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PAST PRESENT FUTURE

trident



The Newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

Spring - Summer 2002

SOUTHCOTT AWARDS 2002

The recipients of the 2002 Southcott Awards will be formally announced on Friday 21 June, 2002 3:30 p.m. in the Foran/Greene Room, St. John's City Hall. The awards ceremony is by invitation only and all members of the Newfoundland Historic Trust are invited. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling the Trust at 739-7870.

The 2002 awards will be presented by distinguished guests Hon Julie Bettney, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation; Geraldyn Hansford of Aliant Telecom; Jewel Cunningham, Parks Canada; George Chalker, Heritage Canada Board of Governors; Ruth Canning, Chair, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador; Councillor Shannie Duff, City of St John's. An important part of this year's event will be the launching of a new CD-ROM about the Southcotts, produced by Greg Locke. A reception will follow.

And the Southcott Committee is pleased to announce Peggy Stewart is a new member of the committee. Other members are Susan Haedrich (Chair), Colette Nap, John Templeton and Shane O'Dea.

NEWMAN WINE VAULTS

Spurred by the tremendous success of their inaugural year, the Newman Wine Vaults begin their 2002 season amid high expectations. The Vaults opened their doors to the public on Monday, June 10. An official opening is planned later in June. Museum Week in Newfoundland and Labrador begins June 16, and what better way to celebrate and support heritage than by visiting the Vaults. New interpretative display panels narrate the history of the Vaults and their affiliations with the Newman family and the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, as well as the fascinating Vault machinery and conserved artifacts await your viewing.

The Newman Wine Vaults are, indeed, poised for an exciting year, having already garnered considerable media attention for the Luben Boykov art exhibition in May. Showcasing 20 of the artist's bronze sculptures, the Wine Vaults proved a unique and haunting showplace for Boykov's artwork. Following private showings and a well-attended reception, the exhibit was distinguished by consistent extensions and acclaim. Overall, 2100 people viewed the exhibit and the Vaults. Underlying this acclaim was the praise of the Trust for the enthusiastic staging of the show.

Anticipating a busy tourist season, Leida Finlayson has been hired as the Wine Vault's Program Manager. A native Newfoundlander, Leida was raised in St. John's and returns to the city after some time away, including a five-year period in Calgary. Having studied history, political science and education, she worked primarily in performing arts administration and alternative education.

As well as training and supervising the summer student-guides, she will be mainly responsible for the development of Vault programming. Already several exciting ideas are being reviewed and plans are developing. Leida is a welcome addition to the Newman Wine Vault's and has already proven herself an invaluable asset with her intuitive improvements to the programming schedule.

Events of note to take place after the opening ceremony include Napoleon Day on Sunday, 14 July. Anxiously anticipated, it promises to rival the "public spectacle" (as amusingly termed by a member of the Wine Vault's Committee) of last year's event, with visits by the Town Crier, members of the Signal Hill Tattoo and, indeed, Napoleon himself. A "Kid's Day" is also planned for August, and various barbecues and port-tasting are to be scheduled throughout the season.

An addition to this year's "Newman Wine Vault's experience" is a walking tour of "The Historic West End." At 2:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, June 17 to August 30, one of the Vault's guides will lead an hour-long tour of the West End of downtown. Beginning at the Newman Building, the tour will travel around the neighbourhood, making stops at historical landmarks such as Apothecary Hall, the CN Train Station, notable art galleries and churches, etc. before winding back to the Newman Building. Cost for the tour is \$5.00 per person, with no charge for children under ten.

The partnership of the Historic Trust and the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation has been a highlight. The support of Gerry Glavine and his office at the NLC has been generous and unwavering. The help of the NLC, in combination with support from Tourism, Culture and Recreation; Works Services and Transportation; Human Resources Development Canada; and the Canada-Newfoundland Economic Development Agreement has allowed for the hiring of summer students, repair of the fabric and conservation of the Vaults and its artifacts and the planning of many events. The Historic Trust is grateful to all its partners

and supporters for their interest and help with this exceptional site.

With such a full season planned for the Newman Wine Vaults, it seems one can only look forward to continued growth and improvements. The Newman Wine Vaults will be open until Friday, August 30, 2002 seven days a week from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. The Wine Vaults are available for private events and interested parties should contact Leida Finlayson at 739-7870 or by email at vaults@historictrust.com.

Members of the Newman Wine Vaults Committee are Dale Jarvis (Chair), Patricia O'Brien, Ute Okshevsky, Nancy Cook, Leida Finlayson, Susan Fry and Glenn Keough (Provincial Rep).

HERITAGE AND THE ROYAL ST JOHN'S REGATTA

If you happen to be walking Quidi Vidi Lake during these sunny days of summer, do not hesitate to discover (or rediscover) the Royal St John's Regatta by visiting the Regatta Museum located on the third floor of the Boat House. The Regatta Museum, the longtime dream of Regatta Committee Past-President, John O'Mara, was realized last summer when it opened a week before the 2001 Regatta. As Gail Malone, Vice-President of the Regatta Committee, recently explained, a "New Boat House Fund" has been in existence for some fifteen years and the creation of a Regatta Museum has always been a major part of its design. With strong municipal and provincial support, construction of a new Boat House was begun in the fall of 2000. Construction continued from September 2000 to August 2001, but was plagued with numerous delays because of incumbent weather. Monies from the Federal Millennium Fund contributed to the realization of the Regatta Museum, a realization that has gone way beyond initial expectations.

