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In Memory of Leida Finlayson



Leida Finlayson was a bundle of curiosity, enthusiasm, and charm. When she first took her job as General Manager with the Newfoundland Historic Trust, she excitedly told friends that she had finally found a job that directly related to her degree in history and political science. Her seven months with the Trust were especially fruitful in raising the profile of Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site.

Last December Leida was diagnosed with terminal cancer. In her final months she worked on her hippy book project, compiled albums of her favourite photos and spent quality time with family and friends. On July 19, 2003 Leida passed peacefully away in St. John's in the presence of her family. She was 31 years old.

In memory of her life, her spirit, and her contribution to the Newfoundland Historic Trust, the Trust and the Finlayson family are proud to establish the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be presented to Memorial University and will be directed to a

student of history or political studies. It will be awarded annually as part of the Trust's Southcott Awards and St. John's Day Celebrations.

To make a scholarship fund contribution send a cheque payable to the "Newfoundland Historic Trust" and marked "scholarship" to PO Box 2403, St. John's, NL, A1C 6E7. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued.



Update on Colonial Building

John O'Dea, President of the Trust is representing our organization at meetings with other interested groups invited by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation to provide input on the restoration and future use of the Colonial Building. Heritage Consultant John Weiler has been engaged by the Department to review the group's deliberations and other information and to prepare options for the building. To date, most of the discussion has been on the expectations for the restoration of the building and appropriate use. A public consultation is planned for the near future. A report will eventually go to cabinet to obtain approval to proceed with renovations. The Trust views this inclusive process as very beneficial to the future of the most significant icon in the province's structural heritage. No word has been received regarding the proposal made by the Association of Heritage Industries to financially support the restoration and operation of the building.

Doors Open St. John's 2003!

The weekend of September 6th and 7th 2003 was St. John's first Doors Open event. Despite overcast skies and the odd moment of drizzle, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Over 27,000 visits were made to our 16 participating sites. Far more than we had imagined possible.

Doors Open is a unique opportunity for the citizens and visitors to St. John's to celebrate our heritage through the exploration of some of our hidden historical, architectural and cultural gems. Buildings that are normally closed to the public or charge an entrance fee welcomed visitors to look around for free.

The Doors Open concept began in Glasgow, Scotland in 1990 under the co-ordination of the Scottish Civic Trust. A year later it was launched as a Council of Europe initiative. In 1998, 19 million people had visited 28,000 sites throughout Europe making it the world's biggest festival of the built environment.

Inspired by the Scottish example a dedicated group in Toronto created Canada's first Doors Open. After just two years the event had exploded with over 100 participating buildings and 130,000 visitors. Doors Open then spread across Ontario and into Quebec and British Columbia. Recognising our rich culture and heritage, the Newfoundland Historic Trust was proud to organise Atlantic Canada's first Doors Open event.

The aims of the event are simple:

- To promote free access to buildings, monuments and site of architectural, cultural and / or historical interest. Especially those parts of them that are usually closed to the public;
- To encourage citizens to share in the cultural heritage which surrounds them;
- To safeguard heritage under threat;

- To stimulate public involvement in the cultural heritage of their area;

- To raise awareness of architectural heritage and how it contributes to our cultural identity.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust sends a big "Thank you!" to our partners – Doors Open could not have happened so well without them. They are: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador; City of St. John's; Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement; CBC; The Telegram; Signs Now; Canadian Heritage.

The Trust is especially grateful to the contact people at each of the sites who facilitated visitors and made the whole day go smoothly. Thank you to: Sister Perpetua Kennedy, Presentation Convent; Larry Dohey, Basilica Cathedral & Museum; Dr. Paul, Beth El Synagogue; John Warren, Masonic Hall; Dr. Haddara, Mosque / Islamic Centre; Janet Martin, St. Andrew's Presbyterian; Lara Maynard, Newman Wine Vaults; Mike Dwyer and Paul Sears, Central Fire Station; Margaret Donovan, City of St. John's; Dick Cook, Winterholme Heritage Inn; David Rees, Quidi Vidi Brewing Company; Gary Walsh, Crow's Nest Officer's Club; Glenn Keough, Commissariat House; Dr. Vaze, Hindu Temple; Ed Carter, Mile One Stadium.



