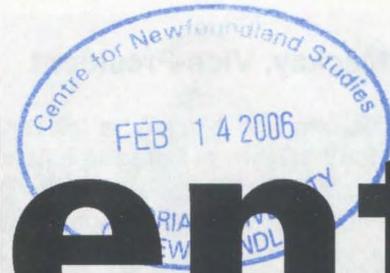


PAST PRESENT FUTURE



the **trident**



The Newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

Feb 2006

ISSN 0049-4690

2006 Greetings

The Newfoundland Historic Trust Board would like to extend best wishes for 2006 to all its members. It's a new year and, while the election of officers in late 2005 involved most of the same individuals agreeing to stay on-board, there are some new faces at the helm. Dale Jarvis stepped down from the role of President to serve as past-President. Kim Blanchard stepped up to the President's position and brought Kim Mackay up to her former seat as Vice-President. Continuing members are John O'Dea, Gerard Hayes, David Hood, Ken Flynn, and Bobbie Gushue. Barbara Deland, whose voice will be familiar to regular listeners of VOWR, has also volunteered to assist with Trust activities.

Members of the Board are embracing on-going activities and programs, including the running of the Newman Wine Vaults provincial historic site, the annual Southcott Awards for built heritage preservation, and the annual Doors Open Newfoundland and Labrador program. The Trust continues to be represented on the Council of the Association of Heritage Industries and on the City of St. John's Heritage Advisory Committee. If members are interested in the pursuit of new projects, we are open to suggestions and would be pleased to have increased involvement from the membership.

The Trust is very much looking forward to having the final touches put on its office space in the Vaults and is pleased to be assembling things new and old into one location. If Trust members or former executive have any items or documentation that they wish to contribute to the new office, please contact the Trust's general office. The Trust is also now working to secure a new staff member.

PROFILE: Kim Blanchard, President



Kim is an urban planner with a keen interest in heritage preservation and urban design. After several years of studies and work experience in the fields of architecture and landscape architecture Kim redirected her studies towards urban planning and heritage resource management. She possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree from Memorial University in Sociology/Anthropology and Folklore with a focus on community studies and vernacular architecture, and a Master's degree in Environmental Design in Planning from the University of Calgary.

During her graduate studies, Kim worked with the downtown planning group at the City of Calgary. Upon her return to live in Newfoundland in 1999, Kim was manager for a community revitalization /heritage preservation project in Bonavista. Since 2000, Kim has been working for the City of Mount Pearl Planning Department, where she is primarily responsible for long-range planning.

With her interest in preservation of built heritage, she bought an old Victorian house in St. John's to practice the art of restoration and accepted a position on the Board of the Trust in 2002. As the new President, Kim remains the Trust's representative on the Association of Heritage Industries Council, and is also a member of the Southcott Committee.

In this issue:

2006 Greetings	page 1
Meet the President	page 1
Fisheries Heritage	page 2
Cemetery Handbook	page 2
Ribbon Fools	page 3
Restoration Grants	page 4
Bay Bulls Harbour	page 4
Southern Shore	page 5
Turkey Egg Island	page 5
Municipal Workshop	page 6
Southcott Deadline	page 6
Folklore Grants	page 6

PROFILE: Kim Mackay, Vice-President

Our new Vice-President is Kim Mackay, a lawyer who enjoys debating municipal law and heritage reuse/preservation issues. Kim worked for the Town of Paradise following her earlier studies in urban planning. She was relieved to return to her homeland, after a sojourn to Ontario, and now practices with Patterson Palmer. In 2005, Kim took a seat on the Board of the Trust and became a member of the Southcott Committee. Kim hopes to bolster corporate interest in the Trust.

New Fisheries Heritage Projects

Stages and stores in sixteen communities across the province will be given a new life under the Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program, as delivered by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The goal of this program is to preserve and protect our fisheries-related architecture. The Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program has become one of the most popular and successful projects of the Heritage Foundation to date. The funds will be used to restore existing buildings, not for upgrading or construction of new structures. The projects were disbursed through an application process, and judging by a peer jury. Total approvals were just shy of \$46,000.

