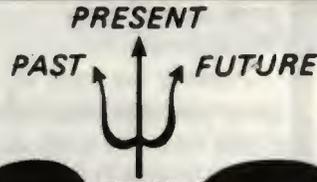


the

trident



CENTRE FOR NEPL. STUDIES

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The Revised Heritage By-Law

After long months of public controversy over development controls in the commercial downtown core, the Municipal Council, in late Spring established a committee to review the Heritage By-Law and the development of the downtown as proposed by the new Downtown Zoning Plan.

The original Heritage By-Law, introduced by former councillor, Miller Ayre, was passed by council in June 1977. The intent was to place under special protection a section of the old city, identified by the St. John's Heritage Area Study as typifying the best mix of architectural styles as well as the atmosphere and sense of history of the old harbour town of St. John's.

The Heritage By-Law, adapted for St. John's from the best of existing legislation in American and Canadian cities, in essence gave the Council the authority to control the "size, bulk, height, design and external appearance" of new buildings in the Conservation Area and ensure their "compatibility and suitability" with existing heritage structures. It also gave Council the authority to deny a demolition permit for buildings of historic and architectural merit and to protect architecturally valuable facades and street-scapes from inappropriate alteration.

The intent of the by-law was also to ensure stability for the area and to protect the considerable public and private in-

vestment which has flowed into the downtown as a result of its designation as a heritage conservation area.

In the absence of any great development pressures on any revitalization alternatives for the area the heritage approach to revitalization engendered very little public opposition and considerable public support. However, the seeds of problems to come were already there.

In 1977, the city had been for some time without a planning department so that no detailed follow up work was done to specify and quantify such vague terms as "compatible", "suitable", and "archtectural features" in the form of a detailed heritage development plan.

Neither was the intent of the by-law with regard to bulk, height, and density backed up by changes in the existing zoning by-law. St. John's remained unique among cities in Canada in that its zoning by-law was entirely without bulk and density controls.

The existing heritage and zoning by-laws inevitably became a political football in a pitched battle between conservation and uncontrolled development in the downtown. As so often happens, more heat than light was thrown by the debate, and the issues of development control, neighbourhood planning and heritage conservation became hopelessly confused. The "heritage crowd" as all who



MAP I
Heritage Precincts
Scale 1" = 500'

PRESENT
PAST FUTURE

The trident

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Editor: Ruth Saturley

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spoke out against uncontrolled development were labelled, were called "progress stompers" and accused of trying to "save every old house in the downtown." Conservation came smack up against the sad but very persistent feeling of many St. John's people that there is nothing here worth conserving. Daily News editorial writer Wick Collins, a long standing opponent of conservation, condemned the entire old city as "post-fire junk".

In spite of the fact that the high flown rhetoric on both sides had its humorous moments and that eventually the results of uncontrolled development would become painfully clear to all, we were heading for a no win situation for all concerned.

The committee to review the heritage by-law and proposed downtown zoning plan were charged with bringing order out of this chaos and in bringing recommendations to council which would take into account all concerns of this issue. Chaired by Deputy Mayor Ray O'Neill, the committee included Councillor Jim Fagen and members of the city's planning department. Also represented were: The Board of Trade, Downtown Development Corporation, St. John's Heritage Foundation, Heritage Advisory Committee and the St. John's East Neighbourhood Improvement Committee. After a careful review of the existing by-law and proposed zoning plan and of all public submissions on this

issue, the report of the committee was adopted by council with one amendment on Wednesday, September 4, 1980.

In summary the report leaves the existing conservation area intact, but divides it into three distinct classifications of precincts which will be treated differently in terms of controls. (See attached map).

In the A classification precincts, the emphasis is placed on conservation of existing structures. New building is limited to a height of four storeys.

The B precincts are the residential areas to the north of Water and Duckworth Streets. The emphasis is on adaptive use and renovation in keeping with the existing programme of heritage conservation and the maximum allowable height in three storeys.

The C precincts are those sections of Water Street and Duckworth Street within the conservation area and not designated under the A classification. In these areas, buildings up to ten storeys in height will be permitted provided that sufficient lot depth is available. The developer must justify the economic or technical necessity for demolition of the existing facade. New facades must conform with existing set back up to four storeys. Additional height must be set back under a light angle to permit sunlight and minimize wind tunneling in the street. The 45° light angle at four storeys was changed in a last minute amendment to a 60°

angle to permit the Ayre Place development.

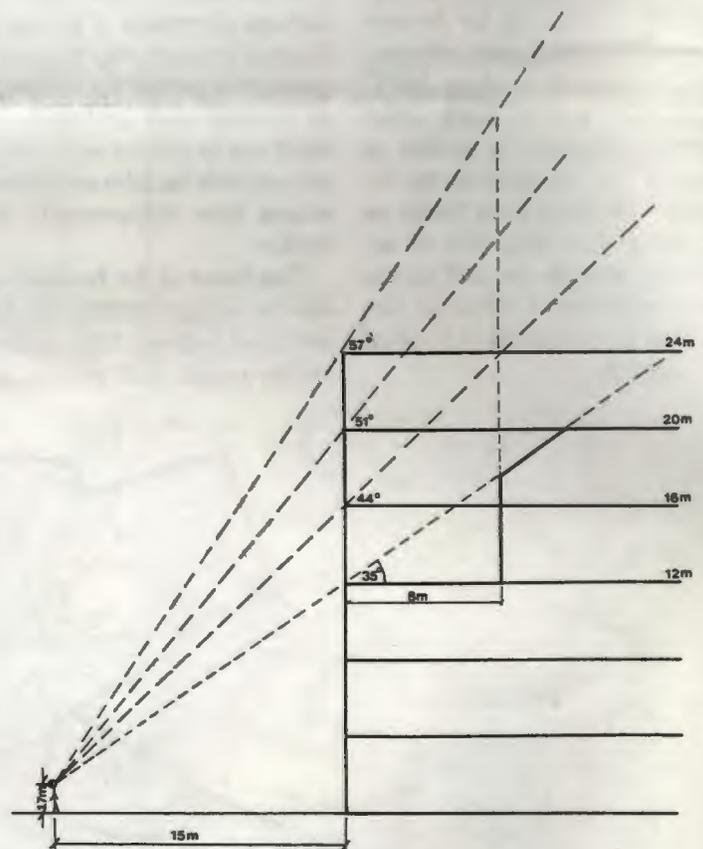
Possibly the most significant recommendation in terms of the implementation of development controls in the downtown is the transfer of control of use, bulk and height to the zoning by-law. This should add considerably to the strength and force of development controls in the downtown.

