

# the trident

A quarterly publication of the Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust

## The City of St. John's threw its Doors Open



Supreme Court



QV Village Plantation



Central Fire Station



Masonic Temple



Railway Coastal Museum

Proudly organized once again by the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, the twelfth annual Doors Open event took place on the weekend of September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at participating sites in the City of St. John's.

Doors Open is an exciting community event where historic and culturally significant buildings open their doors to visitors, completely free of charge! We had an amazing turnout this year, with over 16,000 visits to our 22 participating sites – double that

of last year! Much of this success is due to the event's increasing profile, through word of mouth and social media, as Doors Open is an event that people look forward to each year and are happy to share with friends and family.

Doors Open gets an excellent response from locals as well as tourists, which is one of the wonderful aspects of this event – it makes everyone a tourist! Another reason for this year's success is that we increased the number of sites from last year's 17 to 22, six

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## Doors Open Days

of which were brand new. Several, including the St. John's Courthouse (Supreme Court) and the Spirit of Newfoundland's Masonic Temple, were also back after not participating for several years.

Like our returning sites, our new sites were quite diverse and could appeal to a wide range of interests. Some of our new sites were great examples of local historic architecture, such as the Association for New Canadians (built in 1885 by Henry Earle), the traditional row house that is the Gerald Squires Gallery (art lovers could also meet the renowned artist himself), and the 1940s mercantile building at the centre of Rawlins Cross that is now Neville Gallery and Framing. Gower Street United Church, "The Methodist Cathedral," served as a great addition to Doors Open in the Ecclesiastical District, as the Anglican Cathedral and Catholic Basilica have been event participants for years. St. Michael's Printshop highlighted part of the St. John's art scene and offered visitors a chance to see printing demonstrations, while the RNC Stables – offering something for the whole family – was our busiest site of the whole weekend and drew over 3,000 people to the Government House grounds.

As a special addition to this year's event, Mallard Cottage opened their doors to visitors for a Doors Open-themed Public House on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>, offering guided architectural tours and excellent food and drink.

Response from visitors has been great, with the most common request from visitors being that we continue to expand the event with additional sites and add more sites not normally open to the public. Continuing to try to involve private homes or buildings otherwise closed to the public in Doors Open is something we need the community's support for, so anything Trust members can do to help with this initiative would be a great boost to next year's Doors Open!

Special thanks also goes out to our sponsors the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canadian Heritage, Heritage Canada The National Trust, the City of St. John's, The Telegram, FastSigns and Dc Design House for making this event possible!

Article by Aileen Worrall  
Doors Open 2014 Coordinator



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# Remembering Edythe Goodridge

With the passing of Edythe Goodridge, our province has lost one of the pioneers of the Heritage Conservation movement and a passionate advocate for the advancement of the tangible and intangible heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Edythe was an artist. She saw the world with the eyes and soul of an artist. At a time when very few people recognised the value and beauty of our built heritage and the authentic cultural expressions of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, Edythe was a strong and passionate voice, a pioneer and activist for the promotion and preservation of the heritage and culture of our province.

She had an unbounded enthusiasm for the things she believed in and an incredible sense of the possible. Christ Church, a small wooden Anglican church, in historic Quidi Vidi Village, dating from 1842, still stands today as a tribute to Edythe's vision and perseverance. In 1966, this historic structure was declared redundant and scheduled for demolition. This followed the loss in the post confederation period of a number of valuable historic buildings in St. John's. Although these losses did create an outpouring of public concern, there was no effective organization to rally the voices of concern around effective action for preservation.

Edythe brought together a small group of people committed to the preservation of Christ Church and the larger concern of the continuing loss of historic buildings in our province. This small group was the forerunner of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. Edythe was the founding president of the NHT and the first editor of the Trust's award winning newsletter, *The Trident*. She was the spark behind the preservation of Christ Church by the Newfoundland Historic Trust in 1966.

She recruited me to serve as secretary of this new organization and as her assistant editor



Edythe Goodridge.  
*Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council* photo

of *The Trident*. My personal involvement with saving Christ Church led to a lifelong passion with heritage conservation.

Edythe was actively involved with the Trust for many years, devoting her creativity and energy to raising public awareness and appreciation of the built heritage. Throughout her career with the Memorial University Extension Services and later, the Canada Council for the Arts in Ottawa, Edythe was a strong and effective voice for the preservation and development of our cultural and heritage resources and their important role in the economic sustainability of Newfoundland and Labrador. Following her retirement, Edythe moved to Salvage on the Eastport Peninsula where she continued her enthusiastic volunteer involvement with the preservation and promotion with local culture and heritage in that area.

