

the trident

A publication of the Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust



50th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Celebrating Five Decades of Preserving Places that Matter

Message from the President

November 7, 2016

As we begin to close the books on 2016, it is appropriate to note that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust. Founded in 1966 as a reaction to the development pressures of the time, the Trust has not only withstood many changes over the past five decades but has grown and prospered. In spite of limited resources, the Trust remains the strongest advocate for the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's built heritage. In every year there are wins and losses, but without our efforts the voice of the past and its message to the future would be muted at best.

The dedicated group of volunteers who make up our executive, our Board of Directors, and our membership deserve to be recognized for their hard work throughout the year. To all of them I say thank you.

In the past year we have seen the continued trend of developers trying to maximize profit through the destruction or neglect of locally and provincially significant residential buildings. Fresh from the tragic loss of Quinnipiac in 2015, and watching the heart wrenching demolition by neglect of Richmond Cottage, many in the

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Message from the President

heritage community and beyond had simply had enough when faced with the potential loss of Bryn Mawr (Baird's Cottage) on New Cove Road in St. John's. Letters were written, City Council was engaged, the media was flooded with opinion, and a spirited rally was held in front of the house to protest its demolition. We hoped the result would be different this time, and it was. For the first time in recent memory, the City of St. John's agreed with the heritage community and designated the house a Municipal Heritage Building, declaring that its significance to the City, its history, and its citizens was more important than allowing it to be demolished to clear the land for future development.

For a moment the heritage community was overjoyed. But the fight to save Bryn Mawr continues. At the time of this writing, the developer and City are now embroiled in a lawsuit intended to punish the City for taking steps to preserve its past, and the house sits abandoned, stripped of interior elements, likely unheated, and heading into winter. Sadly, it seems the neglect of Richmond Cottage is to be repeated with Bryn Mawr. The difference, however, is that this year we were heard and we made a difference. A new precedent has been set. The strong voices that make up the Historic Trust spoke loudly and clearly and the outcome was not the same as in years past. This is something for which we should be proud.

So as we begin our next half-century, let us be grateful for the hard work of everyone who, over the past fifty years, has helped us become the strong voice we are; the difference we have all made in creating stronger, more beautiful, and more liveable communities; and the outstanding commitment to built heritage recognized in this year's 50th Anniversary Southcott Award winners. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to everyone.

Peter Jackson, President
Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust



Thank you to our Sponsors



ST. JOHN'S



Doors Open Days 2016

This year marked the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust's fourteenth annual Doors Open Days, which took place during the weekend of September 10 and 11 at participating sites in and around St. John's.

Doors Open is a unique opportunity for local citizens and visitors to celebrate Newfoundland and Labrador's architecture and heritage through the exploration of some of our hidden historical, architectural, and cultural gems. Buildings that are normally closed to the public or which charge an entrance fee welcome visitors to look around free of charge. This year saw 12,000 visitors to 34 participating sites. The popularity of Doors Open Days continues to build, with sites welcoming both new and repeat visitors each year. The success of the event was due in large part to the efforts of Historic Trust board members Kim Cooper and Jillian Hood, student coordinator Michael Knox, and the volunteers who staff each site.

This year's event featured a number of first-time participants or sites returning to the event after a number of years. These included the Riverhead Wastewater Treatment Facility, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (The Kirk), and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum, housed in the Surgeon Lieutenant Commander W. Anthony Paddon Building.

Visitor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with the most common request being that the Historic Trust continue to expand the event and add more buildings and sites that are not normally open to the public. Plans are already underway for Doors Open Days 2017, and Trust members are encouraged to get involved by volunteering or suggesting potential sites for inclusion.

The Historic Trust would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our event sponsors – the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canadian Heritage, the City of St. John's, The Telegram, FastSigns, and Image4 – and the participating sites. Their generous support makes Doors Open Days possible!



Doors Open Days visitors at Quidi Vidi Village Plantation.



Open doors welcoming visitors to the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.



(Left)
Members of the Crow's Nest Officers' Club on hand to answer visitor questions and explain the Club's collection of significant military artifacts.

Photo credit: Kim Cooper



Looking Back on *The Trident*

The first issue of *The Trident* appeared in January 1969, and was a call to arms. After the Historic Trust's founding in 1966, members worked tirelessly to save Quidi Vidi's Christ Church, then deteriorated and threatened with demolition. The small group persevered, but recognized that saving additional sites would require a cadre of committed members and supporters.

