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## 2005 Southcott Awards Call for nominations

The Newfoundland Historic Trust invites nominations for its annual Southcott Awards for built heritage preservation in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Awards are normally considered for architectural restoration projects completed within the past three years, for buildings of any type which are 50 years or older. Awards may also be considered for excellence in long-term maintenance or stewardship of heritage properties; for new or infill construction which is sensitive to the historic context (architecture, streetscape, viewscape, etc.) of its environment; or for other noteworthy built heritage preservation projects.

Nomination forms are available online at [www.historictrust.com](http://www.historictrust.com), by emailing [historictrust@yahoo.ca](mailto:historictrust@yahoo.ca), or by calling (709) 739-7870. *The nomination deadline is April 15, 2005.*

The awards ceremony and reception will take place at St. John's City Hall at 4pm on June 17, 2005. Newfoundland Historic Trust members welcome to attend!

## David Raymond Lockyer White, 1937-2005

On a summer evening on a quiet walk along Gallavans Lane in the direction of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Trinity I would often gaze up toward the soft light illuminating a work space on the second floor of an original Trinity style house. Between the ceiling beams there were rolled up charts laid on slats that were nailed between the beams. And a framed map could be seen on the wall. It was not hard to imagine a time long ago of a merchant or ship's captain pouring over his work or planning the next voyage out of Trinity Harbour. On those nights I knew that David White was working at his desk, work that was adding to the memory of the history of his much loved Trinity. David's passion for his work was encouraged by his wife Florence, whose love for her garden was matched by David's interest in the history of Trinity.

It was the legacy of his father, Walter White that encouraged David to preserve and record the heritage of Trinity. While he was a member of the Trinity Historical Society since 1975, he began to take an active interest in things heritage after his retirement in 1994. It was then, through the encouragement of Rupert Morris, at that time the President of the Trinity Historical Society, that David became involved

in the efforts that were underway to restore the Lester-Garland House.

In an interview early this year with the General Manager of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, David reflected on his interest as a volunteer in the heritage of this province and Trinity. It was nurtured through his father's work in preserving the history and artifacts of Trinity. He said that even his grandfather was an amateur historian. But a more zealous volunteer of the Trinity Historical Society could not have been found as David took to the task with singular purpose. He laboured, in the spirit of Benjamin Lester, so that the name of Trinity would resonate beyond its shores. His dogged determination to find a way to restore the Lester-Garland House was assisted through the help of The Trinity Trust - Canada Inc. and contributors throughout the province and in England.

David too has left a legacy. His passion for his work was well known but not always rewarded. As with most volunteer efforts, it was tough slogging to extract the financial and other resources that are needed for heritage projects. Yet he was a notable catalyst in the completion of the reconstruction of the Lester-Garland House. The Trinity Historical Society has grown in significance and value and its work has been considerable in recent years with David at its helm.

David exemplified the true volunteer. He worked as hard or harder on heritage as he did in his career. He had retired from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, where was involved in scientific and regulatory matters, a career for which he was presented a Merit Award for exceptional and distinguished contribution to the public service. In retirement he supplemented his

involvement in the heritage of Trinity by having served as the regional director – eastern, of the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, a member of the Association of Heritage Industries and the Newfoundland Historical Society. And, he always looked forward to hosting the annual M. M. White Lecture in Trinity.

When asked why he volunteered in heritage, David said, "I think I have something to offer to the heritage community. I think I can have a positive influence on the tourism potential of the province, the peninsula and Trinity. I also wish to contribute to the life of the Town of Trinity, particularly as a retired person."

David made a great contribution to the people of Trinity when he served as their mayor from 1997 to 2001. During his tenure Trinity became a destination; it became a town; theatre activity grew and thrived; old properties were restored with greater interest in heritage; bed and breakfasts were established; and a number of tourists became seasonal residents.

When David was not under the reading light at his desk on the second floor of that wonderful old house that he and Florence treasured, he would be down at the Lester-Garland House searching out something from the archives or arranging another fund raiser. Or he might be doing a late garden chore for Florence. And on a walk along Gallavans Lane this summer I will be drawn to that window again and miss the light that conjured up images of history in the making, history that he is now a part of in a large way. I will, however, enjoy the scent of the rockets on a breeze from Florence's garden.

*John V. O'Dea  
Past President, Newfoundland Historical Trust  
Seasonal resident of Trinity*



*David White (left) chatting with Dr. Gordon Hankdcock at Lester-Garland House, Trinity, after the Annual M. M. White Lecture, 2002.*

Donations in memory of David White may be made to the Trinity Historical Society Inc., Box 8, Trinity, NL, A0C 2S0.

