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MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

the

PRESENT  
PAST FUTURE

# trident

## HERITAGE DAY, 1979

Heritage Day this year was Monday, February 19th. The Historic Trust celebrated the day and the week with three events. Atlantic Place was the setting for the photographic exhibition entitled "Old St. John's 1850 - 1979". The exhibition reflected the changes in downtown St. John's over the last 130 years. Peter Dawson, who is on the exhibition committee, conceived the idea for an exhibit that would show the changes downtown by using old photographs of various buildings and then taking new photographs from the same camera position to show most effectively what changes had occurred. The exhibit was well received by those who saw it during Heritage Week. The exhibition and the week were formally opened by Deputy Mayor Ray O'Neill, February 19th, during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The second event was a concert of classical music at 21 King's Bridge Road. The third event was also a concert, but of traditional Newfoundland music, performed by the Breakwater Troupe, at the LSPU Hall on Victoria Street.

The week was a great success. It served to remind everyone of those two fragile elements from our past, our culture and architecture, and of the ease with which these two elements, if neglected, could be lost forever.

The events of Heritage Week were made possible because of the efforts of Sandra Huntley, programme chairman; Peter Dawson, exhibition committee; Katherine McManus, Heritage Week chairman; Judy Sommers, publicity; and the following people who invested large amounts of their time and effort: Helen Banfield, Kay McCallum, Beverly Miller, Colin Banfield, Wesley Haines, Gary McManus, Merv Huntley, Judy Butt-Miller and all those who sat at the table at Atlantic Place.

### A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC — Part II 21 KING'S BRIDGE ROAD February 22, 1979

For a few short hours, we were able to slip back 75 years in time and luxuriate in a world of salon music and leisurely, gracious living. Peter Gardner, Beverly Vivian Lane and Murray Charters filled the house

with superb chamber music as guests mingled and enjoyed wine and cheese.

The atmosphere that this house creates is immediately evident. It reflects both the dramatic flair and the elegance of its original designers. Sir John Browning and his bride, Adelaide, moved into the house in 1905. The house was constructed with a theatrical purpose in mind, and as was fashionable at the time, Mrs. Browning arranged for the performance of TABLEAUX. A fee was charged for these performances and the money raised went to aid the Red Cross. She was awarded an O.B.E. for her efforts.

A large and beautiful ornate circular staircase dominates the

foyer and central hall and sliding doors in the drawing room served as curtains for performances. Another interesting feature of the house is the original kitchen stove, in near perfect condition, discovered behind a wall during renovations.

The house was purchased by the Herbert Outerbridges in 1928 and its name and character changed with the new occupants. The Outerbridges renamed the property "Happy Acres" and added green houses  
(Cont'd on page 2)



Kay McCallum serves crackers & cheese while Alberta Wood, Ted Rowe & Beverly Miller chat in the background.



Beverly Vivian Lane, Peter Gardner & Murray Charters play chamber music at 21 King's Bridge Road.

PRESENT  
PAST FUTURE

# The trident

The Trident is the quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542, St. John's.

**Editor:** Stephen Kelland

**Contributors to this issue:** Bette Anderson, Katherine McManus, Sandra Huntley, Beverly Miller, Ben Hogan, Sylvia Cullum, Stephen Kelland, Edwina Howell.  
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## Letters Column

42 Circular Rd.  
St. John's

October 12th, 1978

Dear Mr. Kelland,

A letter from Mrs. Miriam Renouf which appeared in the August issue of the Trident, Vol. 5, No. 2, interested me very much. The letter was in reference to a picture in the "Guess Where" set of pictures in the March issue of the Trident.

Mrs. Renouf said that the picture in the top right hand corner, page 12, was the Llewellyn Playing Grounds. She is right. The Grounds were named after Bishop Llewellyn Jones, the Anglican Bishop of Newfoundland, 1878 - 1918, who worked with great dedication to improve educational facilities.

At the time the picture was taken the building was known as Spencer Lodge, 25 - 27 Forest Road. It was taken over by the Board of Directors of the Church of England Colleges in January, 1920 as a residence for boarders attending Bishop Spencer College. The activity in progress in the foreground was a practice period in the handling of field hockey sticks. The year in question was probably 1923 or 1924. Tennis and cricket were also played on those

grounds affording the boarders exercise and enjoyment.