The words of former Trust President C.F. Horwood endure: "We will continue to strive towards a goal that is not impossible to achieve nor that far in the future – the awareness on the part of all Newfoundlanders and their communities of a history to be told for generations to come."

Past issues of *The Trident* have been digitized and are available at www.historictrust.ca/trident.aspx and Memorial University's Digital Archives.

12th Annual Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Trust presents a scholarship in memory of former General Manager Leida Finlayson, who passed away in 2003 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 2016 scholarship was awarded to Katrina Stavila of Mount Pearl.

Southcott AWARD CEREMONY and reception

Thank you to our Sponsors and Supporters



Newfoundland and Labrador
Association of Architects

32nd Annual Southcott Awards

The Historic Trust recognized the recipients of the 32nd Annual Southcott Awards on Thursday, November 17 during a ceremony at 55 Rennie's Mill Road in St. John's.

The Trust established the Southcott Award program in 1984 to recognize excellence in the preservation and adaptive reuse of the architectural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. The goal of the program is to recognize and commend those who have demonstrated excellence in building design, restoration, and preservation. Nominations are considered in five categories: Heritage Restoration, Heritage Tradesperson, Design in Context, Heritage Stewardship, and Lifetime Achievement.



55 Rennie's Mill Road.

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

*Photo credit: MUN Archives
and Special Collections*

The Heritage Tradesperson award celebrates the skill and contribution of an individual in the craft or trade professions in heritage conservation. The individual must work using specialist and traditional methods and exhibit a high standard of craftsmanship.

The Design in Context award recognizes that building design has the power to encourage economic development and improve the quality of life for residents in a particular area. Such design may address issues of sustainability or encourage community renewal. The award seeks to recognize individuals or organizations that have completed an architectural design project sensitive to the heritage character of the surrounding environment. New, infill, and renovations will be considered for how sympathetic the addition or renovation is to the historic context of the neighbouring area with regard to style, scale, form, and building materials.

The Heritage Stewardship and Lifetime Achievement categories were introduced this year in celebration of the Historic Trust's 50th anniversary. 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.

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.

In addition to our generous sponsors, the Trust would like to extend our sincere thanks to the owners of 55 Rennie's Mill Road for graciously hosting the Southcott Awards: Bruce Blackwood, Brian Casey, Aiden Greene, and Geoff Marshall. Construction of 55 Rennie's Mill Road began in 1898 by Lord Edward Patrick Morris, 12th Prime Minister of Newfoundland, and was completed in 1900. The mansion has served as a family home, a residence for girls from outports who were attending Bishop Spencer School, and a hostel for girls. On May 30, 2016, the City of St. John's designated it a Municipal Heritage Building.

The Trust would also like to thank the 2016 Southcott Award Committee: Jessica Dellow, Chair; Bonnie Andrews; Nancy Brace; Kim Cooper; Grant Genova; Jillian Hood; Peter Jackson; Kirsten Morry; and Emily Wolf. Trust members are encouraged to get involved with the Southcott Committee. If you are interested in assisting with reviewing nominations, fundraising, or event planning, please email southcottawards@gmail.com.

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Western Union Operator's House

Heart's Content | Craig Oates and Bruce Brookings | *Heritage Restoration*



The Western Union Operator's House, located at 187 Main Road in Heart's Content, was built circa 1921 and was home to Edgar (Ed) Hopkins, an operator at the Heart's Content cable station. The house was one of eight underwritten at the time by Western Union, the successor to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, to house its employees. It was designed by noted Carbonear architecture firm Saunders and Howell and incorporates Late Victorian style architectural elements.

Craig Oates and Bruce Brookings purchased the property in 2010, becoming its third owners. Because of its prime oceanfront location, the house, then in deteriorated condition, was in danger of demolition. Mr. Oates and Mr. Brookings painstakingly restored and furnished the home, taking care to preserve historic features whenever possible. All of the house's original windows were restored, as were original interior elements and details.

The Western Union Operator's House contributes to the Heart's Content Registered Heritage District and was designated a Registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015 for its historic and aesthetic value.

28 Monkstown Road

St. John's | Ian Neath and Aimee Surprenant | *Heritage Restoration*



28 Monkstown Road, built circa 1883, is one of six houses designed by John Thomas Southcott on the site of the former Warne estate in St. John's. It was home to John Southcott of the firm J. and J. T. Southcott, architects and builders.

