Centre for Newfoundland Studies
JAN 19 2007
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

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the trident

The Newsletter of Newfoundland Historic Trust ISSN 0049-4690 Fall 2004

NOTICE of the

Newfoundland Historic Trust

2004 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Newfoundland Historic Trust will take place on Sunday, **December 5, 2004** at Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site, 436 Water Street (West end), St. John's, starting at 7:30pm.

Come meet our board members and staff and get an update on the Trust's activities during the past year.

Sheilah Roberts, author of *For Maids Who Brew & Bake: Rare & Excellent Recipes from 17th Century Newfoundland* (Flanker Press, 2003) will give a presentation about historic food and drink in Newfoundland.

Taste and learn! Sample 17th century wine drinks like hippocras and syllabub and other goodies!

For more information please email trust@historictrust.com or call739-7870.

Trust marked 20th anniversary of Southcott Awards in 2004

The Newfoundland Historic Trust developed the Southcott Awards program in 1984 to commend the good work of individuals, organizations, corporations and governments in the preservation of the province's architectural heritage. Since then, awards have been granted to restoration projects around the province, including communities such as Petite Forte, Grand Bank, Woody Point, Port Rexton, Trinity, Corner Brook, Brigus and Hopedale.

The ceremony for the 2004 Southcott Awards for excellence in built heritage restoration took place at St. John's City Hall on June 25th. The ceremony included a slide show featuring the nine award-winning architectural restoration projects from around the province, as well as refreshments and live traditional music.

"It's especially heartening as we mark the 20th anniversary of the Southcott Awards program that the number of excellent restoration projects in the province seems to be on the rise, and general appreciation for historical architecture is becoming more prevalent," says architect Colette Nap, Southcott Committee Chairperson. "We usually grant six awards per year, but this time around we had nine strong candidates and extra cause to celebrate."

The 2004 award recipients are:

1. Railway Coastal Museum, St. John's (Recipient: Railway Coastal Museum Foundation): The former Newfoundland Railway building was built in 1902 and is a west end historical landmark that stood empty for several years. The Railway Coastal Museum Foundation, spearheaded by Paul Johnson, restored the building and opened the museum in 2003. The property also houses the City of St. John's archives.

2. Winsor House Heritage Inn, Wesleyville (Recipient: Ruby & Heath Ellis): This property was built in 1905 as a family home for Captain William Winsor, who employed master shipbuilder Arthur Gillingham to oversee the construction. The home was badly run down after twelve years of vacancy, but has been restored to its former Victorian grandeur. It still serves as a landmark for mariners approaching Wesleyville.

Winsor House Heritage Inn, Wesleyville

3. Isaac John Groves House & Cellar Store, Bonavista (Recipient: John Groves): This pair of buildings was constructed circa 1865, and the house was inherited by several generations of the Groves family until it stood vacant in 2000. In 2004 four Groves siblings took it on as a restoration project. undoing significant renovation work done in the 1980s , and noted that the building's central beam is oak salvaged from a schooner. They also worked on the root cellar which is still used by Groves relatives, and returned it to its original shade of red-ochre.

4. Bishop's Gate Condominiums, St. John's (Recipient: Gerard Edwards & Doris Edwards): Formerly called Beaconsfield, Bishop's Gate is in the gothic cottage style and sits charmingly in its Topsail Road, Waterford Valley location. The property on which it sits was the country estate of Prime Minister (1861-1865) of Newfoundland Hugh Hoyles. It was later purchased by Edward Morris, and then the Roman Catholic Church. Gerard and Doris Edwards purchased it in 2001 and sensitively developed it as a planned unit, in a manner befitting an important historic property. Their tasks included recreating a veranda based on foundations uncovered during the work, removing vinyl and metal siding, and restoring plaster mouldings.