Pictures such as the one referred to are an interesting aspect of the Trident which is doing such good work in fulfilling its threefold purpose of reviving the past, appreciating the present and looking ahead to the future.

Yours sincerely,  
Mary M. White.

(Cont'd from page 1)

and many beautiful beds of flowers.

The house is now owned by the provincial government. Presently undergoing rehabilitation work, it will reopen soon as the Unified Family Court Building. Mr. Tom Bursey, Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Works was presented with an award by David Webber, manager St. John's Heritage Foundation, for the sensitive rehabilitation work that Public Works has done in adapting the building for its new purpose. The Trust presented Mr. George McAuley, Deputy Minister of Justice, with a pictorial history of the house that will be on permanent display.

Hopefully, this was a memorable evening for all who attended, and, as this was a part

of Heritage Week 1979 celebrations, a fitting tribute to a grand old St. John's home!

Sandra Huntley

We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their sponsorship of this evening:

Woolco  
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&

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Exhibition	Patricia Grattan	7 Winter Pl.	754-1716

# NEW SOCIETIES WORKING TO PRESERVE NEWFOUNDLAND'S HERITAGE

The Carbonear Heritage Society was founded on National Heritage Day, February 19, 1979. It had its beginnings in the minds of many citizens of Carbonear long before that time. However, it took a major circumstance to get the actual organization off the ground.

The old Rorke building, known as the "Stone Jug" was being sold as the firm was going out of business. The building, which is approximately 125 years old, holds a special place in the history and heritage of Carbonear, and for this reason it caused quite a bit of concern to the people of Carbonear since the potential danger of its being torn down or defaced to make way for progress was imminent.

As a concerned citizen of Carbonear, Edwina Howell decided to seek out the opinion of

## CARBONEAR HERITAGE SOCIETY



others and with the help of the Carbonear Town Council and its Mayor, Milton Peach, a public meeting was held. The response was reassuring. It was felt that as an organized group of concerned citizens, we could do more for Carbonear's herit-

age than as individuals. Also, we would be in a good position to preserve other historic buildings and sites in the town.

We felt, however, that we were actually a steering committee nevertheless, we did elect an executive so that we could get a

constitution and become a charitable organization whose aims would be dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Carbonear's man-made and natural heritage.

Since that time, we are pleased to note the Mr. Calvin Powell of the firm, M.A. Powell, Ltd., the new owners of the Rorke building, have contacted us and assured us that they will work with us to achieve our aims as they apply to that particular historic building.

The thing that is truly reassuring is the number of people who have offered their help in our attempts to research, establish, and document Carbonear's long and colourful history.

Anyone interested in joining or aiding the Carbonear Heritage Society can contact Edwina Howell at 60 Water St. E., Carbonear.

Edwina Howell

## NEWFOUNDLAND TRANSPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Newfoundland Transport Historical Society has as its aim the preservation of Newfoundland's unique transportation heritage.

The Society began with a meeting of six people interested in the establishment of a Newfoundland Transportation Museum on November 24, 1977. Two more meetings of this group, with the addition of several new people, helped to "firm up" the structure of the Society and plans were made to draw up a constitution and apply for incorporation. With the help of a lawyer, Rhodie Mercer, the Society was incorporated in the spring of 1978.

After the first few meetings, it was obvious that an actual museum was still in the distant future and that we would have to start slowly, accumulating as many photographs and small

artifacts as we could, before we could begin to think of a building to house them. Nevertheless we have investigated several potential museum sites and are continuing to do this.

In the past few months, our pace has quickened. We have attracted more members and have established a liaison with the Newfoundland Historic Trust in the person of David Mallam. The Newfoundland Museum has been most

cooperative as have the Department of Tourism and other institutions and individuals we have contacted. The response to our requests for photographs and artifacts from Newfoundland's transportation past has been very encouraging and it is obvious that a tremendous number of items are still available.