In brief, the maximum allowable height of ten storeys in the C precincts and in particular the amendment changing the recommended light angles from 45° to 60° represents a loss for conservation.

On balance this is more than offset by the increased force and

stability of the recommended controls under the zoning by-law and by the recommendation that council proceed to develop a detailed ten year development plan for the area before January 1981 and make provision to retain the services of a technical adviser (architect or landscape architect) to assist staff and the heritage advisory committee.

If the committee recommendations as approved by Council are diligently implemented, they will result in an enforceable policy which will allow for conservation and development in the best interests of a vital and attractive future for the heart of a most historic city.



PLAN A

Profile showing light angle at average height of pedestrian (1.7 m) across average width of Water Street (15 m) over height of 12 to 24 m facade on opposite side. Scale 1:200.

Heritage Foundation Up-date

The recent controversy over the Scotia Tower proposal, the changes to the St. John's Heritage By-Law and the Ayre's application for a new 12-storey building have overshadowed the very positive advances made in the field of heritage rehabilitation in St. John's during the past three years.

Since opening their office in July 1977 the St. John's Heritage Foundation has taken the lead in the rehabilitation of buildings in the conservation area through three different programs.

The first and best known program, not surprisingly called Program I, is the purchase and rehabilitation of dwellings for resale. During the past three years the Foundation has given new life to 14 houses and is working on a further 13, many of which are nearing completion. Using revolving capital works funds provided by Heritage Canada and the Devonian Group, Program I lost money in the beginning, but as the number of restored houses in the conservation area grows, there is increased willingness to invest in the restored properties offered for sale by the Foundation and completed units are snapped up as they come on the market.

The total amount committed to the St. John's Heritage Conservation Area by Heritage Canada and the Devonian Group for the rehabilitation program is \$850,000. However, these funds have now started on their second trip through the local economy via re-investment in more rehabilitated dwellings resulting in \$1,149,000 being pumped into the depressed construction industry of St. John's.

The public response to this program has been one of universal approval and has resulted in a marked increase in restora-

tion work undertaken by property owners in the older part of the city.

An estimate done in February 1980 placed private investment in house rehabilitation in the conservation area since July, 1977 at \$400,000, a figure which must have dramatically increased with this summer's flurry of activity.

In addition to the rehabilitation of domestic architecture, the Foundation has been involved in the restoration of the Murray Premises, 203 and 134 Water Street.

The restoration of the Murray Premises is a fine example of a cooperative conservation venture. Starting with the Newfoundland Historic Trust and a very sympathetic owner, an effort to raise funds and restore the buildings got underway in 1975. The Foundation became involved the following year and was joined a year later by Parks Canada who provided the funds for the purchase of the buildings by the Foundation. The property was then leased for development with the Province and the City making that phase of the project possible by leasing space and granting tax concessions.

To complement its own commercial restorations, the Foundation offers a free technical assistance program to owners of the commercial properties in the conservation area. Assistance given ranges from color schemes to facade restoration drawings and advice on cleaning masonry. Over 20 owners have availed themselves of this service since it was first advertised in 1979.

The third program perhaps holds the most promise of a quick improvement to the street-scapes of the Heritage Area. Known as Program II, plans call for the Foundation to restore facades of privately



197 Bond Street was the second house restored by the Heritage Foundation.



owned buildings in the conservation area at little or no cost to the owner. Working with a \$25,000 fund provided by the City of St. John's and a matching amount from its own resources, the Foundation hopes to give heritage face lifts to over 50 dwellings in the next couple of years. The first group of facades to be treated will be on

City Terrace and should be started this fall.

The Foundation does not confine itself just to the rehabilitation of buildings. During the past three years the individuals who make up the Foundation have been involved in many hours of committee work and briefing sessions at City Hall dealing with the revision of the Heritage By-Law, the revitalization of the downtown business area and the preservation and enhancement of the public laneways and other municipal responsibilities in the downtown such as railings, retaining walls and public steps.

The result of these efforts is there for all to see. The conservation area has come a long way from the depressed district it was three or four years ago. With the funds pumped in by N.I.P. and R.R.A.P. schemes, Heritage Canada and The Devonian Group and with the continuing support of the City of St. John's and the Province, the area is once more becoming a pleasant place to live.



174 Gower Street was restored in 1978.

David A. Webber

The Wilfred Thomason Grenfell Historical Society Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Wilfred Thomason Grenfell Historical Society was held in Grenfell House on Monday, March 24th, 1980; the meeting was attended by Dr. Rowe, President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust and a very satisfactory number of local members.

The Grenfell Historical Society was founded on April 13th, 1977 "to promote, foster and encourage interest in and preservation of buildings, sites and artifacts of historic, artistic or cultural nature within Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, relevant to the life and work of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, his co-workers, successors and peoples of the area."

The Society has made a considerable amount of progress within the last three years. It has been legally incorporated since July 1978 and it is now officially the owner of Grenfell House. It has thirty-one members locally and thirty-three in different parts of the world. Funds have now been made available through the Federal and Provincial governments and work on restoration is about to begin.

The meeting was commenced by the President, Dr. Fitzgerald, welcoming Dr. Rowe, after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. Following this, the election of officers for the forthcoming year took place. Both the President and Secretary resigned due to forthcoming Sabbaticals.

