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THE TRIDENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST

The Heritage Canada Foundation 37th Annual Conference

By: Chris Wiebe, HCF

Heritage Canada Foundation's 37th annual conference is coming to St. John's, September 30 – October 2, 2010. It's the first time this national heritage conference has been to Newfoundland and Labrador since 1999. With its theme of "Revitalize! Economic renewal. Quality of Life. Heritage Buildings," the 2010 conference promises to be an exciting, thought-provoking event aimed at finding new, organic solutions for the revitalization of older districts and heritage buildings.

The local conference organizing committee in St. John's (including board members from the Newfoundland Historic Trust) and HCF are working hard to make this an excellent learning and networking event with a stimulating mix of debate, case studies, and cutting-edge strategies from across Canada – what works, what doesn't, and what are the promising new frontiers? The event will also feature meetings of special interest, including the 3rd annual Endangered Places of Faith Roundtable which will discuss the sustenance and reuse of Canada's churches.

A key conference aim will be to explore how the preservation of older buildings can simultaneously further other community goals such as economic development, affordable housing, skills training, and liveable, green communities. Revitalize! will feature a thought-provoking mix of keynote speakers who will provide powerful insights into this sense of shared purpose. Michael Loveday, CEO of the Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust in Norwich, United

Kingdom, will show how Norwich has capitalized on its heritage assets and fostered a liveable, walkable city. Dr. Ned Kaufman – an influential New York author and historic preservation expert – will discuss how heritage conservation can reinvigorate itself by seizing its role as a social justice movement. And Dr. Thomas Hutton - Professor at the Centre for Human Settlements at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver – will look at the innovation and restructuring of Canadian cities, and how historic districts are key economic and cultural drivers.

Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital



Submitted by Catherine Dempsey, Executive Director,
Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

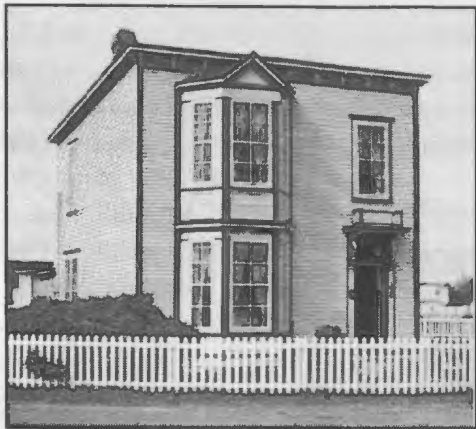
In the early 19th century the cottage hospital system of Newfoundland and Labrador was born of necessity. With 1,500 communities scattered along a 7,000 mile coast, on just the island portion, Newfoundland's medical services found transportation one of their major difficulties. There were few roads so dependence on boats and sledges to transport patients, and dicey weather conditions made the delivery of outport medical service almost heroic.

In 1934 the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital was built to service the residents of Norris Point and the surrounding area. Patients would sometimes arrive at the hospital with letters such as the following for Dr. Robert Dove (first physician from 1939–1944) from the nurse at Port Saunders; it was dated July 31, 1942, in the days before penicillin was available. It read: "I'm very sorry to bother you, but this young chap has a nasty cut across the bridge of his nose and near his left eye and I didn't feel like interfering and also a few bits of wood in the nose and I was afraid I would not get it all. Many thanks for the gauze, we needed it badly as we were all out."

The hospital served the area up until 2001 when the replacement opened. This left the community with the challenge of what to do with the old building. The Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation formed with a mandate to determine the adaptive re-use of the old cottage hospital for the preservation of local culture and heritage, promotion of health and wellness, and economic and social development. Opportunities that were identified revolved around active use of the building, while helping to support the costs of operation. It now acts as unique hostel accommodation, public library, museum, studio space and social classes such as quilting and exercise programs. The rooms and old equipment are still on display, and visitors to the building take away some understanding of the importance of the cottage hospital system to the province.

