

the trident

A quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

30th Annual Southcott Award Edition



The Trust announced the recipients of the 30th Annual Southcott Awards on Tuesday, June 24 during a ceremony emceed by CBC's Jonathan Crowe. The event was held at the LSPU Hall in St. John's, itself a former Southcott winner. Awards were presented in two categories: Building Restoration/Preservation and Heritage Tradesperson.

The Southcott Award program was established by The Trust in 1984 to recognize excellence in the preservation and adaptive reuse of the architectural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. The overall goal of the program is to recognize and commend those who have demonstrated excellence in building design, restoration and preservation.

Four awards were presented in the Building Restoration/Preservation category to **Anderson House** in St. John's, owned by Hubert Alacoque; **Evelyn's Place** in Herring Neck, Notre Dame Bay, owned by The Old Salt Box Co.; the **Hickey Family Homestead** in Outer Cove, owned by Paul D. Hickey; and, the **Lilly Building** in downtown St. John's, owned by Choices for Youth. **Aiden Duff** of St. John's accepted the Heritage Tradesperson honour.

The Southcott Award for Building Restoration/Preservation is presented to finished architectural restoration projects. The Heritage Tradesperson Award celebrates the skill and contribution of an individual in the craft or trade professions in heritage conservation. In order to be considered for this award, the individual must use specialist and traditional methods and also exhibit a high standard of craftsmanship.

The 30th Annual Southcott Awards were supported by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Architecture49, Grant Thornton, the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects, Provincial Historic Sites, and Roebethan McKay Marshall. The Trust thanks its generous sponsors, as well as the members of the Southcott Awards Committee, Robyn Pike (Chair), Bonnie Andrews, Kim Cooper, John Drover, Ben Jesseau, Leslie Pierce, and Sue Wright.

Cont'd. page 2 >

in this issue

p.2 2014 Southcott Awards

p.3 Southcott Awards cont'd.

p.4 Doors Open Days

p.5 Placentia Archaeology

p.7 Gander Airport Departures Lounge

p.8 2014 Membership Form

Southcott Awards for Building Restoration/Preservation



Anderson House, St. John's

Owner: Hubert Alacoque

Sitting near the bottom of Signal Hill Road at the corner of Power's Court, Anderson House is a two-and-a-half-storeyed hipped-roof building and is an excellent example of later eighteenth and early nineteenth century homes in St. John's. Originally built for James Anderson, a sergeant in the local militia in 1804, Anderson House is one of the oldest buildings in Newfoundland and Labrador. The property is now home to Innovative Development & Design Engineers, Ltd., an engineering consulting company.

Evelyn's Place, Herring Neck

Owners: Janet Denstedt and Richard Wharton of The Old Salt Box Co.

Located on the corner of Salt Harbour Road and Church Road, Evelyn's Place is a large traditional outport-style home that was constructed sometime in the mid-to-late 1800s. Originally, the building served as a Rectory for St. Mary's Anglican Church and like many such buildings in outport Newfoundland, it also doubled as a schoolhouse for the community for a number of years. Post-restoration, the house is now a beautifully-appointed modern vacation home.



Hickey Family Homestead, Outer Cove

Owner: Paul D. Hickey

This home was built circa 1900 as the residence for Joseph O'Brien, a ship carpenter. Then in 1916, it was purchased by Patrick Hickey as his family home. Four generations of Hickeys would go on to live in the house over the next century. The house recently underwent a significant restoration and has been featured in publications such as *ProPainter* and *Home & Cabin*.

The Lilly, St. John's

Owner: Choices for Youth

Built in the late 1800s, the building originally housed the operations of A. Lilly & Co. Ltd. on Bond Street. Choices for Youth worked diligently to update the building for contemporary use while aiming to maintain the structure's original heritage character. With the restoration work completed, the Lilly is now able to provide independent living accommodations for 14 youths and programming space for various literacy and employment services.





Southcott Award for Heritage Tradesperson

Aiden Duff, St. John's

Mr. Duff's handiwork can be seen in many homes in and around St. John's, including the previously mentioned Hickey Family Homestead in Outer Cove. In that case, working primarily alone over a period of approximately 20 months, Mr. Duff oversaw the painstaking restoration on the full exterior and interior of the home. Using traditional tools and methods, Mr. Duff replaced the clapboard in accordance to recommended heritage guidelines and examples of his work can be seen throughout the house in all the trims, windowsills, baseboards, window boxes, and doors. His detailed craftsmanship retains the original look and character of the home's exterior and lends a fresh modern feel to the interior.

