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The Newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

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In this issue:

Baccalieu Trail Inventory	page 1
Heritage Day Poster	page 2
French Shore Interpretation	page 3
Rorke Premises of Carbonear	page 4
February at the Museum	page 5
Heritage Day at City Hall	page 5
Books for Sale	page 6

Baccalieu Trail Heritage Inventory

The Baccalieu Trail Heritage Corporation has received funding from the Department of Human Resources Development to conduct a comprehensive survey of all the historical architecture of the Baccalieu Trail.



Four workers have been hired to create a record of all buildings on the Baccalieu Trail that pre-date 1920. A standard format, created by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, will be used, along with its guidelines.

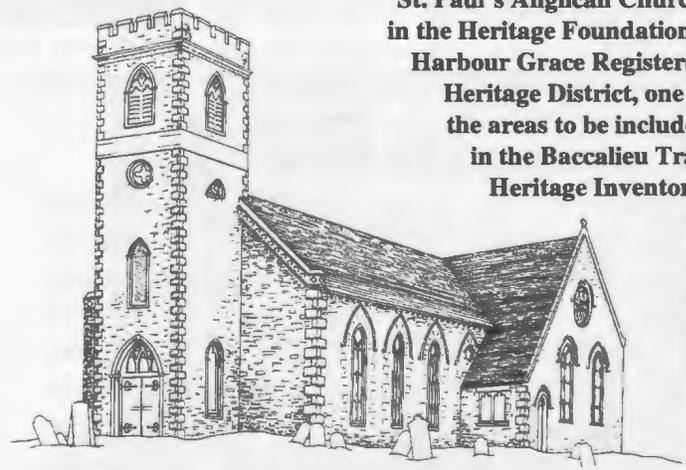
“This partnership with the Heritage Foundation will ensure the information becomes part of a province-wide inventory ongoing with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador,” said George Chalker, Executive Secretary of the Foundation. It will also be available through the Baccalieu Trail Heritage Corporation office upon completion.

“We recognize that some of this work has already been done - either through the heritage designation process, or by others. However, this inventory will include the whole region and be consistent in the information provided,” stated Ann Bowering, the Corporation’s Coordinator.

The four workers, Rowena Smith, Linda Reid, Deborah Hollett and Terry Maddox will be contacting community groups and building owners, to ensure their information is complete and accurate. In addition, they will be photographing each building as part of the permanent record.

“Even reviewing photographs taken over the last six years, it is obvious that our heritage building stock is being eliminated at a fast pace” said Bowering. “This record will ensure at least that those buildings do not disappear without notice.” In addition, says Bowering, people will become more aware of the importance of preservation of the buildings that make our Region so special.

For more information, contact Ann Bowering at 709-596-1906.



St. Paul’s Anglican Church, in the Heritage Foundation’s Harbour Grace Registered Heritage District, one of the areas to be included in the Baccalieu Trail Heritage Inventory.

Heritage Canada & The Heritage Day Poster



Heritage Day is one of the Heritage Canada's longest standing and best-known initiatives. In 1974 Heritage Canada launched a campaign for a national holiday on the 3rd Monday in February to boost the public appeal of heritage and improve its visibility for all Canadians. Since then, Heritage Canada has encouraged Canadians to celebrate Heritage Day each year. The campaign for a national holiday has continued to the present time. Between 1974 and 1996 nine separate bills proposing a national Heritage Day holiday have been introduced in Parliament.

Heritage Day Poster

Beginning in 1974, a Heritage Day poster was produced each year. The first posters were modest in size and distribution. In the late 1970s Heritage Canada retained artist Tom Wood to paint a series of paintings celebrating heritage as a sense of place, featuring street scenes and cultural landscapes in every province and territory. Over a 12-year period, each painting in turn was reproduced as our poster of the year. The typical print run was 10,000 to 15,000 posters which were distributed primarily to our members, heritage organizations, government offices, museums, teachers and school librarians. Posters were supplied free of charge to the general public, upon request.