Officers elected:

President: Dr. J. H. Williams
Vice-President: Dr. P. Roberts
Treasurer: Mr. K. Tucker
Secretary: Dr. H. Onyett
Local Researcher: Mrs. F. Gray
Social Convenors:
Miss P. Dunk
Miss B. Organ

The meeting concluded by a very interesting and enlightening talk by Dr. Rowe. He commenced by thanking the Society for inviting him to their Annual General Meeting and for giving him an opportunity to speak. He also thanked the Society for the hospitality which had been shown to him. It was his desire that an article on the Historical Society should be submitted to the 'Trident' for the next issue and spoke of the relationship of the Grenfell Historical Society with the Newfoundland Historic Trust being an important one. The Newfoundland Historic Trust was in fact the first such voluntary organization in the Province. Relationship with other Historic Societies had to be one of intercommunication in the Province and it was important that a communication system be set up in order that each could assist the other. At present the 'Trident' was the only means of communication. Dr. Rowe stated that when visiting St. Andrews and Charlottetown, he discovered that they suffered the same kind of problems as did many of the Societies in Newfoundland — most suffered financial problems. The Grenfell Historical Society was 90% on the way to its proposed goal with its present funding. The number of people present at this meeting was fairly good, in fact he felt that there was a remarkable number of people present. Often other societies had difficulty electing officers, there had in fact been no such difficulty here this evening. Emphasis on one particular object for restoration he felt was an important basis at which to begin. The Newfoundland Historic Trust had been set up under the same conditions. He felt that the Historical Society had gone to work on similar aspects with a firm of

good consultants to carry the work out and were off to a good start. There was a clear focus and there was no doubt that the project would increase the cultural awareness in the community and would act as a good economic stimulus to the area combined with Lance-aux-Meadows and Port-aux-Choix. It was estimated in a recent survey that 30% of tourist dollars in Canada were spent on visiting such sites.

There were at present five organizations in the Province who were involved in Historic preservation and restoration. The Federation government — through Parks Canada; the Provincial government — through the Department of Historic Resources; Newfoundland Historic Trust; St.

John's Heritage Foundation and Heritage Canada. Dr. Rowe gave a short resume of each organization and concluded by showing an interesting selection of slides taken throughout the Province of various buildings before, during and after restoration.

Dr. Fitzgerald thanked Dr. Rowe for coming to visit the Society and stated that it had been very enlightening to hear of what had been going on in the rest of the Province.

The meeting was then adjourned and all went down to the kitchen for coffee.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy N. Cronhelm
Secretary



Tours Report

This year the Trust has given or is booked for a total of 36 tours — 35 city, 1 bay. The tours begin at Hotel Nfld. The City Tour visits old St. John's, Signal Hill, the Basilica and Quidi Vidi. The Bay Tour takes in the Marine Drive and points of interest in Conception Bay such as Brigus, Port de Grave, Harbour Grace. Most of these tours are done for commercial tour companies on their own buses.

Competition is growing from various tour companies throughout the city and this has resulted in fewer bookings. The private local companies have undercut our fees of \$50.00 City and \$100.00 Bay. This fee schedule has been used by the Trust for the past 4 years.

It was decided that volunteer guides were hard to depend on because of vacations, baby sitters and other commitments.

This year, as well as last year, we employed a guide. This year's guide is a university student, Anna O'Brien, who was trained for us by Gert Crosbie.

Anna has been hired on a 50-50 pay basis. Gert Crosbie has kindly volunteered again to do Bay Tours. If more than one guide is required for a City Tour, Parks Canada has agreed to loan us a guide. They have lived up to this agreement.

This year's tour season began in June and is to conclude in October.

David Mallam

Editor's Note

In our April issue of the Trident, there appeared an article entitled "Nfld. Banking Institutes and Paper Currency." Unfortunately, the author's name was inadvertently omitted. Our sincere apologies to the author, Mr. C. F. Rowe, for this omission.

Ed.

Lighthouse Life in the 1830s — Cape Spear

For several years, the old lighthouse at Cape Spear has been undergoing a major restoration program. An article in the *Trident* in 1976 told about some of the architectural discoveries made by the restoration architect during his study of the building. The most surprising aspect was the refinement of the exterior design with its use of false windows to achieve a symmetrical appearance.

The exterior of the lighthouse has been restored to its original form and the interior will be furnished to illustrate the way of life of the lightkeeper in the late 1830s. At this time, the keeper was Emanuel Warre who was appointed in 1834 and served until his death in 1846. Extensive research has been done to document daily life at the lighthouse during this period. No specific descriptions exist for these years, but the evidence suggests that the lightkeeper's activities were similar to those of lightkeepers in other parts of North America and in England and Scotland. In fact, the rules adopted for the management of lighthouses in Newfoundland and other British colonies were based on regulations in use in Britain.

In the 19th century, light-keeping was not so much a job as a way of life. The routine of lightkeeping dominated the domestic life of the keeper and his family. Lightkeeping was frequently almost a family occupation with the children, especially sons, helping their father from an early age and in time assuming his position. At Cape Spear, for example, members of the Cantwell family have tended the light since 1846 — when James Cantwell was appointed — to the present.

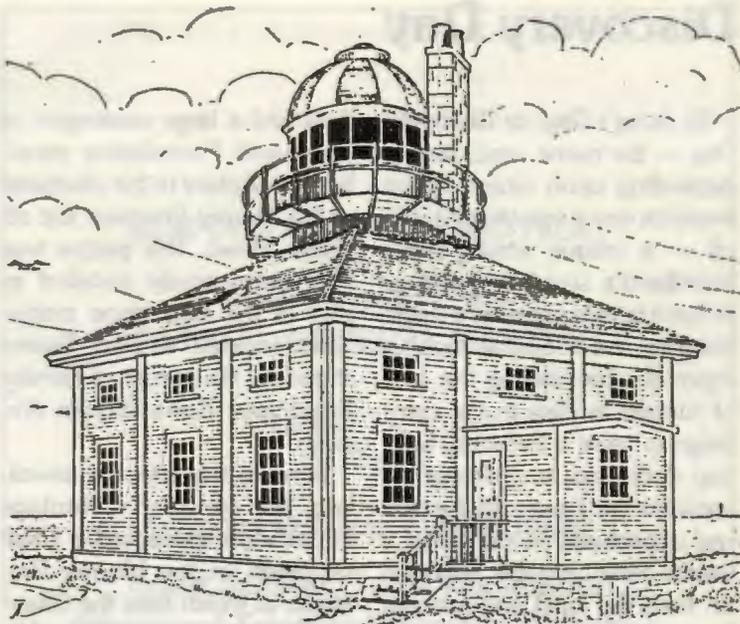
Most of the lightkeeper's activities centred around the accurate and reliable operation of the light. Evening duties con-

sisted of checking that the equipment was in working order and then lighting the lamps which burned Newfoundland seal oil. The keeper would remain in the tower for a few minutes to make sure that the light was giving its correct signal and that all parts of the apparatus were running smoothly. A regular watch had to be kept throughout the night by the keeper and his assistant because the clockwork mechanism which revolved the light had to be wound up every three hours. The lamps were also checked to make sure that their wicks were not smoking and that they had sufficient oil.

