

the trident

A quarterly publication of the Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust

Obituary for Quinnipiac



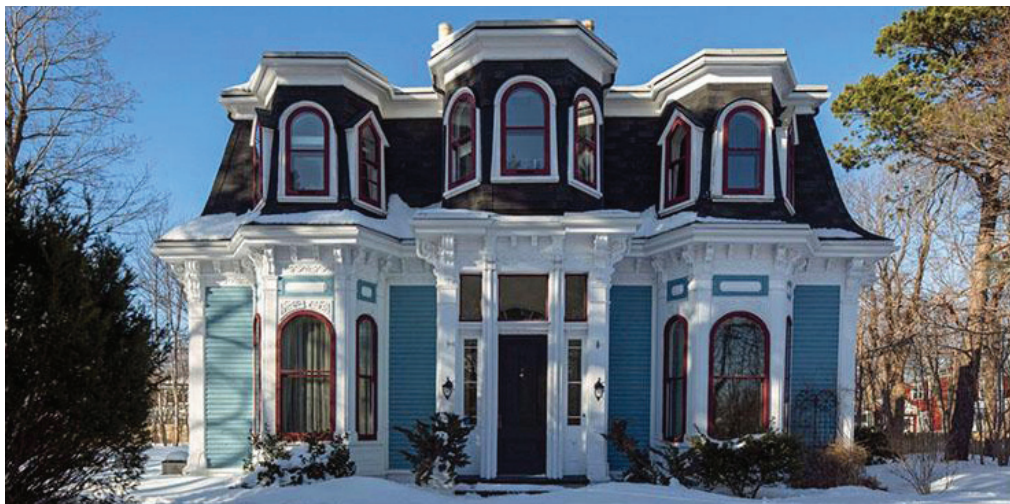
Excavator waits outside Quinnipiac



Peter Jackson speaks with media



Moments after demolition



Quinnipiac

What follows is an obituary for Quinnipiac, the magnificent home of enormous cultural and historical import that stood until recently at 25 Winter Avenue. Despite the best efforts of the Historic Trust and community supporters, Quinnipiac was demolished on March 23, 2015.

In Glenn Colton's biography of Frederick Emerson, *Newfoundland Rhapsody: Frederick R. Emerson and the Musical Culture of the Island* (2014. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press), a full

chapter is dedicated to the role of 25 Winter Avenue on the development of Newfoundland music, folklore, and geography. Originally called Eskasoni, the home that many of us know as Quinnipiac was described as a cultural center, often filled with foreign guests and distinguished visitors. Frederick Rennie Emerson (1895-1972) inherited the house from his father, Charles, nephew to the original owner Prescott Emerson (1840-1889), lawyer and politician for Burgeo-LaPoile in the NL House of Assembly from
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Quinnipiac

1869-1878. Frederick was widely recognized as one of Newfoundland's unofficial cultural ambassadors, who shaped Newfoundland's image internationally.

Frederick R. Emerson was a multilinguist, a pianist, composer, and a well-read scholar. He spoke English, French, Italian, German, Greek, Latin, Hungarian, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian. He served diplomatic posts for the Royal Norwegian consul (1949-1959), Icelandic consul (1947-1958) and vice-consul for the Netherlands in Newfoundland (1940-1958). He travelled widely, and gave many lectures on his experiences, including time spent in Columbia and Cuba, as well travels across much of Europe. During the Second World War, he taught German to Canadian troops awaiting deployment overseas.

Frederick corresponded frequently with Marius Barbeau (1883-1969), one of the founders of Canadian folkloristics, a specialist in Quebecois and First Nations folklore, and hosted the British folklorist Maud Karpeles (1885-1976) during her collecting expeditions in 1929 and 1930. Karpeles, who worked closely with Cecil Sharpe on his Appalachian collecting, came to Newfoundland in search of English and Scottish ballads, testing theories of cultural dispersion. Her book, *Folk Songs from Newfoundland* (1934, Oxford University Press), is still considered to be one of the most important publications in the history of Newfoundland folklore. Frederick took special interest in Karpeles' work, helping guide and support her in her research, and frequently performing R. Vaughan Williams' piano accompaniments for Newfoundland folksongs. Through Karpeles, we can see a connection to one of England's most famous composers. We also see a close connection with the founding of the Folk-Song Society in England, as well as the Canadian Folk Music Society, now known as the Canadian Society for the Study of Traditional Music.

Quinnipiac was described as a house filled with literature, fine art, and music. Frederick Emerson was a close friend of Newfoundland artists Maurice Cullen (1866-1934) and

Harold Goodridge (1901-1989). Goodridge is probably most remembered for his mural on Newfoundland history, in the lobby of the Confederation building. He was also the founder of Memorial University's Department of Geography.

