

PRESENT
PAST  FUTURE

the trident



The Newsletter of the *Newfoundland Historic Trust*

April 2001

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**Public Participation in
Planning and Development:
Building Better Neighbourhoods for All**

The Friends of Victoria Park are stepping out into the world of facilitating urban issues discussion -- on April 7th (Sat) they are hosting a day-long workshop (9:30 - 4:00). The event is free (they even provide lunch) but registration will likely be limited to a delegation from each interested group (4-5 people per group).

The workshop will be held at the Knights of Columbus Building , 49 St. Clare Ave (use the Rickets Road parking lot and rear door entrance)

To date interested groups are: Friends of Victoria Park, Downtown West NA, Georgestown NA, City Center NA, Eastbourne Crescent crowd, FLOW ACAP, Signal Hill NA, and many more (including numerous individuals -- they are saving some spaces for people not attached to groups)

The basic premise of the workshop is:

- many groups are frustrated with the way they are treated by City Hall especially with regards to public participation in planning and development
- the City should be trying to build citizen engagement not stymie it
- the workshop will hopefully be the first of many

- it will be a networking session, plus a chance to discuss possible strategies re: how best to change the way City Hall works with citizens
- it will discuss ideas of building a neighbourhood group or "citizens coalition"
- it will also discuss how best to influence candidates in the upcoming election (a neighbourhood platform for all candidates to sign-on to etc)
- we will also attempt to remind ourselves of "planning and public participation-related St. John's history", by having some people there who can tell us about the 1970s planning and development struggles.

For more info contact:

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*Building consensus in St. John's.
Undated photo courtesy Friends of Victoria Park*

Wells, springs and spouts – A request for information

by Philip Hiscock

In some communities, the oldest extant built heritage is the wells. Sometimes difficult for the passer-by to see when in use, wells can be invisible in disuse.

When liveyers settled in an area, wells were among the first structures built or improved from their natural state. The choice of where to have a well was usually determined by landscape features that have changed little over time: the location of a spring, the waters of a hilly stream, and the like. Generations later, homes burned or fell down, but their wells often remained intact. Well-houses, the above-ground, usually wooden coverings might disappear or change. But if it produces good water, a well can change little over hundreds of years.



Jim's Spout, Point Lance, St. Mary's Bay, circa 1998-99. Photo by Philip Hiscock.

Several types of wells have traditionally been used in Newfoundland. Ground-water wells were commonly dug into the ground and lined with rocks or, more rarely, brick. "Spring well" has a flexible meaning, but often meant an enlarged pool around a natural upwelling of water. The enlargement sometimes included a low rock wall as a retaining wall partway around the spring. "Barrel well" refers to a headless barrel sunk into wet ground, often near the edge of a pond or bog, to allow soil-filtered water to seep in and to make it possible to dip water out. "Spout" usually means a flow of water diverted through a pipe so that containers can be put under the outlet to be filled. A "chute" – an overfall in a brook – can also be a source of water, where a container can easily catch falling water.

Deep, drilled wells became common in the mid-twentieth century, as did common "town water" sources from ponds. These high-flow sources relegated older wells to either a special status, used for certain purposes (for instance, drinking, while town water was used for bathing and flushing toilets), or dangerous disuse. For the latter reason, they were often filled in. In at least two cases (in St John's and Ferryland), disused wells were filled in after the accidental deaths of children.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Newfoundland Government hired men to dig community wells, or to expand existing ones. These community wells were sometimes the objects of local contention regarding their placement, use, ownership and who would get the labour contract for their construction. Stories are still told about those events.

I am interested in these local historical traditions. I have been informally collecting reports of older wells and would appreciate readers of **The Trident** passing along to me descriptions (of any sort) of disused and still-used wells, springs, chutes, or spouts.

Readers can write me at Philip Hiscock, Folklore Department, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X8. My fax number is 709-737-4718. My email address is philip@mun.ca.

Awards of Excellence Presented

The winners of the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador's Manning Awards were presented with certificates recognizing Excellence in the Public Presentation of Historic Places in a ceremony at the Fairmont Newfoundland on Thursday, March 22, 2001. Their Honours, Dr. and Mrs. A.M. House, Mrs. Joyce Manning, and Mr. Paul McDonald each presented an award to a group for the excellent work undertaken to display the history and heritage of their communities. Committees and groups from across the province were represented. The Manning Awards were established in 1993 by the Historic Sites Association to honour the memory of Bill Manning, former Area Superintendent for National Historic Sites.

"Our annual Manning Awards Ceremony is one of the year's highlights for the Association," said Dr. Jim Wyse, Chair of the HSA. "There is a tremendous growth of interest in our history, and much of the enthusiasm can be attributed to the fine work of these groups and individuals. Each of their projects uses a imaginative ways to present history so that others are able to appreciate it."

This year awards were presented for the "Present Miss" Exhibition on outport schooling on display at the Cupid's Museum, and the Models of Newfoundland and Labrador Buildings exhibition which was organised and presented by Mr. George Courage as an extension of the work of the Historic Trust. The Johnson Family Foundation, Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the NLTA each received a certificate of appreciation of the mammoth task in developing the History Board project, which gathered the history of 75 communities and presented it as billboards in prominent location in each town.

His Honour made the final presentation of the ceremony to Col. John Allston, for his leadership in heritage presentation. Col. Allston was one of the initiators of the Signal Hill Tattoo, as a one year Centennial project, in 1967, and worked for many years to keep it going. He started the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum, and spent 16 years on the board of the Historic Sites Association, in many capacities, including overseeing the Hawthorne Cottage project. "Jack Allston suggested the Historic Sites Association develop the Manning Award as a way to recognize the work done across our province. He has worked very quietly on so many projects of lasting value to our province. We thought it fitting to recognize his work by presenting him with a Manning Award." said Alison Earle, Chair of the Manning Award Committee.



Two of the models shown during the Models of Newfoundland and Labrador Buildings Exhibition. The model to the left is a pottery version of Devon House, St. John's made by Dale Delainey in 1997. It is owned by the Newfoundland and Labrador Crafts Development Association and is generally displayed on the second floor of Devon House. The one to the right is of the SUF Hall, Dildo, built by Fred Smith of Dildo in 1990 while they were tearing the building down to be replaced by a new lodge. The old SUF Lodge was originally built as an Anglican School in 1890.

COMING EVENTS:

Training for Living History Interpreters

Bring your questions about training interpreters and establishing living history activities for your site!

St. John's, April 28, 2001, 9:00-4:00 pm

Instructor: Ruth Evans, Living History Coordinator, MANL

Fees: \$40 for MANL/CMAPEI/FNSH/AMNB/ANLA members, \$55 for non-members

Museum Shops and Product Development: Developing Site Specific Products for your Organization

The purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with the basic skills and tools necessary for developing products for their respective museums and sites. St. John's, May 11; L'Anse-au-Loup, May 24; St. Anthony, May 26; Deer Lake, May 28; Grand Falls-Windsor, May 29

For more information on either workshop, please contact

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***The Trident*, The Newfoundland Historic Trust, PO Box 2403, St. John's, NF A1C 6E7**

Membership Form

Fees are \$20 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: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Postal Code: _____

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