



# THE TRIDENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST

## REPORT FROM 2009 HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION CONFERENCE



Heritage Canada Foundation Executive Director Natalie Bull chats with MANL Executive Director Ken Flynn during a public presentation at the Newman Wine Vaults, November 9, 2009.

On September 24-26, the Heritage Canada Foundation held its yearly conference at the historic Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto. Prior to the official start of the conference HCF hosted a Built Heritage Leadership forum for representatives of heritage organizations country-wide. The Newfoundland Historic Trust was represented by President Kimberley Blanchard and Director Deborah O'Rielly at both the forum and the conference.

Many issues were discussed at the leadership forum, from membership to website presence. It was advantageous to sit and talk to heritage leaders from other jurisdictions and learn what problems and opportunities they encounter. Former Senator Pat Carney made an appearance to discuss the Lighthouse Bill, and

her efforts in helping the Bill pass parliament [Editor's Note: More information on this Bill can be found at the Heritage BC website at [www.heritagebc.ca/blog/lighthouse-bill-passes](http://www.heritagebc.ca/blog/lighthouse-bill-passes)].

The HCF Conference saw more than three hundred delegates eager to discuss the environmental issues facing Canadians today. The theme of the conference centred around linking green ideas with the rehabilitation of heritage buildings. This idea is most significant today, during these times of great economic change. Heritage buildings have inherent energy and potential. The conference speakers were eager to get out the message that the public is largely unaware of this embodied energy, and that incentives are critical to getting the message out there.

Buildings hold great potential when one has the vision to see that they are more than mortar and stone. As speaker Carl Elephante created the mantra, "the greenest building is one that is already built," we were shown that fundamental challenges facing environmental sustainability and heritage conservation movements are ready to be addressed now.

The 2009 Heritage Canada Foundation Conference strived to create a link between environmental issues facing Canadians and sustainable stewardship of our country's non-renewable heritage assets. But what it really did was start the discussion, and create more questions. It is up to all of us to continue this conversation with the next generation, who will be the stewards of our built heritage, as well as the environment.

The 2010 Heritage Canada Foundation Conference will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, and we look forward to bringing this discussion home when we talk about next year's theme: Revitalization.

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## CITY OF ST. JOHN'S 2009 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



Municipal elections took place in Newfoundland and Labrador in September. During this time, the Trust polled the candidates in St. John's to see what potential council members had to say about heritage conservation and rehabilitation, as well as issues pertaining to planning and development. Here is what four of our newly elected city councillors had to say about the issues.

### **SHANNIE DUFF, ELECTED DEPUTY MAYOR**

"I support a balanced approach to development that encourages new investment while protecting the significant heritage, cultural and natural assets that make our city unique, creative and livable. I believe that the historic character of old St. John's is an important economic asset. The protection of heritage has driven much of the investment in the downtown since it was designated as a Heritage Conservation area. The heritage character of the downtown is a non renewable resource. It is the story of our city. It cannot be moved.

Our current municipal plan and regulations recognize the importance of our built heritage. To be fair to existing property owners and investors and to future generations, we need to respect the intent of these regulations and be fair and consistent in their application. There are other areas in the city where high density development can take place, including areas in the downtown core, other than the small space designated as a Heritage Conservation Area. Jobs and taxes come from new development no matter where it is located.

The connection between urban planning and heritage conservation is critical. I think the questions of heritage conservation and economic development will be a hot button issue in any public consultation process. The heritage community in St. John's needs to become more proactive on these issues as part of a public education process."

### **FRANK GALGAY, ELECTED COUNCILLOR, WARD 2.**

"I have always supported and voted for the preservation and rehabilitation of our built heritage especially in the Ward 2 I represent, which has a significant number of historic buildings. I will work closely with the Heritage Committee and Planning Committee of the City of St. John's in conjunction with the Newfoundland Historic Trust to preserve these buildings for future generations."

### **SANDY HICKMAN, ELECTED COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE.**

"I think we have a special city and council must play a key role in ensuring we preserve and respect our heritage. Stick with the city plan and the designated heritage areas is vital; supporting our heritage officer and those that do good work in heritage preservation. Indeed, I hope to see at least small incentive grants for work in preserving heritage buildings."

### **SHEILAGH O'LEARY, ELECTED COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE.**

"Our world famous built heritage and cultural industries make St. John's a uniquely vibrant city. Promoting culture is a solid investment in our future. We need a creative plan of action for St. John's, one that balances new development with the community's unique personality and history. I believe in a balanced approach to development. While we need development if St. John's is to continue to grow, we cannot allow financial considerations to dictate how our city will look. When I say 'balanced approach,' I mean we must encourage development as long as it does not conflict with our built heritage and green spaces. I intend to continue to be a strong advocate for the built heritage that contributes so much to making St. John's a distinct and wonderful place to live. I will not support any weakening of the city's heritage laws. In any cases where deviations are recommended by City staff, I will insist on serious public consultation. Most members of the current [now former] St. John's city council (judging by the majority

decisions Council has made over the past four years) have demonstrated a greater concern for developers and potential increased revenues than for city residents and preserving our heritage.”

