

the

Past Present Future



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1984 HERITAGE AWARDS

In 1984, the Newfoundland Historic Trust began a new programme of awards for quality restoration in the preservation of Old St. John's. Similar awards were presented by the St. John's Heritage Foundation while it was in operation. An Awards Committee of the Trust reviewed some twenty restoration projects which were carried out over the past two years. Tim Houlihan, chairman, with members Chris O'Dea, Beaton Sheppard, Ruth Saturley and Mary Devine made their award selection on the basis of quality of work, importance of building, contribution to streetscape, spin-off potential and the extent of undertaking.

Seven Heritage Awards and three Southcott Awards were presented during a reception at City Hall on June 22, 1984. The seven houses and buildings honoured were 67 Queen's Road, Victoria Hall, Gower Street United Church, 22 Monkstown Road, the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 96 Duckworth Street and the L.S.P.U. Hall. The Southcott Awards for architects were presented to Phillip Pratt for his design of the infill housing projects at Dick's Square and William Street, to Charles Cullum for his dedication to the preservation of St. John's over the course of many years and to Bill MacCallum in recognition of his remarkable work on Victoria Hall.

Paul Thorburn



22 Monkstown Road



Gower Street United Church



James McGrath, M.P., presents a Southcott Award to architect Charles Cullum for his longtime dedication to heritage preservation.



Victoria Hall, as restored.

Basilica of St. John the Baptist



The interior of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist during the National Historic Site Ceremony on August 10, 1984.

On January 6, 1850, nearly 6 000 people attended the first mass celebrated by the Reverend Dr. Michael Fleming in the unfinished Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Dr. Fleming, the driving force behind the building of the cathedral, died in that same year and was buried beneath the altar. Since that time, the church, raised to the rank of Minor Basilica in 1955, has symbolized the Roman Catholic religion in Newfoundland. Situated on high land overlooking the harbour, the Basilica dominates the St. John's skyline and has welcomed many generations of seafarers through the Narrows.

It is the largest church building in Newfoundland; when built, it was the largest in North America.

This year, on August 10, the Basilica was declared a National Historic Site in recognition of its historical and architectural importance. Some 2 000 people attended the ceremony, during which a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Honourable William Rompkey, M.P. The plaque reads as follows:

The Basilica of St. John the Baptist

"The Roman Catholic Church was formally established in Newfoundland by Irish settlers at the end of the 18th century and since that time has played a key role in the religious, political and social history of the province. The Basilica of St. John the Baptist stands as the principal symbol of the church in Newfoundland. Begun in 1841 it was an ambitious project for its time and reflected the intent of Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming to erect

a cathedral of unusual elegance, extent and beauty. The design, inspired by Romanesque churches of Italy, was one of the earliest examples of this stylistic revival in North America."

Only eight churches in Canada have been declared national historic sites. Two of these eight are in St. John's, the other being the Anglican Cathedral, designated in 1981.

Paul Thorburn

Government House Tours



Government House — St. John's

Thanks to His Honour Lieutenant Governor Paddon Government House was open for the first time for tours on June 23, 1984, St. John's Day. Between four and five hundred people took advantage of the opportunity to see the interior of the building. They were able to visit the main rooms on the ground floor and see such features as the ceilings painted by Pendikowsky, the cantilevered staircase and the period furniture. Judging by the comments of the visitors they enjoyed the opportunity of viewing government house and for most of them it was a first visit.

The success of the tours was due to the work of a number of people. The Trust received assistance from: Donald C. Barter, Private Secretary, Government House; John Perlin who instructed the guides and from Maureen Brennan, Terry Brennan, David Bruce, Glen Seymour and Terri Thistle of Parks and Recreation, City of St. John's, who acted as guides. As well a number of the Aides-de-camp to the Lieutenant Governor were present and helped with security.

It is hoped that the successful tours of Government House will be repeated again in the future.

George Courage

Cabot's Landfall in The New World

On Saturday, August 11, 1984 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada officially commemorated John Cabot's 1497 landfall in the New World at Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland as a National Historic Site.

The Honourable Charles Caccia, former Minister of the Environment, unveiled the trilingual plaque (English, French, Italian). In his address to the assembly, he emphasized Newfoundland's close ties with the city of Bristol in England and with the Italian explorer John Cabot, who sailed from Bristol on his historic voyage. Other speakers included the Honourable James Morgan, MHA, Mayor Frank Little, Mr. David Hiscock and Rev. Hoddinott. Dr. Noel Murphy, Newfoundland representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board acted as chairman.

At the community reception, a phone call was made to the Lord Major of Bristol, thus re-establishing ties with the city of Bristol.

Mary Davina



Honourable Charles Caccia addresses the guests at the Cape Bonavista ceremony. A statue of John Cabot can be seen in the background.



President Chris O'Dea is seen manning the Trust's display at the Home Fair held at the St. John's Curling Club, May 25-27, 1984.

