

the trident

A publication of the Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust



Opportunity Knocks: National Trust Conference 2018

Tyler Stapleton, Board of Directors, NL Historic Trust

The National Trust for Canada hosted their phenomenal conference this year on the banks of the Saint John River in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The event was well attended by a broad range of heritage preservation groups and organizations from across Canada. Federal, provincial, and municipal government representatives participated as well as many not-for-profit groups, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Opportunity Knocks' and after listening to dozens of speakers and presentations, it was clear that this certainly is true. Our built heritage is full of potential and opportunity. Often times we can become bogged down and disheartened by the seemingly continuous destruction and loss of our built heritage. Across Canada there are unique challenges to preserving built heritage but each building, each street, each town, and each province have boundless opportunity and potential.

The four-day conference featured a packed schedule with sessions across a broad range of subjects. I was fortunate to attend discussions on Rural Heritage, Heritage-Led Development, Municipal Heritage Planning, Recognition and Reconciliation, Architectural Obsolescence, Heritage Advocacy, and Rooting Vibrant Places. Perhaps most importantly, the Historic Trust was invited to attend the

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Opportunity Knocks: National Trust Conference 2018

National Trust's National Council Meeting. This 'Special Meeting' was for province-wide heritage organizations from across Canada to discuss common issues and strategies. It was an honour to attend this meeting on behalf of the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust and I would like to thank the National Trust for inviting us.

One great reason for attending the conference was the opportunity to network with other heritage associations and governments nationwide on behalf of NLHT. Their stories are diverse and include positives and negatives, successes and failures. I met with Lianne from the Yukon, whose organization is struggling with low membership numbers in a vast rural area; Bill from Vancouver, where built heritage preservation is overcoming steep land values and aggressive development; Alastair from Calgary and Dan from Edmonton, who face the issue of obstructive provincial legislation in a jurisdiction with the lowest number of designated buildings per capita in the country; Suzanne from Saskatchewan, whose preservation organization has decided to sever ties with their provincial government in a bid to secure more diverse revenue sources to bolster their tiny operating budget; Dawn and Roberta, survivors of an Ontario Residential School who are providing balance and context to past atrocities through preservation of built heritage; officials from Westmount, Quebec who are protecting and preserving the unique architecture of over 4300 buildings in their municipality by dividing it into 39 zones for better representation of character defining elements (compare this to the three heritage areas in St. John's covering about 5000 buildings); Mallory from Montreal, whose organization is actively reusing vacant spaces and demonstrating their value by preservation versus their demolition; Anne from Annapolis Royal, NS, who has set up a not-for-profit to donate over \$300,000 of her own money in the form of low interest loans to boost the small business community the historic spaces in her community, which has created over 200 jobs in a town with a population of 501; and Andrew, also from Nova Scotia, who faces preservation challenges in Halifax, where a historic building can be torn down after three years of ownership despite its designated status. In Newfoundland and Labrador, we may feel as though we are isolated and alone in our battle to preserve heritage, as though we are David up against Goliath. The National Trust conference was a valuable experience for the NLHT to make connections from across Canada with these individuals and many more who are facing similar challenges. Together we can share our experiences and our solutions to move forward to achieve our common goal.

To further our goals of honouring the past while building communities for today and the future, we need to look outside the box. As Natalie Bull, the Executive Director of the National Trust for Canada said regarding heritage preservation, "It's much bigger than just places we can take pictures of." Historic buildings can provide such a rich environment to foster a sense of place and build strong community spaces. The keynote speaker and former Mayor of Winnipeg, Glen Murray, remarked that our built heritage and what we build today are indicators of our civic pride. He went on to say that, "when every place looks the same, there is no such thing as place." The City of St. John's Chief Municipal planner Ken O'Brien echoed these sentiments when he said in his presentation, "we either preserve our built heritage or we become a faceless place."

During my attendance at the conference it was great to see Newfoundland and Labrador so well represented. This representation not only came from within the province from groups like Heritage NL, NLHT, MUN, and the Association of Heritage industries, but from speakers from across the country who used examples from Newfoundland and Labrador to help spread the message of heritage preservation. Many people from British Columbia to Nova Scotia recognized that Newfoundland and Labrador has successfully created an identity for itself as having a valuable stock of built heritage and

is known as the place to go where heritage, community, and opportunity connect. Two great examples of this are the work being done in Bonavista by John Norman and Bonavista Creative, and the work on Fogo Island by Zita Cobb and the Shorefast Foundation. The built heritage losses in Newfoundland and Labrador were also well known within the national heritage community, such as the demolition of Richmond Cottage, Quinipiac, and Mount Cashel, and the threatened demolition Bryn Mawr. Our positive nationwide reputation was partly credited to the fantastic tourism ads produced by the provincial government. Many places across Canada struggle to create such a unique identity for themselves. We must continue that work and maintain this sense of place. We must learn from our mistakes and keep moving forward to keep our identity through our built heritage and culture to avoid becoming a faceless place that could be Anytown, Canada.

