

the

trident

PRESENT

PAST

FUTURE

VOL. 3 NO. 1 MAY 1976

A touch of Old St. John's

Until last month the ground floor of the Newfoundland Museum on Duckworth Street was a very unprepossessing place. Vacant since the Gosling Memorial Library moved to more spacious quarters in the Arts and Culture Centre in 1968, visitors were greeted by closed doors and paper covered windows as they entered the building.

The doors opened again last month on an exhibit from the museum's reserve collection which will be quite a surprise to those familiar with the more traditional displays upstairs. More than 75 per cent of the museum collection is in storage at Torbay and unavailable to the general public. The Historic Resources Division has been constantly hampered by lack of funds to develop additional display space in the existing building or to build a new museum. It was the concern of the Director of Historic Resources, Mr. Martin Bowe about the underutilization of the reserve collection which originally prompted the present exhibition.

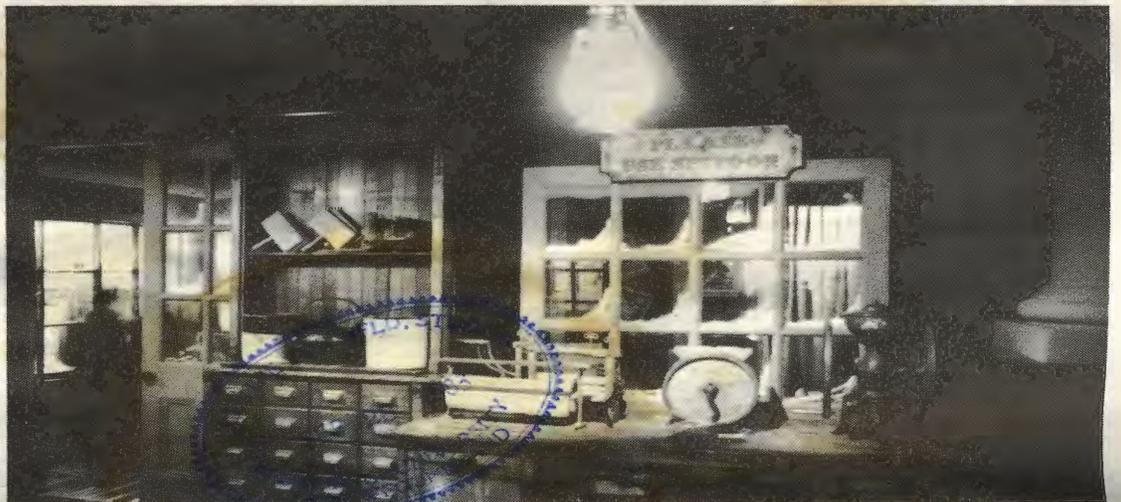
Operating with a shoestring budget of under \$3,000 plus imagination and the hard work of the Division staff, Design Chief, Derm Duggan and his colleagues have transformed the space into an old fashioned shopping street. Although many of the shop signs are reminiscent of St. John's of yore, the exhibit is not an attempt to recreate an authentic streetscape of a particular period but was intended to display some of the artifacts in a context which would make them more meaningful and enjoyable.

The objects are grouped in miniature stores, a clock-maker's, a Nautical Equipment store, a shipping agent's office, dress shop, lamp shop, general store and miniature Nickle Theatre with old films. Visitors are invited to browse or window shop.

The fixtures in Ernest Kent's Everything Hardware Shop will look familiar to many people. They are the old oak fixtures from Hogan's Drug Store which were recently acquired by the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association and have been loaned to the museum for the exhibit. The fixtures were brought out from England by Michael Connors who started a drugstore in St. John's in the 1880's. Mr. Connor's was a brother of Connor's the harness maker whose life size model horse was a familiar sight on Water Street for years and now sits atop a hill on Roache's Line.



"Ernest Kents' Everything Hardware Store" - The beautifully crafted oak fixtures were originally brought to Newfoundland from England by Michael Connors who opened a drug store in St. John's in the 1880's. They were acquired last year by the Nfld. Pharmaceutical Assn. and are on loan for the exhibit.



A hint of old St. John's where visitors are invited to browse and window shop amongst the artifacts from the Nfld. Museum Reserve collection.

The fixtures were in danger of being bought by interests outside the province when Hogan's Drug Store closed and the Pharmaceutical Association are to be congratulated on their efforts to save them. The association has been collecting artifacts and researching the history of pharmacy in the province for a number of years and are hoping to eventually recreate a 19th drug store in the city.

How long the exhibit will remain open is a matter of doubt at the moment. In a recent television interview, The

Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Tom Hickey, said that there are no plans at the moment to keep the exhibition open beyond the end of May but that it would depend to some extent on the public response. The response has been terrific. The museum has never seen so

many visitors in such a short period and many have gone back again and again. With the tourist season upon us it would be a great pity to turn the area back into dead space. If at all possible the Division should be encouraged to keep it open to the public, at least for the summer months.

IF YOU HAVE ENJOYED reading The Trident why not arrange to receive it on a regular basis by joining The Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542, St. John's.

The **trident**

The Trident is quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542 St. John's.

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Trust Nominates C.B. Museum For Heritage Canada Award

TRUST NOMINATES CONCEPTION BAY MUSEUM FOR HERITAGE CANADA AWARD — The Newfoundland Historic Trust will be nominating the Conception Bay Museum Inc. for one of Heritage Canada's Prize Awards this year. A prize award of \$15,000 and four regional awards of \$2,000 each are presented each year by Heritage Canada to heritage groups or individuals who have made the most notable achievement in Heritage Conservation in Canada. In addition, the recipients will travel to Montreal for the Annual Meeting of Heritage Canada where the awards will be presented by the Governor General, The Hon. Jules Léger in a special ceremony. The award programme is now in its third year. The Newfoundland Historic Trust received an award in 1972 for its work in restoring Christ Church, Quidi Vidi for modern adaptive use as a community centre. Last year the Trust publicized the Award Programme in the *Trident* hoping that other groups would apply. Unfortunately there were no applications from this province and this year we have decided to take a more active part in encouraging other groups and individuals to seek recognition for their work. Information concerning the award programme may be obtained by writing the regional governor of Heritage Canada, Mrs. Shannie Duff, c/o P.O. Box 5542, St. John's.



(Photo courtesy Mr. Martin Lee)

Regional Councils of Heritage Canada

Prior to the formation of Heritage Canada in 1973, over 100 local or regional organizations had been established for heritage conservation. Most of these groups shared common experiences and problems but were working in relative isolation from each other. There were obvious ways in which these groups could benefit from association with a national heritage organization . . . assistance with major research to support heritage causes, an opportunity for mutual contact, the development and distribution of public relations material on a national scale, the sharing of programmes and guest speakers, to mention only a few.

