockery of Heritage Week. It is unfortunate that City Council would consider sending such a message to the federal government, which declared it's first two National Historic Districts in St. John's, and which is considering further additional heritage de-

velopments in the province. To proceed with this development would also set a significant precedent for the demolition of other historic homes throughout the city.

Shane O'Dea, Newfoundland's representative to the federal Historic Sites and Monuments Board said that the demolition of Bannerman House would have a detrimental impact on the National Historic District. Heritage Canada Governor Ruth Saturley, has called on the developer to restore the house rather than destroy it. The president of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, Andrew Noseworthy, called for the City to reject this proposal, and said that the Council should encourage the preservation of such houses. Neighbourhood residents have expressed concern

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that the site may be inappropriately or over-developed, and have called on the Council to recognize the significant contribution this building makes to the Rennies Mill Road area.

The chimney of Bannerman house bears the date 1849 though it is possible that part of the structure may have been built earlier. Engineering reports done on the building show it to be in good condition. Significant occupants include the late Gordon Winter ( son of Sir Marmaduke Winter ) and William Angus Reid, of the Reid Newfoundland Co. which constructed the Newfoundland Railway.

On Tuesday, February 18th at 7:30 P.M. a public hearing on the proposal to demolish Bannerman House will be held in the E.B. Foran Room at City Hall. If you have an interest in preserving the city's built heritage from destruction you are strongly urged to attend this meeting and make your views known. If you are unable to attend this meeting please call your City Councillor and express your opinion. ⇒

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# EDITORIAL

By Don Parsons

I have not been a member of the Newfoundland Historic Trust for a long time. I first got involved about four years ago and at the time I firmly believed that the days of fighting to save historic structures from destruction were long past.

The Trust was born of a battle to save Christ Church in Quidi Vidi from an untimely demise and in the years that followed it championed the cause of our built heritage by fighting for individual buildings and teaching people (most notably developers) that older structures do not represent an obstacle to progress but an opportunity to keep our future firmly rooted in our past. Through the tireless work of many dedicated Trust members St. John's became a model for communities throughout North America. The older, downtown area was rescued from becoming a slum and through projects like the Heritage Area Study and the Infill Housing Program turned into a very prestigious place to live. By the time I became a member of the Trust it seemed that our most important work was to recognize the

excellent work that people were doing in restoring and revitalizing older buildings.

It came as a shock to me when I heard that Bannerman House was in danger. I couldn't believe that anyone would seriously want to tear down a sound structure whose construction predated 1850. But perhaps the shock was a good thing. It reminded me that we cannot rest from watching over our heritage or it can be taken away before we know it.

Maybe the economy is to blame. These are times that try people's souls! With the current recession, hard times in the fishery and the recent bad news from the Hibernia Project it is only natural that people forget about things like heritage preservation while they are pre-occupied with economic survival. This stands true for the developer trying to minimize his expenses, or the rest of us who might be too busy making ends meet to spend time saving old houses. But we must all remember that if we let our past slip away while ensuring future prosperity, all the money in the world will not bring it back. ⇒

If you would like to express your opinion of anything you read in the Trident or would like to fill us in on any topic related to heritage preservation, please write to:

**THE TRIDENT, P.O.Box 9092, St. John's, Newfoundland**



## NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY

by George Courage

The Newfoundland Historic Trust celebrated its twenty-fifth Anniversary by holding a reception at the Foran Room, St. John's City Hall on September 19, 1991. The reception was well attended and among the guests were eight past presidents of the Trust.

The president, George Courage acted as Chairman and gave a brief history of the founding of the Trust. Greetings to the Trust on its 25th Anniversary were expressed by: Ms. Ms. Edna Hall, District Superintendent of the Canadian Parks Service; Mr. Shane O'Dea, Chairman, Newfoundland heritage Foundation; Mr. Gar Fizzard, Past President, Newfoundland Heritage Coalition; Ms. Ruth Saturley, Newfoundland Governor, Heritage Canada; and Mayor Shannie Duff, St. John's

Mayor Duff presented copies of the 25th Anniversary poster to three of the founding members of the Trust: Kay MacCallum, Rae Perlin and Olga Anderson. The ceremonies then concluded with the cutting of a cake in the shape of Christ Church, Quidi Vidi.

The 25th Anniversary poster contained the Best print of St. John's showing a view of the city in 1851 looking towards the narrows from Government House. The poster was printed in black and white and later hand coloured by local artist, Sylvia Cullum.

A display mounted at the Foran Room highlighted the activities of the Trust over the past twenty-five years. In addition, a special issue of the Trident was published which incorporated articles from issues of the newsletter published over the years. ➤




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Mayor Shannie Duff and George Courage, Trust President present copies of the twenty-fifth Anniversary poster to one of the Trust's founding members at a reception in the E.B. Foran Room, City Hall. A framed copy of the poster can be seen at the left of the photo.