Heritage Canada made a major departure in its 1992 poster. It commissioned Manitoulin artists to paint a picture depicting some of the heritage of Canada's



Heritage Day Poster, 1999

First Peoples. A teacher's guide based on the painting, was also prepared to provide lesson plans for use in the classroom and with youth groups. Since then they have continued producing a poster and a teacher's guide every year. The scope of distribution for the poster and guide has increased enormously with the objective of reaching every school in Canada. With the focus on youth, Heritage Canada has expanded their reach to the formal education system and have built strong alliances with national youth organizations (*i.e.* Girl Guides and Boy Scouts). Production of the poster and guide has ranged from approximately 50,000 to 160,000 a year.

The themes for the last few years have focussed on some aspect (time period, geography, origin) of the people of Canada, while, at the same time, stressing universal elements which resonate with all Canadians. The pedagogical material has emphasized the exploration, celebration and sharing of personal heritage. This material has been enthusiastically received by educators and is now distributed by territorial and most provincial departments of education.

Heritage Canada currently monitors the press reports of these activities, the level of which has grown over the years. In 1996, there were more than 500 articles generated about Heritage Day events and activities throughout Canada.

The theme of Heritage Day 1999 is "The Spirit of Home," and the poster image illustrates the ways in which Canadians have built shelter that reflects who they are. The poster includes a series of nine postage stamps that were unveiled on September 23, 1998. Each postage stamp depicts a representative example of a chapter in the evolution of Canadian housing.

Heritage and youth are central to the 1999 Heritage Day poster. In both a whimsical, but also in a very serious way, heritage is in the hands of the young inheritors of our built heritage. To obtain copies of the poster, write Heritage Canada Foundation, PO Box 1358, Stn B, Ottawa ON K1P 5R4. Flat, unfolded posters are available for \$5.00 each.

A French Shore Interpretation Centre on the Baie Verte Peninsula

by Gary Peschell

For over two years, the Dorset Trail Tourism Association has been trying to "package" for tourists the 400 year history of the French inshore fishery that once dominated the region from Cape Degrat to Bona Vista and known to the French as Petit Nord.

As already recounted in an earlier issue of *The Trident*, that history began by the time Jacques Cartier sailed up the North-east coast in 1534 on his first "government-sponsored" voyage, passing no doubt through familiar waters. When Martin de Hoyarsabal's "Routier-Pilote" appeared in 1579, it included several harbours on the Great Northern Peninsula and three on the Baie Verte Peninsula (Fleur-de-Lys, Pacquet, and La Scie). French fishermen must have been here then in some (unknown) numbers. A decree of the Parliament of Brittany in 1640 listed over forty harbours on Petit Nord employing as many as four thousand men in a peak season.

In 1713, when France lost territorial sovereignty in Newfoundland, the Treaty of Utrecht let her keep her fishery on Petit Nord - from Bonavista on the east down to Point Riche on the west coast. In 1783, due to disputes between French fishermen and British settlers, the boundary was shifted northwards - set at Cape St. John on the east and running down to Cape Ray. Excepting interruptions of war, this endured until 1904.

To recall for visitors this long and colourful story, a "French Shore Interpretation Centre" was established in a loft of the Miner's Museum in Baie Verte. It was comprised chiefly of several large panels displaying copies of historic maps and documents obtained from various institutions. A wonderful addition was a small display of archaeological artifacts loaned by the Newfoundland Museum. These included clay pipes from a dig at Fleur de Lys and a couple of fish-shaped lead fishing lures from a shipwreck on the

Great Northern Peninsula.

French flags embellished the exhibit area, symbolizing the historical expanse of the French Shore: fleur-de-lys on blue for the early 16th to the early 17th centuries, fleur-de-lys on white for the early 16th century to the French Revolution of 1789, and the blue-white-red tricolour of the Republic for the period up to 1904. Another tricolour was raised daily to the outside peak of the museum building.

Dreams of an "official opening" for the following season (1998), replete with "distinguished guests," collapsed when expansion plans for the Miner's Museum forced the removal of the French Shore Interpretation Centre. Fortunately, promotion of the French Shore was rescued from oblivion by two of Baie Verte's hotel enterprises. The Baie Vista Inn welcomed a major French Shore display featuring various additions and improvements. Another, smaller exhibit was mounted in the lobby of Bailey's Dorset Country Inn.