## **Recently designated Provincial Registered Heritage Structures**

Four buildings have been added to the list of Registered Heritage Structures in Newfoundland and Labrador, bringing the total number of Provincially recognized heritage structures to 240.

“We are impressed by the quality of the buildings that we have designated, both from an architectural and historical context, says Robert Mellin, Chairperson of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. “Each building contributes uniquely to the architectural heritage of our province. Each building has played an important role in its respective community.”

The four properties meeting the designation requirements of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador for Provincial designation, including two churches and two residences, are:

### *Church of the Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Trinity:*

This is the oldest church in Trinity and one of the oldest wooden churches still in use in Canada. The church was built in 1833 after the passing of the Emancipation Law. This church also has an association with George Garland as the Church is built on a piece of land donated by him. Garland was a prominent merchant and magistrate in Trinity. The church is a good example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture employed in small, wooden, outport churches. The Church of the Most Holy Trinity remains in good structural condition despite the harsh climate, and stands as a testament to the quality of craftsmanship during this period.

### *Cochrane Street United Church, St. John's:*

Built in 1915 during World War I in a Mediterranean style of architecture reminiscent of Romanesque Revival, Cochrane Street United Church is the only church of this type in St. John's. The architecture is a reminder of what is possible during times of restraint. Circumstances such as fire, wartime and limited resources prompted the congregation of Cochrane Street United Church to think and act in a more contemporary manner. The result was an architecturally unique structure designed by Ross and McDonald, a leading architectural firm.

### *Mark Gosse Residence, Spaniard's Bay:*

This house is significant due to its associations with the Gosse family. Upon his return from England, Mark Gosse established a home in Spaniard's Bay with his family, and incorporated Mark Gosse and Sons Ltd. During the First World War, the company played an important role in creating work throughout the

Spaniard's Bay region by securing multiple U.S. military construction contracts.

Constructed in 1901 by Mark Gosse Sr., this house is of wooden construction. Due to careful upkeep throughout the years, it retains many of the original windows and doors, all remaining in their original position. Like many merchant homes throughout the province, the Gosse home in the Second Empire style. It also has a number of decorative elements including eave bracketing and elaborate woodworking on the front façade, all reflective of the social standing of its inhabitants.

*Lightkeeper's Residence, Quirpon Island:*

The Cape Bauld lighthouse was established as an aid for ships taking the "fast route" from Europe to Canada via the Strait of Belle Isle. The Lightkeeper's Residence is a semi-detached, two storey wooden building. It was designed with a symmetrical front façade and truncated hipped roof with shed dormers, typical of many lightkeeper's dwellings throughout the province. The wooden shingle cladding used to cover the residence is typical of this type of building due to its ability to withstand harsh coastal weather conditions. The building is painted bright white with red trim and a red roof, making it visible from sea against its barren surroundings. This lighthouse is the last remaining lighthouse of this specific design developed from the Department of Marine and Fisheries plan in the early twentieth century.

More information about all these properties is located on the newly launched Provincial Register of Historic Places at [www.heritagefoundation.ca/register](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca/register). For information about the Provincial heritage structure designation process, visit the

Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador's web site at the same web address or call 1-888-739-1892.



*The lightkeeper's house at Cape Bauld, Quirpon Island is a recently designated Provincial Registered Heritage Structure.*

## **New tools for promoting and preserving NL's heritage**

Tourism, Culture and Recreation Minister Paul Shelley, along with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, has announced the launch of three new tools to help promote and preserve built heritage in the province: the Provincial Register of Historic Places, new Standards and Guidelines for Heritage Preservation, and a suite of products to help municipalities recognize and protect buildings of significance. The new tools are products of the Historic Places Initiative, a Federal/Provincial/Territorial collaboration.

### **Provincial Register of Historic Places**

The Provincial Register of Historic Places is the most comprehensive tool ever produced for this province, detailing historic places around the province. It is a searchable database with nearly 2,000 places listed, including descriptions,

historical information, noted architectural features, and images. Some of the listings are formally designated heritage properties, while some are buildings or places of historical or architectural interest.

“Every community in Newfoundland and Labrador has places that are valued for their heritage significance,” says Dr. Robert Mellin, Chairperson of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. “I encourage all owners of heritage properties to get their properties listed on the Register.”

### **National Register of Historic Places**

There is also a National Register of Historic Places online at [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca).

Unlike the Provincial Register of Historic Places, which contains both formally designated and non-designated places, the Canadian Register of Historic Places contains only places which have been formally designated by a federal, provincial or municipal government.