10th Annual Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Winner

Each year, the Trust presents the scholarship in memory of former General Manager, Leida Finlayson, who passed away in 2003 after a courageous battle with cancer. To honour her contribution to the Trust, her life, and her indomitable spirit, the Trust and the Finlayson family established the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship, to be given to a deserving individual studying history or political science at Memorial University of Newfoundland. During the Southcott Awards ceremony, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador presented this year's scholarship to **Renee Roche** of Torbay.



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Music by Allan Byrne

We would also like to acknowledge and thank:

His Honour, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, CM, ONL, MBA, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Dan Crummell, Minister of Service NL, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Jonathan Crowe, Emcee and Shane O'Dea, Public Orator



The Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust is once again excited to organize St. John's Doors Open 2014, which will be taking place the weekend of September 6-7 and will mark the event's twelfth year in the city! The premise of Doors Open, an event that started in Glasgow in 1990 and that has since been held in over 44 countries, is to open up culturally and historically significant buildings for the public to experience – completely free of charge. Buildings that normally have limited or no public access, or charge a fee, open their doors to

foster their community's interest in its own architectural and cultural history. Locals have the opportunity to become "tourists" at home, visitors get to experience some of a place's best architectural heritage, and participating sites can promote what they have to offer – It is truly a community event.

St. John's is rich in cultural heritage, and this year we are looking to include new sites and activities along with some old favourites. Thanks to one of our sponsors, DC Design House, this year we have a new logo that is an extension of the Historic Trust's logo, making the Trust's involvement in the event clearer than ever. Keep an eye out for this logo around town the weekend of **Doors Open, September 6-7, 2014** and take the chance to explore!

We are always looking for insight from the community about the types of buildings and activities that should be included in Doors Open, and we love to hear from sites or cultural groups that would like to participate. Sites can be anything from major historic landmarks to private homes and newer structures that offer something of interest. Ultimately, Doors Open is about providing the ability to explore and understand the character of a place, and St. John's is certainly full of character. Thank you for supporting Doors Open in the past and we look forward to the community's continuing support this year and beyond.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to participate as a site or sponsor in Doors Open 2014, please contact Doors Open Coordinator Aileen Worrall at doorsopendays@gmail.com or 709-739-7870.

Celebrating Three Decades of Preservation, Restoration, and Design

The Southcott Awards program has recently reached an important milestone. The ceremony that took place on June 24th at LSPU Hall marked the 30th anniversary of the Awards, and to commemorate this achievement the Historic Trust will be revisiting some highlights from the past three decades of Southcott winners.

Between 1984 and 2014 there have been 195 outstanding individuals, groups, and companies that have been honoured for their commitment to Newfoundland's built heritage. Winning properties can be found right across the width and breadth of the island, with exceptional structures being recognized in no less than 49 different communities.

To celebrate this legacy of Southcott Award winners the Trust has created a new blog (www.southcottstyle.tumblr.com) to share archival tidbits, contemporary photos, and historic images of Newfoundland's architecture. In addition, an interactive map of Southcott Award winning buildings in St. John's is under development, and a series of interviews with past winners will be released throughout August.

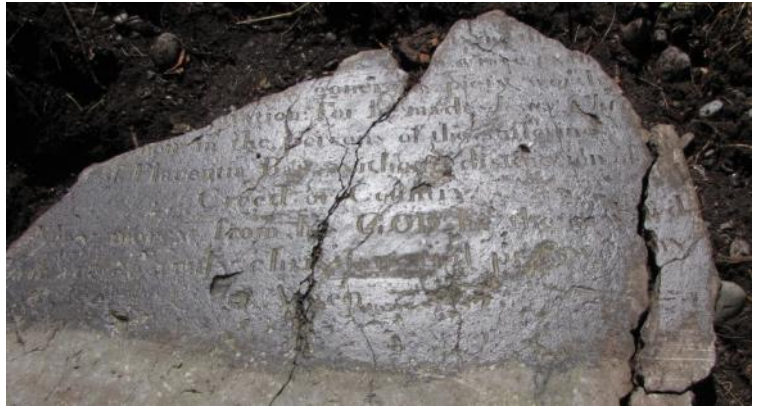
If you would like to share ideas or find out more information about these projects, please contact Brittany Roberts at nhtresearch@gmail.com, or phone (709) 771-5665.