Age, weather extremes, and out-migration can take a toll on the outbuildings once used by fishing families. These stages and stores represent the livelihood of a fishing community, their bright red ochre paint standing out against the shore and sea. Since the creation of the Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program, the Heritage Foundation has seen steady growth in the number of communities interested in heritage conservation.

Since the project has started, HFNL has approved restoration projects for approximately 90 buildings in close to 30 communities across Newfoundland and Labrador. The Foundation has had great expressions of interest from communities which have never attempted built heritage projects, and the program continues to draw media attention. The 2006 projects will see work done on stages and stores in English Harbour, Fermeuse, Fleur de Lys, Fogo, Gilliams, Goose Cove, Green Island Cove, Griquet, Keels, Melrose, Placentia, St. Anthony, St. John's Battery, Templeman, Tilting and Trinity.

New booklet on preserving historic cemeteries in Newfoundland and Labrador: "Municipal Designation of Cemeteries and the Historic Places Initiative"

by Lara Maynard



Cemeteries throughout Newfoundland and Labrador are generally revered as special, sacred places. They occupy both emotional and physical space in our communities, and are in many ways expressions of spiritual beliefs and cultural values. They are also rich repositories of historical information. The locations of cemeteries in our community landscapes, and their layouts, statuary, vegetation and fencing are also significant factors in the heritage value of what may be amongst the most precious of our historic places.

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has recently published a booklet entitled "Municipal Designation of Cemeteries and the Historic Places Initiative," directed at municipalities in the province. It may also be of interest to heritage groups who advise their town councils on heritage matters. The booklet outlines how town councils can formally designate cemeteries within their municipal boundaries as heritage places in order to help ensure the longevity of these sites and to highlight their special status. The booklet also includes a section called "Ten Steps to Cemetery Preservation" and a list of resources. The booklet is being distributed at no charge to town council offices in the province. Or get your free copy from the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador by emailing info@heritagefoundation.ca or calling (709) 739-1892 or toll free 1-888-739-1892.



Budgell Stage, St. Anthony

Ribbon Fools – Christmas Traditions in Flatrock by Dale Jarvis

The old Christmas custom of mummering seems to be seeing something of a revival. This past Christmas season, it was hard to turn on a radio station or visit a shop without hearing the strains of “The Mummer’s Song.” Looking around, one could see mummies on stage, mummies on t-shirts, and mummies on cards and posters. What you didn’t see were ribbon fools.

Ribbon fools are one of those old bits of Newfoundland folklore that has been largely forgotten. But fifty years ago in the community Flatrock, ribbon fools were an important part of the holiday season.

Two weeks before Christmas, I paid a visit to Mrs. Margaret Maynard at her home in Flatrock. After I was made comfortable on a daybed by the woodstove, with a cup of tea and purring cat, she shared memories of ribbon fools and Christmases years ago.

The ribbon fools were a variety of mummies, who wore white costumes festooned with multi-coloured ribbons. Unlike other mummies, they kept their faces bare, so everyone knew who they were, and only travelled around the community during the holidays, until Twelfth Night on January 5.

“Oh my, they were lovely when they were all dressed up,” reminisces Mrs. Maynard. “They used to glue on the ribbons about an inch or so wide. Oh, they looked lovely!”

The would-be ribbon fools would make a run into town to purchase the ribbon for the Christmas holidays. “They would get the roll of ribbon and slice it off,” explains Mrs. Maynard. “They really looked good, all different colours. The ribbons were cheap then, not like now.”

“They had a stick they would carry,” she adds, which was called “the swab.” As they travelled along, the ribbon fools would use the swab to poke people they met. “They’d give them a poke with it,” says Mrs. Maynard. “They had a little thing on the stick, to give you a poke with. They had the stick dressed up with different coloured ribbons.”

The *Dictionary of Newfoundland English* defines a swab as “a stick, similar to the mop used on fishing boats, with various objects attached to one end, carried as a mock-sceptre by mummies during Christmas revels.”

