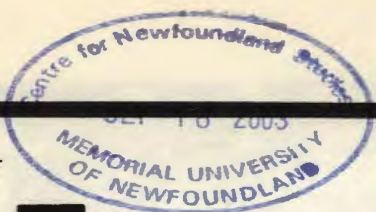


(D.P.)



the

PRESENT  
PAST FUTURE

# trident

## A tale of two ships

Two proud Newfoundland ships with important links with the island's maritime history have recently been in the news. For the NORMA AND GLADYS it is a story of new beginnings, for the KYLE, unless drastic action is taken immediately, a tale of a disappointing and fast approaching end.

### A new beginning



The Kyle

Like Ceasar's Gaul, reaction to Minister of Health, The Hon. Gus Rowe's ten-year battle to save the S.S. Kyle, is divided into three parts: "Some interest; little enthusiasm; and, no money" as Dr. Rowe puts it.

The 1005 ton ice-strengthened Kyle was built in Scottish shipyards and put into service in 1912. She had two coal fired boilers and a steam propulsion of 1580 h.p. For years she ferried fishermen back and forth between the Carbonear area and the Labrador Coast, usually being the first one to break through the spring ice. In between she served as a hospital rescue ship during the Newfoundland Disaster in 1914 and was a rescue ship in the Truxton and Pullox disaster off St. Lawrence in 1942. In 1949 she was bought by the CNR and used to transport cargo and people between Port aux Basques and North Sydney, as well as being used as an ice breaker in the Botwood - Bay of Islands area. In 1959 she was sold to Nova Scotia and United States interests, and was rechristened the Arctic Eagle. However, in 1961 she was bought by Earles of Carbonear for their company, Kyle Shipping Limited. Under their watchful eye she resumed her old name, The Kyle, and was used as a sealer on the front, until 1967

when she collided with an iceberg. Shaken, and feeling old, she was taken back to Carbonear where Earles decided to lay her up on a sand bar. Eventually, she  
*(Continued on page 10)*

### The Norma and Gladys

Built in 1946 by Henry William Stone in Monroe, Trinity Bay, the Norma and Gladys is the last Newfoundland-built banking schooner in existence.

Made of local spruce and birch, her length is 93', her width 23' and her depth 8 3/4'. Her construction was financed by Senator Calvin Pratt for the purpose of prosecuting the Labrador fishery and she was named for Captain Allan Tucker's two daughters, Norma and Gladys.

Bought by Arthur Wareham, she was used from 1946 until 1951 as a banking schooner. She was then bought by Captain Charlie Kean for \$1,700, converted into a trading schooner, and for the next 20 years sailed around the Island and to the Labrador. Such places as Quirpoon, Criquet, Crouse, Conche and Englee were regular ports of call.

Finally, when she was about to give out, in 1971, the Historic Resources Division, through the energies of Martin Bowe, approached Captain Kean on the possibility of buying her as a floating museum. He agreed and she was purchased in 1973 for

*(Continued on page 10)*

### and a tragic end?



If you have enjoyed reading The Trident and would like to receive it on a regular basis, why not join the Nfld. Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542, St. John's. Individual membership 3.00, family 5.00.



**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS** — Awarded to Mr. Martin Lee and Dr. George Story — L to R. Mr. Shane O'Dea Nfld. Historic Trust President, Mr. Martin (Mac) Lee and Dr. George Story following presentation of honorary life memberships in recognition of dedicated service in the preservation of the Historic Resources of Nfld. (John O'Rieley Photo).

**NEXT PROGRAMME MEETING**  
 Wed., May 12th — 8 P.M.  
 Lecture Room  
 Arts & Culture Centre  
**DR. V. BARBER**  
 President Marine Archeology Society  
 The wreck of the H.M.S. Sapphire in Bay Bulls Harbour.

Citations delivered by Shane O'Dea

### Dr. George M. Story

It is, ladies and gentlemen, an invidious position I find myself in, playing orator to the man who is pre-eminently the public orator.