I have touched on the importance of tourism as strong reason to maintain our heritage structures but the Opportunity Knocks conference demonstrated other avenues for support. To further campaign for heritage preservation we need to find our allies. There may be people in your community who do not necessarily wear the 'heritage hat' but have values that support our cause. Environmentally conscious groups could be potential supporters, as preserving buildings vastly reduces landfill contributions versus demolition and new construction. Carbon neutrality cannot be achieved by destroying and building anew, but we can become carbon neutral by conserving and repurposing heritage buildings that already exist. The vacant spaces in your community can be adaptively reused for many purposes beyond their original use. Look at the Harbour Grace Cathedral or St. John's Farmers' Market as recent, close to home examples. Just because a building was built for one purpose does not mean it is bound to exist in that entity forever. New avenues and new opportunities to create new places using old buildings are vital for the survival of our built heritage. Many times the current or former use is not sustainable in today's economy, but that does not mean the building must be wiped away. Strong municipal zoning and bylaws are needed to allow such sustainable development. It falls to us in the heritage community to work with municipalities, developers, property owners, and businesses to create the new ideas and solutions required to adapt our old buildings so that they may have a use for the future.

The importance of recording and documenting our built heritage was also discussed at the conference. Many buildings fall under the radar and are not perceived to be historically valuable until it is too late and the wrecking ball is swinging. Just because a building is not nationally or provincially designated does not mean it does not hold any value to the community. Often that history and culture is unknown and is yet to be discovered. Take some pictures, do some research, talk to your neighbours. Discover the unique places in your community. Present them to your municipality with why you think the place is valuable. What potential does it have? What are the challenges or difficulties that it may be facing now, or could be facing in the near future? What are some ideas and solutions that could help the building survive? We in the heritage community need to be proactive, encouraging, and supporting. Unless we are helping we can be perceived as a hindrance. A negative perception of us as a community will not help us to reach our goals.

The National Trust conference was a valuable experience for the NLHT. We discussed the importance of preservation and how to make preservation appealing to those who may not agree. Michiel Brouns of the Netherlands said at the conference that Canada's mentality around heritage preservation falls ten years behind the United Kingdom and 20 years behind the rest of Northern Europe and Scandinavia. Those areas of the world have successfully recognized the value in preserving their built heritage. It is our duty to begin the conversation and improve the perception of preservation in our communities to bring Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador up to par. As advocates for historic structures we must be proactive, reach out to a wide audience, prove why preservation is important, identify solutions, highlight adaptive reuse, and encourage sympathetic development to keep our built heritage intact. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

Doors Open 2018

Doors Open, the popular annual event sponsored by the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, took place in St. John's on Saturday, September 15.

Doors Open is a unique opportunity for the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador to celebrate our built heritage through the exploration of our historic architectural gems. Buildings that are normally closed to the public or which charge an entrance fee welcome visitors to look around for free.

This year's event featured a renewed focus on some of the city's most significant heritage buildings and helped to kick off NL Architecture Week, hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects (NLAA), which aims to promote architecture and create a place to engage the public in a discussion about the future of our built environment.

Doors Open 2018 highlighted both new and returning sites, including:

- Basilica Museum of St. John the Baptist
- Crow's Nest Officers' Club
- James J. O'Mara Pharmacy Museum at Apothecary Hall
- Newman Wine Vaults
- Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
- St. John's City Hall
- Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - "The Kirk"
- Commissariat House
- Gower Street United Church
- Railway Coastal Museum

Over 2000 visitors toured the participating site and enjoyed special activities, including puppet shows at the Railway Coastal Museum, cod liver oil tastings at the James J. O'Mara Pharmacy Museum, and a talk by architect Grant Genova on the design context of St. John's City Hall.

On Sunday, September 16, over 50 attendees turned out on a drizzly afternoon for the inaugural Doors Open walking tour. Led by Grant Genova, Susan Stephen, and Jessica Stanford, the walking tour discussed St. John's architecture, urban design, and pedestrian pathways from Georgestown to the Harbour.