“The men would dress up with garments made from flour sacks,” reads the Town of Flatrock website. “The shirts were covered with necklaces, broaches, and colored ribbons. The men would go throughout the community



Flatrock Ribbon Fools (l-r) Michael Martin, Neddy Grace, James Martin, and John Kehoe.

Photo Courtesy Flatrock Museum

borrowing all the necklaces they could find. They would sew these on their shirts. They also wore big caps made in the shapes of boats with sails on them.”

The custom of the sailboat caps may be part of a Newfoundland Christmas tradition dating back to the nineteenth century. Sir Richard Bonnycastle, writing about St. John’s mummies in 1843, described both the practice of hitting spectators with a swab, and huge cocked hats made of paper. “Much ingenuity is observable in the style of the cocked hats,” he wrote, “which are surmounted with all sorts of things, feathers in profusion, paper models of ships, etc.”

Gradually, the old practice of the ribbon fools died out in Flatrock. Over time, the sort of mummering known to current generations of Newfoundlanders became more common. Unlike the ribbon fools, they went around in the evenings, and covered their faces. While in other parts of Newfoundland they were known as mummies or janneys, in Flatrock they were once known as “oonchicks” or “ownshooks.”

“Oonchicks,” says Mrs Maynard, “that’s not like the ribbon fools, that’s different. They used to dress up and go around, and they called them oonchicks. Every one would be different. They used to come into our house, down Power’s Lane. The house is still there.”

“They don’t go around like that today,” says Mrs. Maynard. “There might be a couple go around, but not like then. But it was really good years ago, a better Christmas than now.”

As I left the warmth of Mrs. Maynard’s kitchen, her newly-cut Christmas tree was leaned up outside. Some traditions, like the ribbon fools, may have vanished. Others, it seems, are here to stay.

Deadline Changes for Restoration Granting



The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is currently accepting applications for funding under its Registered Heritage Structure grant program. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2006.

“We’re very much looking forward to this granting session. Prior to this year, we had two granting deadlines, one in March and another in August. We decided that it was important to review all grant applications in one sitting,” says George Chalker, HFNL’s Executive Director. By having a single deadline of March 1 each calendar year, HFNL hopes it can better assess the proposals.

The Registered Heritage Structure grant is available to any owner of a Registered Heritage Structure. The grant, to a maximum of \$10,000.00, is matched 50/50 with funding supplied by the owner. The funds will assist with preservation measures and/or exterior restorations only.

These grants help the Foundation preserve some of Newfoundland and Labrador’s most important heritage buildings. Since 1984, HFNL has approved over \$2 million in heritage grants, and has designated 262 historic places as Registered Heritage Structures. Application forms for the Registered Heritage Structure grant are available online at www.heritagefoundation.ca, or by calling the office at 1-888-739-1892.

Bay Bulls Harbour Provincial Historic Site

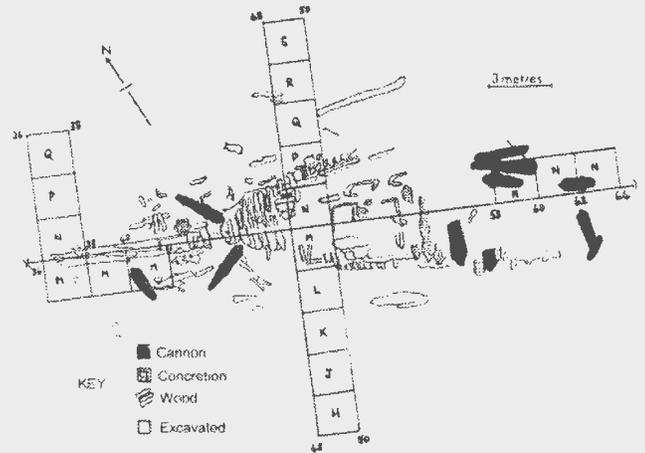
by Deborah O’Rielly

The Bay Bulls Harbour Provincial Historic Site is the site of one of Canada’s earliest shipwrecks. It is the only vessel of its size that sunk in Newfoundland during the English /French conflict over control of the cod fisheries. This ship, sunk in 1696, lies at the bottom of Bay Bulls Harbour in the community of Bay Bulls, located on the southern shore of Newfoundland’s Avalon Peninsula. The HMS Saphire sank in Bay Bulls Harbour during an engagement with a French squadron on September 11, 1696.