Bishop's Gate, St. John's

5. Walter Torraville's Fishing Stage & Ferry Terminal, Change Islands (Recipient: Stages & Stores Heritage Foundation Inc.): The fishing stage was built in the late 1800's and is a beautiful example of inshore fishermen's traditional premises. It also functioned as a ferry terminal from 1968-1972. Stages &

Stores Heritage Foundation has thoroughly restored the stage, which serves as foundation headquarters, and rebuilt the wharf as a docking facility for boats visiting the community.

6. MacCallum Residence, Forest Rd, St. John's (Recipient: William & Zita MacCallum): This home was built in 1904. Bill MacCallum, an architect, and his wife Zita purchased it in 1986, and its restoration became a passion for them. The restoration work addressed the visible historical features, and also applied building science such that it should be able to stand and tell its story for many years to come.

7. Rorke Stores Museum, Carbonear (Recipient: Town of Carbonear): The Town of Carbonear restored John Rorke's 1874 shed to interpret Newfoundland's cultural links with the land and sea, and especially the historical link between Carbonear and the Labrador fishery. The shed's balloon framed walls and ships knees construction is credited with its surviving the elements. It was restored and converted into a museum, balancing historical integrity and modern function.

Historic Rorke property, Carbonear

8. Tamason Dupuis Residence, Trinity (Recipient: Chip Tamason & Judy Dupuis): This prominent property on Hog's Nose was built circa 1885, and was owned over the years by several fishing families, When Chip and Judy bought it in 2001 it had been unoccupied for 10 years, and several alterations had destroyed the original architectural style. They painstakingly restored it to its modified saltbox form.

9. Mullock Hall Chapel, St. Bonaventure's College, St. John's (Recipient: St. Bonaventure's College/the Catholic Jesuit School Trust Inc.): Staff and volunteers begun extensive restoration of the circa 1907 chapel in 2002 with excellent results. They were assisted by archival photographs and their work was complete with creative reproduction of the original stained glass windows. Artist Gerald Squires donated a series of sculptures of the Canadian Jesuit Martyrs, and drafting and electrical design services were donated by Sean Kavanagh and Don Finch, respectively.

Many thanks to our Southcott Awards Committee: Colette Nap (Chair), John Templeton, Peggy Stewart, and Susan Haedrich. Thanks to Gerard Hayes and Barbara Deland for their participation during the ceremony; photographer Greg Locke; and musicians Stan Pickett and Dave Panting .

Thank you to our 2004 Southcott Awards supporters!

The 2004 Southcott Awards were sponsored by the City of St. John's, the Celebrate Canada Committee for Newfoundland and Labrador, Parks Canada, and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. Thank you for your contribution to celebrating our architectural heritage!

Doors Open Newfoundland & Labrador 2004

In 2003 the Newfoundland Historic Trust and its partners carried out the first Doors Open event in Atlantic Canada, Doors Open St. John's, inviting the public to a variety of historic or cultural sites for free. It was successful beyond our most optimistic expectations, so we did it again in 2004! And, the Trust is now working to facilitate Doors Open Newfoundland & Labrador events in other parts of the province.

Doors Open Placentia 2004

The inaugural Doors Open Placentia event took place on August 22nd. Kenneth Flynn of the Placentia Area Historical Society, which took the lead on organizing the event, says, "The Doors Open Placentia event was a huge success."

The twelve participating sites, staffed mostly by volunteers keen to tell visitors about their historic or culturally significant properties, included O'Reilly House Museum, Sacred Heart Parish Church, the Chaloupe Construction Site/Placentia Board House, Castle Hill National Historic Site, Placentia Fire Department, Holy Rosary Parish Church, St. Luke's Anglican Church, St. Martin's Anglican Church, the Leonard J. Miller Cultural Heritage Centre/Archaeological Interpretation Centre, Belle's Restaurant, Dixon Inn, and Wakeham's Sawmill.

Tom O'Keefe, Co-Chair of the Placentia Plan 2004 Committee, extended congratulations to the Placentia Area Historical Society for its success. He says, "I personally talked to people from Whitbourne, St. John's, Ontario and USA who were impressed."