With a proven track record in the field and first hand experience with the political and economic realities of the conservation movement at the grass roots level, these established groups obviously had a lot to offer Heritage Canada in the formulation of its policies and priorities.

The problem faced by the new national trust was how to get genuine participation in its affairs by the local heritage conservation groups and at the same time help to strengthen them and preserve their autonomy. The answer was the establishment of regional councils across the country as the focus for the development of a national community of heritage conservation.

In the Fall of 1974, the regional governors of Heritage Canada, (in the Atlantic Provinces, Allan Duffus of Halifax, N.S. and Shannie Duff of St. John's, Nfld.) were asked to assist in establishing regional councils on an experimental basis in their regions. Preliminary meetings were held in January and May 1975 with representatives of heritage groups in the four provinces who were member organizations of Heritage Canada, in an effort to develop the most useful structure and function for such a body.

The founding meeting was held in February in Fredericton, N.B. Unfortunately the Nfld. delegation were halted by fog at Torbay Airport. In order to keep the regional council representative and yet of a workable size, it was decided that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would each elect three members and Nfld. and P.E.I. two. With both governors of Heritage Canada who are automatically involved, the Atlantic region now has a twelve member Council. The officers elected for 1976 were Catherine Hennessey, Prince Edward Island Heritage Foundation, Chairman, Evan Petley-Jones, Historic Restoration Enterprises Society of Annapolis Royal, Vice-Chairman and Penny Ericson, Fredericton Heritage Trust, Secretary-Treasurer. Newfoundland representatives on the Regional Council are Pat Rahal and John Noel, both executive members of the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

The most recent meeting of the Atlantic Council was held on May 8th in Charlottetown in the restored 19th century residence which serves as the centre of operations for the P.E.I. Heritage Foundation.

One of the major topics for discussion was the heritage conservation area programme, sponsored by Heritage Canada. These areas are being promoted by Heritage groups in all four provinces and planing is well under way in Charlottetown, P.E.I., St. Andrew's, N.B. as well as our own proposal for a section of Old St. John's. Proposals are being considered for Annapolis Royal and Halifax. The meeting afforded a valuable opportunity for an exchange of ideas and problems as well as a first hand look at the proposed heritage conservation area in old Charlottetown.

Heritage Canada, working through the regional councils, has started a programme of seminars this year to help member groups with special problems relating to heritage conservation. The first of these, entitled, **New Life for Old Buildings**, will be held in Kingston in September. A very ambitious programme of meetings and workshops has been planned and a large number of resource people with wide experience in the subject area will attend. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Arthur Zeigler, President of the Pittsburg History and Landmarks Association, a pioneer in urban conservation and one of the best known and most respected authorities in the field.

The Atlantic Regional Council will organize a seminar in Fredericton in February 1977 dealing with the economics and politics of conservation and a second seminar in Newfoundland similar to the Kingston meeting is planned for 1978 with St. John's as a possible location.

The next regional council meeting will take place in St. John's in October 1976 and will afford the general membership of the Trust and other Newfoundland Heritage groups an opportunity for contact with representatives of other heritage groups in the other Atlantic provinces.

Of all the contributions a regional council can make to the local heritage groups, the most valuable may well prove to be the breakdown of isolation and with it the consciousness that they are part of a conservation movement, that there is a groundswell of concern right across the country about the very problems that trouble us here and that the light is at last beginning to show at the end of the tunnel.

The Thorndyke

The Thorndyke hospitality home may be well known for its homeinss and excellent cooking, but it is also known as one of the older more substantial homes on the Burin Peninsula.

Built in 1917 by Captain John Thornhill, a well-known banking schooner captain, it is now the oldest home in Grand Bank. Most of the exterior wood was cut around the Grand Bank area and the interior mouldings are cut from Nova Scotia pine. All the doors are made from heavy panels and there are several built in bookshelves. There has been little changed to the basic structure since its earliest days and the original four bedrooms on the third floor and the five on the second floor can still be found. On the main floor is a flower or sun porch, the original dining room, living room, parlour and kitchen,

as well as a small addition which was added on as a restaurant but now houses the present owners.

There are 7 or 8 pieces of the original furniture still to be found in the house. But what makes it unique is the widows walk or balcony located on the roof. Primarily found on New England houses, widows walks gave an opportunity for wives to look out to sea for their husband's ship. They were called widows walks because often those ships never appeared.

After Captain Thronhill died, the house was passed on to one of his three children, who turned it into a small hotel. The second prioriters were Mr. and Mrs. James Burfitt who owned it for approximately 7 years and two years ago Norma Matthews bought it and continued to operate it as a small hotel.



Today you can still walk the widows walk on top of that grand old house on water street and gaze out to sea convinced that a schooner is going to appear on the horizon.

The Thorndyke is a lovely reminder of the grand old days of Grand Bank and it's good to see that such a fine old structure is being well used and kept up in its original state.



Devon Row

To the very great pleasure of the citizens of St. John's, one of our most attractive and visible heritage properties is now off the danger list. This beautiful row of four story houses, made of local red brick was built for Hannah and James Martin around 1871 by James J. Southcott one of our best known architects and builders. The houses were rented to various

occupants including some very prominent local families and for years was one of the most fashionable addresses in the city but more recently it has been a cause of great concern to the Trust. The properties were becoming very run down and the fourth house had been allowed to deteriorate so badly that they were fears it might have to be demolished.

Number three has always stood out among its neighbours as the only one being maintained and cared for. Last year, the owners of this property Dr. David Gough and his father Dr. Gough, finally managed to purchase the other three buildings and began extensive restoration. The west wall of the row, which had never been properly refinished following the demolition of the last house for a three car parking lot for the East End Branch of the Bank of Montreal has

been completely reclad with red brick, extensive additional work is now finished. Work on the interiors is nearing completion and the row will be rented as luxury apartments with a magnificent view of the Narrows and Signal Hill.

The cost has been considerable and Dr. David Gough and his father are to be congratulated for preserving for our city one of its finest groups of heritage buildings.

The return of the Churchill Falls bottle

The loss of historic artifacts from our older communities is a problem which is a province wide and very difficult to control. Certainly, one of the most effective counter-measures is a concerned and active heritage group on the local scene.

The original purpose behind the formation of the Labrador Heritage Society three years ago was to focus attention on this problem in Labrador communities and if possible to secure the return of some artifacts which had been removed from the area.

