



the trident

A quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

The City of St. John's Recognizes Heritage Day 2013



Sunnyside



QV Village Plantation



YellowBelly Brewery



The Tower



Mallard Cottage

On February 19, 2013, during the weekly City Council meeting, Mayor Dennis O'Keefe signed a proclamation which officially recognized Heritage Day in St. John's.

The City presented Certificates of Recognition to the following residents and businesses:

- Todd Perrin, Kim Doyle and Stephen Lee for Mallard Cottage, 8 Barrows Road;
- Christopher and Donna Hickman for Brookdale, 46 Circular Road;
- Paul Crosbie and Ellen Dinn for

Sunnyside, 70 Circular Road;

- Glen Power and Florence Kennedy for 27 -29 Holloway Street;
- Judy Ryerson with the Quidi Vidi Village Foundation and Paul Chafe with Stantec for the Quidi Vidi Village Plantation, 10 Maple View Place;
- Craig Flynn and Brenda O'Reilly for YellowBelly Brewery and Public House, 288 Water Street; and,
- G.J. Cahill & Company for The Tower Corporate Campus, 240 Waterford Bridge Road.

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Heritage Day 2013

"The heritage areas are the heart and soul of our City and we are very pleased today to honour commercial and residential property owners for their work in rehabilitating, restoring and celebrating our rich built heritage," said Mayor O'Keefe. "These properties are a wonderful illustration of what can be accomplished when owners take pride in their homes, businesses and City. I am very pleased to congratulate each of our award recipients for the excellent work they have done in our heritage areas."

Heritage Day Poster Contest Winners

More than 1,000 students from 50 schools across the province produced submissions for the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador's annual Heritage Day poster contest.

The winning entries were recognized during an awards ceremony held on Heritage Day at the Quidi Vidi Plantation in St. John's.

Victoria Fitzgerald, a Grade 11 student at Gonzaga High School, St. John's, was selected as the overall winner for her depiction of Cabot Tower.

Reminder! Membership Survey

We would like to hear from you! The Trust is conducting a membership survey. The results will help to shape our activities throughout the year. You may complete the survey by visiting: www.surveymonkey.com/s/CP3R85C.

Winning submissions at the other grade levels included:

- Jorja Pevie, Grade 3, Jakeman All Grade, Trout River (Primary);
- HaeNa Luther, Grade 5, Stella Maris Academy, Trepassey (Elementary); and,
- Ashley Synyard, Grade 7, Roncalli Central High, Avondale (Junior High).

The students' submissions were judged by Margaret Walsh Best, artist and art educator; and Debra A. Barnable, visual artist and consultant.



Hon. Terry French, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation with award winners Victoria Fitzgerald, HaeNa Luther, and Ashley Synyard.

Photo Credit: Dale Jarvis

Heritage Day is an annual initiative of the Heritage Canada Foundation. This year's theme was *Good Neighbours: Heritage Homes and Neighbourhoods*.

Port Union's Row Houses Selected for Special Project

When Hurricane Igor hammered the island in September 2010, it made a bad situation worse for Port Union's row houses. The effects of years of neglect were compounded by damage from the storm. Many of the houses were sagging and in need of immediate stabilization. The entire side of one house bowed outwards, ready to collapse.

Residents of the community voiced a desire to see the houses' architectural integrity restored. The Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation had also shown great interest in restoring the houses and using them as affordable housing. Negotiations with the absentee owners yielded no solutions that could lead to the houses' preservation.

In 2011, the Heritage Canada Foundation included the town's row houses on its annual list of the Top Ten Most Endangered Places in Canada. An employee at ERA Architects in Toronto took notice and the company eventually chose Port Union as the next location for its ongoing *Culture of Outports* project.

Culture of Outports sends architecture students from Ryerson and Dalhousie universities to rural Newfoundland communities to learn more about their history and culture, and in turn leave something behind that the chosen town can use to help preserve what makes the community unique.

Heart's Content Getting Closer to Designation

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) held a public meeting in Heart's Content to discuss the upcoming heritage district designation on February 27, 2013. This designation, scheduled for July of this year, aims to commemorate the unique history and architecture that resulted from the long-term presence of the telegraph cable industry in the community.

More than 25 residents attended the meeting to learn more about what this kind of commemoration will mean to the community.



A row house in Port Union.

Photo Credit: Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation

The project is funded by ERA Architects in partnership with private donors. The company has previously sent students to Burlington and Brigus.

The participating students will visit Port Union in mid-June and stay for two weeks while they organize community meetings to understand what makes the town special, and what citizens would like to see as a result of the project.

Follow Culture of Outports on Twitter: @CultureOutports and Facebook: www.facebook.com/CultureOfOutports.

Port Union was the first and only union-built community in North America. The Fishermen's Protective Union built the town's row houses to provide fishermen and workers with affordable places to live. Port Union was designated as a National Historic Site in 1998 and a Provincial Heritage District in 2007.



HFNL's Dale Jarvis addresses Heart's Content residents.

Photo Credit: <http://doodledaddle.blogspot.ca>

What Makes Us Unique Makes Us Thrive

"There is something amazing here that we have to help grow."