Attractions Canada recently named the Royal St John's Regatta in its sporting section as one of the most notable attractions in the

Attractions Canada gala event May 30 in Edmonton, Alberta and was impressed and pleased by the recognition of an event that she has always taken such pride in.

One of the pleasant surprises this past year has been the tremendous educational prospect presented by the Regatta Museum. During last year's Boat House construction, some six months before the museum would open, Gail Malone was contacted by Elaine Harris, principal of Mary Queen of Peace Elementary School. Ms. Harris was prompted to contact the Committee by an idea for the Art Smart program.

The Art Smart grant is one given by the provincial government that encourages elementary school students to focus on and research notable events, personalities and sites in their community. Elementary school students at Mary Queen of Peace had designated the Regatta as their topic. Thus, every Thursday morning from September to November 2001, Committee members Gail Malone and John O'Mara brought students from grades four, five and six at Mary Queen of Peace through the Regatta Museum. Over a series of weeks, the students researched the history of the Regatta and were privileged with a personal tour of the Museum, a tour that included an up-close examination of a racing shell and Regatta trophies, medals and ribbons, the study of the functioning of a crew and its shell, the perusal of extensive press coverage of the Regatta over the years and the viewing of a video that continues to run in the Museum showcasing the "Old-Time Regattas" so close to the heart of long-time Regatta enthusiasts. (Indeed, in a note that cannot be surmised as mere coincidence, Gail Malone, the first female member of the Regatta Committee and its present Vice-President, is the daughter of Gerald Malone, one of the long-standing members of the Regatta Committee).

Students from Mary Queen of Peace enthusiastically surveyed their chosen local event and were fascinated by all they learned. Although here-to-fore their memories of the Regatta were heartfelt, such memories were

comprised more of plush toys and cotton candy than the Regatta's colorful history. Upon taking an intensive interest in the Regatta, they came to pride themselves on sharing a range of details unique to the Regatta, from the progression of the racing shell from whaleboats to sailing boats to the transfer of the event from St John's Harbour to "Quidi Vidi." In turn, the students impressed Committee members with their knowledge and creativity. Their participation in the Art Smart program culminated in a concert-like presentation of their endeavour and the unveiling of four panels showcasing "The Regatta through the Ages" designed by the students under the supervision of a professional artist. These panels are on display in the Boat House.

We can take a lesson from the students of Mary Queen of Peace Elementary School and take advantage of all the opportunities that present themselves. And the very next time you survey the changed landscape along "The Lake", do not let your curiosity stop there. Instead, step inside to the new Boat House and discover all it has to offer. And see how much more you enjoy the 2002 Regatta.

The Regatta Museum opened for the season on May 27 and will remain open until mid-to-late August. Hours are as follows:
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 - 8:00
Wednesday and Friday 10:00 - 6:00 and
Sunday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Board of Directors 2001 - 2002 Newfoundland Historic Trust

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Newfoundland Historic Trust Calendar of Events Summer 2002

The summer months are typically quiet and leisurely - few meetings and a little extra time to visit museums, go house spotting and enjoy time with family and friends. Over the next few weeks, however, Trust members also have the opportunity to combine summer activities with their favourite interest - heritage. The following calendar names a few of these which members will want to consider when making plans.

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| | St John's | The Newman Wine Vaults - now open 10:00 - 4:30 daily. Walking tours June 17 - Aug 30, 2:00 p.m. Call 739-7870 for info. |
| 19 June | St John's | <u><i>"From Belvedere to the Basilica."</i></u>
The Newfoundland Historic Trust sponsors a tour of the Presentation Convent buildings, followed by a panel discussion
Tour begins 7:15 p.m. at Presentation Convent.
Panel discussion begins 8:00 p.m. The Lantern on Barnes Rd. |
| 21 June | St John's | Annual Southcott Awards. Ceremony begins at St John's City Hall at 3:30 pm with reception to follow. Members are especially invited.
RSVP 739-7870. |
| Late June | St John's | Official Opening of the Newman Wine Vaults
Date and Time to be confirmed - call Leida Finlayson in the Trust Office for details 739-7870. |
| 14 July | Bonavista | The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador will announce designated properties in the Historic Townscape area. A tour of the town will be followed by a banquet and presentation of plaques. For tour and dinner details please call Dale Jarvis at the Foundation 739-1892. |
| 15 July | St John's | Napoleon Surrenders. A month after the victory at Waterloo, 1815 Napoleon officially surrendered to the British and was sent by HMS Bellerophon to exile on St Helena. Once aboard Bellerophon, the crew toasted the victory with Newman's Port Wine. Bonny was probably served Newman's too (but separately, no doubt). Members and Friends of the Trust are invited to participate in commemorating the event at 1:00 in the Newman Wine Vaults, Water Street. |
| August | St John's | Royal St John's Regatta, Quidi Vidi Lake. Check the local media to confirm date and time of this event during first week of August. For information about the Regatta, read Susan Fry's article in this issue of The Trident . |
| 14 September | St John's | The 2002 Association of Heritage Industries Forum
"The Future of Heritage"
Cook Recital Hall, Memorial University School of Music
Call AHI for details 738-4345 |

From Belvedere to the Basilica: What does the future hold?