The house is notable for its associations with Mary Meager Southcott (1862-1943). She was a founder of the Graduate Nurses Association, vice-president of the Newfoundland Midwifery Board, president of the Child Welfare Association, and was active in Newfoundland Outport Nursing and Industrial Association (NONIA), the Girl Guides, the women's suffrage movement, and the League of Women Voters.

After resigning as Superintendent of Nursing at the General Hospital in St. John's, she operated a 10-bed private hospital at 28 Monkstown Road.

Ian Neath and Aimee Surprenant purchased the house in 2014 and undertook extensive restoration work, assisted by architect Chris Woodford of Woodford Sheppard Architecture and general contractor Garnet Kindervater. At the interior, mouldings, plasterwork, stairs, hardwood floors, doors, and light fixtures were restored. At the exterior, double hung windows were replaced with wood frame windows matching the originals in style and scale. The slate roof, clapboards, and front entrance were restored, and the house was returned to its original yellow colour.

The Lodge (60 Circular Road)

St. John's | Thomas Crosbie and Jill Slater | *Heritage Restoration*

The Lodge, a small, Gothic Revival style house, sits at the eastern edge of the Sunnyside estate at 60 Circular Road in St. John's. Built in 1890, the house originally served as a residence for the Murray family's carriage driver. After a series of tenants, the house eventually fell into disuse in 2005, during which it suffered from occasional vandalism.

Current owners Thomas Crosbie and Jill Slater, together with Tom's mother Suzanne Brake, her partner Bob O'Brien, and Tom's father David Crosbie, have undertaken a complete restoration of the Lodge. Replacement windows were constructed by Mike Paterson of Paterson Woodworking, recipient of a Southcott Award in the Heritage Tradesperson category in 2015. Richard Parsons of RJ Custom Contracting meticulously duplicated the Lodge's distinctive beveled siding, originally meant to mimic stone. The interior required extensive modern renovations but incorporates older elements in deference to the house's historic character.



Also known as the Sunnyside Gatehouse, the Lodge was designated a Municipal Heritage Building by the City of St. John's in 2006 in recognition of its historic and aesthetic value. Sunnyside has been owned by descendants of James Murray, the operator one of Newfoundland's largest fishery supply firms, since 1872; Tom Crosbie is Murray's great-great grandson.

Fishers' Loft

Port Rexton | John and Peggy Fisher | *Design in Context*

Fishers' Loft, located in Port Rexton, is tucked away on a quiet back lane, overlooking the harbour of Ship Cove. The Inn is comprised of a collection of buildings, scattered organically over a hillside, that reflect the historic vernacular architecture of Trinity Bay between 1865 and 1920, including saltbox and Second Empire style forms. The region's traditional aesthetic and architectural sensibilities are blended with a modern sense of clarity and minimalism, creating a compelling connection between the past and the present.



The buildings that comprise Fishers' Loft were constructed between 1997 and 2011 and were designed by Frank Lapointe, a multi-talented, multi-media artist and designer born in Port Rexton. Lapointe is best known for his celebrated *Newfoundland Postcard Series* and design for the Tors Cove House.

Owners John and Peggy Fisher, who moved to Port Rexton in 1990, partner with artists and artisans from across Newfoundland. The Inn incorporates locally made wood windows and furniture handcrafted by Mike Paterson, the recipient of a 2015 Southcott Award in the Heritage Tradesperson category.

Southcott Awards

Ballyhack Treehouse

Middle Arm, Avondale | David and Karen Hood | *Design in Context*



The main objective in the design of Ballyhack Treehouse, a seaside home in Middle Arm, Avondale owned by David and Karen Hood, was to conserve the natural character of the existing shoreline, in direct contrast to many construction projects that begin by clear-cutting trees to provide unobstructed ocean views. The house was built with a minimal footprint and care was taken to only clear trees within five feet of the foundation to allow for the erection of scaffolding; taller trees were tied back during construction and now surround the house.

Acclaimed architect, educator, and author Robert Mellin, winner of multiple Southcott Awards in the Restoration and Design in Context categories, designed Ballyhack Treehouse as a small tower dwelling set atop a hill, with views through the trees on the first and second levels and views over the trees in the main gathering space on level three. The house is comprised of two main parts united by an overhead bridge inspired by an enclosed bridge that once connected two twine stores in Joe Batt's Arm, Fogo Island.