That's what Dave Lane said about the capacity crowd of 150 that crammed the Rocket Room with energy last Saturday, March 2 for Happy City's "I Love NL" event.

Three speakers fed our curiosity:

Katherine Loflin, an urban planning consultant from North Carolina, shared the clear message from her extensive research on "placemaking" throughout the United States: *loved cities do better in every way* – from quality of life to the economic bottom line.

By focusing on how to make our communities beautiful, fun, and welcoming we will attract more young talent, more newcomers, more businesses and entrepreneurs, and be more livable for children, seniors, and everyone.

Sheldon O'Neill of Immigration NL used clever humour to share his department's bold objective to triple immigration in five years and the innovative plans to make this place a welcoming one for much-needed newcomers.

Neil Dawe of Viridis ended the session with a call for municipalities to do placemaking better and challenged us to create a 100-year vision for our community.

The event had the crowd buzzing afterwards, as the coffee and ideas about how to make our communities places to love flowed. Everyone acknowledged Newfoundlanders' strong sense of attachment to the places they are from, and by playing on this strength -- keeping place at the centre of our municipal thinking -- we can create for thriving communities for newcomers, young talent, seniors, and others.

How do we take all this potential and make this a world-class place in every way?

Katherine Loflin urged all of us to "do what makes you unique and stay the course." She also advised that it "doesn't have to cost huge bucks." If we put place at the centre of what we do and how we make decisions, we can ensure our place will be one that we all love -- and thrive in -- for years to come.

We want to hear your responses to this event:

1. In what ways can we build on our strong sense of, and connection to, this place?
2. What things, big and small, can we all do to make our communities more beautiful, more fun, and more open?
3. How good are we at "Placemaking" in St. John's - and what could we do better?

Please fill out our survey at:
www.happycity.ca/march2survey

Article by Scott Morton Ninomiya.

600 Towns Settled, 600 Towns Abandoned

The Independent has created an interactive map of 600 towns and villages in Newfoundland and Labrador which were founded and later deserted. By clicking on each pin you can see the town name, the year it was settled and abandoned, and the highest recorded population for that town. Explore the map at: <http://bit.ly/h5edyX>

Walk Down Memory Lane

The City of St. John's Archives have compiled a document that includes brief histories and the locations of many of the City's streets, areas, monuments and plaques. The document is available to view at: <http://bit.ly/13Gf6t8>



The Newfoundland Historic Trust, established in 1966, is a membership-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of architecture reflecting the culture and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Board of Directors

Robyn Pike, *President*; John Drover, *Vice President*; Heather Comerford, *Treasurer*; Deborah O'Rielly, *Executive Director*; Kim Blanchard; Dave Lane; Greg Locke; Terry O'Rielly; Leslie Pierce; Sue Wright.



The Image of **Place**

When the Canadian dollar was worth US 0.80 cents, American film companies came to Vancouver and Toronto to make movies and TV series. The accountants did it to save money but the creative departments liked it because these Canadian cities, their skylines and wide swaths of their architecture, were so generic that they could pass for an American city.

This homogenisation of the North American urban landscape was seen as a positive trait for the film business but it pointed to the lack of distinctive image and by extension visual identity of our cities. Notwithstanding some iconic landmarks like the CN Tower, Signal Hill or the Parliament Buildings what sets our cities apart visually to give them their unique identities?

Architecture, geography and history is the answer and St. John's has all three in its favour when it comes to creating an identity all its own. Is it any wonder that they play large in the government's award winning tourism marketing and the city itself is a more of a character than a scene in the hit CBC TV series, Republic of Doyle ...albeit in a slightly oversaturated hue. The city is a visual feast with an identity all its own.

The multi-coloured houses of the downtown woven among historic buildings and sites all set against the backdrop of the surrounding hills are what comes to everyone's minds when you say St. John's, Newfoundland. They are unique and have value as such.

Marketing studies and TV glamour aside, as a photographer and media producer I experience this with every assignment for a mainland TV company or publication. They want their shots to say St. John's. It can be a product ad or a business portrait for an annual report or magazine, they all want St. John's as the backdrop. The city has become my studio and as a location it is in demand because it gives a unique and dramatic setting ...dare I say exotic? It certainly is for those not from here.

I think everyone gets that we have a dramatic geography and environment. That's pretty basic. What is more ephemeral is the role of our history.

Because we have hundreds of years of history we have a legacy of art which documents the evolution of our culture and society. Be it music, visual art or the written word it is a documentation of our existence, our daily lives and even our political history. Art was the first form of journalism.

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The Image of Place

Architecture is the art of designing buildings and structures. The design of the places we live, work, worship and play and like all art reflects the society and culture that created it.

The results are cultural symbols and works of art. Historical civilizations are often identified with their surviving architecture.

Of course, with art you have style and that is often represented by the tastes of a society at the time and will often mark a period in history. In a place with long histories you get a variety of architectural styles that reflect the evolution of society. It's what gives a city character and identity. New architecture has to live alongside the old, not replace it, to maintain the cultural and historic continuity and identity of the city.