George Story was asked to accept an Honorary Life Membership because the Trust executive felt that his initial work on the historic buildings inventory was the basis of the knowledge it now has. George began this inventory of St. John's buildings before the Federal people started and was the first person to demonstrate the need for such a list. As Chairman of our first Research and Planning Committee he prepared and presented briefs to numerous government bodies and argued, with both care and skill, the case for preservation. It was also he who began the work on revising the provincial historic resources legislation and recommended certain courses of action to the government.

But it is not only for work with the Trust that George Story is to be recognized. We also recognize and applaud his persistence in the matter of the Arterial Road which he had the wisdom to foresee would bring about the destruction of a good portion of the old town. For over four years he, with the Southside Citizens Committee, questioned the rationale of this road and eventually persuaded other citizens to

listen. The present status of the road is in large measure due to his ceaseless fight.

To George Story, a man who is both a scholar and a man of action, we are pleased to present this Honorary Life Membership in the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

### Martin S. Lee

This is the second time this year that I have had occasion to present an award to Mac Lee - the first was an award from the American Society of State and Local History presented in January - but it is not the second time he has deserved one. Mac's work is such that awards would find it difficult to keep pace with his deserving.

Mac Lee has been a one-man band proclaiming the necessity of preserving Newfoundland's heritage in both Placentia and Conception Bay. Working tirelessly against apathy and opposition he has encouraged the formation of local committees and societies in Bristol's Hope, Harbour Grace and Placentia. He has been responsible for the resurrection and re-use of the old Customs House at Harbour Grace and the establishment of an active museum there.

He has also proved that it is possible to wheedle funds from federal government agencies - a talent that the Trust could well make use of. It is our pleasure then to make Mac Lee an Honorary Life Member of Newfoundland Historic Trust.

# Newfoundland Marine Archeology Society

The Newfoundland Marine Archeology Society was formed in September 1972 because a group of scuba divers and others were concerned about the lack of control over the waters surrounding Newfoundland. There was an urgent need to educate divers in marine archeology in order to preserve some of the artifacts and history of Newfoundland coastal wrecks.

As one of the first sites for settlement in North America, Newfoundland has a long and colorful maritime history. Over the years many ships were wrecked around the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador or foundered offshore. Only a few of these untold thousands of vessels have been located and none have been adequately surveyed for their historical interest. This historical treasure is now being pilaged by unknowing or uncaring divers. For a variety of reasons there are comparatively few historical remains left on land so the wrecks that do remain contain the majority of the available historical remnants of Newfoundland's history.

The society feels that the wrecks of historic importance could contribute much to our knowledge of the early settlement of Newfoundland. Such knowledge can only be obtained through efficient, exact archeological excavation undertaken by trained personnel. The knowledge obtained should be made available to the general public by means of full publication and the display of artifacts in a satisfactory maritime museum.

With the establishment of further National Parks in Newfoundland, extensions of such parks to include a portion of the underwater scene would appear to be a long term aim. Such an underwater park could be established in an area of both biological and historical interest. Protection of wrecks in this area would be complete.

In 1973 the Society held discussions with the Provincial Government and conducted an education programme which included lectures on Newfoundland shipwrecks and on

Newfoundland shipping.

All members of the society took the basic underwater archeology training course to prepare for this year's diving. Three known wrecks in Bay Bulls were chosen for investigation to improve our knowledge and techniques of marine archeology. The society's knowledge and experience of surveying, grid laying, mapping and photography were increased as a result.

In 1974 members were prepared to undertake archeological excavations. By the end of 1974 the membership,

originally ten in 1972 had increased to thirty-seven. The society has been legally incorporated under the name Avalon Marine Archeology Society and members have successfully carried out two important projects, the Clay Pipe Collection and Survey in Cupids Harbour and the extensive trial excavation at Bay Bulls on the 300 year old British Warship the H.M.S. Sapphire.

— Lorainne Trickett

Note: Mrs. Trickett is a member of the artifact committee of the Avalon Marine Archaeological Society.



Members of the Marine Archeology Society at the site of the H.M.S. Sapphire, Bay Bulls Harbour. In March 1975 the site of the Sapphire was declared a historic site by the Provincial government and is now fully protected by the Historic Objects, Sites and Records Act. no. 85 1973. Photo courtesy Mr. H. Jacobs

## Heritage Canada establishes regional councils

Heritage Canada has announced that it intends to establish a network of regional councils. These councils are intended to encourage better communications and mutual support among local heritage organizations and to advise Heritage Canada on general policies and on programs within the region concerned.