Almost immediately after the founding meeting the Society launched a major effort to repatriate the historic Churchill Falls Bottle. An unpretentious Atlas Jar crammed with small pieces of paper, the bottle is a unique visitors book recording the journeys of tourists, trappers, scientists and V.I.P.'s who passed by the mighty falls from 1891 until they disappeared forever with their development for hydroelectric power.

The origin of the bottle is an interesting piece of history. In 1891, two students, on a scientific expedition from Bowdoin College journeyed to the falls by canoe. The trip was something of a great adventure and out of a quite natural desire to leave behind some record of their visit they wrote the following note and placed it in an Atlas jar on a rock near the falls.

The existence of the bottle became known to trappers in the area whose trapping grounds were near the falls and a tradition developed that visitors to the Falls would leave a note, sometimes merely an X, in the jar when they passed by the area.

Among those names recorded are the Canadian Explorer A.P. Low, American Film Maker; Varrick Frizell, who filmed the falls with a Bell & Howell Hand Camera mounted on the bow of an open boat, and British financier Edmund de Rothchild.

The small bottle remained near the falls in the shelter of a rock and later hanging by a wire from a tree until the hydroelectric development began in the early 1960's. At that time BRINCO removed the bottle and presented it to then Premier J.R. Smallwood for safekeeping.

The last entry was on June 11, 1960.

Three years ago the Labrador Heritage Society began correspondence with Mr. Smallwood in an effort to secure the return of the bottle to Labrador. Mr. Smallwood was reluctant to let the bottle pass from his hands until he could be assured that proper arrangements had been made for its safekeeping. Early in March of this year the efforts of the Society were crowned with success when Mr. Smallwood officially presented the bottle to

2 June 1960. Brinco Staff House
Hamilton Falls.

is the final entry in this historic record of visitors to the magnificent Hamilton (Grand) Falls. The original bottle with contents is being delivered to Hon. J.R. Smallwood, Premier of Newfoundland, for safekeeping on behalf of the people of the Province.

PAUL TASCHEREAU
MICHAEL S. MARCHANT
British Newfoundland Corp Ltd.

June 11, 1960

Brinco Staff House, Hamilton Falls. This is the final entry in this historic record of visitors to the magnificent Hamilton (Grand) Falls. The original bottle with contents is being delivered to the Hon. J.R. Smallwood, Premier of Newfoundland for safekeeping on behalf of the people of the Province.

Paul Taschereau, Michael S. Marchant, British Nfld. Corp'n. Ltd.

Mr. Joe Goudie, M.H.A. for Naskaupi on behalf of the Labrador Heritage Society. Mr. Goudie had been instrumental in the formation of the Society and is one of its most ardent supporters.

While watching a television news programme about the return of the Churchill Falls Bottle, Provincial Archivist Mr. Burnham Gill realized that the original contents had never been copied or steps taken to ensure that the small folded pieces of paper, many now crisp and yellow with age, would not deteriorate further. He was particularly worried about the damaging effects of sunlight through the untinted glass of the Atlas jar. Mr. Gill contacted Mr. Goudie who immediately agreed that the Newfoundland Archives should make authentic copies of the original contents and advise on the problem of preservation. Before the bottle is returned to Labrador, to be placed in a specially designed case in the administration and control building

at Churchill Falls Authentic copies of all the original notes left by decades of visitors will be available in the Archives and distributed to schools in Labrador. Mr. Gill feels that the originals should be placed in a special album near the bottle and that authentic copies should be folded and placed in the Atlas jar.

While the bottle was in his possession, Mr. Smallwood wrote a small booklet about its history and included a list of its contents. This booklet is now out of print and Mr. Goudie is hoping to arrange for the printing of a second edition with the addition of a final chapter.

The Happy Valley based Labrador Heritage Society has also been active in encouraging the establishment of heritage groups in other communities. Two years ago a group of students in L'Anse au Clair acquired an old homestead and with the help of an O.F.Y. grant restored the building including papering the interior walls with

(con't on Page 11)

Left here

A. CARY
D. N. COLE
of the Bowdoin College
Labrador Scientific Expedition
who visited this fall
Aug. 13, 1891.
We suggest that travellers
who visit bottle
a record of their visits
or if they can provide
a better that they use
that and transfer our
record if its con-
preserved, to it.

As near a copy of Cary and Cole's record as
can now be made.
Copied Mar. 15, 1928

Date
August 13, 1891
Name and Comment
A. Cary and D.N. Cole of the Bowdoin College Labrador Scientific Expedition who visited this Fall August 13, 1891.

We suggest that travellers who visit.... bottle a record of their visits or if they can provide a better that they use that and transfer our record if its contents.... preserved, to it.

(As near a copy of Cary and Cole's record as can now be made. Copied March 15, 1928).



Presentation to Joe Gaudie by J.R. Smallwood (Photo by Dick Green, Evening Telegram).

The Salvage Museum

The community museum at Salvage was established in 1968 as part of the original Eastport Festival. In that year the Community Development Association of Eastport in co-operation with the Extension Department of Memorial University set up a number of projects spread amongst the communities on the peninsula and ranging from tomato greenhouses in Sandringham to a community theatre at Eastport.

Many of these projects were aimed at stimulating the development of the tourist potential of one of the loveliest areas in the province.

Salvage, a three hundred year old fishing community situated at the very tip of the Eastport peninsula over five miles of dirt road, chose as its project a community museum.

The museum is housed in a hundred year old two storey frame house perched on a rocky elevation overlooking the village itself. The people of the village will proudly tell you that it was once the home of Max Lane, a local boy who became a cabinet minister in the Smallwood government.

With a little help from the Development Association, the local Museum Committee painted the house and prepared the necessary signs and parking facilities and with little more ado the community museum was ready for its first collection. Most of the artifacts were gathered from the village and the surrounding area and were given to the museum on extended loan. The vast majority are the day to day tools and domestic articles that were in use in the area in an earlier age when many were hand made and livingly passed from generation to generation. Some are more exotic, ranging

from a perfectly preserved birds nest, complete with eggs to a hand cut burial shroud and a hand made sash and flag from the once powerful Fisherman's Protective Union of Sir William Coaker.

SALVAGE

In the first year of its operation, all the artifacts were laid around on tables and shelves without any real attempt to organize them and a visit to the museum was not unlike a fascinating afternoon in grandmother's attic. The first curators were the Hefferns, an older couple who lived next door and took the museum under their wing. They could see visitors coming from their window and would come over and with the most evident pleasure explain the use and origin of the various objects in the collection. Mrs. Heffern would give demonstrations on one of the old spinning wheels when things weren't too busy. The pride and interest of the Heffern's gave the museum a great deal of charm and more than made up for the lack of sophistication in display and interpretation.