"What an idea that was!" says Rachelle Connor, an interpreter at Castle Hill National Historic Site who was working there during the Doors Open day. "They came to Placentia from all over this area as well as distant places. We were very busy on Castle Hill. A large number of people told us that they had visited other sites in the town. Even with such bad weather, they still came. This will make our region that much more familiar to all both near and far."

Volunteer Chris Newell giving a tour during at Wakeham's Sawmill in Placentia.

Doors Open St. John's 2004

On September 11th and 12th, Doors Open visitors came out and in some cases, lined up, for the opportunity to explore some of St. John's most fascinating historic and cultural places. More than 28,000 visits were logged.

Children of all ages climbed aboard fire trucks on display at the New Central Fire Station, which offered visitors an advanced viewing of their new facility before the official opening on September 17. The Mosque/Islamic Centre gave visitors samples of delicious cuisine, along with guided tours of the building. And visitors to Presentation Convent were spellbound by the Veiled Virgin statue.

Thirteen new Doors Open sites carried on the spirit of the event with interesting exhibits, guided tours, and plenty of attractions. Visitors got a chance to see the rare giant squid at the Annex of the Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador, on display especially for Doors Open. A magnificent organ recital at the Anglican Cathedral received thunderous applause. And Waterford Manor served up tea and biscuits befitting the hospitality of that historic building.

CBC show hosts, including Karl Wells and Debbie Cooper, welcomed visitors to the CBC Television building, where guests had a chance to win a door prize. Walking tours and activities for children were provided by MUN Botanical Garden.

"We received great feedback from the public about this year's Doors Open," said Event Coordinator Amanda Ross. "For instance, I received an email from a lady who just wanted to say thank-you to the Newfoundland Historic Trust for organizing the event, and to comment that the young adult volunteers who gave tours at the Mosque were especially excellent. People are also suggesting sites for next year!"

The twenty Doors Open St. John's 2004 sites were:

1. Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
2. Apothecary Hall
3. Basilica Museum
4. Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
5. CBC Television Building
6. Canadian Coast Guard vessel Cape Roger
7. City of St. John's, Economic Development, Tourism, & Culture building
8. Government House
9. Hindu Temple
10. MUN Botanical Garden
11. Mosque / Islamic Centre
12. New Central Fire Station
13. Newfoundland Sikh Society Gurdwara and Cultural Centre
14. Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site
15. Presentation Convent
16. Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador
17. Quidi Vidi Brewing Company
18. Railway Coastal Museum
19. Spa at the Monastery & Suites
20. Waterford Manor

Many thanks to the site staff and volunteers who organized the activities at each of the Doors Open St. John's properties, and to volunteers George Courage, Tom Mayo, Gordon Dalton, Donald Byrne, Andy Vavasour and Kelly Jones who helped things go smoothly outside Presentation Convent and in Quidi Vidi Village. Thanks also to the staff of the City of St. John's and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, who helped with event logistics and promotion. We are also grateful to the staff of Spa at the Monastery and Suites for hosting our post-event reception.

Basilica Museum visitors take in the new and improved exhibits at that Doors Open St. John's 2004 site.

Visitors waited to board the Cape Roger...

...strolled through MUN Botanical Garden...

... chatted with volunteer interpreters at the Pharmacy Museum (above)... sampled local wines at Newman Wine Vaults... had tea at Waterford Manor... donned fire hats ... toured the spa that once was a monastery.... and viewed the giant squid of legend... and more, all during Doors Open St. John's 2004!

Doors Open Newtown 2004

Captain Job Barbour from Newtown faced a huge challenge when he left St. John's on the Neptune II to bring supplies to his home in Newtown. He ran into a storm and had to head the schooner for warmer waters, where he went adrift for 48 days and ended up in Tobermory Scotland, safe and sound.

On September 25th and 26th, Barbour Living Heritage Village marked the 75th anniversary of the remarkable Neptune II ordeal with Bonavista Bay's first Doors Open event.

