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## 55 Rennie's Mill Road

*Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration* | St. John's

Bruce Blackwood, Brian Casey, Aiden Greene, and Geoff Marshall

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The grand house at 55 Rennie's Mill Road was built for Lord Edward Patrick Morris, the 12th Prime Minister of Newfoundland. Construction of the house began in 1898 and was completed in 1900. It was designed by noted local architect William Frederick Butler, who also designed Winterholme, located at 79 Rennie's Mill Road.

The 12,000 square foot, Queen Anne style house sits on a half acre lot across from Bannerman Park, in the Rennie's Mill Road Historic District.



It features notable architectural elements inside and out, including the two story rounded bay; deep-set, asymmetric porch entrance; and projecting front gable. The foyer showcases an exceptional English oak staircase with English oak paneled walls that was created in England and shipped to Newfoundland. The house also features expansive living and dining rooms, 13-foot ceilings, original windows, and ornate plasterwork.

The house has been substantially restored and updated, including the removal of a number of non-original interior partition walls. No heritage designations were in place when the house was purchased, but the team voluntarily worked with the City of St. John's to ensure the appropriateness of all work undertaken, showing great respect for the dwelling's historic character.

55 Rennie's Mill Road is significant for both its architecture and its historic associations with prominent individuals and institutions. Morris moved to London in 1917, was named Baron Morris, and sat in the House of Lords – the only Newfoundland-born person ever appointed. He sold the house to Eric Bowring of Bowring Brothers Limited, who continued to use it as a family home.

In 1927, it became Spencer Lodge, the residence for out-of-town boarders attending Bishop Spencer School. It was also home to Violet Cherrington. Born in England, Cherrington arrived in Newfoundland in 1922 to become headmistress at the school. She was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1938. In 1937 the house was sold to the Church of England Diocese of Newfoundland and was renamed Bishop Jones Memorial Hostel. It remained a hostel for girls until 1968, at which time it once again became a private residence.

The newly restored house received a City of St. John's Heritage Award in 2016 and was designated a Municipal Heritage Building later that year. Additional updates will be completed by the recent buyer, who intends to use it as an office and three dwelling units.

55 Rennie's Mill Road is a prime example of the aesthetic, historic, cultural, and economic value that is embodied in heritage buildings, and of the distinctive possibilities that they afford.

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## Herbert Pretty House

*Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration* | Dildo  
Andrew Pretty and Caitlin Pike

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The house at 130 Front Road was built by Herbert George Pretty (1879-1953) in 1902. Pretty was the great-grandson of Samuel Pretty, who had arrived in the community of Dildo from Chard, Somerset, England in 1775 and was the community's first settler.

The land on which the Herbert Pretty House was built was originally owned by Samuel Pretty, and the dwelling is historically important to the town due to its connections with Pretty. It has remained in the Pretty family and is currently owned by Herbert Pretty's great-grandson, Andrew Pretty.



The Pretty House is a beautiful example of Newfoundland vernacular architecture, located in a community where only a handful of original structures remain. It is a simple yet distinguished one and a half story modified saltbox with a central gabled dormer, and features such unique details as eave brackets, gable brackets, and stained glass entrance doors.

The exterior and interior of the house have been painstakingly restored by Andrew Pretty, with the help of his partner Caitlin Pike. The restoration included reinforcing and stabilising the foundation; reconstructing the original staircase, which had been removed during the 1980s (the original newel posts were located and reinstalled); installing custom, historically appropriate moulding and wallpaper; limited replacement of deteriorated clapboard; and installing complementary lighting and plumbing fixtures.

The Herbert Pretty house is not only of historic and architectural significance to the community of Dildo, but also to the province as a whole. Located in a highly visible area and frequently photographed and admired by tourists, the house's restoration shows the difference that one building can make in preserving a community's character.

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## Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Each year the Trust presents a scholarship in memory of former General Manager Leida Finlayson, who passed away in 2003, at age 31, 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 2017 scholarship was awarded to Alexander Jessome.

*Charitable donations to the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship (to be presented through Memorial University) can be made payable to the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust.*

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## The Inn by Mallard Cottage

*Southcott Award for Design in Context* | Quidi Vidi, St. John's

Stephen Lee, Todd Perrin, Kim Doyle, Alan Doyle, and Joanne Pardy

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The Inn by Mallard Cottage, two new buildings at 1 and 5 Barrows Road in the heart of Quidi Vidi village, was completed in June 2017.