Promotion problems still plagued the enterprise. A tourist information chalet on the Trans-Canada Highway at Baie Verte Junction failed to draw tourists up the peninsula in anything like the hoped-for numbers. Again, there were no resources for a province-wide publicity campaign. In the meantime, efforts ensue to set up a permanent French Shore Interpretation Centre.

La Scie, on the eastern corner of the peninsula near Cape St. John, would be the ideal place. Its harbour recorded in French documents as early as 1579, it has an infrastructure large enough to support such an institution. And its location would draw visitors to the

eastern side of the Baie Verte Peninsula, getting them to spend more time in the area. In the belief that success requires local community involvement, a committee is being formed in La Scie to find and develop a home for the interpretation centre. Needed is a building with sufficient space for several large display panels and a couple of display cases; an ultimate goal is a museum section to display artifacts from future archaeological work on the peninsula.



Miner's Museum, Baie Verte, Site of French Shore Interpretation Centre, July 1997

The Rorke Premises of Carbonear

by Dale Gilbert Jarvis

This January, the town of Carbonear lost a significant piece of its architectural history, and a significant piece of Newfoundland's heritage. On Sunday Jan. 10th, around 11:30 am, strong winds destroyed the eastern building of the Rorke premises on Water Street in Carbonear. This building was one of two wood buildings with distinctive slate roofs, that are known as the Rorke Stores.



The older of these two large structures, the one on the right if facing the buildings from Water Street, dates from about the 1870s. The second building, the one destroyed this past Sunday, replaced an earlier store destroyed by fire, and was constructed in 1917. Constructed entirely of wood, these are buildings of a sort now rarely seen in Newfoundland, but which once formed an important, indeed integral part in the trade and economy of the island. The older storage building was known as "The Molasses Store", and besides carrying molasses, supplied cement and various building materials. The 1917 store house supplied flour, beef and pork.

Across the street from the Rorke merchant store houses stands Rorke's Stone Jug, the oldest existing building on Water Street in Carbonear, and the only building of its kind in the community, as it is of stone construction. In 1859, John Rorke's house and business premises were destroyed by fire. Undaunted, the family built what was known as the Stone Jug, now known as the Stone House, sometime around 1863.

This large and impressive building is unusual in that it is constructed of stone with a slate roof. The

house was constructed in the Georgian style by stone slabs that were cut on Kelly's Island in Conception Bay. It is the only stone building in Carbonear and is, in fact, one of the few surviving examples of stone construction on the entire island. The upper floors would have served as a residence for the family, while the ground level would have accommodated their business.

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador recognized the significance of the Rorke stores and designated the property as a Registered Heritage Structure in 1988. Both stores and the Stone Jug were awarded commemorative plaques by the Heritage Foundation in 1998.

Historically significant in themselves, these store houses on the waterfront are much enhanced by their adjacent counterpart, the Stone House. Together, these buildings comprised the entire Rorke property. Up until this January, they were among the best preserved business premises in the province. Carbonear was one of a handful of places in Newfoundland and Labrador where a complex of buildings such as this had been preserved. Communities such as Fogo and Herring Neck, which once boasted fishing premises like Carbonear's, have lost them forever.

Recently, it had been suggested by some in Carbonear that one of the Rorke Stores be demolished, and it was only through the action of dedicated supporters of the community's heritage that the building had been saved. Sadly, it would seem, Carbonear has lost an important part of our history just at the moment it seemed like it would be saved. Hopefully, the remaining store can be stabilized and maintained as an important part of the heritage and history of all Newfoundlanders.



February at the Museum

Music at the Museum featuring members of Shanneyganough

Thursday Evening, February 11th @ 7:30 pm. Come and enjoy an evening of traditional music by **Chris Andrews** and **Mark Hiscock**, members of the *ECMA* nominated group *Shanneyganough*.

Heritage Day Celebrations at the Museum

featuring *The St. Valentine's Dreadful Date*

Sunday, February 14th, 2 - 4:00 pm. In keeping with both *Heritage* and *Valentines Day*, **Dale Jarvis**, creator of the *St. John's Haunted Hike*, will be on hand with some frightful tales of ghostly love. There will also be some great local community museum displays. Refreshments will be provided.