The main objective of the English Royal Navy in the seventeenth century was to safeguard English trade and merchant vessels through two methods: patrolling, and convoying. Merchant ships often sailed in convoys, under the protection of one or two warships. England’s three main convoys were the Mediterranean, the Levant, and the Newfoundland and the Newfoundland convoy was vital to the English crown for trade purposes. The main threat to Newfoundland was the French, who also maintained settlements and a fishing fleet on the island. Much hostility was generated between the English and French, and the convoy captains were considered the supreme authority, since no formal government existed on the island at that time

When the English declared war on the French during King William’s War (1689-1697) the French decided to implement surprise attacks on isolated English outposts and settlements, such as Newfoundland. An attack on English settlements on the Avalon Peninsula was planned for the winter of 1696. French forces were to depart from Placentia for the eastern Avalon under the command of Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville by land and a second force, by sea, under the Governor of Terre-Neuve, Jacques-Francois de Brouillon. Due to disagreements between the two de Brouillon set out for the English shore on his own to wage an attack on the HMS Saphire. With little time left to prepare a proper defence, Captain Cleasby of the Saphire fortified Bay Bulls as best he could. When de Brouillon attacked Bay Bulls, he burned five small forts and caused the captain of the Saphire to burn the frigate. Cleasby and his crew escaped the burning vessel while the French attempted to board the Saphire, only to be blown up in a spectacular explosion when the fire reached the gunpowder room. Ultimately the French captured Cleasby and several crew members who became prisoners of war, were sent to France and eventually returned to England by exchange.

On April 25, 1974 the Bay Bulls Harbour Shipwreck was designated a Provincial Historic Site and archaeological investigations were undertaken. In August of 2005 the site was nominated and accepted to the Canadian Register of Historic Places (www.historicplaces.ca), and is one of only a few shipwreck sites listed on the Register to date.



Heritage Designations on the Southern Shore

by Andrea O'Brien

Following two designations by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, municipalities on the Southern Shore are exploring the process of designating heritage places within their own jurisdictions. In October of 2005, Holy Trinity Convent in Witless Bay (*shown in the historic photo to the right*) and R. J. O'Brien's Shop in Cape Broyle were declared Registered Heritage Structures by HFNL.



Mr. Martin's Store in Kingman's Cove/Fermeuse will also be restored with the assistance of HFNL's Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program.

Aside from the provincial recognition of the area's built heritage, municipalities along the Southern Shore are also taking steps to protect their community's heritage places. In December of 2005, The Town of Renews was the first known municipality on the Southern Shore to designate municipal heritage sites. These include Devil's Rock, Our



Lady of Lourdes Grotto on Mass Rock (*shown in the photo to the left*) and Midnight Hill and the Old Cemetery. Two more sites are presently under consideration by the town. These sites are of value to the Town of Renews because of their place in the history and folklore of the community.

From the legendary Devil's Rock, where it is said the devil was trapped within by a priest, to Midnight Hill and Mass Rock, the reported site of illegal Catholic gatherings during the days of Penal Law, the stories of these heritage places have been nurtured by the residents of Renews. By declaring them municipal heritage sites, the Town of Renews has ensured that these sites will be protected for generations to come.

Other communities along the Southern Shore are presently considering sites for municipal heritage designation. The HFNL is assisting these towns in identifying possible sites and in the preparation of statements to describe the heritage value of sites chosen by the towns.

Hopefully, the Town of Renews will be the first of many municipalities in the region to protect these special places and promote their community's rich, unique heritage.