Edythe was my friend since childhood. Her bright spirit and enthusiasm will be missed by her many friends and co-workers. Her legacy as a pioneer of heritage conservation and founder of the Newfoundland Historic Trust remains as an inspiration to all those who appreciate and work for the conservation of the built heritage throughout the province.

*Submitted by Shannie Duff*

# A Thirty-Year Milestone for the Southcott Awards

In 1847, a pair of pragmatic and entrepreneurial brothers from Exeter, England arrived on the shores of Newfoundland. They travelled to the island to lend a hand with the massive rebuilding that followed St. John's Great Fire of 1846. As young ambitious builders, they likely had grand plans for achieving success. But I doubt that even in their wildest dreams they could imagine that they would change the appearance of Newfoundland's cities and towns for the next century to come.

When John and James Thomas Southcott settled themselves in St. John's, they founded the building firm of J. and J.T. Southcott. For the majority of the next five decades they would act as two of Newfoundland's most influential building contractors. Their firm was responsible for constructing a number of elegant public buildings and domestic residences for the merchant class, notable among which were the Hearts Content Cable Company offices and staff houses, the St. John's Gower Street Methodist Church (now Gower Street United Church), and the St. John's Athenaeum.

In June of 1852 James Thomas Southcott married Georgina Norman, a fellow citizen of Exeter who was also living in St. John's. One year later, in the heat of a late August day, Georgina gave birth to John Thomas - the first of the eight children that the couple would produce, and their only boy.

Some twenty years later, John Thomas was ushered into the family business of building construction and design. After an apprenticeship with his father and his uncle, he was sent to his family's beloved home of Exeter to train with the renowned architect W.R. Best. Upon his return to St. John's in 1876, the Southcott firm took on a new role as the developers of luxury suburban homes. They purchased a large swathe of property on Rennie's Mill and Monkstown Roads, and John Thomas designed six stately homes in the Second Empire fashion to sit upon the land. The forms and features used in these homes would go on to become known locally as the Southcott style of architecture.

After the Great Fire of 1892, the Southcott style swept through St. John's transforming the city's architectural composition. Whereas before the Great Fire the Southcott fashion was the sole preserve of the wealthy elite, after 1892 it developed into the preferred choice of the middle class. The results of this popularity can still be seen today; Southcott style buildings take center stage on nearly every major residential street in St. John's.

Nonetheless, as the rebuilding of the city progressed new architects came to prominence and Southcott designs fell out of demand. In the early 1900s financial difficulties pushed John Thomas to seek greener pastures on Canada's west coast, and in 1909 he moved with his family to Vancouver. Despite the change of scenery he did little work in his new Pacific home, and he passed away there in 1939.

Forty-five years after John Thomas Southcott's death, the Historic Trust created the annual Southcott Awards program to honour the impact that the Southcott firm has had on Newfoundland's architecture. The Awards are used to congratulate individuals who have shown excellence in building design, restoration, and preservation. For 30 years, Award winners have carried on the creative legacy of the Southcott firm, and contributed to protecting the wild and wonderful architectural traditions of Newfoundland and Labrador. In total, there have been 195 outstanding individuals, groups, and companies that have been honoured for their commitment to built heritage. Winning properties can be found across the width and breadth of the province, with exceptional structures being recognized in no less than 49 different communities.

This diversity in geographic location is matched by the variety of award winning architectural styles. From the modernist 1950s design of 7 Rostellan Drive in St. John's, to the Germanic timber framed structures of the Hopedale Moravian Mission in Battle Harbour, Labrador, to the contemporary infill housing at St. John's Ewing Terrace, the Southcott Awards celebrate the vibrant array of buildings throughout the



Top (L-R):

*Musgrave Terrace*

*29-31 Gower Street, St. John's*

*Devon Place*

*3 Forest Road, St. John's*

Bottom (L-R):

*Keneally House*

*8 Patrick Street, Carbonear*

*The Flower Studio*

*124 Military Road, St. John's*

province's communities. Awards have been bestowed upon ecclesiastical buildings, industrial structures, hotels, businesses, fishing stages, offices, company houses, railway stations, mansions, and humble domestic dwellings. There is no building too grand or too modest to qualify for a Southcott Award.