The heritage village, under the stewardship of the Cape Freels Heritage Trust, opened the doors to its historic homes, a fishing stage, a schoolhouse and the Sealing Interpretation Centre, and provided music and entertainment. Visitors could also have a meal at the Olde Shoppe Restaurant or shop at the Poop Deck Craft Shop.

"Tour guides in period costume took visitors through the beautifully restored site and shared the saga of the Neptune II during our first Doors Open Newtown," says Patricia Hounsell, Marketing Manager for the Barbour Living Heritage Village.

DOORS O~P~E~N Newfoundland & Labrador

Thank you to our Doors Open Newfoundland & Labrador program supporters!

During 2004, the Doors Open Newfoundland & Labrador program of the Newfoundland Historic Trust has been supported by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Cultural Economic Development Program and CBC, without whom the program's success would not be possible. Doors Open St. John's was also sponsored by the Telegram, City of St. John's, Signs Now and Spa at the Monastery and Suites.

Many, many thanks for your financial or in-kind contributions which make fabulous Doors Open events possible.

Built Heritage and the Role of Planners by Kim Blanchard

The built heritage of a community is the collection of physical elements that make a community unique and distinguishable. Built heritage provides a sense of continuity from the past to the present, and, if the heritage resources remain, to the future. These physical expressions are valuable as they contribute to the sense of place and the sense of culture for residents or visitors.

The value of heritage can be both quantitative and qualitative, so any individual structure must be assessed within the greater context of the neighbourhood, the community, or the province. Heritage value can range from such important but intangible concepts as community identity and pride, to more tangible and quantitative concepts such as the generation of tourism activity and economic development through building preservation or restoration projects. These projects can have the potential for numerous direct and spin-off benefits, such as: increasing real estate values, revitalizing and reinvigorating downtowns or older parts of a community, retaining specialized skills and creating employment in building trades and supplies, to name a few.

Planners, along with architects, engineers, landscape architects and others involved in community building, have important roles to play where built heritage is concerned. Public interest and the greater good are philosophies on which the planning profession is founded, and planners often have the education and skills to recognize the importance of built heritage in the health and sustainability of a community.

Planners work in both public and private sector capacities, and can have a significant influence on how change and development occurs in a community. Using planning tools such as municipal plans, development regulations, zoning, and heritage designation, planners can manage and direct development in a community and therefore play a substantive role in ensuring that significant resources are protected and new development is compatible with existing development.

Many communities, especially small places in rural settings, sometimes lack professional planners or other staff who are experienced

with the protection of heritage resources and may, therefore, be at risk of losing irreplaceable heritage resources. These communities may require assistance in identifying their significant heritage resources, managing them and developing guidelines for an appropriate approach to heritage projects. These are some of the roles that planners can play in shaping our communities and protecting our built heritage.

Kim Blanchard is a planner and advocate for heritage preservation. She is also Vice President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

The 4th Annual Bartlett Lecture explored film making legacy

by Jennifer Barnable

Captain Bob Bartlett wasn't the only person captivated by adventure in the frozen north. Explorers, scientists, filmmakers and journalists also flocked to the ice on various quests. One notable figure was New York filmmaker and adventurer Varick Frissell.

In 1930, backed by Paramount Pictures to make a feature film about the Newfoundland seal hunt, Frissell and a large film crew hauled heavy camera and sound equipment to the North Atlantic ice floes. The motion picture was to be called "White Thunder," and during filming, local sealers worked alongside Hollywood actors, including the legendary Captain Bob Bartlett (who was, naturally, cast in the role of ship's captain).

Frissell captured what is considered to be some of the best film footage ever shot documenting the seal fishery. Tragically, he and 26 crew members were killed in an accidental explosion while filming off Newfoundland in 1931. Paramount Pictures later released the film under a new title, "The Viking." Seventy years later, filmmaker Victoria King became fascinated by Frissell's legacy. The result: a stunning directorial debut, appropriately named "White Thunder." King won Best Documentary at the 22nd Annual Atlantic Film Festival.