Our first exhibition was held in the Upper Concourse of the Arts and Culture Centre in con-

junction with "Daddy's What's a Train?" presented by Rising Tide Theatre. The exhibit, consisting of photographs from Newfoundland's fascinating railway history, was a great success and a membership drive held at the time was successful as well. In mounting the exhibits, we are indebted in large measure to Peter Dawson of the Newfoundland Museum. After the play closed, the exhibit was moved to a vacant store in the

(Cont'd on page 6)





James Anderson House 1976

Anderson House, 42 - 44 Power's Court was probably built in the first quarter of the 19th. century by James Anderson, and remained occupied and in relatively good repair until 1972 when the last owner moved out.

There followed a period of vandalism and deterioration culminating in two fires, and there was grave danger that the house would be demolished.

After the fire of October 1976, the Anderson House was a discouraging prospect. How-



Second Floor Staircase before Rehabilitation.

## The Rehabilitation of The J A Personal

ever, a team of young and enthusiastic Architectural Students went to work and achieved wonders. It was a job that called for dedication and a sense of humour, and I for one don't know how they managed that first winter.

By spring, most of the mess had been cleaned up. The east end of the building, which was of a later date, was torn down as it was felt to be too damaged by fire to be rebuilt, and the house re-emerged in its original shape.

It was made watertight and a roof of wooden shingles was put on. The two roofers were amused and a little embarrassed by coach-loads of tourists on their way to Signal Hill who stopped and gazed at the house and workers, while the driver could be seen (but not heard) giving long explanations. The boys often wondered just what was being said.

Wooden siding had to be replaced and the windows reglazed and part of the chimney rebuilt using old bricks from a demolished bank on Duckworth Street to replace those that were too rotten to re-use. The outside was now ready to paint. The students departed and that's when I joined the work team.

With my husband on the ladder coping with the upper half (and dropping paint on me) I worked below, standing on a chair that was nearly as old and wobbly as the house itself. We used a stain in the Williamsburg range of colours, and it went on very well and there is no visible unevenness and no evidence of the gaps between painting sessions every week-end.

In late autumn we moved to the interior renovations. The place was plastered except where we had left exposed wide

boards of rough cut hemlock. These walls were scrubbed and the remains of many layers of wallpaper removed. They now

### The James An

For most of the 1970's the James Anderson House at Powerscourt on Signal Hill was a matter of grave concern to the Historic Trust.

A newspaper item from the early 19th century indicated that the building was there in 1810 making it one of the few buildings in St John's built in the first decade of the 19th century. It may well be the oldest building in the city.

It was felt, therefore, that it was an extremely valuable memento of early St. John's. As the article above notes, after 1972 the building began to decay rapidly and many times it looked as if it might be lost.

In 1976, after many years of hoping to find someone to purchase and rehabilitate the house, the Newfoundland Historic Trust bought it to stave off a demolition offer. In this move, we had the support of the Architect's Guild, a local architectural firm, who had agreed to rehabilitate the building for their offices. Tragically, shortly thereafter fire destroyed one third of the structure. An investigation of the building indicated that the burned part was an addition to the original and, therefore, the authenticity of rehabilitation would not be

look very warm and rich, surrounded by white painted mouldings.

We researched and designed the mouldings to be specially run for the house, and it was not until much later that we found

# James Anderson House — A Personal Account

that one lumber company had in its yard a moulding that was almost identical, but not at 'custom-made' prices.

## Anderson House

was compromised if the damaged part were removed. On the other hand, the Architect's Guild felt that the smaller building would not be big enough to house their firm.

Fortunately, at that point, Charles Cullum who was at that time a Vice-President of the Historic Trust and a partner in the Architect's Guild determined to carry out the restoration as a private project.

The above article, written by Sylvia Cullum, is a personal account of the Cullum's involvement with the Anderson House from late 1976 until it was completed in January 1979. To say, as Sylvia does in her article, that the prospects in late 1976 were "discouraging" is more than a bit of an understatement. The finished building is a great credit to their devotion to a project which must, at times, have seemed overwhelming.

The Trust has leased the property to the Cullums.

In February, the Department of Tourism moved some of their offices into the building as it has become both an attractive and useful reminder of St. John's past.