The scope of winners was recently broadened even further with the addition of two new categories of awards. The Southcott Award for Design in Context celebrates contemporary structures that encourage economic development, sustainability, community renewal, and improvement in the quality of residential life. Winners in this category have included the Hood Residence in Middle Arm, the Quidi Vidi Village Plantation, and the Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism at Shamrock Farm. On a more specific level, the Southcott Award for Heritage Tradesperson was created to recognize the skill and contribution of individuals or businesses working in craft or trade professions devoted to heritage conservation. This Award has been given to Aiden Duff, Martin Palmer, and Sweet Lumber Enterprises, all of which have shown dedication to traditional methods and exhibit a high standard of craftsmanship.

These new types of Awards reflect the fact that our architecture is constantly evolving, transforming, and adapting to suit our needs. The built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador is dynamic, and anything but conservative. The Southcott Awards aim to show that our historic buildings can be revived and reinvented in amazingly modern ways, and, by the same token, that our contemporary buildings can harken back to a history of quality craftsmanship, vernacular tradition, and local patterns of use. We all deserve to live in lively, creative, and beautiful communities; thankfully, the Southcott Awards program helps to make that happen. So here's to thirty years of great work and wonderful winners, and to thirty more years to come - I'm sure the Southcott's would be proud.

*Article by Brittany Roberts*

## #GreatFire1892

On July 8, the Trust launched its latest version of the Walk St. John's historic walking tour app. The updated app includes a new route that traces the path of the Great Fire of 1892.

July 8 also marked the 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Great Fire, an event that dramatically changed the City of St. John's. The Trust accompanied the launch of the latest version of the Walk St. John's app with a real-time history lesson. Throughout July 8 and 9, we "live-tweeted" the events of the Great Fire of 1892 from the perspective of a servant girl from the Trust's Twitter account, @NLHistoricTrust. Followers were able to follow a play-by-play by following #GreatFire1892.

A still unknown person tweeting from the perspective of Rev. Moses Harvey (@Moses\_Harvey) joined in and added another layer of dimension to the proceedings.

The response to the live-tweet was swift and impressive, the Trust's Twitter account gained more than 300 followers in a 24-hour period. The positive feedback was overwhelming and we've received numerous requests to do the whole thing over again next year (we will!).

Special thanks to all those who assisted with the development of the content and promotion of the event - hats off to Christine Hennebury, Robyn Pike, Debbie O'Reilly, Katherine Hann, Stephanie Kelly, Dale Jarvis and Larry Dohey.

### Walk St. John's

The days are getting chilly but you can still go for a brisk walk with our free Walk St. John's app for Android and iPhone/iPad. Select one of five round-trip walking tours to guide you through the city streets.

To download, visit the Google Play Store: <http://bit.ly/1n7uw0a> or the App Store: <http://bit.ly/10EIODf>.

## Bonavista Claims National Prize

The Town of Bonavista was awarded the 2014 Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership by Heritage Canada The National Trust on October 3 during the organization's annual conference in Charlottetown, PEI.

With the most extensive collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings in the province outside of St. John's, Bonavista looked to its heritage assets to help sustain its future. Through a partnership with the Bonavista Historic Townscape Foundation (BHTF), the Town of Bonavista began an ambitious heritage preservation and community revitalization plan to help develop new economic opportunities and improve the quality of life of its residents.

The Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership is awarded annually to the government of a municipality which has demonstrated a strong and sustained commitment to the conservation of its historic places.

Read more at: <http://www.heritagecanada.org/en/get-involved/awards/2014-awards-recipients>

## Southcott Style

This past summer, the Trust was fortunate to receive grant funding to hire a researcher to delve into the history of 30 years of Southcott Award-winning properties.

Brittany Roberts, a Ph.D. candidate in Vernacular Architecture at Memorial University, compiled some fantastic information for our organization and put together two new resources, a blog and an interactive map.

Visit [southcottstyle.tumblr.com](http://southcottstyle.tumblr.com) for a brilliant collection of stories and photos of past winners and the people behind the Awards.

Check out <http://bit.ly/1yr8MXj> for a Google map of 30 years of Southcott winners! Each property is identified by a coloured star marker, and every colour represents a different year.

## Heritage Day is Coming Soon!



The Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust, established in 1966, is a membership-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of architecture reflecting the culture and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

### Board of Directors

Robyn Pike, President; Deborah O'Reilly, Executive Director; Leslie Pierce, Treasurer; Grant Genova; Katherine Hann; Peter Jackson; Greg Locke; Sue Wright.

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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.

New membership benefits! As a member you are provided opportunities for:

Advocacy Workshops	Educational Lectures Joint Memberships	Doors Open Discounts	Storytelling Southcott Awards	Theatre Trident Newsletter
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Please indicate if you prefer:

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 e-news updating you on Trust news & events    your information not to be shared

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