The light was extinguished at daybreak and according to British lighthouse procedure, the equipment was then cleaned and prepared for re-lighting that evening. This practice was probably followed at Newfoundland lighthouses. The lamps were cleaned and refilled and their wicks trimmed or replaced. The silver-lined reflectors were carefully polished as were the glass windows of the tower which might be smudged with smoke and soot. Even the outside of the windows were polished to remove any salt spray that could diminish the intensity of the light. The clockwork machinery was cleaned and wound up again and the entire room was dusted and swept.

During the day, the lightkeeper undertook any repairs or maintenance that was needed at the station. In addition, he was required to keep records of such details as supplies received, amount of oil consumed nightly, weather conditions, tides and time of sunrise and sunset.

In the 1830s and 40s, the lightkeeper at Cape Spear was paid about one hundred pounds sterling — an income substantially larger than that of



the average Newfoundlander of his time. Furthermore, unlike many Newfoundlanders, he was paid on a regular basis rather than being dependent on the fishery with its problems of bad weather, small catches and fluctuating prices. In addition to his annual salary, the keeper also received a fuel allowance and accommodation for himself and his family.

Until fairly recent times, most lighthouse families lived a very isolated existence with the sea providing the easiest means of communicating with the outside world. Because of this isolation, the family seems to have relied more on itself for amusement

and company. Yet as a government employee, the lightkeeper had links with St. John's through his correspondence with the lighthouse management board and the semi-annual visits from the lighthouse inspector. A valued member of a seagoing society, the 19th century Newfoundland lightkeeper appears to have occupied a position of importance and prestige.

Judith Tulloch
Project Historian
Cape Spear National
Historic Park

The Church in Quidi Vidi

There will be new life in the old Church in Quidi Vidi. Repairs will soon begin to make the building once again a source of pride to the community. The site will soon be the location of a retail business, named **HOMEWORKS**, specializing in decorative hardware.

It will be the first such store in St. John's. The entire inventory will consist of items to capitalize on the beauty of one's home. There will be brass hinges, door locks, knobs, rim locks, door

and cabinet pulls. There will also be brass, porcelain and pewter bathroom accessories and faucets and porcelain basins.

Homeworks will also carry a selection of used items, such as interior and exterior panel doors, door knobs, cast iron tubs, basins and whatever else that can be found, bought or bartered.

The new store is trying for a target opening date in mid-October. The opening will be advertised and browsers will be very welcome.

Catherine McManus

Discovery Day

St. John's Day, or Discovery Day — the name used, largely depending upon where in the province one is enjoying the day off — is unique among Newfoundland's statutory holidays in that it commemorates a single historical event, and as such — especially considering the lack of success to date in the campaign to have a February holiday dedicated to Heritage — provides the Trust with the best real opportunity in the run of a year to focus on public attention on both the local and national concerns of the heritage movement.

The expansion of the Day's activities over the last few years has been due in no small measure to the Trust's encouragement; and most recently the efforts of all the involved organizations have been combined under the sponsorship of various service organizations — notably the Jaycees — and various municipal and provincial government agencies; but a sizeable proportion of this committee's representation still consists of the Trust, the St. John's Heritage Foundation and Parks Canada, who by scheduling their own special activities for this period in June, assure the definite heritage influence in this holiday.

On Friday, June 20th, after the mayor had officially declared St. John's Day and appointed the town crier in front of St. John's City Hall, the first scheduled event — sponsored by Parks Canada — was the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to Sir John Harvey, governor of Newfoundland from 1841 to 1846. The unveiling by Dr. George Story, President of the Newfoundland Historical Society, in the presence of Dr. Leslie Harris, Chairman of the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, Edna Hall, Parks Canada regional superinten-

dent and a large contingent of Trust and Foundation members, took place in the courtyard of the Murray Premises just off Water Street. This plaque was later permanently installed as part of the new stone monument located at Fort Townshend on the corner of Harvey Road and Bonaventure Avenue.

Immediately after the unveiling, the St. John's Heritage Foundation sponsored a small reception in the Murray Premises, at which time the Chairman of the Foundation, Mr. Paul Johnson and its General Manager, Mr. David Webber, presented plaques and shields to the winners of the 1980 St. John's Heritage Awards.

Since its formation in 1977 the Foundation has, through its own programs, promoted the recycling of both commercial and residential buildings and attempted to encourage the private sector to join in this presentation of the old core of the city.

During the course of the year, the Awards and Standards Committee of the Foundation looks for examples of such preservation activity in the form of private projects either completed, in progress or for some reason previously overlooked, and which they feel have been restored or maintained. Their intention is to give some small degree of public recognition to those responsible who have performed, what Paul Johnson called at the ceremony, "a priceless public service in preserving part of the fragile architectural heritage of this fine old city."

The Awards for 1980 for both residential and commercial projects from both the private and business sectors were as follows:

Richard Eddy and Patricia Loniew for the rehabilitation of

43 Queen's Road which is the centre house on B'Orchis Terrace. Note was made of the special interest shown in exterior detail.

Alan Hall for **26 Cochrane Street** because of the fine workmanship and careful retention of detail.

Dr. John Pickquance and Dr. Barbara Russell for both the rehabilitation of **116 Bond Street** and for their restoration and adaptive reuse of **290 Duckworth Street** into the fine restaurant of the same name.

Margo Myers, Sharon Puddester, Bonnie Leyton and Don Beaubier — co-owners of the Salt Box for the restoration and adaptive use of **194 Duckworth Street**.

Sir Christopher Barlow for the restoration and adaptive reuse as offices and apartments of the former "Y" building at **55 Military Road**.

James and Francis Steele for the maintenance and restoration of the fine building at **100 Water Street** which houses the long established firm of S.O. Steele Limited. At the presentation of this award, Mr. Johnson noted that "if all owners of commercial property took the care they (the Steeles) did in cladding the west side of their building we would have a fine commercial street."