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# 1991 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Newfoundland Historic Trust was held on November 12, 1991 at the Colonial Building. The Meeting started with the adoption of the minutes from the last annual meeting. Treasurer, Andy Noseworthy, then gave the financial report which indicated that the Trust's finances were in a sound condition.

Ruth Saturley, co-chair of Heritage Canada, extended greetings to the Trust. Ruth outlined the recent activities of Heritage Canada, including its efforts to develop "heritage districts" across Canada.

Ms. Edna Hall, District Superintendent of the Canadian Parks Service extended greetings to the Trust and outlined some of the Parks Services recent initiatives, including a proposed Heritage Policy, and developments relating to the Green Plan.

In summarising the year's events, the President, George Courage, noted that 1991 had been an interesting year for the Newfoundland Historic Trust, which was highlighted by our 25th anniversary celebrations and the publication of a special hand coloured poster. George also noted that the Trust held the eighth annual Southcott Awards in 1991, and sponsored a children's colouring contest on St. John's Day. In addition, work has begun on a house siding brochure, and the Trust is cooperating with Cable Atlantic Ltd. on the development of a local television series on home restoration. George also thanked Newfoundland Telephone, The Canadian Parks Serv

ice, and the provincial Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs for financial support during the year.

On the issue of preservation, George noted that the pressure for new development which has been anticipated to arise from the Hibernia project has not materialized, and that the poor state of the provincial economy has reduced the pressure for major construction activities which could threaten our built heritage. As well, economic malaise has reduced interest in renovation of older properties. George noted that there are buildings in communities like Harbour Grace that are in danger due to the poor state of the fishery. George also noted that there is a degree of uncertainty associated with the changing needs of our institutions. Recently, buildings such as the B.I.S. in St. John's have been put on sale and others, such as the Mount Cashel Orphanage, have closed. There is a need to find alternative uses for these buildings.

The election of officers resulted in the election of the slate of candidates below by acclamation.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Brian Bursey who gave a very interesting slide talk on abandoned communities in the province. Brian has an extensive selection of slides which have been taken in his travels around the province. A number of these have been published in his two books on Newfoundland and Labrador.

## NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST OFFICERS FOR 1992

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Andrew Noseworthy	<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	George Chalker
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	Lana Collins Ron Rompkey		Don Parsons Shane O'Dea Robert Mellin Ruth Saturley Penny Dobbin John Fitzgerald Aiden Duff Jeff Levitz
<b>TREASURER</b>	Kathleen Parewick		
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Penny Houlden		
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	George Courage		

# Newfoundland Historic Trust to Undertake Organizational Review

by Andrew Noseworthy : Trust President

The Newfoundland Historic Trust has just celebrated its twenty- fifth Anniversary. In the years since the trust began, many of the situations which dictated our organizational structure and focus have changed. In some cases issues which were of concern to the trust no longer exist while threats to the existence of our built heritage have cropped up in areas which weren't even considered a quarter century ago. Some opportunities have died out while new opportunities for education and support have become available. Because the world in which the Trust functions is different, it is necessary that we re-assess our place within the heritage community and the most effective way in which the organization can achieve its prime purpose of protecting the built

heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. To accomplish this goal I have organized the board members of the Trust into committees each of which will develop goals for the Trust for 1992 and beyond within the areas outlined below. Representatives from outside agencies will be invited to add their perspective to our discussions. A day long session has been planned for March 7, 1992 at which each of the committees will develop recommendations and suggestions for their specific area of concern. If you, as a member of the Trust would like to take part in this exercise, please drop me a line at the Trust before March 7th. I look forward to hearing from anyone with ideas or concerns on the Trust's future as we enter our second twenty -five years.

## GENERAL TRUST ORGANIZATION

CONVENOR: George Courage

## RECRUITMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

CONVENOR: Ron Rompkey

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND GOALS

CONVENOR: Andrew Noseworthy

## ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

CONVENOR: Lana Collins

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RELATIONS

CONVENOR: Kathleen Parewick

The Newfoundland Historic Trust  
and  
The Canadian Parks Service

present  
*A HERITAGE WEEK RECEPTION*



8:00 P.M.  
Thursday, February 20th  
AT THE VISITOR CENTRE  
SIGNAL HILL  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

featuring  
*Dr. M.A.P. Renouf*  
Speaking on her archaeological work at  
Port au Choix

The general public is cordially invited  
Refreshments will be served

the  
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Editor:

Don Parsons

Contributing to this issue:

George Courage

Andrew Noseworthy



Newfoundland Historic Trust



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