Request for Information on Turkey Egg Island

This letter comes from a researcher in Rhode Island, with an intriguing question about a Newfoundland place name. She writes:

I am attempting to do some research on my maternal grandparents both of whom came from Newfoundland to Rhode Island. They have long since passed on and one thing in particular has always puzzled our family. My grandmother used to mention "Turkey Egg Island" as the place she came from and we were never to mention the name. If anyone has any information on such a place, I would sure be interested in it. My email address is richardandnancy@msn.com and I would greatly appreciate any input.

*Sincerely,
Nancy Primmer*

The grandmother's full name was Florence Maude Powell. She was born in 1883, and according to Nancy, always told the children when they were very young that she came from Turkey Egg Island. Florence Maude Powell married Robert James Oldford, who was born circa 1880, and was a fisherman. Folklorist Philip Hiscock has put forward the suggestion that "turkey" might have been a mishearing of "turr." If you have any suggestions, email Nancy Primmer at the address above.



Canada's Historic Places Lieux patrimoniaux du Canada

Our Historic Places - Designating Municipal Historic Places Workshop
For Mayors, Town Clerks, Municipal Planners, Councilors, & Heritage Organizations
Friday, February 17, 2006, 12:30 – 4:30

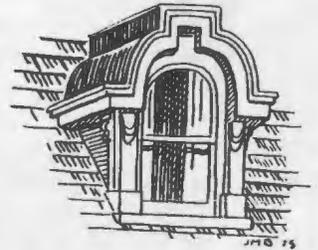
St. John's: Masonic Temple, 6 Cathedral Street Fee: Free!

Please register at least ONE week before workshop

Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland & Labrador P.O. Box 5171, St. John's, NL A1C 5V5
Phone: 709-739-1892 Fax: 709-739-5413 Email: info@heritagefoundation.ca

Southcott Awards - Call for nominations for 2006 Southcott Awards

The Newfoundland Historic Trust invites nominations for its annual Southcott Awards for built heritage preservation in Newfoundland and Labrador. Awards are normally considered for architectural restoration projects completed within the past three years. Awards may also be considered for excellence in longterm maintenance of heritage properties; for new or infill construction which is sensitive to the historic context (architecture, streetscape, viewscape, etc.) of its environment; or for other noteworthy built heritage preservation projects.



Deadline April 14, 2006. Nomination forms are available at www.historictrust.com or by calling (709) 739-7870.

GRANTS-IN-AID 2006: Folklore Research, Collection & Publication



Applications are invited by The Helen Creighton Folklore Society for Grants-in-Aid to scholars, researchers, museums and archives for projects relating to folklore research, collection, and publication. These grants are intended to provide encouragement, not the sole support, for research or publication projects. They can contribute to research equipment, field trip projects, editing and illustrating material about to be published. They can also assist researchers by offering professional assessment, thereby strengthening the applicant's position in larger competitions. The Society operates on a limited budget, and tries to assist as many individuals and institutions as possible with limited resources. Grants are normally for \$750, with the possibility of renewal; the size of grants may vary.

Student applicants should provide a transcript, two letters from academic supervisors, and a prospectus and budget for their project. Scholars and experienced researchers should provide a CV, one supporting letter from a peer, a prospectus and budget. Archival and museum administrators should outline how their proposal relates to an on-going programme of collection, cataloguing or indexing of their materials. Applications, bearing a postmark up to **February 20, 2006**, should be addressed to:

The Helen Creighton Folklore Society Research Support Committee
c/o James H. Morrison, Chair, 6289 Yale Street, Nova Scotia B3L 1C9 Fax (902) 420-5141

The Trident. February 2006

The Trident is the newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador through research, advocacy and education. The Trident and its contents are copyrighted by the Trust and may not be copied or reproduced without permission. The opinions contained in articles in The Trident are those of their authors and are not necessarily those of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. Correspondence and submissions may be addressed to:

The Trident, PO Box 2403, St. John's, NL A1C 6E7 or email historictrust@yahoo.ca website: www.historictrust.com