If historic buildings and properties are destroyed needlessly for contemporary style or expediency then we are destroying our history and cultural identity as surely as if we destroyed our books and visual art.

The city loses its unique identity and stops being a marketable or desirable place to visit, do business or be a creative centre simply because it will be, visually, no different than any other small Canadian or American city.

Tourists, film crews, photographers and business conventions come here because of St. John's' unique geography, history and art. That art includes our historic architectural cityscape.

Article and photo by Greg Locke.

Greg is a professional photographer and media producer based in St. John's and sits on the board of the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

Walk St. John's

As the weather continues to improve, there is no better time to download the Trust's Walk St. John's app for the iPhone and iPad. You can select one of four round-trip walking tours to guide you through the city streets.

To download this free app, visit the App Store at: <http://bit.ly/10EIODf>.

Downtown St. John's Façade Improvement Program Funding Now Available

If you are a business or property owner in the Downtown St. John's Business Improvement Area and have been wanting to spruce up your 'street appeal' then this is the program for you.

Scott Cluney, Executive Director of Downtown St. John's, explains that, "The program can provide a reimbursement of up to \$3,000 per approved site, contingent upon matching dollars from the applicant, towards the costs of eligible renovations. This amount could increase to \$4,000 if a particular property / business is located on a corner with two street facing facades directly adjacent to a sidewalk." Cluney clarifies that eligible renovations include: design consultants fees, restoration of exterior finishes and repainting, signs that are uniquely designed to integrate into building architecture, repair and replacement of store front windows and doors, exterior lighting, removal of materials that cover architectural details, and the addition of new architectural details.

The program was launched last year and funding was distributed to six different property and business owners. The value of the work approved for funding in 2012 was in excess of \$106,000.

The purpose of this program is to continue the revitalization of the Downtown Commercial Core by improving the physical appearance of the buildings and therefore making Downtown St. John's a more inviting and interesting place to work, shop, and visit. Cluney says, "The program will also be key in assisting building owners attract and retain tenants and help build civic pride among the local business community. In addition, the Façade Improvement Program will increase the overall marketability of Downtown."

Applications are available at www.downtownstjohns.com or at the Downtown St. John's office located at 155 Water Street, Suite 202. All applications must be received at the office by June 14, 2013.

Photo Search: Lych Gates

by Dale Jarvis



Lych gate and woman, Bonavista, date unknown.

*From the Heritage Foundation of
Newfoundland and Labrador Collection*

An undated photograph in the collection of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador shows an unidentified woman standing in front of an elaborately-beamed Gothic-Revival style structure with a detailed wrought-iron gate. This gate marks the entranceway to the cemetery grounds of the Alexander Chapel of All Souls, located on Coster Street in Bonavista.

The structure in the photograph is what is known as a lych-gate. The lych-gate was once a feature typical of Anglican churchyards; "lych" is a form of the Anglo-Saxon word "līc" meaning body or corpse. In England, the structure was known by a variety of names and spellings, including bier-house, lich-gate, and scallenge-gate (Dyer 153-154).

A lych-gate, succinctly, is a "covered wooden gateway with open sides at the entrance to a churchyard, providing a resting place for a coffin" (Fleming et al. 277). A common feature in English churchyards, the concept of the lych-gate was transplanted to the new world, and made its way into the vernacular architecture of Newfoundland.

Today, one of the only surviving Newfoundland examples is the Coster Street lych-gate in Bonavista. The original lych-gate was constructed circa 1899 and was financed by the Church of England Women's Association of Bonavista. Over the years, the Bonavista lych-gate fell into disrepair, and was partially dismantled, though it was eventually restored by a local committee headed by Bill Abbott. The replication of the structure was designed Cal Ryder, who based his blueprint solely on a picture of the original lych-gate, taken in 1935 by Abbott's father, a local priest (Simms).

In St. John's, the Forest Road Anglican Cemetery's lych gate was torn down at some point in the second half of the 20th century. It is shown clearly on early insurance atlases as one story wooden structure with a shingle roof, open at each end. It appears, partially obscured by trees, on aerial photographs from 1961, and seems to have been a mid- to sharp-peak gable structure. At some point in the 1970s or 80s it was demolished.

If you have a photograph of the Forest Road lych gate, or if you have information about the woman in the Bonavista lych gate photo, please contact Dale Jarvis at 739-1892 ext 2 or email ich@heritagefoundation.ca.

Works Cited

Dyer, T.F. Thiselton . Church Lore Gleanings. London: A.D. Innes and Co., 1892.

Fleming, John, Hugh Honour, and Nikolaus Pevsner. The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture. Fourth Edition. London: Penguin, 1991.

Simms, Gavin. "Gateway to yesterday: Anglican Chapel recreates long lost entranceway." The Packet, November 20, 2008.



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The Trust's newsletter, *The Trident*, is published quarterly. Submissions and advertising inquiries are welcome and can be forwarded to: coordinator@historictrust.ca

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2013 Membership Form - Membership counts!

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

New membership benefits! As a member you are provided opportunities for:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
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