A Stepping Stone into the Past

By Lee Everts

In 1996, archaeologists completed a customary study in Placentia. Their aim was to ensure that a planned residential development site did not contain any historically significant artefacts or items. While the result of the study determined that no significant cultural material would be destroyed were the development to go ahead, it did uncover one curious item.



As with much of old Placentia, sometimes referred to as Townside, the land where the archaeological study took place had been owned by the Saunders and Sweetman firm in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. More specifically, it was the previous site of the Blenheim House, the dwelling house of the Sweetmans in Placentia. What the archaeological study discovered was the apparent doorstep of the Blenheim House. Yet, this was no average doorstep. Rather, it was revealed to be a headstone, one intended for a man by the name of John Hamilton.

Although difficult to decipher, a few of the words carved into the stone offered a tantalising hint of just who John Hamilton happened to be. He had died on January 18 in 1826 and one of the lines read “of Placentia Bay without distinction” with the next line being “Creed or Country.” Alongside the inscribed words was the name and origin of the maker of the headstone — Smyth and Waterford, respectively. While the headstone provided some information, the question remained, who was John Hamilton?

One important clue was the headstone itself. Prior to 1830, headstones on the island of Newfoundland were not carved locally. Instead, much as with the headstone meant for John Hamilton, they were carved in the British Isles and then shipped to Newfoundland. It was primarily merchants who had the means to obtain a headstone from the British Isles. It was a clear statement of prestige and status within the community. Fishermen could ill-afford such an extravagance. This supplied yet more clues to the identity of John Hamilton.

The inscription on the headstone referred to “Placentia Bay,” a term that likely applied to settlements along its shores or to its many islands. Individuals with the name of Hamilton had settled on Isle Valen and Oderin, two islands in Placentia Bay. Could John Hamilton have been a merchant from one of these islands and given his status, his family had requested a headstone to be carved in Ireland and then shipped to Newfoundland? Despite this possibility, there was another explanation as to who was John Hamilton.



About three centuries ago, following the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, Placentia functioned as the headquarters for the British military. As a result, a Lieutenant Governor would be appointed to the garrison in Placentia. In 1744, this individual was someone by the name of Major Otho Hamilton. The children of Lieutenant Governor Hamilton were Otho Hamilton, Jr., Grizel Hamilton, and none other than a John Hamilton.

John Hamilton, the eldest son, had been most likely born in Annapolis Royal (Nova Scotia) around 1724. Being a military family, both John Hamilton and his brother rose to the rank of Captain in the 40th Regiment of Foot, a company of which was based in Placentia.

In Placentia, it was truly a family affair. The sister of Captains John and Otho Hamilton, Grizel Hamilton, was married to engineer, Captain Richard Dawson. He is credited as being the first to use the name “Castle Hill,” the location of a fort in Placentia.

Thus, it was possible that Captain John Hamilton was the individual for whom the headstone had been intended. However, it is believed that Captain John Hamilton actually died in 1802 in Waterford. This was also the location where both his brother, Otho Hamilton, Jr. and father Otho Hamilton, Sr. had been buried.

Cont'd. from page 4

Although the path would seem to have run its course, another John Hamilton eventually appeared in the archival documents. A letter had been written by a Lieutenant John Hamilton, Jr. to William Adair, Esq. on August 20, 1759. The "junior" was a promising sign. More so was the fact that in his letter, Lieutenant Hamilton, Jr. had written about both his "Unkle [sic] Captⁿ Otho Hamilton" and "Unkle [sic] Captⁿ Richard Dawson." This made it relatively certain that this John Hamilton was indeed the son of Captain John Hamilton.

Regardless, certain dates still did not seem to match. The problem stemmed from the fact that Captain John Hamilton had married Mary Handfield in Nova Scotia in 1752. They had gone on to have three children — Otho, William, and Thomas. No John was mentioned. Moreover, any child of John and Mary could not have been old enough to be a Lieutenant in the military by 1759.

Another document held a vital clue. It stated how, prior to becoming a Captain, John Hamilton, "a young widower" had married Mary Handfield. Hence, it was entirely possible that Lieutenant John Hamilton, Jr. who wrote the letter in 1759 was the child of Captain John Hamilton from an earlier marriage.