Patient Doors Open St. John's goes in line at Presentation Convent on September 6, 2003

2003 Southcott Awards Presented

The Newfoundland Historic Trust developed the Southcott Awards program in 1984 to commend the good work of individuals, organizations, corporations and governments in the preservation of the province's architectural heritage. The awards are named for one of the most important nineteenth century Newfoundland building firms: J. and J.T. Southcott. The Southcott Awards for 2003 were presented to six first-rate architectural heritage preservation projects during a ceremony on June 20th at St. John's City Hall.

The Agvituk Historical Society from Hopedale received an award for their stewardship of the Hopedale Moravian Mission Buildings, the most intact Moravian Mission complex in Labrador. The buildings range in age from 138 to 186 years old, and have distinctive Moravian and German architectural features. The complex remains a focal point of Hopedale community life.

Charlie Payne of Woody Point received the award for giving new life to a building that was once the Lord Nelson Loyal Orange Lodge #149 by turning it into the Woody Point Heritage Theatre. The structure, which was built in the early 1900s, is the only one of its kind on the Northern Peninsula.

Janet Davis of Brookfield was recognized for restoration of the former J. Kean Shop, which now operates as Norton Cove Studio. Patricia Hayden-Ryan was honoured for her efforts to restore her family home in Petite Forte.

Derrick Rowe received an award for his care of his F. Paul Meschino-designed early modern home at Rostellan Place in St. John's. Another city resident, Susan Harvey Patten, received the award for diligent maintenance of her King's Bridge Road family home, Bel-Air.

The Trust is grateful to the sponsors of the 2003 awards: City of St. John's, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and Parks Canada.

2004 Southcott Awards

The Newfoundland Historic Trust is accepting nominations for its 2004 Southcott Awards. Awards are given to buildings 50 years or older that have been restored within the past three years to reflect the authentic character of the original design. Nomination forms are available at www.historictrust.com/southcott or by calling (709) 739-7870. The deadline for nominations is January 15th 2004.



Military Hospital & St. Michael's Convent

During the September meeting of the Trust's board, Shane O'Dea of the Preservation Committee noted that from a heritage preservation perspective the Military Hospital and St. Michael's Convent in St. John's were undergoing less than a treatment. The Military Hospital in particular is suffering "demolition by neglect" and apparently with government concurrence. With regard to the sale of the hospital, this had occurred with little public consultation or notice, which, as a policy for disposal of historic public buildings, seems less than reasonable to the Trust.



Status of the Heritage Foundation

At the provincial heritage conference organized by the Association of Heritage Industries and the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador on October 3-5, 2003, David Bradley, current Chair of the Association of Heritage Industries, made the following remarks. As these will be of interest to members of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, they are reproduced here:

"It seems that the contribution of heritage and heritage organizations is not always well understood or appreciated in the larger society. And governments - especially the provincial government which has an enormous vested interest in the results of our efforts - seems not to have a full appreciation of our work. They do not appear to understand that we have been successful - that we are making our communities more sustainable.

"To find evidence of this lack of understanding, you need look no further than how the provincial government has been treating the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. Established by the Peckford government in 1984 as an arms length government agency responsible for protecting our built heritage, the organization received an annual allocation from the province - which it used for incentive grants to entice heritage property owners to invest in restoration. It is (or was) an immensely successful program, sparking built heritage restoration projects in communities all over the province - communities that had become accustomed to allowing their old buildings to vanish. One of the Foundation's greatest contributions has been - and this is the same for all types of heritage work - in helping people to begin to think differently about their past - to understand that it has value and relevance for today.

"Despite its success, during the Clyde Wells years the government eliminated the organization's annual budget allocation. Since then it has limped along, going back to government every couple of years, cap in hand, seeking the funds to continue. This is a very poor way to operate because it doesn't allow for any long-term planning.