St. John The Evangelist Anglican Church — Topsail

The history of the Anglican Church in Topsail dates back to the early 1800's when settlers began to move into the area. These earliest settlers were visited occasionally by clergy from what is now the Cathedral Parish in St. John's. One of the earliest entries in the Cathedral records for this area is a marriage between Edward Hiscock of Chamberlains and Patience Squires of Broad Cove (St. Phillips) in 1819.

In 1845, Reverend Mr. Benjamin Fleet was appointed as Missionary for the South Shore, then a stretch of beach extending 8 to 10 miles from Topsail to Seal Cove, including eleven settlements.

This former choirboy of St. Pauls Cathedral found a dramatic change of lifestyle. The winters of the unsheltered coast were found almost unbearable and his lodging was merely a former hayloft. He described the people as being of the 'lowest class of fishermen' and sought the disappearance of such immoral acts a 'nightly card playing' and 'drinking' amongst the younger crowd. The only Church was an 'old decayed building' centered in Foxtrap which barely sufficed the needs of the Mission.

With the extension of the road network from St. John's in the 1840's, the population of the Topsail-Manuels area grew rapidly. Due to the growth, Topsail became a separate mission in 1860 and the Reverend Mr. Charles Palairret was appointed its first incumbent. Reverend Mr. Palairret, stemming from a rich background in France, along with generous gifts by Mrs. O.E. Johnson brought to completion this Church at Topsail. Mrs. Johnson also provided a Parsonage and £1000 for the support of the clergyman, beside the £300 towards the Church's erection.

The present building dates from the time of Mr. Palairret, who according to records was very active in the planning and purchasing of materials for the structure. The following facts were found in his diary and show the progress of the construction.

February 13, 1860

James Harvey, carpenter, St. John's, engaged to build framework of Topsail Church. Timber purchased from Richard Harvey.

March 7, 1860

James Hibbs and family move from Keith Cottage. The cottage was then prepared for Church services.



Anglican Church — Topsail

March 11, 1860

Lumber sawn at River Head.

May 8, 1860

License for Church Cottage. First service in Church Cottage. Consecration of altar in Cottage.

May 16, 1860

Church foundation laid — James Hibbs, John Barnes, Matthew Slade.

May 23, 1860

Conferred with Janes Harvey about pillars, principals, windows and lumber.

May 24, 1860

Agreement with S. Churchill 1-19-0 weekly: A. Churchill 0-10-0 weekly: W. Allen 1-19-0 weekly.

June 18, 1860

S. Churchill and W. Allen prepare workshop on Church ground. Church plan 44 ft. x 24 ft. Chancel 15 ft. x 18 ft.

June 7, 1861

Suspension of work.

June 18, 1861

Consecration of Church and Churchyard dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. Subscriptions from people of Topsail 25-7-0.

Since the original construction a number of changes have been made; for instance, the tower is not a part of the original building. Asphalt shingles have replaced the original wooden ones and electricity replaced the oil lamps and chandelier. One of the most interesting features of the Church is its style of architecture and the natural wood which has never been painted.

The first baptism was recorded June

24th as a private baptism of Ellen, daughter of John and Mary Johnson born January 25th.

The first burial recorded was on June 30th, of William, infant son of William and Anne Squires, died June 28th, aged 4 days.

The first marriage in the Church was between Simon Smith of Bishop's Cove to Tryphena Beckford of Lance Cove on November 15th.

Reverend Mr. Palairret continued his remarkable work acquiring many acres of land for the Church. he built a Church and parsonage in Foxtrap, bought small plots of land and built houses for poor families, as well as lavish a small fortune on the Church and people of Topsail, greatly improving the quality of life here.

Reverend Mr. Hutchinson, who served here from 1867-1876, resigned an English parish to work at the Battle Harbour Mission in Labrador prior to his incumbency at Topsail. he passed away on October 5th, 1876 still in faithful service to the Mission of Topsail.

Reverend Mr. Edward Colley took over as incumbent in 1877 and remained here until 1904. His body rests on the south side of the Church. For 28 years, he travelled the shore, exercising his medical skill and performing his spiritual ministrations among his people, and not only for these, for he willingly gave his services to all in need.

The small stained glass east window was dedicated in 1910 to the memory of the first three incumbents.

Reverend Mr. Robert Temple arrived to serve in 1905 after leaving the hardships of his northern mission for the smaller, quieter sphere of Topsail. He remained here until 1911 when he found it necessary to retire from active serv-

Holloway School Site

ice and went to live in St. John's.

The next incumbent, Reverend Mr. T.G. Netten arrived in October 1911. He served here faithfully until his retirement in 1917. He died January 30, 1925 whereupon by special train, his remains were conveyed to Topsail from St. John's and were laid to rest at the scene of his last activities.

Topsail mission then saw the arrival of Reverend Mr. Arthur Pittman in November, 1918. He is remembered by all as a tall, muscular man known for his speedy travels by foot. During his incumbency, the Church was the receiver of further endowments such as:

- A new Estey organ valued at \$420 raised by Women's Sewing Class.
- Two sets of concrete steps and iron rails (still in use today) funds bequeathed by Mrs. Rebecca Fowler.
- Electric lighting of the Church and parsonage — Sir Edgar Bowring and funds raised by the Women's Sewing Class.
- Stained glass window and oak reredos and panelling (1923) by Sir Edgar Bowring.
- Altar Frontal, Super Frontal and Bookmarks by Sir Edgar Bowring's companion, Mrs. Munn.