The Historic Sites Association presented the 4th Annual Bartlett Lecture at St. George's Heritage Church in Brigus on September 10th, 2004 where Victoria King gave a presentation on her documentary. Born in St. John's and schooled in filmmaking at Concordia University in Montreal, Ms King's "White Thunder" incorporates the breath-taking footage captured in 1931 by Varick Frissell.

The Historic Sites Association (HSA) operates the historic Bartlett home, Hawthorne Cottage, in Brigus. A prominent voice on the international lecture circuit, Bartlett often spoke about his Arctic voyages. The HSA established the Annual Bartlett Lecture in his honour.

Did you know? In 1966 the Newfoundland Historic Trust formed to save Christ Church, Quidi Vidi Village. In 1930 Varick Frissell shot the final scene of "The Viking" inside.

New life for historic King George V Building, St. John's

Built between 1911 and 1912 on land donated by Sir Edgar Rennie Bowring, the King George V Building on Water Street, St. John's was designated as a municipal heritage site in 1989 because of its association with the medical missionary Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, and with the public works of the Grenfell Mission. Architecturally, the building is a fine example of neo-classical public buildings, designed by the American architectural partnership of Williams Adams Delano and Chester H. Aldrich.

King George V Building, St. John's

The cornerstone was laid by King George V on his coronation day, June 22, 1911, through the agency of an electronic current from Buckingham Palace -- with Governor Sir Ralph Williams completing the laying of the stone on His Majesty's behalf. At the time, it was believed to be the first laying of a cornerstone by remote control in the world.

Funding for redevelopment of building

The building is now scheduled to receive significant funding from the federal government's new heritage funding programme for commercial buildings. This will assist in the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in a part of the city that has attracted much recent development.

"I am delighted to see that this historical building will be given a new life," says George Chalker, Executive Director, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL). "Historically the site has accommodated visitors to St. John's and it is encouraging that once again it will be welcoming guests through its doors."

Mr Chalker commended the recent announcement of the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment, that eight historic Canadian properties will be revitalized and put to new use with significant financial support from the federal government.

King George Properties Inc. will convert the property to a 41-room boutique hotel. The project is eligible to receive $498,630 from the Government of Canada through its new Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund (CHPIF).

Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund

The new fund is part of the Historic Places Initiative (HPI), which has involved the federal, provincial and territorial governments working collaboratively to create new mechanisms for the preservation of Canada's heritage properties. This includes the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, the Canadian Register of Historic Places and the CHPIF certification program. Details of the initiative are posted at www.historicplaces.ca.

"The Heritage Foundation has been working through the provincial government as part of the collaboration to implement HPI in Newfoundland and Labrador," said Mr Chalker. "The program is intended to increase Canadians' awareness and appreciation for our Historic Places."

To be eligible to receive CHPIF funding, a corporation must own or hold a long-term lease on the historic property being considered for rehabilitation, and the property must be listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. The corporation must also agree to respect the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada and to meet the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. All proposed projects must be pre-certified by a certification agent accredited by Parks Canada to be approved for funding.

Taxable Canadian corporations can apply to the fund to be reimbursed for 20 per cent of their eligible costs to rehabilitate a historic property for commercial use, up to a maximum of $1 million. The deadline for the next intake of applications is January 14, 2005. For more information, call (819) 934-2818.

Heritage Foundation of NL opens new central Newfoundland office

by Andrea O'Brien

On October 12, 2004 the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador opened its central office in Gander. From Carmanville to Change Islands, Greenspond to Grand Falls, and points in between, devoted individuals and communities are working to preserve the homes, sheds, stores and stages for which central Newfoundland is well known. HFNL hopes to provide much needed support and resources to those who have focussed their efforts on preserving the architectural treasures that remain in central Newfoundland.

Some projects are on a grand scale, such as the restorations being undertaken by the Tilting Recreational and Cultural Society and by Stages and Stores Incorporated on Change Islands. In these communities vernacular structures have been given a new lease on life. In Tilting, the province's first Registered Heritage District, efforts are underway to repair and restore fences, a vital but often overlooked component of the outport landscape. These two small communities are serving as successful examples of how preserving built heritage can have a positive impact on a community.