B. Miller

The fireplaces were, for the most part, in good condition but were masked by many coats of paint. When these were removed the fine details of the carved mantels became evident. The large brick open fire-

place in the kitchen has its original crane in place and the surrounding bricks and hearth scrubbed bare.

We took down one of the upper floor fireplace mantels for easier stripping and scraping, and at Christmas put it on the roofrack of the car and took it home for the holidays, so that I could put in that extra bit of work on it while the turkey cooked.

Incidentally, it stayed with us longer than we intended, and when we did bring it back, we had a horrible moment when it looked as though we couldn't get it up the staircase. The staircase had been without its balustrade when we took the fireplace down, but in the interim had been lovingly restored.

In such moments of crisis, and they were not infrequent, we retired to the attic, where we had a teapot and a large tin of biscuits. We also had more encouraging tea-parties in the attic, when friends called to see how we were doing. It's amazing how much better work goes when there are interested visitors. Local people dropped in to view the renovations, and recalled how they had visited the house in their youth. Youngsters were in and out perpetually, all very eager to help, especially with the messier jobs.

There were invitations to 'come as you are suppers' after a day's work. These were very much appreciated.

The staircase is one of the best features of the Anderson House, and though in pieces, was complete except for some missing balusters. We had, during the interior renovations, the help of an excellent carpenter, who put up all the mouldings and door and window trim, and he took immense pains to put



James Anderson House 1979

the staircase together again. He and my husband worked many hours to get it all to fit into place. Now that it is painted with a polished handrail that sweeps in gentle curves up three floors, it looks really lovely.

There are still things to do to

the house, and I have plans in the future for a cottage garden with old Newfoundland plants in it. There is in existence a 19th century print showing the house with a formal garden. It would be a worthwhile job to recreate it.

Sylvia Cullum.



Second Floor Staircase after Rehabilitation.

## Heritage Orientation Program:

In September, 1978, the Newfoundland Historic Trust initiated a Heritage Orientation Program in St. John's. The purpose of the program was to increase awareness of our heritage among members and to attract new members.

A program outline was mailed to existing members and a word of mouth campaign generated an enrolment of twenty-five people. Weekly meetings were scheduled over a 6-week period in the Art Gallery, located in St. John's Arts and Culture Centre. The program focused on three main areas; the history of St. John's, an introduction to other agencies involved with heritage preservation and the structure and function of the Trust itself. Guest speakers were featured at each weekly session.

On the first evening, author and historian Paul O'Neill used slides to present the history of

**Nfld. Transport** - from page 3  
Avalon Mall, where it attracted much favourable comment.

The Society has applied for a Young Canada Works Grant and a Secretary of State's Grant. If we are successful, we hope to establish a permanent exhibit, organize research into the history of transportation in the province and increase our inventory of exhibits.

We would appreciate it if members of the Historic Trust who have in their possession photographs and/or memorabilia relating to Newfoundland transportation and are willing to lend or donate these to the Society, to contact the Chairman, Peter Patrick, at 18 Reid Street, phone 368-6647.

Those interested in joining the Newfoundland Transport Historical Society as an active or supporting member, please contact the chairman at the above address. (Annual fee \$5.00).

Ben Hogan

St. John's. A Saturday afternoon heritage bus tour followed this and commentary was again provided by Mr. O'Neill.

The next week's sessions focused on the concept of Area Conservation. The President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, Beverly Miller, was the featured speaker. She explained what area conservation means to a community and how the idea of such an area for St. John's had been conceived through the preservation of a small group of dedicated trust members.

During the following weeks a number of evenings were devoted to acquainting the group with other organizations and various government agencies involved in the heritage movement. Groups and agencies that were highlighted during these evenings were:

**St. John's Heritage Foundation** — David Webber, manager of the Foundation used a slide presentation to outline the Foundation's role in the development of the St. John's Conservation Area.

**St. John's Municipal Advisory Board** — Mary Griffin, a member of the board, described the importance of their "Watchdog" role. Any exterior rehabilitation work to buildings within the Conservation area or protected by our Heritage By-laws must be approved by this board. It has the funds to provide financial assistance when necessary.