"At present the prospects are quite bleak. For the first time in its 20 year history, the Foundation does not have the funds necessary to offer its regular grant program. And I understand that by April, unless something changes, the organization could well be out of money and obligated to close its doors.

"If the government fully understood the benefits of the Heritage Foundation - if it understood that every \$1.00 in Foundation restoration grants generates anywhere from \$3.00 to \$15.00 in direct private investment - if it understood that these investments create some of the most appealing cultural tourism attractions many communities have to offer - if it understood that these investments also help to instill citizens with a sense of pride in their communities and a feeling that they can do something to create new economic opportunities - if it understood that these investments help to create more sustainable communities - if government understood all of this, it would not leave the Foundation and its volunteer board hanging in limbo and without the resources to properly continue its work. It would reinstate the annual budget allocation and let the organization get on with it."



Dale Jarvis of the Heritage Foundation (left) presents a plaque to William Francis on October 24, 2003, marking the designation of Williams's home, the John Hancock House, Portland, as a Registered Heritage Structure. The dwelling was constructed by boat builder and carpenter John Hancock circa 1928-1935, with wood sawn on the property. It is a testament to Hancock's skill, and all original features have been preserved, including decorative raincaps and brackets, coloured glass front door with wooden storm shutters, the two storey pedimented bay window, and decorative shingling in the gable ends. Hancock sold the property circa 1935-1940 to the Knee family, who added a commercial shop circa 1945-1950. There are currently 230 Registered Heritage Structures in the province.

At the Newman Wine Vaults

The 2003 summer season at Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site, operated by the Newfoundland Historic Trust, was busy and productive. We again operated our liquor agency, specializing in fortified wines and the best-selling Newman's Celebrated Ruby Port, of course.

Four summer staffers were hired, with support from federal and provincial youth employment programs, and did daily interpretation work and assisted with special events, including wine samplings, St. John's Day, walking tours, and our Napoleon's Surrender event on July 15th. Commissariat House and Quidi Vidi Battery staff and members of the Signal Hill Tattoo kindly came out to help with the latter.



Town Crier Christopher Pickard announced the surrender of Napoleon to the British at the Vaults on July 15th, 2003 and we toasted the occasion with Newman's Port, as did the officers of the Belleorphon on that date in 1815.

The Vaults has maintained its standing as the second most visited Provincial Historic Site this past season, with over 8,000 visits recorded. 2,038 of those occurred on September 6th and 7th, during the wonderfully hectic Doors Open St. John's event. Others attended the 15 Cask of

Amontillado shows in partnership with Shakespeare by the Sea Festival during July and August, or John Rao's I CON: Memory art exhibition.



Peter Ayers (Montresor) and Douglas Boyce (Fortunato) of The Cask of Amontillado.

A grant from the St. John's Arts Jury allowed us to offer honorariums to six local authors (Kevin Major, Eldon Drodge, Robin McGrath, Kenneth Harvey, Beth Ryan, and Maura Hanrahan) who participated in our Wine & Words book reading series in August, with great reviews and capacity turn-outs.

The Cask of Amontillado is at the Vaults again on November 1st and 2nd! Tickets are \$10, at the door only. Doors open 9pm.

Tune into episode 4 of Creepy Canada's second season, premiering on CTV on November 18th, which will feature the Vaults in one of its segments. It will repeat on November 19th, 23rd and 24th.

The Trident is published by the



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...and the only historic wine vaults in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Rate: \$200.00 per day. Operated by the Newfoundland Historic Trust. For more information see www.historictrust.com/newman.shtml; Email: vaults@historictrust.com; Call (709) 739-7870.



Newfoundland Historic Trust

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Members of the Newfoundland Historic Trust and the general public are invited to attend our AGM:

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Provincial Museum, Duckworth Street, St. John's

7:30 pm: Committee reports and board nominations.

8:00 pm: Willow Jackson, Co-ordinator for **Doors Open St. John's 2003** will give an illustrated talk about this significant heritage event – the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada! More than 25, 000 visits were made to the 16 participating Doors Open sites on September 6th and 7th, 2003!