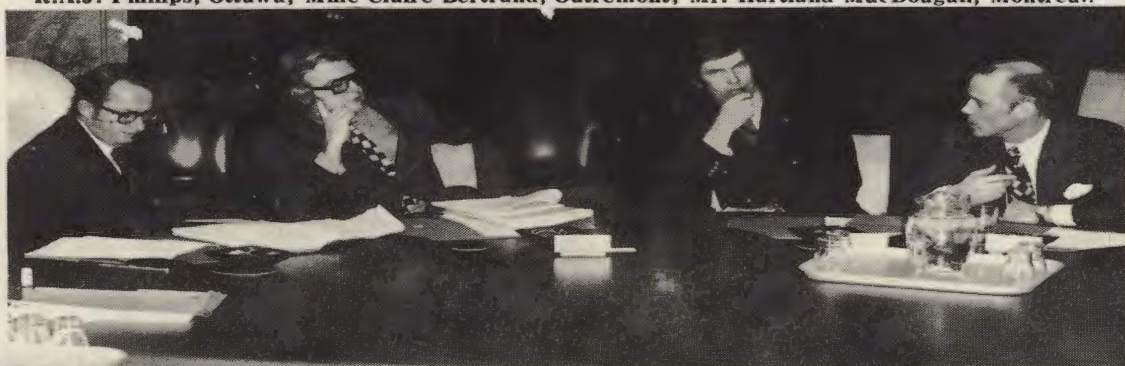
Each member organization of Heritage Canada has the right to appoint a representative to its regional council which will operate under the chairmanship of a member of Heritage Canada's Board of Governors. At a recent executive meeting the Trust decided to become a member organization of Heritage Canada.

It is hoped that the councils will provide an effective means of communication between heritage groups in various parts of Canada, enabling them to share ideas, problems and solutions and also strengthening the voice with which they speak to government.

The initial planning meetings of the regional councils will take place early in 1975. Heritage Canada will provide guidelines for the initial meeting and continuing administrative support, but it is expected that the councils will develop along different patterns in response to local needs.



Some of members of Board of Governors of Heritage Canada with Mayor Dorothy Wyatt during their Jan. visit to St. John's. L-R. Mr. Douglas Richardson, Toronto; Mrs. Shannie Duff, St. John's; Mr. Don Harvie Calgary; Mayor Wyatt, Dr. Ed Shaw, Winnipeg; Dr. Margaret Angus, Kingston; Mr. R.A.J. Phillips, Ottawa; Mme Claire Bertrand, Outremont; Mr. Hartland MacDougall, Montreal.



Mr. Hartland MacDougall, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada and Executive Director Mr. R. A. J. Phillips discuss Newfoundland's Heritage Legislation with the Premier and members of his Cabinet in January. On the right of the Premier is the Hon. John Crosbie, Minister of Fisheries and Intergovernmental affairs.



"We should not have to justify conservation, we should justify demolition". Mr. R.A.J. Phillips speaking at a public meeting at the National Film Board Theatre during his October visit.



Mr. and Mrs. Phillips with Barbara Crosbie and Dr. G. A. Frecker during a reception for Mr. Phillips hosted by the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

## Heritage Canada diary

Heritage Canada's Involvement with the Newfoundland Historic Trust over the past six months has been so frequent that the simplest way of recording the various events is chronologically.

Sept. 1974. The Newfoundland Historic Trust received the Regional Award of Honour (Maritimes) for its work in saving Christ Church and restoring it for modern adaptive use as a community centre for the people of Quidi Vidi. Shannie Duff accepted a framed citation and a cheque for \$1,000 on behalf of the Trust from Mme. Leger at a special ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Shannie Duff was nominated by the Trust to run for election to the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada and was elected at the annual meeting, held in Ottawa on Sept. 28th, with Halifax architect Allan Duffus, to represent the Atlantic Provinces.