In the second year, Nevil Squire, who was then the community development officer arranged for some used display cases and helped the museum association to catalogue and label the collection.

Going back five years later, one finds the museum completely unchanged except that the older Heffern's are no longer able to come over and greet visitors and that task has passed to a younger generation. Visitors are still met but the pride and enthusiasm of the early years is gone. There did not appear to be any new artifacts or any attempt to rearrange the displays. I asked the lady who was on duty if any of



UNFORTUNATELY

the young people in the community were involved in any way and she didn't seem to understand why they should be. She didn't seem too interested either in the possibility of developing programmes to bring the museum into the community. The building is still clean and freshly painted but near the path was a heap of rusting tin cans.

The visit was vaguely disappointing, possibly because the potential I saw seven years ago was so exciting. And things seemed somehow to have slowed down. Perhaps I was expecting too much. The committee operates entirely on volunteer labor and a tiny budget gained from visitor donations.

No attempt has been made to take advantage of the tourist potential. The visitor count at the museum in 1974 was 7000, many from mainland Canada and the U.S. Without a great deal of effort a variety of crafts could be produced in the village during the winter and marketed during the tourist season to great economic advantage.

It may be time for a little gentle direction from outside, either from the Development Association or the Historic Resources division or possibly both. Such help would have to be given in such a way that the community interest already shown would be encouraged to grow and develop.

Grenfell House St. Anthony

The most remarkable thing about Wilfred Grenfell was his endless energy and drive.

His first love was not so much the actual practice of medicine but of getting things done. He was not an ordinary missionary because he was not an ordinary man. His theology was simple and unorthodox, no intellectual trappings and he felt no need to conform. He made instant decisions and was impatient with those who could not or would not understand. He saw people in need and set about to meet that need. His work expanded. Grenfell's time was spent travelling along the Coast by dog team or by schooner, travelling in Canada and the United States to get financial support, writing books, organizing hospitals, schools, nursing stations, orphanages and co-operative stores to improve the economic base of the people. Out of his stubborn determination and his relentless drive, the self-confidence, the

skill, the faith of this great man, was created an organization The International Grenfell Association that is still unique in the world today.

Behind the present hospital in St. Anthony stands a large rather ugly frame wooden house which was built by Sir Wilfred Grenfell for his young bride in 1909. The lumber was cut and hauled from the local woods and built entirely by local labour. One doubts if there was an actual plan but yet today it stands out blended into the hill.

The house has a large kitchen with two pantries, a cook's sitting room, a large dining room, living room, and a small apartment all on the first floor. The latter was a morning room with doors that opened out onto the garden. Across the front is a large sun porch. A narrow staircase leads to the second floor where there is a large master bedroom with three smaller bedrooms and two bathrooms. An even narrower

(con't on page 8)



Newfoundland Sports Archives Established

The Newfoundland Amateur Sports Federation, who administers fifty sports activities in this province, did not realize until 1973 how little was known about our historic sports past. In that year it decided to establish a Newfoundland Sports Hall of Fame.

A selection committee was appointed who would choose five sportsmen each year. As there existed no comprehensive history

on Sports in Newfoundland, it was not surprising to discover that much less was known about individual athletes. It appeared that the Newfoundland Sports Hall of Fame was doomed to failure before it began. It was decided that "a bank" of information on sports was to be commenced. Furthermore that information should be augmented by dossiers on exceptional athletes from the past. The sports ar-

chives became part of the Sports Federation structure. This was an important factor in establishing the vital link with our past.

The primary purpose of the sports archives committee is to research, collect and catalogue, all information relating to Newfoundland. It also took responsibility of inducing all local sports organizations, to prepare a history of their association with

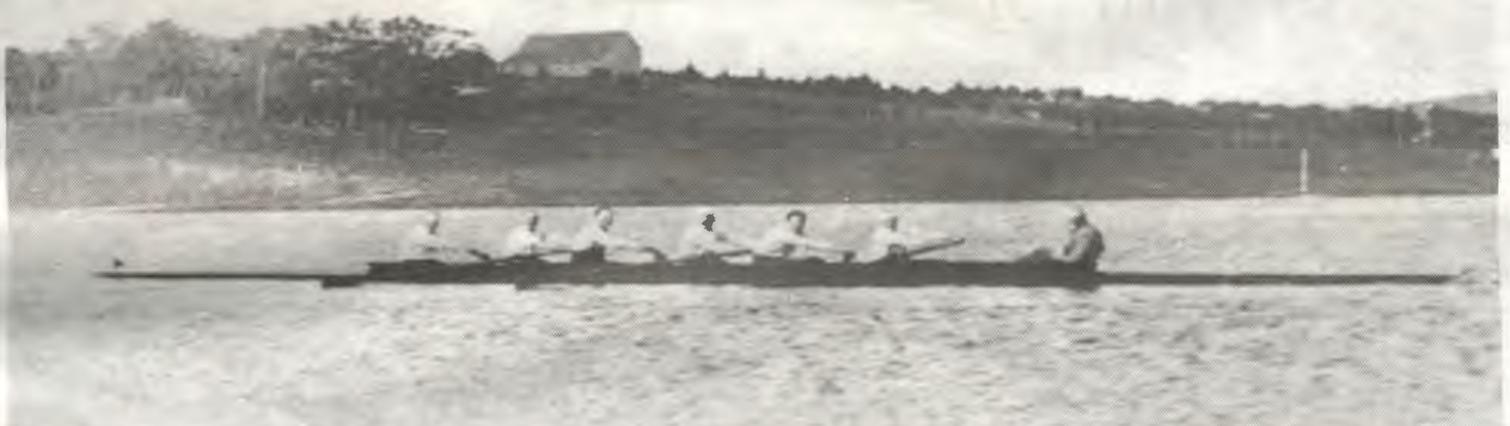
various sports over the years. As a result many histories were compiled and valuable photographs collected.

The Newfoundland Sports Federation feels that a Sports Hall of Fame, will be a physical reality, by the time the Canada Games are held in St. John's in 1977. Meanwhile the archives committee, continues to pursue its course in fostering interest in Newfoundland sports history.