Frederick's daughter, Clara Emerson Furlong, is a pianist and harpist, and one of the first Newfoundlanders to study at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. She has worked closely with Ignatius Rumbolt, one of the founders of the St. John's Symphony (forerunner to the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra), and was central in the founding of Memorial University's School of Music. Rumbolt is particularly known for his interest in bringing together Newfoundland folk music with classical music.

Through these connections to the classical music world, Quinnipiac became the site not only of many performances of famous and influential musicians and composers, but also hosting Andreas Barban (a German pianist who fled Leipzig during the Nazi occupation). Barban was one of the founders of the St John's Kiwanis Music Festival in 1952. Other guests included Ukranian-born, internationally renowned pianist Benno Moiseiwitsch (1890-1963), who won the Rubinstein prize at age 9, and was a friend of Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. One of Canada's most well known composers, Healey Willan (1880-1968) stayed at Quinnipiac in 1942 while giving examinations for Trinity College, and recording an organ recital at Cochrane Street Church.

Frederick's linguistic interests and philanthropic dedication led him to meeting Bogedar Nowosielski, a Polish teenager, whose family fled Poland for London early in the war. Through work in the ship business Nowosielski found himself in Newfoundland, adopted by the Emersons, living in Quinnipiac for 2 years. Emerson supported his education; Nowosielski went on to become a professor of Entomology at Dundee University and was bestowed the Polish Golden Cross. Frederick also invited Leif Holt into his home, a Norwegian man who

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Heritage Advocacy Town Hall Meeting



On March 31, the Trust hosted a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the demolition of Quinnipiac (25 Winter Avenue). The event was designed to provide a community forum to discuss the challenges facing heritage conservation and help us form a united voice to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

Over 100 attendees filled the Arts & Culture Centre's MMAP room to hear remarks from panelists Peter Jackson, Trust President; Garnet Kindervater of the Canadian Home Builders Association; former St. John's Deputy Mayor Shannie Duff; Dr. Cory Thorne, head of the MUN Folklore Department; and David Bradley, Chair of the Association of Heritage Industries of Newfoundland and Labrador and President of the Bonavista Historical Society.

The event was live tweeted by Historic Trust Board members @NLHistoricTrust and was well-attended by local media, including Carolyn Stokes of CBC and Andrew Hawthorn of VOXM.

The panelists offered diverse suggestions as to how to strengthen heritage conservation efforts at both the local and provincial level, ranging from improving and strengthening heritage designation processes, educating the public and elected officials, focusing on sustainability, offering grants and tax incentives, building community support, and finding creative solutions for the restoration of heritage properties.

Members of the standing room only crowd made valuable observations and raised important questions, expressing their dismay at the demolition of Quinnipiac and commenting on the need for more heritage trades apprenticeships, changes to the Historic Resources Act, a more transparent demolition permitting process, and heritage designations with "teeth." Mallard Cottage owner Todd Perrin summed up the feelings of many when he remarked that "you didn't need a piece of paper" to know that Quinnipiac was an important building worth preserving.

Moving forward, the Trust is drafting a policy paper with recommendations for revised heritage and demolition regulations to present to St. John's City Council in addition to a report on the vital connection between heritage conservation and sustainability. Recognizing that education and community engagement play a critical role in creating a groundswell of support for heritage conservation, we're also working to increase our public outreach and programming efforts.

The Trust thanks the panelists and all those who turned out to make the Town Hall such a successful, productive event.

By Emily Wolf

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Quinnipiac

found himself in St. John's, having not been paid by his employer for a full year, and seeking legal assistance. Frederick was interested in Holt in order to improve his Norweagen. Holt later married Fredrick's daughter, Anne. In 1933, he invited Italian aviator Italo Balbo (1896-1940) into his home, who was visiting Newfoundland as part of the second of two trans-Atlantic flights. Balbo later became governor general of Libya and was known as an outspoken critic of Mussolini and his leader's support for Adolph Hitler. He was allegedly assassinated by order of Mussolini.

I'll leave it to the architects to detail the tremendous importance of this Second Empire home on the architectural heritage of Newfoundland. With a small amount of research, however, we can see the enormous role of this beautiful home in our cultural heritage. When I visited the home on Monday morning, I could see that many of the chandeliers were still inside; the intricately carved, irreplaceable marble mantles were still in place. By Monday afternoon, we could see pieces of fine Persian rugs partly buried in the debris.