Cheryl French of Tower Developers Limited for the first masonry cleaning of a privately owned business at **124 Water Street**.

Frank Ryan, Frank Foley and Beaton Sheppard who are partners in Atlantic Leasing Limited for their fine restoration and adaptive use of the **Murray Premises**.

The main body of the weekend's events were on Saturday, June 21st, and the Historic Trust took an active part at several locations spread throughout the downtown.

Again on the second day — and not surprisingly — the Mur-

ray Premises seemed to be the focus of the celebrations and the Trust represented itself amid the demonstrations of net mending, boat building and other traditional Newfoundland crafts with a fine photographic exhibition of the details of that 'lately neglected' traditional craft of house building. The interest shown by the public, in the detailed photographs of rehabilitation and restoration projects, as well as in the small display of the Trust's publications of **10 Historic Towns** and the newly available reprint of the **Gift of Heritage**, was especially gratifying after a winter and spring of so much discouragement on the preservation front.

Interest was also high — in spite of press reports of low attendance for all events downtown — for the two guided tours of public buildings which were sponsored by the Trust.

The first, at the Anglican Cathedral, was conducted through the courtesy of the Cathedral Guild — to whom we are most grateful for both the guides and the wealth of information so ably provided and which contributed greatly to the enjoyment of one of the finest architectural interiors not only locally or even nationally, but in all of North America.

The second tour was of the courthouse on Duckworth & Water Streets — the interior of which is seen less often than the general public than is the Cathedral — one assumes — or is at any rate less easily accessible — but is certainly no less fascinating and many people also availed of what is all too rare an opportunity to see the interior of this fine St. John's landmark.

But neither were the exteriors of our architectural heritage forgotten — the chance to explore them took the form of a treasure hunt, which although billed as a children's event, seemed to be pursued equally enthusiastically by adults. From the starting path

at City Hall, a route map lead the participants of a search for the locations of a variety of sketched details providing the opportunity to spend a little time seeing all those "treasures" it's so easy to miss under busier circumstances.

As well, for the second year, the Trust held a Flea Market at Gower Street United Church — an event mostly for fun, although admittedly in the hope

of raising a little ready cash. Both those objectives were accomplished as was, we feel, antic.

Through our participation in all the St. John's Day events, the much broadened objective of "raising" the profile of the Trust's concerns for St. John's architectural and cultural heritage.

David Kelland

Update on Trust Activities

On April 18-19, the Trust and the St. John's Heritage Foundation co-hosted the Spring Meeting of the Atlantic Regional Council of Heritage Canada. Thirteen representatives from other heritage societies in the Atlantic provinces met with representatives from the Trust and the Foundation to discuss issues of concern to the region and to find out what was happening in our city. David Webber gave some background to the current controversy surrounding the Heritage Area and led the discussion on the problems facing the conservation movement in St. John's. David also conducted a tour of several of the houses under renovations by the Foundation. Shannie Duff kindly hosted a potluck supper on the evening of the 19th, with assistance from several Trust members. Our thanks to those who contributed to this event, and to those members who volunteered their time to give private tours for some of our visitors.

St. John's Day (June 21st) saw members of the Trust involved in several projects under the chairmanship of David Kelland. Our Flea Market at Gower St. Church and the sale of publications at the Murray Premises added some much-needed cash to our coffers and attracted a large number of buyers. Our photographic display of scenes

of old St. John's was also exhibited at the Murray Premises, and we ran the children's Treasure Hunt from City Hall. The Hunt required participants to sport certain architectural details in buildings along a pre-arranged route through the old city. Again this year we were involved in providing guided tours of the Courthouse and the Anglican Cathedral, which turned out to be quite popular with the public.

The Gift Shops at the Museum and at Signal Hill have just completed a second successful summer, under the capable direction of chairperson Kay MacCallum and co-managers Bette Anderson and Caroline Stone. You may have seen our advertisement on CBC-TV for the Museum Shop during the summer. One indication of the success of the Gift Shops was the invitation several months ago from the personnel at the Nfld. Museum to the Trust to consider establishing another shop at the new Museum to be opened next year in the Murray Premises. The Trust executive has approved the expansion to this third location. We should have more information about this project in a later issue of the Trident.

Our Tour service has also been running again this summer. David and Edwina Mallam

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST

ADVANCE NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 14, 1980
8:00 p.m.

Colonial Building, Military Road

Guest Speaker: To Be Announced
~~Minister of Tourism, Recreation & Culture~~

Refreshments

have worked hard on the organizational end of things and we were fortunate to find a very able Tour Guide in the person of Anna O'Brien. We ran 29 tours during the three summer months, with several more scheduled for September. The assistance of Parks Canada in providing guides for some of the tours was very helpful and greatly appreciated.

As you know, the Trust has tried several uses for the church at Quidi Vidi since it was passed over to us in 1968, none of which have been particularly successful. We have now leased the building for a three-year term to Homeworks Ltd., a new retail business specializing in the sale of quality hardware items, both modern and antique. The company has agreed to maintain the exterior of the church as is, and to undertake improvements to the interior with the approval of the Trust. The store should be in operation early this fall, and promises to be an interesting and appealing use for this historic property.

As we go into this new year of activities, may I extend a personal invitation to you to attend our annual meeting, scheduled for September 30, and to become involved in our many-faceted organization. You will find that our more active members are a hard-working, dedicated group of people. More than ever, we need your active support in helping us to make sure that the cultural and historic flavour of St. John's is kept in perspective as we head into the exciting 1980's.

Ted Rowe



Ted Rowe, President, N.H.T.

Bonne Bay Crafts and Bonne Bay Weavers

When it seemed certain in the late 1960's that the Bonne Bay area was destined to become a major new National Park, people in the communities started to think of new aspects of the economy that should be developed to meet the coming demands and opportunities. Already, since 1967, the new Northern Peninsula Highway was drawing most of the traffic northward, by-passing the South side of Bonne Bay and its long-famous scenery.