Official visit of Mr. R. A. J. Phillips, Executive Director of Heritage Canada and Mrs. Phillips to Newfoundland. Activities included meetings with members of the Trust and the Historical Society, guest appearances with service clubs and the media, Tours of St. John's, and Harbour Grace and lunch aboard the newly restored schooner Norma and Gladys, moored at Clarenville, visits with officials concerned with Heritage in the province and finally a public meeting. January.

The Board of Governors of Heritage Canada held their quarterly meetings in St. John's and met with the Mayor, the Premier and Cabinet and members of the local business community.

A proposal for Heritage Area Conservation Programme for a section of downtown St. John's was presented to the Board by the Research and Planning Committee of the Trust and was accepted. (details on page 12).

### Heritage Canada Award Programme

Heritage Canada Awards Programme 1975 will recognize the efforts of individuals, heritage groups or companies who have made an outstanding achievement in saving visible reminders of our past through:

**AWARDS OF HONOUR** in recognition of outstanding contributions to heritage conservation in Canada.

**PRIZE AWARDS** A National award of \$15,000 and five regional awards of \$2,000 each.

**TRAVELLING AWARDS** Two awards consisting of a three week expense paid trip to examine heritage conservation in a European Country of choice.

**COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS** Five awards of \$100.00 to recognize outstanding efforts to promote the public's awareness of Canada's Heritage and the need to preserve it. A notice of intention to apply must be submitted by April 15th, 1975 and documentation must reach Heritage Canada by May 15th, 1975.

For information write:  
Heritage Canada  
Awards Programme  
P.O. Box 1358  
Station "B" Ottawa.

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# the trident

The Trident is a quarterly publication of the Nfld. Historic Trust, P. O. Box 5542, St. John's.  
Editorial Staff—Shannie Duff, Susan Ayre, Richard Stoker.  
Printed at Robinson-Blackmore.

## Newfoundland Historic Trust Report of the President

### Letters to the editor

Mrs. Shannie Duff  
Editor  
The Trident  
Dear Mrs. Duff,

I would like to make a proposal that steps be taken to preserve our out-port culture. It may not be possible to preserve any one per se, but perhaps steps could be taken to collect and transfer suitable buildings to a chosen site, somewhat along the lines of Upper Canada Village or Heritage Park, Calgary. The admission fees would help defray the expense. Perhaps also the Federal Government might assist and an appeal could be launched to the general public and to wealthy Newfoundlanders here and outside the province.

A site that would be able to provide a reasonably authentic setting is the east end of Quidi Vidi Pond. This would have the advantage of close proximity to St. John's.

As you know this project is of great interest to me, and I referred to it in the editorial of the Newfoundland Medical Association newsletter. Recently in Western Bay I saw an old store for sale which would be ideal for the project.

Time is running out, and unless steps are taken to launch this project we may well find it too late. Certainly all the other provinces appear to be going into this sort of field. I think with our unique out-port culture it would be a pity to miss the opportunity.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. John R. Martin  
St. John's

Historic Trust,  
Box 5542,  
St. John's, Newfoundland

Dear Sir:

Today my daughter Diane, a winner in your Celebration Essay Contest for Grade Five pupils, received a copy of your most interesting publication, The Trident. She was delighted to have a copy with her essay in print and we as a family have also been enjoying the rest of the publication.

Newfoundland is our adopted province (we have been here nearly ten years) and we have become very fond of this old rock. Your work, therefore, has much interest for us as we have toured the province whenever possible and have seen nearly all of it. The historical, architectural, archaeological and topographical aspects of this province have our deep interest. Baie Verte is a "new" town and has no real interest in this way, but the many villages which rim this peninsula are fascinating and very much a part of the Newfoundland picture; they are rather different from most of the other villages in the province and do not receive the tourist attention. But like the rest of the province they are changing and the old is disappearing. This is painful to see.

As a small way of holding on to the past, I have been doing oil paintings of various places. I am pleased to note that other artists such as Mrs. J. Ball and Mrs. M. Freeman of your city appear to have a similar idea. The Fifth Annual Exhibition in July brought their work to my attention. The Exhibition was much enjoyed.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$5.00 for a membership in the Trust.

