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The Newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

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## Annual Southcott Awards 2007

The Newfoundland Historic Trust celebrated the province's rich architectural heritage in presenting the Southcott Awards to 5 outstanding restoration projects at the 23rd Annual Southcott Awards Ceremony held at the Basilica Museum on the evening of Wednesday, June 27th, 2007.



Ed Abbott, owner of Jubilee House, and Mark Penny



Linda Brown, Mabel Reid, Kim Mackay at the ceremony

This year's recipients reflect the diversity and character of the architecture from various regions of the province and demonstrate the on-going institutional, commercial and domestic viability of these buildings.

"These restorations demonstrate that buildings which were once so important to our past have roles in the present and the future," says Kim Blanchard, President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust and Chair of this year's Southcott Awards Committee. "Those involved in these restoration projects are to be commended for their sensitive preservation of the architectural integrity of these historical structures."



Lois Luke, Randy Follett and George Ralph

The Newfoundland Historic Trust, which administers the Southcott Awards, is a volunteer-driven, charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of architecture reflecting the culture and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Trust developed the Southcott Awards program in 1984 to commend the work of passionate individuals, organizations, corporations and governments in the preservation of the province's architectural heritage. The Southcott Awards

are named in honour of one of the most important 19th century Newfoundland building firms, J. and J.T. Southcott.

During the awards ceremony, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship was recognized. This year's recipient was Timothy O'Brien, a Memorial University undergraduate student. The award was established in 2005 by the Newfoundland Historic Trust to honour the memory of the Trust's former general manager, who passed away in 2003 after a brave battle with cancer. The scholarship is for students of History and Political Science.

The 2007 awards were sponsored by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Parks Canada, Cox & Palmer, PHB Group Inc., and the Penney Group.

## 2007 Southcott Award Recipients

**The Salvation Army Wiseman Centre**  
714 Water Street, St. John's



This combination restoration/ new infill project is an inspiring example of how historical buildings can play an essential role in today's society while preserving the architectural heritage. Known as Sudbury Hall or Manor, the Wiseman Centre was originally designed by well-known architect William Butler and constructed by Charles R. Thompson in 1907. This centenarian has seen many uses in its lifetime and had become severely deteriorated.

Sheppard Case Architects Inc. preserved the original Queen Anne Revival style house and designed a new extension to flow across the rear set back from the house. Inappropriate additions and structurally unsound portions were demolished.

The Salvation Army NL East Division restored the

building as part of their mandate to provide a shelter for homeless men. Now the Wiseman Centre remains an important architectural landmark on the Water Street streetscape as it serves the people of the 21st century. The award was accepted by Major R. H. Rowe on behalf of the Salvation Army

**Victoria Manor**  
25 Victoria Street, Harbour Grace



Victoria Manor was built as the private residence of master woodworker Mr. James Hutchings around 1830. Built in the Tudor Revival style of architecture, Hutchings may have originally constructed the house in brick and covered with clapboard at a later date. This kind of construction is known as nogging and is a rare, surviving example in Newfoundland. The present owners maintained this construction technique during the restoration process. The house is also distinct for its use of diagonal clapboard.

The building once operated on Victoria Street as a lodge for overnight guests, hence the name Victoria Manor. The restoration work uncovered a sign saying, "Victoria Lodge 1860".

Owners Randy Follett and Tina Riche and carpenter George Ralph undertook the project with the intent to restore it to its exact historical status. They replaced all the wooden clapboard, rebuilt all window frames and replaced the chimneys. All original windows were kept, repaired and reinstalled and new storm windows were made. Water and electricity were added for the comfort of today's shoppers who frequent its craft shop, antique store and fine art gallery. The award was accepted by Randy Follett, owner, and George Ralph, project carpenter.

**Brett House Museum**  
*Joe Batt's Arm*



Brett House is an example of community based restoration. Originally built by John Brett in 1877 and later added to by his son, Charles Brett, the house was a family residence until being recently donated to the Town of Joe Batt's Arm by Mabel (Brett) Reid for use as a community museum.