Doors Open will return in September 2019. To volunteer on the planning committee or suggest participating sites, contact coordinator@historictrust.ca.



Grant Genova speaks to Doors Open visitors at St. John's City Hall.



The crowd gathered in Georgestown for the Doors Open walking tour.

Thirty-Fourth Annual Southcott Awards

The Historic Trust recognized the recipients of the 34th Annual Southcott Awards on November 19 during a ceremony and reception at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club in St. John's.

The award recipients featured on the following pages represent a range of people and projects, but all with a common goal: preserving the buildings and places that define the unique architectural character of our province.

The Trust established the Southcott Award program in 1984. The awards are named for J. & J.T. Southcott, one of Newfoundland's most important nineteenth century building firms. Architect John Thomas Southcott (1853-1939) made his mark with the Second Empire style of the Southcott properties at Park Place, on Rennie's Mill Road in St. John's. This "Southcott style" was prominent in the rebuilding that followed the Great Fire of 1892, and spread throughout Newfoundland.

Award nominations are considered in six categories: Heritage Restoration, Heritage Tradesperson, Design in Context, Heritage Stewardship, Adaptive Reuse, and Lifetime Achievement.

The award for Heritage Restoration is presented to finished architectural restoration projects.

The Heritage Tradesperson award celebrates the skill and contribution of an individual in the craft or trade professions of heritage conservation.

The Design in Context award recognizes architectural design projects (infill, additions, or new construction) sensitive to the heritage character of the surrounding environment with regard to style, scale, form, and building materials.

Awards in the Heritage Stewardship category are considered for excellence in long-term maintenance of heritage properties that have not been significantly altered since construction.

New this year is the award for Adaptive Reuse, which recognizes significant projects that adapt heritage buildings to serve new uses in their communities.

The Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award, named in honour of inaugural recipients Shannie Duff and Shane O'Dea, recognizes individuals who have made an exceptional contribution over a period of 25 years or more to heritage conservation in the province.

To nominate a deserving person or project for a 2019 Southcott Award, download a nomination form at www.historictrust.ca/southcottnomination.

*Thank you to the generous sponsors and supporters
of the 2018 Southcott Awards*



Heritage Foundation
Newfoundland & Labrador



Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation



Memorial United Church

Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration | Bonavista
Memorial United Church Congregation

Memorial United Church is a vernacular Classical Revival style church. Built between 1918 and 1923, it is situated in the heart of Bonavista, a significant local landmark in a significant heritage district. Constructed by master builder Ronald Strathie from plans drawn by Newfoundland-born, Harvard-educated architect Charles Harris Lench, son of the presiding cleric Rev. Charles Lench, this structure remains one of the largest wooden churches in Canada.



The Church has undergone a detailed, multi-year exterior restoration led by contractor Wayne Marsh, the final phase of which involved the repair of the church's façade and two towers. The bulk of restoration funds – totaling several hundreds of thousands of dollars – were raised privately by the congregation.

In an era of disappearing churches around the province, this is a remarkable story. It is rare to see a congregation with declining numbers as strongly committed to preserving the historic value and integrity of their church building, ensuring that Memorial United Church will continue to serve its congregation and stand as an architectural landmark for many decades to come.

Greene House

Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration | Tilting, Fogo Island
Aidan Greene

The Greene House was originally owned by Aidan Greene's grandfather, Patrick Greene, a direct descendent of Michael Greene, the first Greene from Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland to settle in Tilting in the early nineteenth century.

The house is a traditional fisherman's home built in the 1890s. Aidan Greene purchased the house from his uncle in 1992 to ensure that it remained in the Greene family. The house had not been modernized and looked much as it had in the early 1900s



To preserve its character and historic integrity, Greene embarked on a sensitive restoration project, exposing original floorboards, painting original ceiling beams, and restoring original furniture.

In 2017, Aidan and his son, Colin, a heritage carpenter, replaced all of the windows with historically appropriate replacements and installed new wooden clapboards and a new front door. Colin, a graduate of the Heritage Carpentry program at Algonquin College in Perth, Ontario, built all of the doors and windows himself. The Greene House has remained largely unchanged for over a century, and, thanks to Aidan and Colin Greene's efforts, will endure for future generations.