**Province of Newfoundland and Labrador** — The Newfoundland Museum operates under the jurisdiction of the provincial Dept. of Tourism. Victoria Dickenson, Curator of Collections for the museum, explained the role that Tourism plays and showed a slide presentation of what we can expect to see when the museum reopens its doors in June, 1979.

**The Federal Government** — Indian and Northern Affairs,

## Shane O'Dea receives Community Service Award

Through its awards program Heritage Canada each year honours people who have made recent contributions to the Canadian Conservation movement. In 1978 its independent jury chose twenty-three award recipients. One of those recipients was Shane O'Dea of St. John's, who captured a Community Service Award for his extensive work in community and heritage activities.

Shane has spent many years working to preserve Newfoundland's heritage. His is an Honorary Life member and Past President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. He conducted a campaign to save the James Anderson House, has worked with the Trust's Exhibition Committee in the preparation and cataloguing of its early shows and has done extensive work on his own 1834 home, Retreat Cottage.

His main contribution has been in his knowledge of Newfoundland architecture as he has lectured extensively on this subject and is the author of "The Domestic Architecture of old St. John's" and a major contributor to a Gift of Heritage and Ten Historic Towns. In 1976 he directed a major re-

search project for the Trust producing "The Architectural Heritage of St. John's": an Evaluative Inventory which has served as the basis for the protection of the city's buildings for the last couple of years. For a number of years he was a consultant to the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building. He has served as chairman of the Trust's Preservation Committee and has acted as Vice-Chairman of the Heritage Advisory Committee of the St. John's Municipal Council. Nationally, he has been a member of the board of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada.

His interest in heritage is not only limited to architecture. He has an interest in Newfoundland furniture and has written on this subject for the Canadian Collector as well as being Regional Collector for the National Museum of Man.

Shane has been an active member of the Community Planning Association of Canada and was one of the first people to oppose the building of Atlantic Place as well as being involved in the battles regarding the Harbour Arterial and Trizec.

Stephen Kelland

Historic Parks and Sites. Mary Devine, an information officer with Signal Hill National Park described her department's role and dealt specifically with the various historic sites and parks throughout the province.

**Heritage Canada** — Shannie Duff, a member of the Board of Governors (now retired) discussed both the national mandate of Heritage Canada and how this agency aides and assists projects undertaken by local groups.

The final session was combined with the annual meeting of the trust. Members of the ex-

ecutive and committee chairmen were introduced and annual reports were presented.

A great deal of ground was covered in 6 weeks and the intent of the course was to offer the participants a starting point. Apart from its obvious educational value, the course was able to provide invaluable "human and visual" contact with many people and agencies that make up the labyrinth surrounding the heritage movement. This is extremely important because their complex inter-relationships must be un-

(Cont'd on page 7)

## A Victorian Christmas — Open House

The lovely late 19th century house at the corner of Bond and Victoria Streets which has been rehabilitated by the St. John's Heritage Foundation was the setting for the Trust's tremendously successful Victoria Christmas Open House. Hundreds of people crowded the house on the weekend of December 1, 2 and 3.

The highlight of their visit was the second floor of the house which was decorated as a prosperous home in St. John's might have been on Christmas Eve about the turn of the century. The large sitting room was decorated as a Victorian parlor and featured a Christmas tree. In the dining room the table was set for afternoon tea and featured such treats as sesame cake, scones and fruitcake.

The third floor featured a display by the St. John's Heritage Foundation on buildings currently under rehabilitation in the conservation area. Of particular interest was the before and in progress pictures of the Bond Street house as it was converted from a boarded up wreck to a

**Heritage Organization** - from page 6  
derstood if our volunteers are to function comfortably and effectively.

The response to the course was very positive. Of the 25 people that initially registered, 12 new members and 4 active members attended regularly.

Feedback from the group indicated that it was most successful and our new recruits have remained active members. Improvements for subsequent years would include public advertising of the program, charging a nominal fee, more time spent on both the history of our city and the structure and function of our own organization.

We hope that this program will become an annual event!

Sandra Huntley

lovely home combining the best of the past and the present.