In this year the Trust has developed itself to the point where, while it has not ceased to be the charlady of Christ Church, it has become a definite and respected force in the community. This development is a consequence of the work begun by George Story and developed by the Research and Planning Committee under Bev Miller. We now, when we speak on an issue, speak from knowledge and not from romance. We are now at a stage where our level of research is such that we can immediately determine the age and value of any structure which is threatened and can provide a reasoned argument for its preservation. The response to our petition on Andrew's Range confirms this — if the avid reaction of the press is to be taken as a response of note.

On an educational level we have also been quite successful. We have brought the Trust and its ideas much more clearly to the public in the last year. This, the work of our Program Committee, was most effective in the visit of Maude Rosinski of the Halifax Heritage Trust. It is intended to expand the programs in the coming year and have fairly regular presentations for the general public. The Essay contest brought the idea of preservation to the schools and, despite the limited prizes, was obviously popular with the students whose work showed interest as well as

We will be very interested in hearing of your work and although I am not able to take part directly perhaps this small contribution may be of help. Keep up the good work — future generations will thank you.

Yours truly,  
(Mrs.) Dorothy M. Black.  
Baie Verte

care. The Exhibition Committee struggled through a difficult time trying to make something worth while out of Confederation — an exhibition on the period 1945 - 49 — and at the last minute altered the topic to produce, on very short notice, an excellent exhibit on the world of the Victorian child. Our most profound though lease public educational project was the course on Buying and Rehabilitating an Old House. This course, conducted under the auspices of the Extension Service, was filled with useful information for the person wandering into the difficulties of an old house and included talks from

(Continued on next page)

### Executive Historic Trust

- President, Shane O'Dea.
- Vice Presidents, Shannie Duff, Beverley Miller, Keith Mercer.
- Treasurer, Verne Somers.
- Secretary, Pat Rahal.
- Recording Secretary, Diane Hogan, Florence Quinlan (acting).
- Honourary Secretary, Beaton Sheppard.
- Committee Chairmen, Tours, Janet Gardiner.
- Regatta, John Carter.
- Research, Bev Miller.
- Programmes, Barbara Koski.
- Public Relations, Judi Somers.
- Membership, Raymond O'Dea.
- Finance, John Perlin.
- Exhibition, Gerry Walsh, Conagh O'Dea.
- Publications, Paul O'Neil.
- Trident Editor, Shannie Duff.



Newly elected officers of the Newfoundland Historic Trust following the annual meeting held in the Legislative Assembly of the Colonial Building on Nov. 20th., 1974. Mr. Shane O'Dea (seated) was re-elected to a second term as president. Standing L to R. Diane Hogan, recording secretary, Beverley Miller Vice-President, Verne Sommers, Treasurer, Shannie Duff, Vice President, Keith Mercer Vice President, and Pat Rahal, corresponding secretary—(John O'Reilly Photo)

(Continuation)

experts — architects, heating specialists — as well as from those with the experience of rehabilitating their own houses. We have established a Publications Committee under Paul O'Neill to examine the possibility of producing books and pamphlets. Our initial work in this area will not be a book but a map — The Historic Map of St. John's — a project devised by Shannie Duff and carried out under a grant from the Carling-O'Keefe Foundation. This map will be available to conventions and will, it is hoped, make people more aware of the value of our heritage.

Finally, in the area of education, we have the Trident. This paper has become an excellent, informative news magazine and has done a great deal to establish the credibility of the Trust in the community and through the Province. It is in fact the one means by which we serve our function as a Newfoundland Historic Trust, as an organization which serves the whole province and not just St. John's.

But with so much gained we have also lost. The illness and death of Sadie Dixon has meant the loss of an important and valued member of the organization. It was she who, with Huston, established the Trident as we know it now and who set it as a footing which enabled those who took it over to develop it to its present level.