Completed in 2015, the house's understated, plain modernism recalls the 1950s residential projects of Newfoundland architect Frederick Colbourne. The design attempts to create a sculptural form with small volumes; these relate to the small volumes and small scale of houses and outbuildings that characterize Newfoundland's historic cultural landscapes.

Rosedale Manor B & B Inn

Placentia | Linda Grimm | *Heritage Stewardship*



Linda Grimm has been an excellent steward of Placentia's Verran House, home to the Rosedale Manor B & B Inn, for over a decade.

Built in 1893 in the Second Empire style by Henry Verran, a telegraph operator, and his wife Mary, the house remained in the Verran family until 1972 and had a series of owners before being sold to the town of Placentia. It was bought and fully restored in 1989, at which time it opened its doors as a bed and breakfast. Although she did not complete the original restoration, Ms. Grimm has

maintained the house to a high standard since taking ownership, using historically appropriate replacement materials and repair methods at both exterior and interior that preserve the house's original appearance and character.

The house is one of a handful of well-preserved historic buildings along Orcan Drive that form a visual reminder of Placentia's heritage and reinforce the town's long and unique history for residents and visitors alike.

32 Queen's Road

St. John's | Morris Reid | *Heritage Stewardship*

32 Queen's Road is owned by Morris Reid, who purchased the home in a condemned state in 2008. Estimated to have been built between 1854 and 1875, the Queen Anne Revival style house is unique for its use of brick and stone, materials not often seen in St. John's residential buildings of the period. It is a rare surviving example of mid-nineteenth century masonry construction that predates the Great Fire of 1892. The house was not unscathed, however; while the exterior walls survived, the interior had to be rebuilt. A single original window remains in the house's basement, a tangible reminder of the damage wrought by the fire.

Today, the house retains most of its original architectural features, a testament to its excellent construction. Mr. Reid has fully restored the property's interior and exterior over the past eight years and now leases the house as two executive suites.



The house was designated a Registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1992 and a St. John's Municipal Heritage Building in 2004.

Shannie Duff

Inaugural Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award

Shannie Duff has worked tirelessly for more than four decades to help preserve and promote the unique heritage and character of St. John's, while also advocating for growth through good planning and appropriate development.

Known for her lifelong commitment to volunteer work, Ms. Duff has been a strong voice for affordable housing, heritage conservation, the arts, urban planning, and health care. She is also an advocate for citizen engagement, accountability, and transparency in municipal government and the important role of municipalities in fostering livable, people-friendly urban environments.



She entered municipal politics in 1977 and served as the 12th Mayor of St. John's (1990-1993), Acting Mayor (2008), Deputy Mayor (2009-2013), and Councillor At Large (1997-2009) before retiring from politics in 2013. She is a former Member of the House of Assembly, representing St. John's East from 1989 to 1990.

She is a founding member of a number of organizations, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, the Quidi Vidi/Rennie's River Development Foundation, and Cabot Habitat for Humanity. She has been recognized for her contributions with numerous awards, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, the Heritage Canada Foundation National Award of Honour, the Gabrielle Leger Medal for outstanding contributions to Heritage Conservation, the Habitat for Humanity National Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. She was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2003 and appointed to the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015.

Southcott Awards

Shane O'Dea

Inaugural Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award

Shane O'Dea, Professor of English and Public Orator at Memorial University, has long been involved with the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's built heritage.

Having distinguished himself as a teacher, scholar, and preservationist, Mr. O'Dea has gained provincial and national renown for his service to the heritage community. His knowledge of the architectural and material culture of the province, his commitment to its preservation, and his ability to communicate this knowledge and passion has been instrumental in safeguarding the architectural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador for generations to come.



Mr. O'Dea has played a significant role in the majority of preservation efforts and activities that have taken place in the province over the past 40 years. He has chaired the boards of Heritage Canada, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, and the Newfoundland Historical Society.

He is the co-author of two books on Newfoundland buildings and has published a number of articles and reviews in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects*, *Canadian Review of American Studies*, and *Newfoundland Studies*.