Vernacular fences in Tilting.

Some Registered Heritage Structures in the region have been converted to community museums. One great example is the Brett House in Joe Batt's Arm. The property is a testament to one family's creativity, adaptability and perseverance as they made a livelihood from the sea. Their struggles and triumphs mirror the experiences of countless Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. That

community groups recognize the contribution of past residents and work towards preserving their built inheritance is an encouraging step toward greater heritage preservation efforts. One of the most satisfying projects in the region is the refurbishing of stages, most of which are still used by local fishermen, under the Heritage Foundation's Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program. Spruced up with new clapboard and a fresh coat of paint, these uniquely Newfoundland structures are an integral part of our shared culture.

As the region's heritage officer, I am looking forward to working in partnership with individuals, regional organizations and community groups who are interested in documenting and preserving the built heritage of this beautiful region. Recognizing that the fibre of a place is altered as heritage structures disappear from the landscape, efforts to save those that remain must be supported.

Brett House, Joe Batt's Arm, was built circa 1870 by John Brett, whose ancestors came to Joe Batt's Arm from Christ Church, Hampshire, England in the 18th century. When the last member of the Brett family to reside in the house passed away, the home and its contents became a community museum. The house and outbuildings were designated as Registered Heritage Structures in 2003.

Alexander Kean's stage, Pound Cove.

Fishing stage, Tilting.

Newfoundland & Labrador's Heritage Worth Promoting. Worth Protecting.

What's New with the Historic Places Initiative in Newfoundland & Labrador?

- Regional Staff now located in Woody Point, Gander and St. John's
- Provincial Register of Historic Places
- Youth Poster Contest in Schools
- Workshops...and more!
- *Coming soon a program to assist municipalities with heritage planning*

Visit www.heritagefoundation.ca or call 1-888-739-1892 for more information.

Canada's Historic Places / Lieux patrimoniaux du Canada

Heritage Canada Foundation Annual Conference proposals

The "Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Development" Conference is scheduled for September 15 to 17 in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Heritage Canada Foundation invites proposals for papers, presentations, panel discussions, seminars and workshops. Please submit an abstract or session description to heritagecanada@heritagecanada.org by January 5, 2005. For more information visit www.heritagecanada.org or call (613) 237-1066.

At the Newman Wine Vaults

During the summer 2004 season Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site was staffed by six young adults over the course of the summer, made possible in part by federal and provincial youth employment programs.

Special events this year included storytelling, and our Wine & Words series featuring six local authors: Robert Parsons, Michael Crummey (with photographer Greg Locke), Ramona Dearing, Dale Jarvis, Monica Kidd and Joel Hynes. Our Napoleon Surrenders event went well, with the Trust's own Secretary of the Board, Gerard Hayes, in costume as the Little Emperor. We also had a Family Day featuring children's author Betty Organ, and Historica Fair student exhibitors Melanie Hoskins and Kurtis Coombs. The site was also home base for our Vault into History Walking Tour of the St. John's west end neighbourhood, and took part in Doors Open St. John's 2004.

We continue to provide group tours and to rent the Vaults for private events to raise revenue towards the Trust's stewardship of the site. In May the first wedding ceremony and reception at the Vaults took place, and the bride says it was her "dream wedding."

Melanie Hoskins entertained with tales and her City of Spirits display during Family Day.

We are grateful to the City of St. John's Arts Program for a grant towards some of our programming; to George Chalker for his donation of appliances; to Ken Jerrett for his donation of port bottles to our collection; to Dale Jarvis for his ongoing involvement; to the NLC and staff of the Murray Premises Liquor Store for input into running our agency; to the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation for cpportunities to promote the site; and to oeniphiles Tom Beckett and Steve Delaney, who provide their services for various port tasting activities. Thank you!

The Trident is published by the
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