Quinnipiac was demolished without any concern for the history of our province. As a

home with such great historical associations, this was a property whose value belonged to our province as a whole. Its value was much more than financial. The property was in excellent condition, not even needing a coat of paint. The new owner, however, with the blessing of city council, was allowed to erase it. Not only did the city refuse heritage designation, but the owner wasn't even willing to allow us to document the home before demolishing it, nor even remove any of the valuable fixtures and architectural details for sale and reuse in other properties. As a scholar of folklore and heritage, I not only document such aspects of history, but I also work hard to train students in how to document and protect our heritage structures. As a professor in one of the largest and most internationally renowned folklore departments, I am greatly disheartened to see such destruction to be openly allowed in our own backyards. Shame on all those who permitted this attack on our built and cultural heritage.

*By Dr. Cory W. Thorne
Vice President, NL Historic Trust
Head and Associate Professor,
Department of Folklore, Memorial University*

Walk St. John's

The days are getting warmer making it a great time to take a walk with our free Walk St. John's app for Android and iPhone/iPad. Select one of five round-trip walking tours to guide you through the city streets.

To download, visit the Google Play Store: <http://bit.ly/1j8gDGx> or the App Store: <http://bit.ly/1n7uwoa>.



The Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust, established in 1966, is a membership-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of architecture reflecting the culture and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Board of Directors

Peter Jackson, *President*; Cory Thorne, *Vice President*; Jessica Dellow, *Treasurer*; Sue Wright, *Secretary*; Nancy Brace; Kim Cooper; Grant Genova; Jillian Hood; Greg Locke; Robyn Pike; and, Emily Wolf.

The Trust is Welcoming **New Directors**

The Trust held its 2013-2014 Annual General Meeting on March 19, 2015 at the Quidi Vidi Village Plantation in St. John's. On the agenda: electing six new Directors to the Board.

Nancy Brace, Executive Director of the Restaurant Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and the President of Green's Harbour Heritage Society, joins the Board. Nancy was prompted to join the Board because of a life-long interest in our province's built heritage. She has already made a substantial preservation contribution through her work with the Green's Harbour Heritage Society, which has purchased an endangered building in its community and has started restoration work.

Kim Cooper, long time member of the Trust and co-chair of the Trust Membership Committee, is a native of Corner Brook. Kim has a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Heritage Resources. She is particularly passionate about the Southcott Awards.

Jessica Dellow, a personal injury lawyer at Ches Crosbie Barristers and old house lover, moved to St. John's in 2009. She is a newcomer to the activities of the Trust, but is looking forward to meeting all of our current members and growing the membership of the Trust as Kim's co-chair on the membership committee.

Jillian Hood is a recent graduate of MUN. She is passionate about digital marketing, as well as architecture and heritage preservation. Since becoming a downtown St. John's resident, she is more interested than ever in preserving our local heritage.

Associate Professor and Head of MUN's Department of Folklore, Dr. Cory Thorne also joins the Board. Dr. Thorne is past-president of the Folklore Studies Association of Canada and convener of the LGBTQ and Allies Section of the American Folklore Society. He is also director of the upcoming folklore field school on tangible and intangible cultural heritage (Change Islands, September 2015). You may have read articles in the recent past on Quinipiac and the Church by the Sea in Portugal Cove-St. Phillips authored by Dr. Thorne.

Last but not least is Emily Wolf, a come from away hailing from Wisconsin originally. Emily is an architectural historian, historic preservationist, and preservation educator. Emily brings a wealth of experience to the Board, having formerly served as Architectural Historian and Assistant Survey Director at the Boston Landmarks Commission, the City of Boston's historic preservation agency. Emily is looking forward to growing the programming offered by the Trust and meeting many of our members.

Our new directors are joined by returning Board members Grant Genova, Peter Jackson, Greg Locke, Robyn Pike and Susan Wright.

By Jessica Dellow

See the Sites

All Provincial Historic Sites and Visitor Centres opened for the 2015 season on May 16.

Learn more at www.seethesites.ca!

Be a tourist at home!

Signal Hill and Cape Spear Lighthouse National Historic Sites opened for the summer season on May 20.

Find @ParksCanadaNL on Twitter!

You are Cordially Invited

As a member of the Trust, you are invited to the 31st annual Southcott Awards in June. A formal invitation is included with this issue of *The Trident*. We look forward to seeing you there!

In preparation for this year's awards ceremony, check out southcottstyle.tumblr.com for a brilliant collection of stories and photos of past winners and the people behind the Awards.

Take a look at <http://bit.ly/1yr8MXj> for a Google map of 30 years of Southcott winners! Each property is identified by a coloured star marker, and every colour represents a different year.

Historic Sites Association seeking new Directors

The Historic Sites Association (HSA) of Newfoundland and Labrador is seeking volunteers to sit on their board of directors for a three-year term.

The HSA is a non-profit charitable organization with a mandate to present the province's history and heritage. Some of the HSA's projects include: the Provincial Heritage Fairs, Manning Awards, Signal Hill Tattoo, and supporting the province's National Historic Sites through a partnership with Parks Canada.