The Museum

Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration | Pike's Arm

John Dodds and Diane Boyes

The saltbox style house known as "The Museum" was built on Ship Island over a century ago and moved over the ice to Pike's Arm by David Stuckey in 1928. The house remained largely unaltered from its original condition and was for a time opened to the public as a community museum. Interior and exterior heritage features remained, such as original single sash windows, decorative trim, clapboards, spruce walls, floors, and ceilings.



John Dodds and Diane Boyes purchased the museum from the community in 2017 and embarked on a comprehensive restoration project, installing running water, electricity, a new wood stove, and a new roof but maintaining the house's historic features. Floors, ceilings, and walls were stripped of paint and wallpaper and brought back to their original state.

Interior stairs had to be replaced, but the original banister was retained and reused, as were original interior wallboards. Windows were beyond repair and were replaced with newly built heritage windows that replicated the originals. Decorative trim was reused when possible and replicated exactly where necessary. In addition, the house's décor was carefully chosen to honour the heritage of "The Museum," with many early twentieth century artifacts original to the home remaining.

Eric Coleridge

Southcott Award for Heritage Tradesperson

Eric Coleridge is a remarkable heritage carpenter and craftsman. A native of Trinity, Coleridge has been building heritage windows and doors, restoring heritage structures, and building new structures in heritage styles for over 25 years. He is a fourth generation craftsman and was taught the trade by his father, Boyd Coleridge, who himself built windows and doors for 70 years.



Coleridge has completed work for many of the structures in Trinity. He has also built windows and doors for a number of significant structures across the province, including many Southcott Award winners. His projects include Trinity Parish Hall; Mallard Cottage, St. John's; Rising Tide Theatre, Trinity; the Herbert Pretty House, Dildo; the Garland House, Trinity; and Maidment House, Trinity.

In 2011 he constructed new windows for the Trinity Courthouse, continuing his family's tradition of heritage carpentry; his great-grandfather had constructed the original windows in 1903. He cuts and mills his own lumber and utilizes traditional methods that have been passed down from generation to generation. Coleridge engages in all aspects of heritage carpentry and restoration and his passion for Newfoundland's built heritage is evident in the high quality of his work.

118 Military Road

Southcott Award for Design in Context | St. John's
Michael Ladha and Keir McIsaac

118 Military Road is a newly built infill development townhouse constructed in City of St. John's Heritage Area 1 on a formerly vacant lot. The house was designed with the surrounding neighborhood's heritage character in mind, incorporating such features as a mansard roof, arched dormer windows, clapboard in a heritage colour, bay windows, and decorative corbels and scrolls. Building height, width, and setback are scaled to align with the existing streetscape.



Modern practical living elements, including garage doors, front door details, and exterior lighting, were incorporated into the heritage-sensitive design. Owners Michael Ladha and Keir McIsaac also received City of St. John's Heritage Award for Infill Development in 2018.

17 Winter Place

Southcott Award for Design in Context | St. John's
Hilary Rose and John Cavanagh

In renovating the property at 17 Winter Place owners Hilary Rose and John Cavanagh chose to preserve the existing 90 year-old house, adding additional space via a rear addition that responds to the area's built heritage character yet remains discernably modern in massing and detail.



The project shows how heritage properties can be creatively adapted and amended to suit present-day needs rather than resorting to demolition and new construction, illustrating how a historic building can be not only be renewed structurally and aesthetically but also be made contemporary. The residence at 17 Winter Place is an example of the way in which development can modernize a neighbourhood while still respecting its historic integrity.

Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Each year the Trust presents a scholarship in memory of former General Manager Leida Finlayson, who passed away in 2003, at age 31, after a courageous battle with cancer. To honour her contribution to the Trust, her life, and her indomitable spirit, the Trust and the Finlayson family established the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship, to be given to a deserving individual studying history or political science at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The 2018 scholarship was awarded to Megan Kendall.

Charitable donations to the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship (to be presented through Memorial University) can be made payable to the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust.

MIX

Southcott Award for Adaptive Reuse | St. John's
The Hardman Group Limited

Completed in 2018, MIX is a mixed-use commercial/residential development project that adaptively reuses the former Newfoundland Telephone Building at 345 Duckworth Street, a structure that had previously stood vacant and derelict for a number of years. A new wing and three new floors were added to the existing building, which was fully renovated.



Developed by Halifax-based real estate development firm the Hardman Group Limited, MIX is the largest residential development downtown St. John's has seen in recent years, featuring ground floor restaurant and retail space and seven levels of apartments above. With its distinctive lit sign, adjacent parking garage, and modern amenities, the building serves as a model for development that thinks outside of the box.