Built in outport vernacular style, yet quite different from its neighbouring houses, Brett House Museum is a two-and-one-half storey residence with a two-and-one-half storey tower addition. It features details such as intricate wooden shingles covering the main façade that were hand carved by Charles Brett with a pocket knife.

Prior to restoration the house was in fairly good condition. The town conducted work on the clapboard, foundation, skirting boards, windows and storm windows and re-clad the roof in wooden shingles.

All work was done by local residents, many of whom had no formal training in painting, carpentry, and roofing, and was conducted under the guidance of architect Robert Mellin.

Brett House Museum, together with its surviving outbuildings, land and fence, offer a glimpse into the history of the community of Joe Batt's Arm.

The award was accepted by Mabel Reid and Linda Brown on behalf of the Town of Joe Batt's Arm-Barr'd Island-Shoal Bay.

**The Factory**  
*Main Street, Port Union*



The Factory is a central, twentieth century industrial building located in the Port Union historic district. The Factory was built under the guidance of Sir William Ford Coaker in 1923 as a home for his union newspaper, *The Fishermen's Advocate*. It was also a woodworking factory and it is presently being used as a Museum/ Interpretation Centre.

Prior to restoration by the Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation, the factory was abandoned and unstable. Under the direction of Sheppard Case Architects, the building was completely restored, including a lean-to that was the location of the original freight elevator (a unique element in an early Newfoundland building). The interior of the structure was maintained as close to original as possible, and all original printing presses and newspaper machinery were kept for display.

The successful restoration of this building has inspired the Foundation to continue in its endeavours to restore the remainder of the union buildings. The award was accepted by Edith Samson, Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation Inc.

**Jubilee House**  
*134 Coster Street, Bonavista*



Jubilee House, a Second Empire residence located in Bonavista, is a jewel of an example of domestic

restoration by private individuals. It is a two-storey, mansard roofed building with bonneted dormers. It was built in 1887, Queen Victoria's Jubilee year. The house was constructed by prominent and prolific architect Ronald Strathie as the home of J. Lawrence, local businessman, tinsmith and farmer. Today it is owned by Ed Abbott who undertook the restoration of the abandoned property.

Prior to restoration, the clapboard, windows, doors and roof had deteriorated and many decorative elements were missing or damaged. The project encompassed replacement of the wooden siding, windows and roofing material, as well as the many decorative features.

Today the house proudly proclaims its heritage with an original brass plaque situated on the front door that reads "Jubilee House 1887" and the original doorbell invites visitors to sound their arrival. The award was accepted by Ed Abbott, owner

### **Doors Open events a-go for Summer & Fall 2007** –Lara Maynard

Seven communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are poised to hold Doors Open events in August and September, 2007. Three of them have held Doors Open events in previous years, while the rest are brand new on the Doors Open scene, including the first Doors Open event in Labrador.

Doors to special historic and cultural places will open to the public for free in:

- Carbonear - August 4, 2007
- Grand Bank - August 10, 2007
- St. George's - August 12, 2007
- Placentia - August 25, 2007
- Labrador Straits - August 26, 2007
- St. John's - September 8 to September 9, 2007
- Trinity Bight - September 22 to September 23, 2007

As well, Sherri Kelly is coming on board as Doors Open NL Coordinator, based at the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador office on Springdale Street, St. John's. "I enjoy working in the heritage industry and am looking forward to working with new people on the Doors Open program, as well as learning about special places in Newfoundland and Labrador along the way," she says.

For more about the Doors Open program or details about each participating community event, see [www.doorsopendays.com](http://www.doorsopendays.com).

## **Port Union Receives Registered Heritage District Designation**

On Saturday afternoon, July 14 at the Factory/Advocate Building in Port Union, the Honourable Tom Hedderson, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL), announced the designation of Port Union's Provincial Registered Heritage District and unveiled a plaque recognizing this designation.

"Historic districts are geographically defined areas which create a special sense of time and place," says Robert Parsons, Vice Chairperson, HFNL. "Above all, an historic district of provincial significance must have a 'sense of history', minimal intrusive elements, and the district's historic characteristics must predominate."