The Jewish Film Society

Thursday Evening, February 18th @ 7:00 pm. Join the Society as they examine the film *The Cantor's Son* (1939). All welcome!

Silver: From Hallmarks to Design

Sunday, February 21st @ 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Join **Blair Withycombe**, Collections Manager at the Museum, as he gives us an overview of our new silver exhibit. Feel free to bring along your own silver piece for interpretation.

The Museum Book Club

Sunday, February 21st @ 3:00 pm. Come and join our book club. We will meet once every month to discuss Newfoundland works. Bring along a list of books that you would like the group to review. Please call 729-2329 to register. (Adult)

A Friends Open House

Thursday Evening, February 25th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Meet the *Friends of the Newfoundland Museum*. You'll have a chance to go behind the scenes at the Museum and see some of our hidden treasures. There will be special tours, a silent auction, friendly friends and staff and refreshments. Why not bring a friend and join!

The Viking World

Sunday, February 28th @ 2:30 pm. Kids are invited to step back in time to the days of the Vikings. They will have an opportunity to make neat Viking items such as shields and drinking cups. Call 729-2329 to reserve a seat. (Ages 8-12)

New Exhibits

Silver: Hallmarks of Taste This exhibit features silver from the actual vault of the Newfoundland Museum. It focuses on several themes such as presentation silver, tea silver, hallmarks and design changes over two and a half centuries.

The Newfoundland Museum
285 Duckworth Street
www.delweb.com/nfmuseum

Heritage Day at St. John's City Hall

For only the second time since its creation by Heritage Canada in 1974, Heritage Day will see various heritage organizations come together at St. John's City Hall to celebrate, in an event organized by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Heritage Day Celebrations will take place February 15th, 2-4 pm at the EB Foran Room, City Hall, City of St. John's. The event, organized by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, will see a number of plaques unveiled for Registered Heritage Structures. Various other heritage organizations, including Heritage Canada, The Newfoundland Historic Trust, Parks Canada, the Newfoundland Historical Society, Newfoundland Historic Parks Association, Memorial University of Newfoundland Folklore and Language Archive, City of St. John's Archives, Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Beothuk Institute, the Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society, and the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives are all expected to participate. Following the unveiling of the historic plaques, there will be a heritage fair, where participating groups will have displays on their various organizations.

If you have questions, please contact the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador offices at 739-1892.

For Sale: "A Gift of Heritage" and "Ten Historic Towns"

The Newfoundland Historic Trust, in cooperation with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, is offering for sale its remaining copies of "Ten Historic Towns". This soft cover publication features the drawings of artist Jean M. Ball and introduction and text by Shane O'Dea. The book highlights the heritage architecture of ten Newfoundland outport communities: Ferryland, Placentia, Brigus, Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Trinity, Bonavista, Fogo, Twillingate and Grand Bank. Also on sale is the Trust's second edition of "A Gift of Heritage", featuring the historic architecture of St. John's. Your copies can be ordered directly from the Trust for a cost of \$17.00 each, which includes postage and handling. Community museums or gift shops should contact the office for information on pricing of bulk orders. Cheques or money orders should be made out to "Newfoundland Historic Trust". Send your order along with payment to:

"Ten Historic Towns" c/o PO Box 2403,
St. John's, NF Canada A1C 6E7

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EDITOR: DALE GILBERT JARVIS

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Deadline for Submissions for next issue: April 1st, 1999

Visit the Trust online at <http://www.avalon.nf.ca/heritage/trust.htm>

Membership Form

Fees are \$10 per person, \$20 per family and \$35 for groups, institutions and organizations. Please clip and complete the following form and mail with cheque for membership payable to "The Newfoundland Historic Trust" to The Newfoundland Historic Trust, PO Box 2403, St. John's, NF A1C 6E7

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Internet Home Page Address: _____

Are you interested in serving on any of the Trust's committees (Board of Directors, Southcott, Publications, Public Relations)?
If so, please indicate: _____