This is the title of a **special panel discussion set for 19 June**, organized by Jim Hiller of the Programme Committee of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. As Jim recently explained, "The idea is to discuss the past and future of the Roman Catholic precinct extending from Belvedere to the Basilica, (encompassing Shamrock Field) and to use the area as a basis for discussing issues of planning and re-use - how is a city to handle the heritage passed on from a religious to a secular society?"

This is an important question in St John's these days, particularly as the city plan is now being revised. Heritage issues are easily overlooked or misunderstood in the excitement and promise of development, and how they are unfolding in the unique church property under discussion will no doubt interest many in the Trust.

The panel for the discussion will include Councillor Kevin Breen, City of St John's; Sr Perpetua Kennedy of Presentation Convent; and historian John FitzGerald.

The evening will actually begin at **7:15 p.m. with a tour of Presentation Convent**. Presentation Convent is to the right of the Basilica and in a gated enclosure at the back of the piazza. The **panel discussion will begin at 8:00 p.m.** at The Lantern on Barnes Road.

Related to the developments in this historic area, and elsewhere in the city, Historic Trust Board members Dale Jarvis and Shane O'Dea expressed their views to The Telegram on 10 and 11 May respectively. These letters are reproduced here as a primer to the 19 June panel.

Letter by Dale Jarvis, Board of Directors, Newfoundland Historic Trust

I am taking the time to write this short note while I'm on my vacation in Singapore. At the moment, I'm sitting in a friend's apartment, looking out the window. As I write, I can count no less than 42 high-rise apartments/office blocks/shopping complexes and one piece of open green space that, from here, looks about the size of a postage stamp.

The only "heritage" building near where I sit is a ramshackle apartment building housing migrant construction workers who are building a new tower, an apartment building which will probably be razed the moment the construction is finished to make way for yet more new construction.

It is, all in all, a fairly alien landscape when compared to my home in Georgestown. I miss home. And when I think about it, it is the scale of the place, its neighbourhood character, its people-friendly streets, its old buildings and its quietness that I miss.

I will not be home until after the May 13 St John's city council meeting, at which you will discuss the Sobeys proposal for Shamrock Field. I hope I will find my neighbourhood much the same as I left it. I am not an opponent of progress and I recognize there are many people in my community who actually desire the convenience of a shopping centre in the neighbourhood. What I am

concerned about is that the current Sobeys proposal is much too large to properly respect the character of the place in which it is to be developed, and that there is a push to approve its construction before a proper planning study is completed.

I would ask that council please wait until a proper planning study is complete before any approvals for work on Shamrock Field are granted.

Letter by Shane O'Dea, Chair, Preservation Committee, Newfoundland Historic Trust

For a city to develop it needs to ensure the peace of its homeowners and the security of its business people. The maintenance of that peace and security is what encourages new residents to come and encourages those already here to invest more in their homes and neighbourhoods. Peace and security is what encourages new businesses to enter the local market or established businesses to expand. But a homeowner or business person will not make this additional investment if there is an uncertain civic climate. The homeowner has to be reasonably secure that if he improves his home that he will recoup its value if he ever has to sell. The business executive has to be comfortable that her decision to relocate will be profitable. This cannot be done in a climate of uncertainty where taxpayers - whether homeowners or business people - are unsure of what the future holds for where they live or work. It is essential to have a good planning environment and that is why the Newfoundland Historic Trust is concerned about the motion to approve the Shamrock Field Development before the Planning Area 3 Development Scheme has been completed.

The Board of Trade has spoken on the matter of development delays and the difficulties developers have getting approval for projects. A number of councillors have echoed this concern. But were there a revised City Plan in place these delays would be minimized because developers and citizens would both understand the ground rules under which the whole city was to develop and there would be less basis for conflict. Developers would know where they could pursue their projects. Homeowners and businesspersons would be better able to predict the future of the environments they chose to live and work in. And this was the case for much of the last half of 1980s and into the 1990s after the City Plan was first developed. The great period of uncertainty during the 1970s and early 1980s - when ad hoc decisions and spot zoning seemed to be the order of the day and when citizens were constantly at war with City Hall - passed into a period of relative peace. That period saw orderly development of many areas and an extraordinary revival of the downtown - the benefits of which we are finally seeing.

There has been a considerable change in the City in recent years occasioned by the sale of church and school lands. This requires a review of the Plan. But since it involves such massive tracts of land and, potentially, major alterations in use and impact, it requires a very careful thinking on the part of citizens and their Council as to the shape of the City for the future. Such thinking cannot be done when large sections of the City are rezoned without a sense of the overall impact of that rezoning.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust urges the Council to delay any consideration of the Shamrock Field development until at least the Planning Area 3 Development Scheme has been completed.