In 2003 the building was designated a Municipal Historic Site, and today, through the hard work of the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation volunteers it continues to make a valuable contribution to the community.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY HERITAGE: THE PLACENTIA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Contributed by Tom O'Keefe

The Placentia Area Historical Society (PAHS) sees itself as having descended from one of the earliest historical societies in the province because the first such group in Placentia was formed in 1937. It was called the Ancient Capital Historical Committee in recognition of Placentia having been a French capital from 1662 to 1713. Over the years members researched and collected local history. Eventually, in March 1972, The Placentia Area Historical Society (PAHS) was incorporated. It was registered as a charitable organization in 1992.

Today PAHS is a group of volunteers who work to achieve objectives similar to those outlined at that founding meeting in 1937. They follow a constitution which was officially drawn up in 1972 and was totally revised earlier this year. The Society has had a great upsurge in interest and now has 13 active members, nine of whom make up a Board of Directors. The board is blessed in having members with experience, skills and community connections valuable to a historical society.

The new president Tom O'Keefe is a former town clerk of Placentia and also has over twenty-five years experience as a community development worker, with particular interest in organizational dynamics. Vice-president Christopher Newhook is an artist and graphic designer who is also on the Town of Placentia's Heritage Advisory Committee. Secretary Elizabeth MacDonald is editor of the local newspaper, *The Charter*. Treasurer Cyril Bambrick, who is bilingual, is a seasonal guide supervisor at the Castle Hill National Historic Site. Director Lee Everts is a trained researcher and writes historic articles.

Director Rachelle Connors is a seasonal guide at Castle Hill and has the advantage of being bilingual. Director Jeff Collins is a graduated law student. Director Helen Griffin coordinates historic plays on Castle Hill and around the community for the Placentia Area Théâtre d'Heritage. Director Jennifer McCarthy is a coordinator with a local youth group, the P4 Club, and a former guide at Castle Hill. Other regular members of the society have similar experiences and connections.

One of the main challenges of the board is to maintain, operate and promote the O'Reilly House Museum. A registered heritage building, this Balustrade Queen Anne Victorian building was erected in 1902 for Magistrate William O'Reilly. It was last used by Magistrate William Linegar up to the 1970s and then turned over to PATHS by the Newfoundland Government to be used as a community museum. It is now open mostly during the summer tourism season. The museum's operation and other activities are accomplished with some financial assistance from the Town of Placentia, the Placentia Lions Club, Service Canada and contributions from visitors to the museum.

Besides operating the museum the Society has a number of activities on the books. During the summer it operates historical tours around the community and holds two special events. They are the Annual Tea Party and Heritage Awards, this year planned for August 7, and Doors Open Placentia, planned for August 29. Over the next couple of years PAHS expects to partner in planning two upcoming major events related to when the French

occupied Placentia, a 350th Anniversary Celebration and the Treaty of Utrecht Commemoration.

The Society is also presently digitizing historical information and supplying it to the local library. It hopes to soon acquire collections management software for its own computer and was recently assisted by the Placentia Lions Club in getting a new computer. It is also working on a project, Voices of Placentia Bay, in partnership with the Placentia Town Council, to mount a graphic and electronic display celebrating singers, musicians and storytellers of Placentia Bay. While initial planning and some design have been done, funds will need to be obtained to implement the project.

Other activities include planning an expanded summer program. This will include developing a code of conduct for student

employees. The Society is also doing a risk assessment for the organization and looking at any additional insurance it might need. It is also looking at additional ways to raise funds to help with these and other regular operating expenses.

At its annual general meeting in March of this year, PAHS had a visit from Ken Flynn, Executive Director of the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. He explained the services provided by MANL and shared some valuable information about operating and maintaining a museum. He brought along a conservator, Danielle Rundquist, who stayed over for a day and did some inspections at the O'Reilly House and is preparing a report for future guidance.

The Historical Society believes in partnerships and it has been doing this with the Town of Placentia, Castle Hill and others. In the past

year, it participated with the, Festival of the Sea in welcoming a group of Irish to the area.