Many ideas were explored by the newly-formed Bonne Bay Development Committee and one of them was a cottage-craft industry, linked with a local information service which would help tourists find the services, the goods, the hikes or the rooms they might need, thus helping other tourists enterprises to succeed in the area. For a Craft Shop not only to succeed, but to draw people off the main highway, it would clearly have to have not only high standards, but a unique character and a wide range of attractive goods. Some fifteen people were interested in producing at the outset, but although various methods of operating were thought of, such as a co-operative, the only one that seemed likely to succeed was a privately financed small business that would provide supplies, designs, quality control and payment 'on the nail' for goods produced. Government-sponsored schemes were showing a considerable failure rate at that time since they did not provide the continued motivation to succeed.

Among the group of those interested were Gisela Westphalen and Pat McLeod, two therapists taking a break from their professions and willing to risk a few dollars of savings to run Bonne Bay Crafts for an experimental year, since they were glad of an excuse to

stay on in beautiful Bonne Bay where they had just renovated a cottage. Work began in the winter of 1969-70 and in the summer of 1970 a small shed over the water served as the first shop. It was attractive, if a little leaky and draughty.

Basic to the individuality of Bonne Bay Crafts was a decision to use only natural sheep colours of home-spun in all the knit-and-crochet-wear. Since then this idea has spread to all other craft outfits in Newfoundland. Fishermen's Guernseys, fashionable jumpers and ponchos, afghans and shawls all proved very popular, each maker doing what she most enjoyed and could do best. Hands skilled with a needle made appliqued kerchiefs and place-mats featuring the place names of Newfoundland. One lady, expert with a wood-burner, turned to making coasters with Newfoundland ship designs; a mat-hooker made small hooked teapot stands. A retired fisherman made sections of net, popular at the time for decorating the family room, and a family of nimble-fingered brothers produced well executed models of fishing gear and snow-shoes.

From the start the shop was kept open seven days a week all through the season. Visitors found the crafts both original and of good quality, so sales were encouraging. Providing answers to the many enquiries about everything from where to get a fresh salmon to a way up the Tableland provided a welcome alternative to 'keeping shop'. And so at the end of the first season the idea had caught on both with producers and customers. Producers had increased to thirty, some as far away as Cow Head where Jane Hutchings was instrumental in introducing Bonne Bay Crafts to a number of very good knitters.



The craft shop in Woody Point.

To encourage this local enterprise, a new and excellent location was provided by Em Tapper who converted part of the old Woody Point Ice rink into a shop and rented it to Bonne Bay Crafts. She and her sister, having taken craft courses in Corner Brook started to produce pottery, silver and copper-enamel work for the shop.

Now in its 10th season, Bonne Bay Crafts is solidly established. Many of the original producers still support it actively, and through the co-opting of sisters, cousins, aunts and friends, the work-force numbers some forty men and women, both cottage-craft workers and trained craftspeople across the island. The list of products and producers is now considerable: there are four potters, two toy-makers, two photographers, several weavers, one rope-worker, one lead-caster, several makers of models and snow-shoes, individuals who design for pewter, silk-screen, wood, etc. one working with moose antler and one in copper-enamel. Only our

pewter-smith is outside Newfoundland, Carole Cronkhitte of Fredericton, and she executed Bonne Bay Crafts' own designs. Knitters and crocheters number about thirty.

Bonne Bay Crafts led the way in incorporating a book corner with crafts and is probably second only to Dicks & Co. in its range of Newfoundlandia and Natural History books. Topographical maps are also stocked.

Out of the provision of a new building for the Craft Shop, Bonne Bay Crafts, in 1971 has grown another local enterprise, a purely cultural one, which uses the shop for the other nine months of the year. This is Bonne Bay Weavers. It is entirely separate from Bonne Bay Crafts although it involves many of the same people. In 1973, having encouraged the use of existing craft skills, it seemed appropriate to use the same building to introduce a major craft skill in the community. Pat McLeod had an interest in weaving beyond the call of her profession as an Occupational Therapist and cast around to



Bonne Bay Weavers — a workshop in progress.

Bonne Bay Crafts —

see who would be interested in learning this fascinating and ancient craft. There was enough interest to form a committee and approach the Dept. of Rural Development for funds. With \$2500, five floor looms were bought and a year's rent paid. The first courses were run privately at a nominal fee. Now they come under the Adult Education Program and over the years some 75 people have taken the introductory course and more than half of these, the more advanced one. The great advantage of a community studio is that the beginner is not isolated with his or her loom, but can always get help and advice from those with more experience. Weavers who learned their craft in Bonne Bay are to be found all over Canada. Each year the Weavery holds a major workshop or an internal study session and some fifteen people in the area (which includes Rocky Harbour) are regular users of this well-equipped studio. The Weavery offers courses to groups of five or six from any part of Newfoundland who wish to take short intensive courses, staying in the Community for 8 to 10 days.

The Dept. of Cultural Affairs has taken an interest in Bonne Bay Weavers for several years and provides the back-bone of support in the form of \$500 towards the rent, the remainder and all other expenses being paid by the weavers.

While the Craft Shop is in operation in Summer all the looms go out on loan to the weavers, while yarns and accessories remain accessible for use.

These two craft enterprises, using the same building in their different ways offer something quite unique in the way of Craft experience and development in Newfoundland, and probably in Canada.

— Pat McLeod



Sod houses at L'Anse aux Meadows.

L'Anse Aux Meadows

L'Anse Aux Meadows National Historic Park, at the northern tip of the Northern Peninsula, was officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on July 11, 1980. The Honourable John Roberts, Minister of the Environment officiated at the dedication and plaque unveiling ceremony at the Park which commemorates the only authenticated Norse settlement in North America.

Representatives of UNESCO and the Honourable Ron Dawe, Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture also took part in the ceremony which recognizes L'Anse Aux Meadows National Historic Park as one of the World's important cultural properties. The Ambassadors or their representatives from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland were also in attendance.

As the earliest manifestation of European venture into the New World, the site ranks among the major archaeological properties of the world.

The main portion of the site was excavated between 1961 and 1968 by a Norwegian team led by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad, who discovered the site while in search of Vinland, the first viking settlement in North America.

Four years of additional archaeological excavation were subsequently undertaken by Parks Canada to broaden the information base.

The Norse site contains the remains of eight sod buildings. Three are large dwellings, the rest small buildings which may have been workshops or had other special functions.

One of the more exciting discoveries of L'Anse Aux Meadows was the discovery by the Ingstads of iron slag in close association with charcoal that has been radiocarbonated to between A.D. 860-890 and A.D. 1060-1070. To date more than 2,400 items have been found.