For more information about the organization, visit: www.historicsites.ca. Applications to join the board may be made via their LinkedIn page.

A Good News Story

This sign was recently spotted on a building under renovation on Duckworth Street in St. John's. We can't wait to see the finished product! Share photos of restoration projects in your community with us on Twitter ([@NLHistoricTrust](https://twitter.com/NLHistoricTrust)) or via email at: coordinator@historictrust.ca.



#GreatFire1892

Keep an eye on our Twitter page on July 8-9 - #GreatFire1892 will be returning with an expanded cast of characters and more stories of the buildings that were lost.

Follow along at [@NLHistoricTrust](https://twitter.com/NLHistoricTrust)

Doors Open Returns

We'd like to hear your suggestions of venues for this year's Doors Open!

Post your thoughts on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1AnWCod> or tweet us at [@DoorsOpenNL](https://twitter.com/DoorsOpenNL). Email submissions are also welcome at coordinator@historictrust.ca.

An Update on the Church by the Sea

On April 21, the town council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's voted four-three to reject its own heritage designation of the St. Philip's Anglican Church and allow demolition of the 120 year-old building to proceed. The vote went ahead in spite of the Trust's request that it be postponed to allow for a crowdfunding campaign and the creation of long-term lease or purchase agreement for the church. The fate of the church remains uncertain, however, following two separate appeals submitted against the council's decision to the Eastern Regional Appeal Board, which have put a temporary hold on demolition. The status of both appeals is pending as of May 17.

The church, built in 1894 on the partial foundations of an earlier 1848 structure, is an important local example of the vernacular Gothic Revival style and stands as the town's most significant landmark. According to Dr. Cory W. Thorne and Annemarie Christie of the Memorial University Department of Folklore, the church was "constructed by residents of Broad Cove, using donated funds and voluntary labour." As such, "this is a property whose ownership expands far beyond conservative interpretations of legal ownership. As with most religious and civic properties, and as recognized and regulated in many parts of the world, such buildings never fully belong to a single organization or individual."

The 1894 church was shuttered in 2003 following the construction of a new church building to serve the parish. The Anglican Diocese and St. Philip's Parish first submitted their request to demolish the historic church in late 2009. Soon after the town council's March 31, 2010 denial of the requested demolition order, the church steeple was sawn through and toppled by unknown vandals in the middle of the night. The town responded by designating the church a Municipal Heritage Place and ordering the diocese to repair the steeple. The diocese submitted a successful appeal to the Eastern Regional Appeal Board, which ruled that the "order to repair" contained errors that rendered it invalid. This situation led to church's inclusion on Heritage Canada The National Trust's "Top 10 Endangered Places List" in 2010.

The Church By the Sea Inc. (CBTS), a local nonprofit group, has led efforts to preserve and reuse the historic church building, with the support of Heritage Canada, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust. CBTS has raised over \$15,000 to restore and repair the church without even having the ability, as of yet, to spend the funds. In March 2015, Heritage Canada approved an incredible \$25,000 interest free loan to CBTS, conditional on an agreement between the diocese and CBTS to preserve the church.

In an effort to resolve the long running dispute, the town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's generously offered the services of a mediator to bring the Anglican Diocese and CBTS together to discuss the future of the church. The Anglican Diocese declined to participate, despite the difficulty that it surely will face if demolition of the church is allowed to proceed. Because the historic church is surrounded by a cemetery, no heavy equipment can be used on site because of the risk of damaging surrounding graves. And, because the building itself sits on top of several graves, the land cannot be reused for any other purpose.

According to Trust President Peter Jackson, the proposed demolition of the St. Philip's Anglican Church "represents a blatant disregard for the importance of our history, our heritage and our culture" and the "church does not just belong to the congregation, it belongs to the community that exists today and the community that preceded it."

With the appeals still pending, we hold out hope that the diocese will consent to engage in meaningful dialogue with heritage experts and the community and that this historic church will continue to serve as a landmark for future generations.

By Emily Wolf

the trident

The Trust's newsletter, *The Trident*, is published quarterly. Submissions and advertising inquiries are welcome and can be forwarded to: coordinator@historictrust.ca

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2015 Membership Form - **Membership counts!**

Annual membership fees support the ongoing work of the Trust in fulfilling its mandate of education, advocacy and outreach. 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.

New membership benefits! As a member you are provided opportunities for:

Advocacy	Educational Lectures	Doors Open	Storytelling	Theatre
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Please indicate if you prefer:

- a paper copy of the *Trident* an electronic copy of the *Trident*
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Volunteering with the Trust's Committees:

- Southcott Awards Preservation Programming Fundraising Newsletter
 Other > Please Specify: _____

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