And so, was Lieutenant John Hamilton, Jr. the individual for whom the headstone was originally carved? It is difficult to say whether or not this was the case. In 1811, the garrison in Placentia was disarmed and dismantled, its ordnance and other stores moved to St. John's. However, as in many instances, members of the military had married women from the local community.

Therefore, was John Hamilton, Jr. married to a woman from Placentia? When the garrison moved, by then of an advanced age, he remained in the place that had come to be home and one that was at least, intended to be his final resting place. But what happened? Why was the headstone not used? For the time being, this will have to remain a mystery.

Nevertheless, one thing is certain. Many seemingly insignificant and mundane objects hold unexpected keys to the past. Although the intended headstone of a John Hamilton was just a doorstep — no doubt ignored and well-trod — it remains an important stepping stone into the past of the Placentia area.

OPEN CALL for the 2015 Southcott Awards Nominations

We are now accepting applications for nomination for the Southcott Awards. 2015 application forms are now available on our website www.historictrust.ca. **Deadline April 25, 2015**

NL Historic Trust Reminders

- Membership renewal forms can be found on page 8
- FREE iPhone and Android app "Walk St. John's"—available in the Apple and Play Stores today
- New programming planned for 2014—suggestions are welcome
- Doors Open Days September 6-7, 2014

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Gander International Airport Departures Lounge listed to Heritage Canada National Trust Top 10 Endangered

MID-CENTURY GEM COULD DEPART DUE TO DOWNSIZING



Photo: Des Ryan

The most important modernist room in Canada at risk due to high operating costs and low passenger traffic.

Why it matters Gander Airport officially opened in 1938 and by the 1950s it was one of the busiest international airports in the world. In June 1959, the Canadian government unveiled an upgraded Gander International Airport as part of a nation-wide airport building program to show the world, through its striking architecture, that Canada was a forward-thinking, cosmopolitan nation. The International Departures Lounge was the centrepiece of the airport and is considered by design experts to be the single most important modernist room in Canada, incorporates such striking elements as a 22-metre mural painted on-site by Kenneth Lochhead, geometric terrazzo floors, and cutting-edge furniture by renowned Canadian and international designers like Robin Bush, Jacques Guillon, and Arne Jacobsen.

With the exception of an enclosed glass and aluminium corridor recently added for security reasons, the interior of the terminal's international Departures Lounge is still in its original condition.

Why it's endangered In April, the airport's operator, Gander International Airport Authority (GIAA), announced that it was pursuing plans to build a new, smaller, more energy efficient airport tailored to current passenger volumes (140,000 annually). The existing building covers some 9,850 sq m (106,000 sq ft.), about 6,500 sq m (70,000 sq ft) more space than the GIAA needs. The GIAA's 2013 Annual Report states that a new facility will incorporate key physical components of the current one. According to President and CEO Gary Vey (retired July 1, 2014), "The wrecking ball is not ominously over our head at the moment. We've got a couple-year window before we have to make some hard and fast decisions."

The decision was based on a series of investigation studies for the feasibility to renovate the terminal in 2012 undertaken by LPS Avia Consulting to look at various options, including renovation of the existing terminal, removal of the 1970s and 80s additions; construction of a new terminal; retention of existing one for a new function.

Where things stand The demolition announcement this spring generated a groundswell of support for protecting Gander Airport and attracted national media attention. Heritage organizations including the Association of Heritage Industries Newfoundland and Labrador and the Newfoundland Historic Trust are facilitating discussions between key stakeholders. At the grassroots level, three separate Facebook sites have been launched in support of the airport, and a petition calling for its preservation now has almost 2,000 signatures.



Photo: Des Ryan

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The Trust's newsletter, *The Trident*, is published quarterly. Submissions and advertising inquiries are welcome and can be forwarded to:

coordinator@historictrust.ca

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2014 Membership Form - Membership counts!

Annual membership fees support the ongoing work of the Trust in fulfilling its mandate of education, advocacy and outreach. The ability of the Trust to speak confidently and lobby effectively to protect our province's built heritage, neighbourhoods, streetscapes and open spaces depends to a large extent on the degree of public support it enjoys.

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Southcott Awards Preservation Programming Fundraising Newsletter

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