MIX illustrates how adaptively reusing existing building stock can serve a variety of ends that benefit both community and developer, creating dense, walkable neighborhoods; saving building materials from landfill; and reinvigorating a city block.

Crow's Nest Officers' Club

The 2018 Southcott Awards were held at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club, a private club significant for its associations with the naval war effort during WWII.



Founded in 1942 and housed in the former Butler Building warehouse, the club served as a place for men of the allied navies to relax, drink with friends, and escape the horrors of war. The Club houses a variety of military memorabilia, including a periscope from a German U-Boat captured in Bay Bulls in 1945. The Crow's Nest was recognised as a registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1990 and named a National Historic Site of Canada in 2010.

Upcoming Heritage Events

Heritage Week: February 18-24, 2019, "Heritage: The Tie that Binds"

Historic Trust AGM: March 2019 (date TBD)

Canada Historic Places Day: Saturday, July 6, 2019

National Trust Conference: October 17-19, 2019, Winnipeg

David Bradley

Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award

David Bradley has been an inspired heritage leader at the local, provincial, and national level for over two decades. He has made a remarkable contribution to the preservation, development, and reevaluation of heritage in Newfoundland and Labrador. By clear thinking, forceful leadership, and openness to innovation he has been, and remains, one of the province's greatest leaders in the development of heritage and history, giving it a defined place in our economy as well as in our culture.



Bradley has had a major impact on the heritage sector in the Newfoundland and Labrador and he is its leader in the current generation. Since he joined the executive of the Bonavista Historical Society in 1994 and, as chair of the Bonavista Historic Townscape Project (BHTP) and, subsequently, its Foundation (BHTF) for the past twenty years, he has not merely run an organization, he has effected a major change in heritage in rural Newfoundland.

With the BHTF he has made a particular point of ensuring that the residents of Bonavista were fully involved in the heritage redevelopment of the town. The effect of this had been to provide a year-round commitment to the buildings preserved and has created a model for the rest of the province. He has also ensured that the work on the buildings was done by local craftspeople and, in fact, made Bonavista a major source for heritage carpentry, creating a local industry in a town badly hit by the Cod Moratorium. So, in effect, while BHTP is a local project, it has had a provincial impact; while BHTF is a cultural heritage project, it is also an employment generator.

David Bradley has also been a vital presence on the provincial scene. In 1999 the various heritage groups of Newfoundland and Labrador (historic preservation, archival, museum, local, historical) came together to talk about common concerns. Out of these discussions the Association of Heritage Industries (AHI) was born, with Bradley as chair of the steering committee and, subsequently, of the Association. He has held that post for almost twenty years and provided a cohesiveness and direction that kept the groups working together. Under his leadership a critically important report was prepared which made the case for the economic importance of heritage – a report which was later incorporated into government policy.

While chairing BHTF and AHI, Bradley also served as president of the Newfoundland Historical Society (1998-2000) and is currently president of the Bonavista Historical Society and chair of the Garrick Theatre management committee. It is not then surprising that he was asked to serve as Newfoundland governor of Heritage Canada, the nation's premier heritage organization, from 2003 to 2013, and as chair of the organization from 2010 to 2012.

David Bradley's name rarely turns up in the media coverage of BHTF's accomplishments – the spokespeople at media events are generally other townsfolk. This is an interesting measure of a man who is more concerned with getting things done rather than being in the public eye, and this may explain why he is able to bring people together to accomplish great things for his community and province.

-Shane O'Dea, May 2018



Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust 2018 Membership Form

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

We have purchased a group membership with the National Trust for Canada and can now offer all the benefits of National Trust membership at no cost to you. This includes their nationally acclaimed magazine, *locale*; free admission or discounts at historic sites in Canada, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Jersey, Australia, and the United States; reduced rates at conferences; voting privileges; and travel offers. To extend your Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust membership to include the National Trust for Canada membership, please tick the relevant box below. It's that easy!

You may visit our website complete your application and payment online. Just go to www.historictrust.ca and fill out the convenient online membership form. Then select the Canada Helps icon (it reads "Donate Now") to make your payment online. Input your details and preferred method of payment.

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the trident

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Built Heritage NL Facebook Group

If you are a lover of built heritage or an owner of an historic structure, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has created a Facebook group for you!

Built Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador is a place to find events and resources, discuss conservation, and share experiences. We encourage all those that are interested to join in the discussions and debates that can be found within. Participate in the dialogue and make connections in the heritage industry by joining the Built Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/builtheritagenl/

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