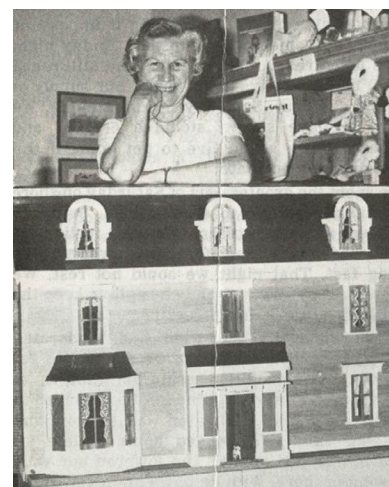
In 1988 he was named Memorial University's first Distinguished Teacher and Canadian Professor of the Year. He was made a 3M Teaching Fellow in 2002 and in 2005 was appointed to the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Remembering Artist Jean Ball

Jean Ball, well known to many through her drawings of some of the province's most cherished landmarks, would have celebrated her 100th birthday on August 3. She passed away in 2001.

Ms. Ball was long associated with the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, completing the line drawings of historic buildings that grace the pages of two books published by the Trust: *A Gift of Heritage: Historic Architecture of St. John's* and *Ten Historic Towns: Heritage Architecture in Newfoundland*.

Her keen eye for architectural detail set her work apart. In an interview with Anne Hart published in *The Trident* in 1980, she confessed, "I sometimes think I am really a thwarted architect." Her passion for built heritage was also evident in the meticulously crafted dollhouses she created, replicating Mallard Cottage and a Southcott style St. John's house. As she told Hart, "I always think it is the old houses which sweeten our landscape." For more on her life and work, visit the Centre for Newfoundland Studies' blog at bit.ly/2fGkde3.



Jean Ball and her Southcott style dollhouse.

Photo credit: Centre for Newfoundland Studies

**Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust
2016 Membership Form**

In celebration of our **50th anniversary** we are excited to announce a new partnership with the **National Trust for Canada**. We have purchased a group membership with this esteemed organization and can now offer all the benefits of membership with the National Trust for Canada at **no cost to you**. This includes their nationally acclaimed magazine **Heritage**, free admission or discounts at historic sites in Canada and England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Jersey, Australia and the US, 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!

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.

You may visit our website to complete your application and payment online. Just go to www.historictrust.ca and fill out the convenient online form. Then select the Canada Helps icon to make your payment online. It will say "donate now". Select this and input your details and preferred method of payment.

Memberships and donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued annually. Online memberships will be issued tax receipts upon payment through Canadahelps.org.

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NEW! Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust has partnered with National Trust for Canada (HT). At no additional cost, you may join HT by checking below.

☐ Yes, I want to join HT

From time to time, the National Trust for Canada may send its members special email news updates, and on occasion members may be sent special offers from other heritage organizations. Please check this box if you wish to be excluded from such correspondence:

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www.nationaltrustcanada.ca

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the trident

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Seeking a Buyer for Richmond Cottage

Efforts are underway to find a buyer for Richmond Cottage, one of the oldest extant residential buildings in St. John's and a prominent example of early Classical Vernacular architecture. The house was built circa 1848 by Scottish architect-builder Gilbert Browning for the Honorable Kenneth McLea, a St. John's merchant and politician. Browning ultimately became a prominent businessman in his own right and purchased the house for his family in the 1870s. The Cottage was designated a St. John's Municipal Heritage Building in 2003.



Richmond Cottage is located at 4-6 McLea Place in the West End Valley of Downtown St. John's. Subject to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of St. John's, a support committee of knowledgeable staff and experts has been set up to help the house's owner access restoration grants, waive permit fees, and make use of flexible code allowances to ensure that the restoration project is a success.

If the house is not sold by May 1, 2017, and there are no pending purchase agreements in place, City Council may approve its demolition, per the terms of the MOU. See the full listing at bit.ly/2fwl8xP.

Become a Member!

The Historic Trust has been a membership-driven organization for 50 years. Your support is critical to our success! To join online, visit www.historictrust.ca and fill out the convenient online form. Select the Canada Helps icon to make your payment (use the "donate now" option). You will receive your charitable tax receipt immediately. To renew by mail, fill out the membership form on the previous page.



The Newfoundland & Labrador 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.

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Peter Jackson, *President*; Cory Thorne, *Vice President*; Jessica Dellow, *Treasurer*; Emily Wolf, *Secretary*; Nancy Brace; Kim Cooper; Grant Genova; Jillian Hood; Tera McDonald; Kirsten Morry; and Scott Osmond.