In attendance at the ceremony were the Honourable Tom Hedderson, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation; Scott Simms, MP Bonavista, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor; Roger Fitzgerald, MHA; Sid Butt, Municipality of Trinity Bay North; along with officials from HFNL and the Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation and citizens from Port Union and surrounding communities.

"The district designation and plaque unveiling represents an important part of our province's heritage," explains Parsons. "Port Union is a monument to the commercial and social ambitions and successes of the FPU, and the only union-built town in Canada."

Since Port Union was first conceived by Sir William Ford Coaker, and construction began in 1916, the town has represented strength and independence. Visitors to Port Union can still find the town's original layout, and many intact buildings speak to its heyday as a vibrant international port. Through the ongoing work of the Town and the William F. Coaker Foundation, the community's unique contribution to the history of the province continues to be celebrated.

Districts contribute to a town's attractiveness as a tourist destination and help package the offerings a town has for visitors. Towns interested in applying to HFNL to have an area in their respective community recognized as a Registered Heritage District can find more information [online](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca/districts.html) at [www.heritagefoundation.ca/districts.html](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca/districts.html) or call 1-888-739-1892 ext 2.

## Municipal Heritage Designations in the Root Cellar Capital of the World – Lara Maynard

The Town that declared itself “The Root Cellar Capital of the World” in 2000 has now officially designated four of its 135 documented root cellars as Municipal Heritage Structures. On April 10<sup>th</sup> Elliston’s town council designated Jim Goodland-Upstairs Root Cellar and Dan Goodland-Downstairs Root Cellar (together known as the Upstairs-Downstairs Root Cellars), along with George Pearce Root Cellar and Tom Porter Root Cellar.

While George Pearce Root Cellar, which was built in 1859, is of the type that are built from the ground up, the remaining three cellars are dug into a hill, like most of the Ellistons’ root cellars. Tom Porter Root Cellar was built in 1879 and boasts a unique feature: its ceiling is supported by a steel beam salvaged from the “Eric” which wrecked at Flower’s Cove near Maberly in the previous year. The often photographed Upstairs-Downstairs Root Cellars at Cow Calf Hill, Maberly were built by brothers in 1915. All four cellars are still in use.

The town council also passed five other municipal designations: Elliston United Church, Robert Tilley House, James Ryan Shop and the Orange Hall (Band of Hope LOL #1402) were designated as Municipal Heritage Buildings, while both the building and cemetery at the St. Mary’s Anglican Church site were designated.



Upstairs-downstairs root cellar, Maberly-Elliston

Photos and information about all 9 properties may be viewed online on the Newfoundland and Labrador Register of Historic Places maintained by HFNL. Tourism Elliston provides root cellar tours; contact Colleen Duffett, Heritage Development Coordinator at (709) 468-7080 or see [www.rootcellars.com](http://www.rootcellars.com).

## Registered Heritage Structure Designation Deadline

Do you have an old building that you think deserves recognition? The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) is accepting applications for buildings seeking designation as Registered Heritage Structures.

“The foundation looks at several things when they consider a building for designation,” says Dale Jarvis, the organization’s Heritage Preservation Officer. “We look at the architectural value of the building, how it was built, how old it is, and if it is a good example of a particular style or type of construction.”

HFNL designates provincially significant buildings twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. The deadline for applications to have a building designated as a Registered Heritage Structure is August 15.

The benefits of designation include a bronze plaque, and listing on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, a national website for all heritage properties in Canada. The website currently lists nearly 500 historic places from Newfoundland and Labrador that have been designated by HFNL, the federal government, or by municipal councils. The register is online at [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca).

Heritage designation can also lead to restoration grants, which are awarded in the spring of the year.