Text of the UNESCO plaque unveiled is as follows:

**L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS
NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

AT THE 1978 MEETING OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION, L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK WAS NOMINATED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AS AN OUTSTANDING CULTURAL SITE FORMING PART OF THE HERITAGE OF MANKIND.

L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS IS THE FIRST AUTHENTICATED NORSE SITE IN NORTH AMERICA. ITS SOD BUILDINGS ARE THUS THE EARLIEST KNOWN EUROPEAN STRUCTURES ON THIS CONTINENT; ITS SMITHY THE SITE OF THE FIRST KNOWN IRON WORKING IN THE NEW WORLD.

THE SITE ITSELF THE SCENE OF THE FIRST CONTACTS BETWEEN NATIVE AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS. IT IS THEREFORE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.

Following the unveiling of the UNESCO plaque, the Honourable John Roberts, Minister of the Environment officially opened the three recently completed reproductions of the Norse sod huts adjacent to the actual site of the archaeological remains.

— Parks Canada

— V.I.P. —

'How sweet it is!' if ascending the 87 steps laden with a too enticing lunch at the Murray Premises and too many purchases from Water Street, you stop for a breather and are greeted by a well-groomed party of three whom you surmise to be Mother, son and daughter-in-law, with the remark, "You won't find it so hard going down dearie! We're from Ontario. We've just been through your Museum. Such an interesting place to visit. Everything so well arranged. And what an imposing structure your Court House is! Your War Memorial too is impressive for such a small city."

You smile and reply, "I'm going to the Museum this minute to serve in the Gift Shop."

When you have lived and worked in several provincial capitals, and cities elsewhere, when you have more often winced than smiled at remarks about Newfoundland-notions gleaned mostly from the Media,

and the post-Confederation plethora of nostalgic books and pamphlets, often badly written and unattractively bound, purporting to portray Newfoundland's uniqueness, most of it no more unique than at the same period anywhere — when you have publicly rebuked the Newfie gagster whose jokes are more often scurrilous than witty, when you have stroked out the Newfie joke squibs while proof-reading your students' articles for their magazine, adding a marginal note 'Poor taste', how sweet it is.

Soon there is a 'social conversation' going.

"Oh, you have lovely things in your Gift Shop."

"Not everything is lovely by any means, but they are all interesting. One of the rewards of serving at the Gift Shop is the interesting people who come to buy."

Still warmed by the stranger's greeting you finish the climb thinking how suburban, not to say rural, is life beyond the valley behind the Basilica ridge. Few cities have the ancient inner city core so distinctively separated — and musing, arrive at the Museum.

When one is gregarious and likes people it becomes almost a game to guess who strangers are. Where they're from? What their careers? Why they are here?

The one for instance, who bought up all the Nfld. coins, made up into jewellery or as is, 'to take back' something strictly Nfld. for Christmas and Birthday presents, was so obviously a Newfoundlander who 'had made it good away', home on a visit: The loquacious one who, still nursing his injury, related while browsing through all the books — the technical ones; how he had been double-crossed when trying to establish his career here.

The athletic one who having selected several postcards of the Regatta, remarked as he paid,

"I rowed in the winner three times" and who after your response, "I ought to ask for your autograph", fetched another Regatta card from the display, signed it and shyly presented it; a treasured keepsake now pinned to my workroom tack-board.

The preteen girls are no less delightful. In a half giggle they may tell you they are looking for something nice for Mother's Day with not too much pocket-money, so you show them the elegant Newfoundland Wild Flower note cards, assuring them, "These are what I would like if I were your Mother."

It was Andrew Collard in 'Montreal Sketches' I think, who described a Montreal bus trip: — As the bus stopped at a little girls' school, a bevy of school girls boarded, all giggling and twittering and bunching into the one empty seat. Whereupon the other passengers smiled tolerantly, nodded and whispered, "Little dears." Further on a group of school boys got on. A little loud, a little assertive, playing tough, they hung on to the straps and shoved and horsed around a bit, while this time the other passengers pulled their coats closer and murmured, "Little monsters".

Such amusing groups of Cubs, Scouts, school classes, all singularly well behaved, if you enjoy boys, come to the Gift Shop after their Museum tours. So many budding geologists who have to make the momentous decision whether they'll break their dollar bill for a 60 ct. (+ SEVEN CENTS TAX) chip of quartz, labradorite, jasper. The fattest one, elbows sprawled across the tiny counter, picks up and examines every stone in the box and discusses it with comrades either side, totally unaware of several customers lined up behind with their purchases, until another lad who long ago decided on a Puffin badge, or a Museum

button elbows him off. Boys are fun. I like boys.

In holiday time there are, of course, many students on the hike. The extra-bearded, extra-Afrikans hair cut, hitchhiking visitors, exchange students, 'do-for-yourselfers', all add interest, variety, and amusement; sometimes assumptions, an extra scan of the presented Chargex or Travellers' cheque; a momentary silent query whether the lady à deux hitchhiked all the way from Texas, B.C., Czechoslovakia, or was 'barn and bred' here. A delicately painted, Victorian eggshell inspired by the Roses Exhibition is admired and yearned over: the observed response a slight negative shake of the head, a moving off towards the galleries. When later it is purchased at a fabulous price by the returning male you marvel at the persuasion of youth and allure, and how it will ever get as far as Saskatchewan uncrushed. Or another who covets the expensive Labradorite jewellery but doesn't buy, when he returns after a while and buys a Labradorite ring. Or when they both like the Quidi Vidi design unisex T-shirts, but settle for a Museum print one 'because they haven't got that far yet'. Then you know they are just about ready to shed their Panguirtung ones. Such Very Interesting People!

"Oh, never a doubt but somewhere I shall wake,
....., and make new friends,
Now strangers

But the best I've known
Stays here and changes, breaks,
grows old, is blown
About the winds of the
world

O dear my loves

This one last gift I give that after
men
Shall know, and later lovers
.....
Praise you"

Edith Mitchell

Museum

Gift Shop

The summer of 1980 has been a very busy and successful season for the Nfld. Historic Trust's Museum Gift Shop. With both the Signal Hill Interpretation Centre Counter and the Duckworth St. Museum Gift Shop open seven days a week for the summer months, there has been a lot of activity.