### **NOTES: DOWNTOWN ST. JOHN'S PARKING STUDY**

On November 10, 2009, a public meeting was held at City Hall to discuss the results of the City of St. John's parking study, commissioned by the City and the Downtown Development Commission and carried out by consultants from IBI Group. Approximately 100 residents showed up to hear the results and make their voices heard.

The City of St. John's has a legally enacted Municipal Plan and Development Regulations, which guides development in the City. These guidelines were put in place on the basis of a thorough public consultation process. The consultants suggested that in order to provide more parking downtown, the City should allow "selected exemptions" to the four-storey (15m) height restriction set forth in these guidelines. The Trust feels that under the guise of "solving the parking problem," this would open up the opportunity for the City to approve developments that would otherwise not meet these guidelines. Many residents at the meeting expressed their concern about this, especially in light of the fact that the City has 23 potential developments under review at this time. More on this story as it develops.

### **NEWMAN WINE VAULTS**



The Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site had over 3000 visitors between June and September 2009! Thanks to everybody who came down for tours, performances, and events.

The 2009 summer schedule included the ever-popular Shakespeare by the Sea "Classic Horror by Candlelight" series, which ran in July and August, in addition to a series of shows on Hallowe'en weekend. Wine & Words brought some of our finest local authors (Judy Ricketts, Raoul Anderson, John Crellin, Bill Rompkey, Tina Chaulk, Trudy Morgan-Cole, Chad Pelley, and Christopher Pratt) down to the Vaults to read from their latest offerings. We also hosted the fantastic Neighbourhood Strays bellydancing troupe for a series of shows in August.

Although we are only open for regular daily hours for the summer, the Newman Wine Vaults is available for rentals and tours year-round. Call the coordinator at 739-7870 for more information.



**Follow the Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site and the Newfoundland Historic Trust on Twitter to hear all the latest news about upcoming performances, advocacy, and events.**

**<http://www.twitter.com/newmanvaults>**

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### **THE TRIDENT FALL 2009**

**REPORT FROM HCF CONFERENCE WRITTEN BY DEBORAH O'RIELLY, DIRECTOR, NHT BOARD**

**COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF DANETTE DOOLEY**

**EDITED BY LESLIE PIERCE**

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# Newfoundland Historic Trust

P.O. Box 2403, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, A1C 6E7

The registered, non-profit Newfoundland Historic Trust was founded in 1966 as a citizens' response to built heritage under threat. The Trust has a mandate to preserve the built heritage of our province through advocacy, research, education and outreach. It is membership-driven and governed by a volunteer board.

The Trust's Southcott Awards were established in 1984 and are presented annually to recognize significant preservation activity throughout the province, and to encourage it in the future. Awards have been given for projects in Petite Forte, Hopedale, Brigus, Bonavista, Tilting, Grand Bank, Trinity, Mount Pearl, Greenspond, Corner Brook, Bareneed and elsewhere around Newfoundland and Labrador. The Trust's Newman Wine Vaults Restoration Project began in 1997. The Trust operates the Vaults as a Provincial Historic Site which is open to the public during summer months and for special events and programming throughout the year.

The ability of the Trust to speak confidently and lobby effectively to protect our province's built heritage, neighbourhoods, streetscapes and open spaces depends to a large extent on the degree of public support it enjoys. Memberships and donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued. Our membership year starts in January. Please renew or join for 2010!

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### 2010 NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual membership fees are \$25 per individual or family, \$40 for groups, institutions or organizations, and \$15 for students. Our membership year begins in January. Send form with cheque payable to Newfoundland Historic Trust or VISA information to The Newfoundland Historic Trust, PO Box 2403, St. John's, NL, A1C 6E7, or by fax at 709.739.5413.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (Please check one):

Individual/Family (\$25)

Group, Institution, and Organization (\$40)

Student (\$15)

I also include a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to the Trust.

Payment:

enclosed cheque

Visa number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date (mo/yr) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you would like to receive The Trident newsletter:

Paper copy by regular mail.

Electronic copy (Adobe PDF) by e-mail.

Please indicate in the space below whether or not you are interested in serving on any of the Trust's committees (Southcott Awards, preservation, programming) or participating in the newsletter, fundraising, volunteering at Newman Vaults, etc:

For more information, please contact the Newfoundland Historic Trust by phone at 739-7870, by e-mail at [historictrust@yahoo.ca](mailto:historictrust@yahoo.ca), or by visiting our website at [www.historictrust.com](http://www.historictrust.com)