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ST. BON'S A.A. TRACK & FIELD TEAM WHICH DOMINATED THE SPORTS SCENE IN THE 1920s. Pictured are: Top Row Leo Henley, Gordon Halley, John Howlett, 3rd. Row: W.B. Skinner; Albert Slattery, Eddie Phelan, Claude Fraser, Ashley

Graham, Robert Kent; 2nd. Row: Stan Cullen, Gerry Halley, Jack Canning, Jack Higgins, Cyril Eagan, Bill Thorburn, Eric Robertson, Front Row Billy Cotter, Paul Thorburn, (asterisk) denotes DECEASED.



**"Blue Peter" Outer Cove Fishermen. Quickest Time 9 min. 13 4/5 sec. 1901
Photographed 1922. (Photo courtesy Newfoundland Sports Archives).**

Readers wishing to donate items of historical significance dealing with Newfoundland Sports should phone the Newfoundland Amateur Sports Federation — 753-7039 or write to: Frank W. Graham, Honorary Secretary, Board of Governors, Newfoundland Sports Hall of Fame, 72 Circular Road, St. John's.

Restoration of the Anglican Cathedral

People who walk by the stately Anglican Cathedral in St. John's sometimes wonder if the repairs are to be completed in this century or in the next. In an age of instant-build, few people really understand the problems involved in restoring a cathedral.

Repairs were started twenty years ago under advice of an architect sent out from England by Sir Giles Scott, grandson of the original designer of the Cathedral, Sir George Gilbert Scott. The architect was Mr. A. M. Wood and his survey gave a full report on the extensive deterioration of the building due to weather and to the effects of the fire of 1892. The inner wall had been so heated by the fire that it disintegrated.

It became necessary to take down the outer walls, put in a new core and rebuild the exterior wall. All the stone for the exterior wall has to be recut and a considerable amount of the freestone has to be re-surfaced and in many instances replaced.

Stone for the church is being cut in a quarry in Wallace, Nova Scotia and although other quarries in Nova Scotia have closed down, the one at Wallace will remain open until it completes the order for the Anglican Cathedral in St. John's. This order involves some one hundred and thirty tons of stone. Forty tons of this shipment arrived in St. John's at the end of this August and there are ninety more tons yet to arrive.

The work is being carried on by two stonemasons, the only two in Newfoundland. These men have been trained for the job by stonemasons from England.

About two-thirds of the work has already been done. Anglican church historian, Francis Rowe estimates the time for complete restoration the Cathedral to be eight years from now. Two major pieces of reconstruction remain to be done; the complete rebuilding of the North West Porch and the Great West Porch. It is the North West Porch which



Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

is presently under construction and partially covered by a wooden scaffold.

The operation is financed solely by gifts and donations from parishioners and friends. This year the Church celebrates its

two-hundredth and seventy-fifth anniversary and as part of the celebrations; a fund of approximately \$26,000 was raised to purchase the stone required for completion of repairs to the Cathedral. The actual final cost of the stone is \$46,000.

O'Brien's Farm: The Community and Conservation

It is seldom that a community comes together to preserve a historic building but in December and January St. John's did. In early December Ali O'Brien returned to his house one morning to find it in flames. Fortunately the fire was caught before it did irreparable damage. As it was, a fair portion of the roof as well as the kitchen and original parlour were badly damaged. Friends of the O'Briens came to assist them in clearing the mess and to do initial repairs. During the weeks that followed numerous people, frequently strangers to each other, worked together with John, Ali and Mike O'Brien to put the house in reasonable shape for Christmas.

A number of factors occasioned this spontaneous response. Principally it was the O'Briens themselves who have made fast friends with the Irish community in St. John's — medicals as well as musicians and others. It was also the season. But, of interest to the Trust was the concern for a house which had stood on the hill overlooking the Freshwater Valley for over one hundred and twenty years. The O'Briens themselves were well aware of its significance as an example of vernacular architecture. Built by their ancestors in 1854 on ground which they had been farming for some twenty or thirty years the house is a simple, central chimney saltbox. It is typical of the farmhouses that were built by the Irish farmers of the valley in the first half of the Nineteenth Century. With most of these farms and their houses now gone it was felt important to preserve the O'Brien house. The O'Briens themselves, in the rebuilding, wanted to do a certain amount of restoration — to recover the



The O'Brien farmhouse has the unusual distinction for a St. John's house in having been occupied by the family which built it for over a hundred and twenty years. The O'Brien's left Co. Kilkenny to come to Newfoundland in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century. They settled in the Freshwater Valley and may have been farming on the Oxen Pond Road before 1830. In 1843 they received a grant but

did not build the present house until about 1854.

The structure, a saltbox with central chimney, was built by John O'Brien for his eldest son Timothy who used it as a summer house until 1870. From that time until December of 1874 it was used as permanent residence by a nephew of Timothy's and then passed to Timothy's brother Michael, grandfather of the

present occupants. The framing materials are of local spruce and fir sheathed with Nova Scotia hemlock. The roof was originally of locally sawn spruce shingle but is now covered with tar paper. The stone for the foundation and the chimneys was taken from the cleared fields as well as from the nearby quarry at Tom's Gap on Nagles Hill.

(c) Nfld. Historic Trust

house from alterations made in the recent past.

Money being needed to do all this, Aidan and Joyce O'Hara with Ryan's Fancy and Figgy Duff agreed to put on a concert. For this concert the Trust offered its moral support, recognizing the value of the community effort and the desirability of encouraging this sort of response to buildings. In addition, Jean Ball did a sketch of the house which

was combined with a brief history and sold at the concert. The concert itself was a remarkable success being played to an audience who were there, not merely to hear music but also to preserve an element of Newfoundland's heritage. The musicians were supplemented by the Branch Group which included a collection of traditional musicians, dancers and singers as well as the extraordinary

storyteller John Joe English.

That this sort of response to the plight of a family and a building is still possible in St. John's suggests that the town has not yet fallen into the pit of urban anonymity and is still a community. It suggests that St. John's might still be able to survive its drunken attempts to imitate the glories of Detroit.

—Shane O'Dea



Honorary Life Membership EDYTHE GOODRIDGE

1976 is the 10th Anniversary of the Newfoundland Historic Trust which was founded in 1966 by a small group of concerned citizens in an effort to save the small village church at Quidi Vidi.

The Trust now has over 400 members and a broad range of activities and involvements and to mark this milestone in the organization's history, one of its original members was honoured with an honorary life membership.

Mrs. Edythe Goodridge, by her enthusiasm and ability to persuade others that an organization was needed to protect our material heritage was largely responsible for the founding of the Trust. Edythe is an idea girl and the imaginative projects she devised for the new organization in the early years were instrumental in generating a remarkable amount of support, both financial and popular for the restoration of Christ Church. Without detracting from the contributions of many other people who were also instrumental, each in their own way for the establishment of the Trust and for its continuing development over the years it is fair to say that the Trust was Edythe's brainchild and if she had been less enthusiastic and easier to say no to the founding of a heritage organization in this province would have had a much slower start.