The ownership group (Stephen Lee, Todd Perrin, Kim Doyle, Alan Doyle, and Joanne Pardy), already invested in Quidi Vidi through Mallard Cottage Restaurant and, in some cases, as residents of the village, sought to create a project that is respectful of the history, character, and architecture of Quidi Vidi, while building an enterprise that offers increased economic activity in a sustainable and unobtrusive way.



The initial concept for the Inn was developed by Ian Higenell of Fougere Menchenton Architecture, with Sable Building and Design serving as primary contractor. The design draws inspiration from Newfoundland vernacular architecture, the local vernacular of Quidi Vidi village, and Mallard Cottage restaurant, the restoration of which received a Southcott Award in 2013.

The Inn was developed as two separate buildings in order to maintain the scale of Quidi Vidi village. The buildings, each housing four guest rooms, were deliberately sited in response to the character of the adjacent area and to take advantage of surrounding views. The "Yellow" building faces Maple View Road, complimenting a rhythm established by the houses to either side of it. The building also faces the water, typical for buildings in Quidi Vidi. The "Blue" building addresses Barrows Road and continues an established streetwall, running parallel to Mallard Cottage and residential buildings along Barrows Road. Both buildings are situated tight to the street, encouraging density and vitality in the centre of the village. A south-facing garden area is being developed to replicate a family garden that once existed in that location.

Both properties feature a hip roof, which suits a deep floor plate. The buildings are clad in traditional clapboard with simple and elegant trim. Window sizing and placement is symmetrical, drawing from common elevation designs found in the traditional buildings of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Inn by Mallard Cottage incorporates the best traditions of Newfoundland carpentry and millwork with energy efficient structural components. Clapboards, floorboards, and walls were finished with Newfoundland spruce milled in Twillingate. The work of local craftspeople and artisans, including quilts, pottery, and artwork, was commissioned to furnish the Inn, and literature about each artist is placed in the guest rooms, creating an opportunity for guests to easily access their work. The use of local materials and goods was of central importance to the ownership group. The buildings not only had to have the look of authenticity, but also the substance.

The Inn by Mallard Cottage aims to further the ongoing revitalization of Quidi Vidi village as both a unique destination and a fully functioning neighborhood, serving as an economic driver, engine of support for the local arts community, and excellent example of sensitive and contextual new construction within a historic setting.

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## Ruth Canning

### *Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award*

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Ruth Canning has been a leading advocate for the built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador since the 1970s. She has served on heritage organizations at the municipal, provincial, and national levels, but is more than a figurehead. Rather, she is a person who has given her whole heart and considerable enthusiasm to the cause.

She joined the Newfoundland and Labrador Trust in 1979 and served for many years as an active member of the Board and Executive Committee, including serving as Vice President from 1983-1986, President from 1986-1987, and again as Vice President from 1987-1989. Ruth also volunteered as editor of *The Trident*, a member of the Southcott Awards Committee, and Chair of the Trust's Time Capsule Committee in honour of the City's of St. John's 100th anniversary of incorporation.



Her early interest in the work of the Trust was stimulated through her involvement as Chair of the first Georgestown Neighbourhood Association; she saw the architecture of the neighborhood as a critical feature in sustaining community pride.

Ruth was elected as the Newfoundland representative to the Heritage Canada Board of Governors in 1984, serving until 1995. She was the first Newfoundlander to serve as Vice-Chair of Heritage Canada and was an active member of several key board committees.

She was appointed by the Provincial Government to the Board of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1997, serving as Chair of the Building Committee and as Board Chair from 2000-2003. She was a strong supporter of heritage district designation, including the provincial designation of Tilting and the designation of the St. John's Ecclesiastical District by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board. Ruth has also served on the boards of a number of other heritage organizations, including the founding board of the Baccalieu Trail Heritage Corporation, the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Parks Association, the Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation, and the Beothuck Institute.

In recognition of her contributions as a volunteer member of the heritage preservation movement, both provincially and nationally, Ruth was awarded the Governor General's Medal by Heritage Canada in 2001, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and the YM-YMCA Woman of Distinction Award in 2004.

One of the first real estate agents to make marketing heritage buildings a specialty, Ruth did a great deal to change perceptions of the value – financial, social and environmental – of old houses. And she achieved this while becoming one of ReMax's leading realtors for a number of successive years. She also put her commitment on the line by buying and restoring a portion of the McNamara house on Robinson's Hill, a successful project that remains part of our civic heritage.

Ruth moved to Halifax to be closer to her children and grandchildren in 2013, but continues to maintain a summer residence in Newfoundland and remains a steadfast supporter of built heritage preservation in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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