Tourists from all across Canada and the U.S., and Newfoundlanders from all over the Island have paid us a call while in St. John's. A wide selection of merchandise ranging from the Shop's Nfld. recipe cards to handcrafted hooked rugs and Labradorite jewellery has been sold. During August Jean Ball's dollhouse, based on the Southcott turn of the century design, again delighted children of all ages. A new introduction this season was a range of specially printed T-shirts by artist Donna Rammo. Up at Signal Hill these featured Cabot Tower and Cape Spear — at the Museum, an old photograph of fishermen salting fish and a view of Quidi Vidi Village were used as silk-screened designs on the shirts. These T-shirts will be available in a variety of sizes and colours at The Museum Gift Shop during the autumn.



Gayle Laaning has designed this cross stitch kit of a Newfoundland salt box now available at the Gift Shop.

Personally Speaking

120 Years of Service

The popular "Roses" exhibition at the Nfld. Museum continuing until the Fall, was the theme for product development projects. A limited-edition etching of the Nfld. wild rose by Joyce Cho, enamel pendants by June Bowden and rose sachets by Ruth Green were featured in the Museum Gift Shop during this period.

Thanks go to the Trust volunteers who have staffed the Museum shop during the hectic summer months. Their help was essential in operating the Shops and was much appreciated by Bette Anderson and myself.

Looking ahead, September and October will bring a return of guided Museum tours for school children, who always drop into the Shop for post-cards, badges, mineral samples, etc. In November, we will begin preparations for Christmas. This year's Christmas theme is two-fold. 1) A hugh Christmas tree complete with all manner of decorations will be set up in the Museum lobby, and the Shop plans to develop some of the decorations for this. 2) The Museum's special exhibition for Nov. - Jan. is "Warmed by Wood", and focuses on wood stoves, fireplaces, etc. We hope to have an antique mantle and stove in the Shop during the exhibit, and will be preparing it for the Christmas season with stockings, toys and decorations. Any ideas Trust members may have on the old-fashioned Christmas customs concerning fireplaces, kitchens, etc., would be most welcome. So would baked goods such as puddings, mince tarts and cakes to sell in the Shop just before Christmas.

If you are interested in helping with the Museum Gift Shop in any way, please don't hesitate to telephone me at 754-1903 (home) or 754-1742 (shop).

Thank you.

Caroline Stone
Museum Gift Shop
Co-Manager

The Ayre's proposal to demolish the Pitts' Building and erect a twelve-storey high-rise behind an antiqued facade is quite a different but equally serious problem to conservation as the Duffett proposal. While there has been a clear attempt to produce setbacks (unlike the Duffett proposal), the Ayre's proposal involves the loss of an important building not just a good building as was the case with the Duffett proposal. Each of these things should be considered in turn then: the demolition of the Pitts' building and the erection of a high-rise.

The Pitt's Building is important not only for its architecture, but also for its architect. It thus has architectural and historic merit. Built in 1906 for the Hon. J. S. Pitts, it was one of the finest commercial structures built on Water St. after the '92 Fire. Now, with the Bank of Montreal and the Old Ayre's building gone, it is, with the Marshall Building and the Commercial Chambers, the last of that group. Indeed a case could be made for saying it is the finest of those that remain. The very classical treatment of the facade is a development of the architect, William Howe Greene's commercial Queen Anne style. Greene, a first cousin of Sir Eric Bowring, was brought out to St. John's immediately after the 1892 Fire and was, through a combination of skill and connections, very much responsible for determining the architectural character of Water St. from Beck's Cove to King's Beach. As an associate of the Royal Institute of the British Architects, he was the first professionally qualified architect to establish a practice in New-

foundland. (This should not be taken as a diminution of the professionalism of people like John T. Southcott and others who were professionally trained but had not gone through the R.I.B.A. program). Greene is then a very important Newfoundland architect and the building merits preservation on the two grounds that it is by him and that it is architecturally valuable in its own right.

The building itself aside, there is also the whole matter of its replacement and the consequences of such replacement. A twelve-storey building anywhere in downtown St. John's creates serious problems, in the middle of the conservation area, it can be a disaster. The section of Water St. on which the Pitts' Building fronts is narrow and has a marked curve. The Ayre's design produces a Babel-like structure which, while it recedes from the street line, does produce a sense of massing when viewed from Beck's Cove, McBride's Hill or the Court House. Its bulk will serve to magnify the bulk of Atlantic Place and darken the whole of that section of Water Street.

Ayre's in fact have the site area to reduce the height of their building. Their proposed floor area ratio is 3.2 which means that they could build a four-story building on their site and get more floor space than their high-rise. Why do they want to go up? Because they, like Harold Duffett, have accepted the guidelines and the judgement of Toronto real estate promoters who have told them that a floor space in excess of 10,000 sq. ft. won't work. (They have a site of 39,000 sq. ft.). Again it is a case of Newfound-

land's business and Newfoundland's environment being determined by outsiders who are concerned only with speculating with our city, not developing it.

And there lies the real problem with the oil boom. Property owners and merchants as well as many at City Hall are losing sight of the need to develop the city instead of speculating with it. Such speculation, such neglect of proper development planning will bring immediate profit to a few, but little benefit to Water Street or the city as a whole.

The recommendations of the Heritage By-Law Review Committee will do little to diminish the effect of the Ayre's proposal. The concerns, expressed by Miller Ayre (ex-reform councillor, ex-chairman of the City's Heritage Advisory Committee) at a Briefing Session on August 25th, are probably the specious mouthings of one who wants to ensure the passage of his proposal. As normal, Ayres have probably asked for more than they expected to get.

The conduct of the Ayres in this matter is very difficult to comprehend given the family's record of commitment to civic affairs. Lewis Ayre was the first chairman of the St. John's Heritage Foundation and the one who presented the Heritage Study to the various levels of government. That study quite clearly saw such high-rise as incompatible with conservation. Miller Ayre fought Atlantic Place and ran for council on a platform that opposed such development. Are we going to see more of this kind of inconsistency as the oil boom proceeds? It is disappointing that one business has apparently so quickly and easily succumbed. Given their actions, what can we look forward to from others?

Shane O'Dea

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