Honorary Life Membership BOBBIE ROBERTSON

The Historical Society of Newfoundland has given its first Heritage Award to Mrs. Bobbie Robertson. The honour was presented at the Heritage Day Banquet held at Queen's College in St. John's.

Mrs. Robertson is the first person to be elected by the Society to its newly created "Fellowship of Heritage", an award of recognition to be made annually, if and when deserved, to a person who has, in the judgement of the Society, contributed significantly to the preservation and—or dissemination of the written record of the history of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In presenting the award the Society President, Paul O'Neill, spoke of Mrs. Robertson's outstanding work in gathering and sharing the written history of Newfoundland. For many years she has unselfishly given of her time and energy to help anyone looking for historic information, from the merely curious to students and professional historians. Her office files are readily available to everyone free of charge. Much of what has appeared in newspapers, magazines, university theses and printed books, both here and abroad, came from information supplied to reporters, editors, students, writers and historians, by Bobbie Robertson.

Mr. O'Neill made a point of stating that the presentation to Bobbie Robertson was no sentimental gesture by the Society but a recognition that was richly deserved. In accepting the parchment scroll and valuable historic book, Mrs. Robertson thanked the many friends who greeted her award of the honour with enthusiastic applause.

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staircase leads to the third floor which included a large nursery, bathroom and two small bedrooms for the help. The dormer windows allow a view of wide expanse.

For the past twenty years this house has been used as a residence for Grenfell Staff. The trees have grown up and the house is partially hidden now from view. Time has been kind to



Honorary Life Membership WALTER WHITE

Trinity is one of the most historic and picturesque of Newfoundland communities. In common with other older communities, a long history of settlement and an association with many important events in Newfoundland history have combined to give the town a rich and exciting heritage.

In many of our historic communities, little tangible evidence of this heritage remains. In the last quarter century Newfoundland has been a favorite picking ground for collectors of all sorts. In addition, in our race to catch up with the modern world there has been a tendency to turn our backs on the past and much has been lost through neglect. Because our government has been slow to recognize the value of our Heritage and to take steps

to protect it, What Evidence of our Heritage survives in our time has been largely through the initiative and devoted effort of private citizens working quietly in their own communities.

Mr. Walter White is an outstanding example of this kind of local initiative. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Trinity Historical Society which was founded in 1966 and has provided the leadership and continued devotion and expertise which has made the Trinity Museum and Archives a unique and remarkable record of the written and material history of the community.

When, in spite of the efforts of interested citizens the historic Garland House in Trinity was lost through neglect, Mr. White personally saved many of its fine architectural details for the museum so that some tangible evidence of this fine 19thc home would remain in the community. Without the commitment to our heritage and its conservation of Mr. White and the members of the Trinity Historical Society, much else that remains for the enjoyment and education of Trinity's visitors and residents alike would have been lost.

In 1971 The Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs presented Mr. White with a plaque recording the gratitude of the Canadian people for his contribution to the preservation and enrichment of Canada's historical heritage. In 1973 he received an honorary degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. In presenting Mr. White with an Honorary Life Membership in the Newfoundland Historic Trust we commend a lifetime commitment to Heritage Conservation and record our gratitude for the inspiration his untiring devotion have given to all those whose voluntary efforts to protect our heritage will hopefully ensure that the best of the past will survive for future generations.

the house and though there is an older residence still standing close to the hospital it does not have the historical significance to the town of St. Anthony.

Plans are being made with the hope that St. Anthony will be able to repair and restore this house as a legacy to the next generation. It is the hope to include not only the memorabilia of Sir Wilfred Grenfell but also to

include a room with articles relating to Dr. Charles Curtis who also spent many years on the Coast.

Because of the largeness of the house an area for local exhibits as well as traveling exhibits could be included.

Plans are just now being made to try to form a branch of a Historical Society to ensure the preservation of this fine house.

—PATRICIA L. THOMAS

Heritage Day 1976

The third Monday in February was designated by the Federal Government again this year as Heritage Day throughout Canada. The Newfoundland Historic Trust joined with heritage groups across the country in planning projects and

events which would focus public attention on the value of heritage and the urgent need for its conservation.

The Trust activities in connection with Heritage Day were coordinated by Penny Rowe and included a pilot project in Mount

Pearl elementary schools under the chairmanship of Ern Pike who is a teacher in the area. Suggestion kits with ideas for involving children in heritage projects, were distributed to teachers and we are hopeful that this will be the beginning of a continuing programme.

An exhibition of line drawings and water colours depicting St. John's architectural heritage by Newfoundland artist Jean Ball was officially opened on Heritage Day at the Arts and Culture by Mrs. Lewis Ayre, Chairman of the St. John's Heritage Foundation. This exhibition will tour the province during the summer.

The opening was followed by a dinner jointly sponsored by the

Trust and the Newfoundland Historical Society.

During the dinner, Mr. Gerry Tilley, General Manager of the Carling O'Keefe Breweries in Newfoundland presented the Trust with a cheque for \$2,500 toward the printing costs of the Trust publication, A Gift of Heritage. The Carling Community Arts Foundation have been a generous support of the Trust's efforts to promote Newfoundland's Heritage.

Cheques of \$1,500 each were presented to both groups by the Hon. Charles Brett on behalf of the Provincial government and the continuing support of the government is also much appreciated.

Placentia Area Historical Society to open Community Museum

The Placentia Area Historical Society was in the news early in March when society President, Mrs. Mildred MacDonald was interviewed by **Evening Telegram** reporter, Elizabeth Haines and spoke of the frustrations her group were experiencing in their efforts to establish a community museum at Placentia.

The area attracts a large number of tourists each year because of the National Historic Park at Signal Hill. The site itself and the interpretation centre while extremely interesting and well worth visiting, deal largely with the 17th. century history of the area when the harbour of Placentia was the principal base for French fleets working the banks of Newfoundland. The fort protected the French fishing interests. There is very little to encourage the heritage minded tourist to leave the magnificent view from the hilltop and wander into the town itself. If he should decide to go exploring there is even less to interpret for him the history of the area from the time the French departed after Plaisance and its military defences were ceded to Britain by the treaty of Utrecht, up to the present day. This is a loss not only to the visitor but to the residents themselves.