### **Municipal Heritage Designation Kit**

To highlight the important role municipalities play in designating heritage properties, a new Municipal Heritage Designation Kit details how municipalities can designate heritage properties and have them listed to the Provincial Register. The Foundation intends to work with municipalities to ensure that all heritage properties eventually get listed on the Register.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada will provide principles and practices that

encourage the conservation of our country's historic places. The Guidelines provide practical advice on how to restore historic structures of all kinds. These can be used by the town or by property owners to ensure heritage conservation work is conducted in a sympathetic manner and that character defining elements of properties are preserved.

Municipalities can receive the Standards and Guidelines by contacting the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador or by visiting the “Library” section of the Parks Canada website ([www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)). HFNL staff are also available for workshops, consultations and meetings with town councils and heritage groups. Call 1-888-739-1892.

### **Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital**

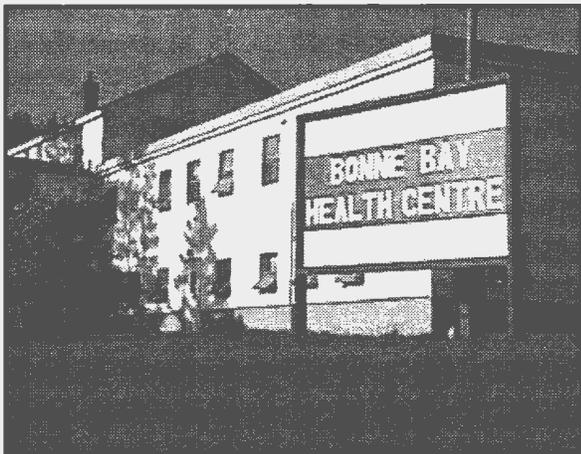
In 1939 the Commission of Government allocated \$10,000 for the construction of Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital. William Prebble donated the land at Norris Point for the hospital site, and the people of Bonne Bay donated the lumber and the labour required. James Shears of Rocky Harbour was employed to oversee the project.

This was one of several cottage hospitals established by the Commission Government to provide rural Newfoundland with medical facilities, nursing services, midwifery training and health education services. The hospital at Norris Point opened in 1940 and served the communities between Bellburns and Trout River on the Great Northern Peninsula, a distance of 180 miles.

In 1998 it was announced that the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital, one of the few remaining cottage hospitals still in existence in our province, would be closing and a new facility would be built to serve the medical needs of

Bonne Bay and the surrounding area. A group of community volunteers who felt the hospital was a integral part of the heritage of the area began to meet to try to preserve and develop an adaptive reuse plan for the building. This group eventually formed the non-profit Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation (BBCHHC).

The BBCHHC hopes the building will become a multi-purpose centre which will house a variety of services and attractions. The main attraction will be the Cottage Hospital Museum, with a recreated medical ward, related artifacts and documents. The building will also house the Public Library which has been closed since the local high school shut down in 2003. There has also been interest in developing a Craft Centre to provide education sessions for local artisans and a Wellness Centre with natural healing services. Remaining space will be made available to the public by tender.



*Many Bonne Bay area residents hope that the cottage hospital at Norris Point will be preserved as an historical landmark.*

*Cottage Hospital Doctor: The medical life of Dr. Noel Murphy, 1945-1954 (Creative Publishing, 2003) details Murphy's time as medical officer of the hospital.*

## **The Stonehouse, Shane O'Dea, and the Supreme Court: a case review**

by Kim Mackay

The ability of municipal councils to grant heritage preservation designations can often save a heritage structure and give it new life but such discretionary powers do not translate into a zoning change. A recent decision of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland affirms that the discretionary powers of municipal councils are not without limits.

The "Stonehouse" is a well known heritage building located at 8 Kenna's Hill in St. John's. Designating the Stonehouse as a heritage building in 1985 opened the door to City Council to approve the site for use as a restaurant. The reasoning behind this decision is found in section 7(5) of the Municipal Plan which has the stated purpose of "facilitating the conservation and adaptive reuse" of a heritage building. Restaurants are not expressly included as an acceptable "adaptive reuse" but in the case of the Stonehouse, Council did issue a conditional, non-assignable permit for the operation of a restaurant.

The zoning of this site is "residential low density" which means that, with some exceptions, it is characterized as having single detached dwellings. It is also noteworthy that the Development Regulations restrict residential uses to one dwelling with greenhouses and sheds permitted as secondary buildings.