Reverend Mr. W.A. Butler started his incumbency here in 1934 and ended it 9 years later in 1943. Reverend Mr. Butler was here during the 80th anniversary celebrations of 1941. He passed away suddenly and the mission had to be taken over for a short time by Bishop J.A. Meaden until the appointment of Reverend Mr. Evelyn Clench in 1943.

Reverend Mr. Clench's first wife died here and he then married his former sweetheart, Agnes Earle, widow of Dr. Smith. They resided in Manuels. He left the mission in 1949 and was replaced by Reverend Mr. Joseph Goodland.

During Mr. Goodland's time here, a new parsonage was built on the present parsonage site. The former parish hall, now the playground, was named Goodland Memorial Hall in his memory. Mr. Goodland became ill and died in 1959 while still the incumbent at his mission.

Reverend Mr. George Camp became the next incumbent to administer to the Topsail mission. He served here for the fewest number of years, just five, from 1959-1964.

The final Rector to preside over the Old Topsail Church was the Reverend Mr. Sidney M. Bradbrook who remained here until 1977, whilst the old Church saw its last consecutive service

The new city plan had not even been approved before Council applied for a change to be made. The proposed change is to accommodate a ten story apartment building on the Holloway School site on Longs Hill.

Specifically the proposed change is as follows:

- 1) to remove the site from the Heritage Area;
- 2) to create a new zoning district which would allow ten story buildings with a density of 200 units per hectare;
- 3) to change the Holloway site from the present zoning designation of Residential Downtown (which allows 4 story buildings) to this new designation of Residential High Density (Special).

The Holloway site had originally been purchased by the developers with the intention of renovating the existing building. This was later declared to be uneconomic and demolition of the Holloway School was started in the winter of 1984. At about the same time a submission was made to City Council to construct a ten story, 110 unit apartment building in its place.

This proposal was not acceptable under the New City Plan which at that time was under review by a commissioner. Initially, the Council asked the Department of Municipal Affairs to make the following amendments (which are different from those given above);

- 1) to remove the Holloway site from the Heritage Area;
- 2) to change the height in the Residential Downtown Land Use District from four stories to ten stories.

in 1974. It was during Mr. Bradbrook's incumbency that the Mission of Topsail became a self-supporting parish in 1967

Our Old Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 1985. We believe that this unique building forms an important part of the heritage, religion and tradition of our area which is worth preserving. We retain our Old Church still as a consecrated place of worship and find much pleasure in sharing its beauty and charm with you.

Old Church Preservation Committee

A meeting on this plan amendment was scheduled for July 4, 1984. This meeting was later postponed by the Mayor, with the support of a majority of Council, because of the rising opposition to an amendment which would open all of the residential downtown to ten story buildings.

The proposed amendment was then changed, and it was requested that a new zoning district would be created called Residential High Density (Special). This new zone would allow ten story buildings and 200 units per hectare. The City Planner in discussing this new zoning district referred to it as a "floating zone" which indicates that it could be imposed at a later time on other areas of the City. The Holloway Site would then be placed in this new zoning district. This proposed amendment amounted to a request for the creation of a new zoning district to accommodate the wishes of a developer.

The briefing sessions, which were held on August 21, were attended by approximately two hundred people who objected to the proposed amendment. Ten written submissions were presented at these briefings to the commissioner. Submissions were given by: downtown residents, the Kirk, Concerned Citizens Committee of St. John's Centre, Lower West End Development Association, Midtown South Neighbourhood Improvement Committee, and the Newfoundland Historic Trust. It was very encouraging to have such a wide variety of citizens groups expressing an interest in the downtown.

The points raised covered areas such as: access to the Church, the height of the building, effect on the neighbourhood and on the heritage area. A recurring theme was that such a change could be contrary to the City Plan and would be setting a very dangerous precedent for the future.

During the latter part of August a petition was circulated in the downtown and was signed by approximately 2,000 people. This petition was submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs in early September.

The Commissioner is expected to complete his report by the middle of September after which time the Minister of Municipal Affairs will make a decision on the proposed amendment. It is hoped this decision will be the refusal of all three sections of the amendment.

ANNOUNCING!

The Annual General Meeting
of the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

The Colonial Building
Thursday, October 25, 1984
at 8:00 p.m.

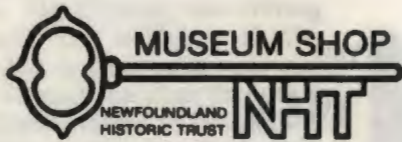
- Reports of the past year's activities
- Election of officers for the coming year
- Guest speaker
- Refreshments

Attend — and bring a friend!

Decorate this fall with popular
NEWFOUNDLAND FLOWER STENCILS



Stencils designed by Jean M. Ball. Paint and brushes all available at the



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