The Society have been trying to fill this gap and relate the historic Park to the community by a number of projects which included a guided tour programme as well as the museum. Plans for the tour project had to be abandoned because of lack of funds. The group has applied for a grant for the museum through the National Museums Assistance Programme. They do not know yet whether or not they will receive any money from this source and are unlikely to hear before mid-June but they are planning to go ahead anyway.

Space has been rented in a former restaurant and this will be converted into two period rooms using artifacts loaned by members of the community.

\$300.00 to support this project will come from the Placentia Town Council. Though not a large grant the support represents an important gesture of good will and is even more significant in light of the fact that our Newfoundland municipalities and Town Councils, usually hard pressed for funds have been very sparing in their support of heritage projects in their communities.

If the money from the National Museums Assistance Programme does not materialize the Society feel they will be able to keep the museum open for the summer with the council money, a small grant from the Dept. of Tourism, the proceeds of their



The town of Placentia, 1899. (Photo courtesy Mr. Martin Lee)



Mrs. Mildred MacDonald, President of the Placentia Area Historical Society: "There are lots of things that could be put on display..." The problem is finding to find a place to house them. — (Photo by Dick Green, **Evening Telegram**.)

local fund raising efforts and hard work by the members.

The superintendent of Castle Hill Edna Hall has given the group a lot of help and encouragement on this project and her know how added to her interest in the history of the area should help to create closer links between the National Historic Park and its neighbouring communities.

Essay contest winners chosen

The third annual Essay Contest was directed at Grade VII and VIII students across the province.

Students were asked to write short essays of 300-500 words on the topic: "Which building or site in or near Your Community Interests You Because of its Historical Association."

The entries were judged by Ms. Rosalie McDonald from the School Broadcast Division, Dept. of Education — and Ms. Ruth Pierson from the History Dept. of Memorial University. This years winners are 1st. Prize of \$25.00 Dominic Hogan (Grade 8), St. Francis Central High, Harbour Grace.

Essay Title — **An Old Family Home.**

2nd. Prize \$10, Michelle Mulcahy, Grade 7, Sacred Heart School, Cape Broyle.

Essay, **Condon's Pie House.**

3rd. Prize \$10, David Warr, Crescent Collegiate, Robert's Arm (Green Bay),

Essay, **Pelley's Islands Dines.**

4th. Prize \$10.00, Pat Morrissey (Grade 8), Mary Queen of Peace School, St. John's,

Essay — **Chain Rock**

The full text of the winning essays and photo of the winners will be published in the September issue of **Trident**. Many thanks to committee chairman Joan Hillier and her committee for organizing the essay contests. — to the judges for undertaking the difficult task of selecting the winners and especially to the over 150 students who demonstrated their interest in the heritage of their communities by their interesting and imaginative essays. A copy of the Newfoundland Historic Trust publication — **A Gift of Heritage** will be sent to each winner's school library.



Hon. John Crosbie cuts the ribbon to declare the 7th. annual exhibition officially open.



By the late 1960's children's dress up clothes mirrored the styles of their elders — Kathleen O'Hara models a party dress made by her mother.



Trust President Shannie Duff opening the "Historic Fashion Show. Fashion Commentator Susan Ayre at left.



Karen Clarke models a simple Empire Waisted evening dress from the 1800—1825 period.

The month long 7th Annual Exhibition of the Newfoundland Historic Trust entitled, **"Seven Generations of Fashion"** opened at the Art Gallery of the Arts and Culture Centre on Sat., Nov. 1st., 1975.

To mark the occasion the exhibition co-ordinators, Mary Devine and Oonagh O'Dea decided to depart from the usual format of a wine and cheese party and stage a gala "Historic Fashion Show". Close to fifty outfits for men, women and children from 1800 to 1975 were brought to life by eighteen models who walked and danced through a capacity crowd on the upper concourse of the Arts and Culture Centre to background music for each period provided by Don Wherry.

To add to the historic dimension of the evening, Susan Ayre provided a running commentary on the development and evolution of fashion since 1800.

The gala opening of the fashion show was the culmination of months of hard work and planning by the co-ordinators, Mary Devine and Oonagh O'Dea and their hard working committee. We would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to our exhibition committee and to the sponsors and donors whose continuous support over the years has made our exhibition programme possible.



Cathy MacKay, Evening Dress from the age of Decorum — 1825—1850.



Sheila House, Sean O'Hara, model fashions of the 1930's.



"Gibson Gill" look from the late 1900's modeled by Susan Chalker.



Fashion Show Co-ordinator Cathy Mason makes a final adjustment to Jim Thistle's 'swinging sixties' suit — at right Anna Gloria O'Dea in black velvet hot-pants from the same period.

Down to the Sea in Ships

In return for helping a Yugoslavian plane in trouble, Joey Smallwood finagled to get the Yugoslavian pavillion at Expo for permanent display in Newfoundland. Half of it went to Grand Falls and half of it went to Grand Bank where the steel beams sat for a number of years on the Grand Bank Beach until enough money and guts were mustered to put it together.

The task of constructing the expo exhibition fell to Lundrigan's who succeeded in 1971. The building which soars above the landscape became known as the Southern Newfoundland Seaman's Museum. It's purpose is to tell about the fisherman's way of life and to act as a Memorial to the men who went down to the sea in ships.

It was appropriate that a Memorial be put on that Peninsula as it and the South Coast are known as a marine disaster area because so many people were lost at sea.

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newspapers and old catalogues in the traditional manner. They acquired a number of artifacts from the community which are on display in the building during the summer months. Federal funding from a number of programmes such as O.F.Y. have now dried up and the small museum find itself in a difficult position but Mr. Goudie is hopeful that the students will continue to maintain the homestead on a volunteer basis.

The Society has also been successful in its efforts to preserve the oral and written history of Labrador. A programme of taping interviews with older residents was initiated by the Society in co-operation with the Old Timers League who were successful in obtaining a grant through the New Horizons Programme. Two fifty page booklets entitled **Them Days** based on the interview material and edited by Mrs. Doris Saunders of Happy Valley have now been produced and are available for \$1.00 from Mrs. Saunders or from Mr. Goudie's office at the Confederation building. The funding is almost exhausted and as a great deal more material remains to be published the Society will be seeking a small provincial grant for this purpose.

The Society is also concerned about the future of the old Portage Trail at Muskrat Falls, about fifty miles from the lower Churchill. A year ago a proposal was submitted to the Provincial Government that the trail be preserved as a provincial park. The proposal includes the suggestion that some of the old trappers cabins which still survive be preserved by relocating them within the park area. There has been no official reaction to the proposal as yet but the Society has been successful in persuading the wood's manager to prohibit cutting in the area.