It recently approved ex-officio positions on the Board for representatives from Castle Hill and the Town. This year it hopes to do something additional with the Placentia Area Theatre d'Heritage, the presenter of historical theatre in the local area. It is also looking at putting a historical perspective on many community events and wants to have closer relationship with the archaeological work going on in the municipality.

The Placentia Area Historical Society has been working on a new site, which will be its official website and will provide information on the history of the Placentia Area and about the Historical Society and its activities.

www.placentiahistory.ca

Letter to the Editor

New St. John's Resident John Matheiu Shares His Impressions of our Province

I am writing today as a recent arrival to St. John's from the mainland. I was going to start off by writing what drew myself and my family here in the first place but that's a story all by itself. Instead I'd like to share my impressions of Newfoundland, and St. John's in particular.

To begin, I must say that we fell in love with St. John's the first time we saw it. Having been here eight months has not diminished that feeling in the slightest. In fact, if anything, we love it more than when we first arrived.

I must admit that before arriving here I never really gave Newfoundland much thought at all and unfortunately, that seems to be the mindset on the mainland. Newfoundland seems to be an afterthought to the rest of the country. That is unfortunate because we've found a place that is richer in history and tradition than any other place I've been to in Canada. We've found a place where the scenery and diversity is really without equal, one that is so unique in so many different ways that to try and count them would be a very difficult task.

One of the the things I have found curious is that when asked how we like Newfoundland, most people I've encountered look quite surprised when we say how much we enjoy it and how we've been taken in by it all. I'm not sure why that is, but they shouldn't be surprised, the city and province have so much to offer, and I believe that the potential for growth is really limitless. The only concern that I have is that growth and

development have to be handled carefully and responsibly. We shouldn't be in such a rush with the growing prosperity of the past few years to tear down the old, discarding it in favour of the new. The history and heritage is an integral part of what has made this island, this city, and Newfoundlanders themselves so very special. Forgetting that would be a huge mistake in the long run and would turn St. John's into just another North American city. St. John's has such a unique flavour to it that, if anything, it should be accentuated even more. Personally I see an almost unlimited potential as well as possibilities for St. John's. The only limit being our imagination. We couldn't imagine nor want to live anywhere else.

SUMMER 2010 EVENTS AT THE NEWMAN WINE VAULTS PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

The Newman Wine Vaults is open daily from 10:00am to 5:30pm. Interpreters are available for guided tours and admission is by donation.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday night from July 6 through August 11, Shakespeare by the Sea returns with their popular **Classic Horror by Candlelight** show. Witness chilling performances of Charles Dickens' "The Signal-Man," H.P. Lovecraft's "Rats in the Walls," and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado." Doors open for this event at 7:30 and the show starts promptly at 8:00. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door.

On Wednesday, July 7, 21, 28, and August 4, 11, 18, join local wine importer and educator Tom Beckett for **Beckett on Wine**. Join Tom for a tasting of Newman's Celebrated and other fine port wines. Prices are per glass and IDs for 19 are required. Tastings commence at 6:30pm and continue until the Shakespeare by the Sea show begins at 8:00pm.

The Neighbourhood Strays Bellydance Troupe returns to their Vaults with their **Candlelight Caravan** show. Shows will be taking place on Thursday, July 29, August 12, and August 26. Doors open for this performance at 7:30pm and the show begins at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

On Tuesday, July 27, North Carolina storyteller Terry Rollins will perform **Nevermore: The Life & Writings of Edgar Allan Poe**. Show starts at 8:00pm and tickets are \$15.

Sunday, August 1 features visiting storyteller Laura Kamis Wrang, who will perform her show **Crossing Borders** at the Vaults, along with Britannia Tea's Kelly Jones. Show starts at 7:30 and tickets are \$12 at the door.



Wine & Words returns to the Vaults this season, featuring local authors reading from their latest books. All events are \$7 at the door (\$10 with a glass of wine) and begin at 7:00pm.