In 2003, the Stonehouse was in the process of being sold to a company called Lyn-Gor who made application to Council to construct a second building on the site to be used as a bed and breakfast. Council approved the application. Shane O'Dea, a professor and heritage preservationist residing in the

neighborhood, appealed to the St. John's Local Board of Appeal who upheld Council's decision, and a further appeal was made to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland.

The Court considered whether or not the discretionary power of Council in approving the heritage designation of the Stonehouse, with a legal non-conforming use as a restaurant, had the effect of converting the zoning from residential to commercial. The Court found that the past commercial use of the property did not have the effect of rezoning the property to commercial and as a result, the Development Regulations for residential use still applied. The Court ruled that Council's discretion could not be extended to allow a secondary building on the site. If Lyn-Gor had applied to use the Stonehouse as a bed and breakfast this may have been within Council's discretion, but allowing the construction of a secondary building was in contradiction of the Development Regulations.

Permitting adaptive reuse of heritage buildings can be an important tool in allowing such structures to endure in the urban landscape. This case is an important precedent for the protection of heritage structures, and all developments, as it affirms municipal councils must still work within the framework of zoning and development regulations in exercising their discretion.

## History of health care in NL

The Health and Community Services Archive and Museum has published a new book on the history of health care in our province. It is sold with a companion book which highlights events in health care circa 1600 to 2004. Call 757-3296 to order the books.

## Free public symposium to mark 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Consecration of the Basilica

The ninth of September 2005 will be the 150th anniversary of the Consecration of the Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John's. To mark and celebrate this historic event the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's has joined the Canadian Catholic Historical Association in co-hosting "A Place to Worship For His People's Creed": A Public Symposium on the History of Irish Roman Catholicism in Newfoundland. The historical symposium will feature illustrated lectures, displays, receptions, plaque unveilings, and local, national and international speakers.

The Symposium will take place on September 8-10, 2005 in St. John's. For a schedule of events and speakers and related information visit [www.uccs.mun.ca/~jfitz/sympos2005.html](http://www.uccs.mun.ca/~jfitz/sympos2005.html); email [jfitz@mun.ca](mailto:jfitz@mun.ca); telephone: (709) 726-3660; or write: 150th Anniversary Symposium Committee, c/o Archives of the Archdiocese of St. John's, Military Road, St. John's, NL, A1C 5H5.



*The Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, shown here circa 1860, was the largest Irish neoclassical cathedral in the world upon its completion 150 years ago.*

## Grand Bank group honouring lost mariners of NL with memorial

The Grand Bank Heritage Society is currently involved with a tremendous undertaking: to erect a world-class memorial to lost seamen on the grounds of the historic George C. Harris House. The Heritage Society feels that a memorial to the lost mariners of our province is long overdue, and so is moving forward with its plans to honor those who helped build this province through the fishery and coastal trade.

A site development plan and a model of the monument statue have been prepared at a cost of approximately \$30,000, funds which were raised locally by the Heritage Society. The unveiling of the memorial is set for August 2007.

The memorial site will include a life-size statue by Luben Boykov. The bronze female figure standing on a widow's walk is designed to exemplify the strength of character of thousands of Newfoundland and Labrador women who endured the loss at sea of their loved ones.

A memorial garden design by Frederick Hann Associates includes an arching shoreline that encircles the bronze figure. Water flows in a shallow pool covered with beach rocks. Sitting on top of the rocks and scattered throughout the pool about two inches below the water level are cast bronze plaques, each to bear the name of a lost mariner. The Society is gathering names of lost mariners to inscribe on the plaques, and would be happy to hear from anybody with such information.

The Grand Bank Heritage Society has raised \$176,375 through corporate sponsorship and

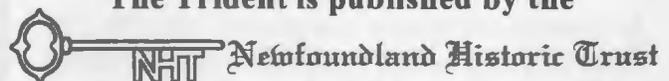
donations from families and friends since July 2004. The Society is grateful for those contributions and for the level of interest in the project.

Anyone who has had a loved one lost at sea can contact the Grand Bank Heritage Society to provide information and/or to make a donation. Write: P. O. Box 417, Grand Bank, NL, A0E 1W0; phone: (709) 832-1574; fax (709) URL: [www.grandbankseamensmemorial.ca](http://www.grandbankseamensmemorial.ca).



*George C. Harris House, a Provincial Registered Heritage Structure overlooking Grand Bank Harbour, was acquired and restored by the Grand Bank Heritage Society in 1993. The Society received a Southcott Award from the Newfoundland Historic Trust for their restoration of the Queen Anne style building, and operates it as an historic site. Now the property is central in the Society's plans for the Mariners' Memorial Interpretation Centre.*

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