Everything in the museum is permanent, although exhibits are changed from season to season and occasionally an art exhibit from the St. John's Gallery makes it way there.

All types of boats, minatures as well as the real McCoy, are in the museum. There is a six foot schooner built by local resident, Len Mathews, and there is a model banking schooner and tern schooner built by model boat builder, Varick Cox. The latter schooner was used to take the fish to foreign markets. There are also rowing dories, motor dories, and various types of engines, propellers, life buoys and even a log book which dates back to 1841. There's a sticking tommy used to hold candles at night for fishing and sections, quadrons, hour glasses and schooner logs. There are also photographs showing what the town of Grand Bank was like in the 1800's.

Most of the items come from the surrounding area, and the job

of collecting, cataloging, and filing falls to Win Hiscock, the local curator who taught school in the area for many years and has a passion for history. He does repairs on items as well and keeps up with the latest preparing and display methods by attending seminars, such as the upcoming one in Gander about the care and protection of artifacts.

The museum which also houses four classrooms, has a staff of nine. This includes security guards, attendants and maintenance men. These nine people keep the museum open all year around and cater to the 11,000 visitors from all over the world who visit each year.

There is still some room left in the museum for more items from ships, but according to Mr. Hiscock, it is filling up fast. However, one thing he is keeping room for is a ships bell from one of the coastal boats. And he is

also leaving room for a ship to shore radio which should go in place in a few weeks. Eventually he hopes to have representative articles from every type of ship and models of every type of ship connected with Newfoundland's past. For the many students who pass through the museum each year, it may be the only way they will know of their grandfather's or great grandfather's way of life as a fisherman.



What's Happening in Our National Historic Parks

A record year for Castle Hill Historic Park. Over 83,000 people visited, an increase of 10 per cent. For the coming visitor season, additional picnic areas, the upgrading of hiking trails, and the rebuilding of several walls are in progress. At Port au Choix, the display in the visitor reception area has some new additions. The

display panels may now be read in French and English.

On 27th June, Prime Minister Trudeau, opened the visitor reception centre at L'Anse aux Meadows. At the same time 20,000 acres of land was transferred from the Provincial Government to the Government of Canada.

Signal Hill park staff are very busy preparing for the

coming season, by upgrading picnic areas, and adding some new ones. An informative slide viewing program has been initiated in local schools, and seems to be very welcome. Cape Spear had over 50,000 visitors last season. Great improvements are being made, including a restoration programme on the Cape Spear lighthouse.



THE 1976-77 EXECUTIVE — "A somewhat belated announcement as the election of officers took place at the annual meeting. L-R. in Oct. 1976. 1st. V. Pres. - Charles Cullum; 3rd. V. Pres. - John Noel; President - Shannie Duff; Corresponding Secty - Pat Rahal; Recording Secty. - Libby Ackerman; Treasurer - Chris O'Dea. Missing from the photo is 2nd vice president George Brodie. Libby Ackerman has recently moved to Ottawa and Diane Hogan is presently serving as recording secretary.

Personally Speaking

I have decided what I want written on my tombstone. It's my very favourite high sounding phrase. **WE DO NOT OWN OUR HERITAGE WE ONLY RENT IT FROM OUR CHILDREN.**" To me it makes perfect sense. I feel very strongly that any present generation is only a link between those who came before and those who will follow after and that we have a very serious responsibility to both.

The sad thing about our material heritage is that it tends to be left to the whim of the owner of the moment and as it sometimes get in the way of what some individuals consider progress, a concept which could be considered the paramount sacred cow of the modern age, it tends to get short shift. Which is a pity because if I may be forgiven for a moment for quoting another of my favourite high sounding phrases **HERITAGE IS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE.** As such it deserves some consideration, considerably more that it is receiving at present in Newfoundland.

I am the first to admit that accommodations have to be made between the new and the old and I know that we have to be discriminating about what we save but we should at least pause before we destroy to ask ourselves how significant, how important to our understanding of ourselves as a people, how rare and becoming rarer is that which we destroy. Maybe the answer is "not that rare or significant or important." Maybe the

reasons for throwing away or tearing down are perfectly valid. Some buildings, some artifacts some landscapes may have to go. But since destruction of our material heritage is very final I can't see any reason why the onus for justification should not fall on the destroyer rather than on those who seek to conserve.

I don't think many people object to heritage conservation in principle. The problem is definition. Its relatively easy to make a case for a magnificent Gothic church or an exquisite piece of antique furniture, less easy to explain to the uncommitted the value of a simple house or a workingman's tool from another century even though these simple things have very important lessons to teach us about our social history. It is the simple things that we are losing and with them a kind of visual map of the path we have travelled on our journey to the present. Most of the traces of our 18th. century are long gone. Even the early 19th. century is difficult to find in the structures that remain in our cities and smaller communities. Soon the late nineteenth century will be lost except in the pages of history book store away in our libraries and a few artifacts husbanded in the museums.

I am a firm believer that being able to see and touch history and experience it in some kind of context is a far more effective learning tool that books and rows of



Hand-made wooden cradle, 19-inches.

artifacts in dusty cases. The value of living history was brought home to me very clearly as I watched a busload of Winnipeg school children scramble around Lower Fort Gary. The beginning of their city was right there before their eyes. My son and daughter, when they reached grade 5 very nearly turned off history, struggling through lists of names, dates and places in the standard school text. We have to do a lot more "Show and Tell" if we want our children to respect their past and their culture and we can't do that unless we have something to show them.

Fort Gary is a very costly reconstruction, like Fortress Louisburg — so expensive it is rarely done in that scope. — reconstruction is always a second best solution because the new old, docks

the fee of genuine use, and is only a substitute for the original.

At the rate that our material heritage is disappearing we don't have much time to lose. If definition is a problem lets get on with the business of defining. Lets finish an inventory of historic buildings and sites. Lets identify those thing which remain which have significance. Let's decide on a site for a historic Village and develop a museum where people will want to donate the artifacts they no longer have room for. Lets have some meaningful heritage legislation. Let's set aside a small piece of our city so that it will have a visible link with its historic past. In another year or two there will be a lot less to save.

Shannie Duff.



Mallard Cottage

Mallard Cottage and Connors Farm House. "It is relatively easy to make a case for a magnificent Gothic church or an exquisite piece of antique furniture, less easy to explain to the uncommitted the value of a simple house or a workingman's tool from another century even though these simple things have very important lessons to teach us about our social history."



Mallard Cottage #7