July 22

Paul Butler will read from "Cupids" and Valerie Wiseman will read from "Harbour of My Tomorrows."

August 5

Sheilah Roberts will read from "For Maids Who Brew and Bake" and Nellie Strowbridge will read from "Catherine Snow."

August 19

Dale Jarvis will read from "Haunted Waters" and Hilda Chaulk Murray will read from "More Than 50 Percent."

Looking for a unique venue for your special event, private party, or wedding photos? The Newman Wine Vaults are also available for private rentals. For more information, please read the rental FAQ on our website at www.historictrust.ca or phone 739-7870.

NHT PRESENTS: AN EVENING WITH ROBERT MELLIN

The Newfoundland Historic Trust will be hosting a talk with award-winning local architect and author Robert Mellin, who will be speaking about his forthcoming book, **Newfoundland Modern: Architecture in the Smallwood Years**.

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010

Location: Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site (436 Water Street)

7:00pm – Meet & Greet

7:30pm – Presentation

8:30pm – Discussion

Reception to follow with light refreshments. Admission is \$15 for Newfoundland Historic Trust members and \$20 for non-members, with proceeds going toward the continued restoration of the Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site. New members are welcome to join at the event. To book your place in advance or if you require more information, please phone 739-7870 or e-mail coordinator@historictrust.ca

New Community Group Advocates Involvement

The recent public debate about the Fortis Properties development proposal has brought to the forefront a disconnect between policy makers and the residents these policies are intended to serve. A new group has formed called **Happy City**, which hopes to generate accessible awareness of local issues, and to foster inclusive dialogue among St. John's residents.

Using a combination of social media and written contributions from credible, local experts and activists, Happy City will spread information about the challenges we face, the people and policies working to address them, and ways that people can be involved in developing solutions.

The group's primary objective is not to change the City, but rather to help ensure that it changes in a way that considers the informed views of all citizens.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, visit www.happycity.ca or email davelane@gmail.com

The Trident - Spring 2010

Compiled and edited by Leslie Pierce

Heritage Canada Foundation Conference: Submitted by Chris Wiebe, Officer, Heritage Policy & Government Relations, Heritage Canada Foundation

Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital: Submitted by Catherine Dempsey, Executive Director, Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Placentia Area Historical Society: Submitted by Tom O'Keefe, Board Chair, Placentia Area Historical Society.

Happy City: Submitted by Dave Lane, NHT Board of Directors.

Letter to the Editor: Submitted by John Mathieu, St. John's resident.

The Trident accepts short articles pertaining to the architecture and built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador, historic sites and monuments, preservation reports, book reviews, and other matters of interest to those in heritage-related fields. We also accept event notices from other nonprofit and community organizations. For further details, please contact our office by phone at (709) 739-7870 or by e-mail at coordinator@historictrust.ca



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LA FONDATION
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CANADA

Special Joint Membership Offer

Support heritage locally and nationally! Sign up today to become a member of both the Newfoundland Historic Trust (NHT) and the Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF) and save up to \$15.* You will receive the full membership benefits of each organization, including:

Newfoundland Historic Trust

- * Subscription to *The Trident*, NHT's quarterly newsletter.
- * Special rates on events and rentals at the Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site.
- * Invitations to members-only Trust events.

Heritage Canada Foundation

- * Subscription to *Heritage*, HCF's quarterly magazine.
- * Free admission to National Trust properties in England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, and the United States.
- * Free parking at all National Trust properties in England and Wales.
- * Reduced fees to HCF conferences – including the upcoming St. John's conference, *Revitalize! Economic Renewal. Quality of Life, Heritage Buildings*, September 30 – October 2, 2010.

Choose Your Membership Type

Individual (\$50)

Family (\$80)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone Number: _____

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Expiry

Please check if you prefer:

your information not be shared with other organizations.

not to receive e-newsletters from NHT and HCF.

* Individual memberships in NHT are \$25 and HCF is \$35 – a joint membership saves you \$10.

Family memberships in NHT are \$25 and HCF is \$70 – a joint membership saves you \$15.