On the first floor the Trust set up a sales table where copies of the new book "Ten Historic Towns", hasty notes and Christmas gift wrap were available. The sale of these items was very successful, thus indicating strong support and enthusiasm from the general public.

A special added feature was a bake sale which was held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. While the emphasis was on traditional baking — gingerbread men, mince tarts, and Christmas cakes — there was an array of all types of baking. All these items sold rapidly.

We had phone calls well into the next week asking if we could re-open the exhibition.

Particular thanks need to go to Judy Butt-Miller, Jim Long and Gert Crosbie who headed up the group which decorated the house, Helen Banfield who produced the goodies for the dining room table and oversaw the sale of publications, Donna Webber who decorated the tree and Sandy Huntley who was in charge of the bake sale. Their efforts, however, would not have been successful without those who moved the furniture, the members who spent as many as three or four evenings at the house making garlands and other decorations, ironing and hanging curtains, arranging furniture and eventually, cleaning up, those who donated accessories from their own homes and all the members who participated in the sales. Thanks, to all of you.

A special note of thanks also to Murray's Antiques, 414 Blackmarsh Road, who supplied us with all the lovely furnishings and to the St. John's Heritage Foundation which loaned us the house.

Beverly Miller.

## Gift Shops

The Newfoundland Historic Trust is broadening its horizons within the near future and trying its hand at the retail trade.

Two years ago, the Trust was approached by the Nfld. Museum to consider the possibility of operating a Museum Gift Shop. Within the past year the Trust has also been approached by Parks Canada to operate a Gift Counter at the Signal Hill National Park.

Our response to the Newfoundland Museum was to set up a working committee under the leadership of John O'Dea to investigate the feasibility of this project. The committee's recommendation was positive and later the Signal Hill Shop was added to it.

Both of these Gift Shops will be administered by an Advisory Board which will be responsible for all policy decisions concerning the operation of the Shop. Sandy Huntley and Kay McCalum are the Trust's representatives on the Museum Board plus two Museum staff members, Victoria Dickenson and Elizabeth Callaghan. The positions on the Signal Hill Advisory Board are still to be filled. The Boards will liaison with a manager who will handle the day to

day operation of the shops and report back to the Trust. Within the Trust itself, the Gift Shop Committee is responsible for deciding on Trust policy and developing exclusive inventory for sales in these shops.

Alberta Wood assumed the chairmanship of the committee during 1977-78 and that year preliminary work was done in cooperation with the Museum.

This is a very exciting project for all who are involved. It is a challenge to try to select inventory that will be informative as well as attractive and will reflect the aims of the Museum, Parks Canada, and the Trust.

We expect both shops to open in June 1979. The Signal Hill Shop will be staffed by summer students. Parks Canada prefers these students to be bilingual. They will undergo the same training as the guides hired for the summer.

We hope to staff the Museum Shop with volunteers. This should keep our operating costs down as we feel there are enough members who would be interested in this to make a real contribution to the success of the Shop.

Bette Anderson.

### GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

When the Gift Shop at the Museum opens in June we hope to staff it with volunteers. Would you be willing to give a half day weekly or several times a month?

If so, please fill out this form and return to Bette Anderson, 51 Gambier Street or call her at 722-1319.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Times preferred (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be on holidays for part of the summer or fall? \_\_\_\_\_



Can you recognize the time and place?  
 If so, let us know by writing the  
 Editor of the Trident at  
 32 Blackwood Place,  
 St. John's, Newfoundland.



Photographs, courtesy of Gallery Mason

### FLEA MARKET

sponsored by  
 the Nfld. Historic Trust  
 at Gower St. Church  
 Saturday, May 5  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All members are asked to contribute items. Please mark prices on the items you donate (if your price is too low, someone will be delighted with a bargain, if it is too high, we can always reduce it in the course of the sale). We plan to sponsor a program of activities for the day with the St. John's Heritage Foundation which will include visits to their rehabilitated houses. So . . . set aside May 5 and start cleaning out your attic, basement, etc., . . .

If you have received this copy of the Trident free of charge and wish to receive future issues, why not join the Newfoundland Historic Trust? Membership fees are \$5 single, \$7 family. Our address is P.O. Box 5542, St. John's.