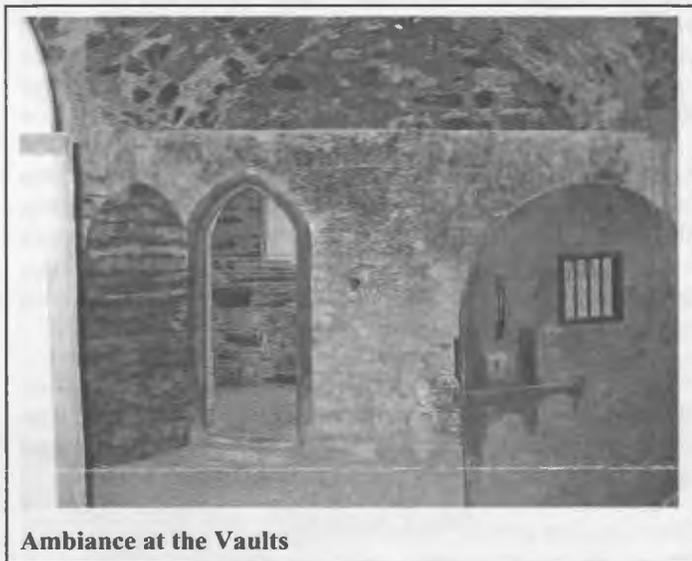
“Once a building has been designated a Registered Heritage Structure, it may be eligible to apply for a grant that may cover up to half of its restoration costs” says Jarvis.

If you would like additional information and/or applications, please call Dale Jarvis at 1-888-739-1892 ext 2. Applications can also be downloaded from HFNL’s website at [www.heritagefoundation.ca](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca)



## Events at the Newman Wine Vaults

The Newman Wine Vaults continues to hold a number of events this summer, at 436 Water Street in St. John's.



Ambiance at the Vaults

### *Storytelling Series*

Friday Evenings at 8:00pm (doors open at 7:30) from August 3-August 31<sup>st</sup>, Dale Jarvis presents *Away! Evenings with the Faerie Folk*. \$10 per person.

### *The Rats in the Walls & The Cask of Amontillado*

Shakespeare-by-the-Sea presents these two plays every Sunday and Monday Evening at 8:30pm (doors open at 8:00) from August 5<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup>. \$10 per person.

### *Beckett on Wine*

Tom Beckett will provide a sampling of a variety of ports. Tastings will take place every Sunday at 2pm from August 5<sup>th</sup> until September 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost per ounce of port.

## City of St. John's to Receive Prince of Wales Prize

The Heritage Canada Foundation is pleased to announce the City of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, as the 2007 recipient of the Prince of Wales Prize. Established in 1999 under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the award honours a municipal government for demonstrating an exemplary commitment to the preservation of its built heritage.

As the oldest community in Newfoundland and one of the earliest European settlements in North America, the City of St. John's is committed to working with individuals and organizations to promote, and interpret its built heritage. With over 6,000 properties in its designated heritage area and 126 municipally

designated buildings, St. John's has recognized that the conservation of heritage structures and historic areas are important cultural and economic assets.

A leader among communities in the province, St. John's has developed and employed an array of bylaws, incentives and programs over the last 30 years designed to protect and enhance its heritage fabric. In 1977, city council passed the St. John's Heritage Bylaw, which created one of the first and largest designated heritage areas in Canada – an area which continues to expand today; established a Heritage Advisory Committee; set building design controls and introduced financial incentives. In the 1980s, St. John's commitment to preservation was enhanced by its participation in Heritage Canada's Main Street program to improve the downtown core, notably George and Water streets. A renewed focus to heritage conservation then emerged in 2001 when city council adopted a Downtown Strategy resulting in the creation of property-tax incentives for commercial and institutional heritage buildings; the sponsorship of a Downtown Summit with the St. John's Board of Trade and the St. John's Port Authority and the introduction of a plaque program for designated heritage buildings. The city also commissioned a study that set out alternative methods for meeting building code requirements while maintaining the interior heritage character of its historic structures.

Today, the city is working to expand its heritage area to encompass the Battery/Signal Hill neighbourhood and Quidi Vidi Village, and to revise its heritage designation process to include cultural landscapes and modern heritage architecture.

The Prince of Wales Prize, which consists of a plaque, framed scroll and a pennant with the insignia of The Prince of Wales and the Heritage Canada Foundation, will be presented to the City of St. John's at a special gala ceremony to be held at the Foundation's annual conference on Friday, October 12, 2007, at the historic Government House in Edmonton, Alberta. Previous recipients include Markham, Ontario; Victoria, British Columbia; Saint John, New Brunswick; Québec, Quebec; Perth, Ontario; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

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