Funding has come primarily from the lucrative tours organized by Janet Gardiner. These have produced, apart from the amusement offered the Trust members who have acted as guides, a great deal of money. Our next major source of funding, although specifically directed to the Historic Map, was from Carling O'Keefe and it is hoped that we may continue, with worthwhile projects, to make use of this Foundation. The government has generously renewed our grant of \$1,000.00, although we understood that we cannot presume this to be a standing grant. And John Carter's Regatta Committee also added to our funds, but to their disappointment, ran into inflation and poor weather which prohibited achievement of the large sum made last year.

Of the positive, all these and more, of the negative, these: Christ Church is still a problem, its conduct is that of an errant child — good one day, bad the next with the exception that this child hashad only one good day. It did win a preservation award from Heritage Canada which allowed us to buy it some new clothes. This award at least vindicated the efforts of all these who, from Edythe Goodridge onwards, fought for its survival. But this award was offset by the publicity it received for misconduct earlier in the year. It was partially vandalized and became the subject of irate letters to the paper and phone calls from the parents who had originally made it orphan. We may have solved the problem of reusing the building, having interested a committee of Quidi Vidi residents in using it as a community center. It is hoped then this will prove more successful than previous arrangements. The demands of a

museum have made the use of the church for that purpose a total impossibility. But also the Trust should not be attempting to create museums or historic houses; it should be attempting to preserve buildings, encouraging their sensible re-use. And, as a final point about Christ Church the vandalism was not in any way as disastrous as it was presented — merely a few obscene exhortations painted on the walls and limited damage to the facilities.

Equally, we should not be entirely satisfied with our educational endeavours. We are reaching a larger segment of the community than before, more people are seeing our point of view. But we still remain an elite imposing solutions and principles from above. We still do not have a general membership dream from a cross-section of the city or the province. I pose this as an objection; I cannot see an immediate solution unless it be a carefully directed membership drive which we do not have the achieved capacity for yet.

This brings up another problem — funding for organization. The Trust has come to a point where we have reached the limit of individual expertise and service. Members of the executive, chairpersons and committee members are working beyond a normal expectation of duty. This is not something that can be solved by saying involve more members — that demands an overall manager not merely a president or an executive who direct policy. And that is why we need both a fulltime manager and an assistant to co-ordinate all our activities. It was hoped that we would be given enough money by the Provincial Government last year to acquire an office — but we are only one provincial organization among many and this was not possible. We must then attempt to obtain an operating grant from some agency which will allow us to develop beyond our present status.

Beyond ourselves we have seen the Historic Resources Division make remarkable strides in the last year — work in which they are to be congratulated. The opening of Heart's Content, the recommissioning of the Norma and Gladys all indicate that there is hope for the province's heritage. Of greater importance to us is the declaration of several historic sites as areas protected against alteration or change. This is hopefully the beginning of a program of declaration which will provide the province with a significant number of protected sites and buildings. However, movement is slow and these matters can only result in the loss of important — The Deep Bight Water Wheel waits only to become part of the sawdust on which it stands, the Earle premises on Fogo have been offered for sale and may be torn down for scrap lumber.

So, for the future, at least for the future of next year, the Trust must continue to act as a source of public knowledge and public pressure and it must attempt to see itself on a firmer footing by obtaining funding to establish a permanent office with a manager or executive-director.

—Shane O'Dea.  
November 20, 1974



Mr. R. A. J. Phillips visits Christ Church, Quidi Vidi with members of the Trust executive during his official visit to Newfoundland in October. L to R Beverley Miller, Vice-President and Research and Planning Chairman, President Shane O'Dea, Mr. Phillips and Vice-President and Trident Editor Shannie Duff.

## Postscript on Christ Church

After the disturbing reports of vandalism last summer it is good to be able to report that the building is once more in prime condition and functioning very well as a community centre under the direction of an elected committee from Quidi Vidi Village.

The \$1,000 Regional Award of Honour which we received from Heritage Canada allowed us to pay for the bulk of the repairs which included a much needed interior paint job, painting the exterior, replacing broken windows and covering them with specially constructed shutters.

Many months of effort in community organization resulted in an initial meeting November attended by 25 residents of Quidi Vidi. An interim committee was elected to draw up a constitution with the help of Trust Vice-President Keith Mercer I.L.B. and to organize for the election of a permanent committee and supervise the use of the building until the election of the new committee.

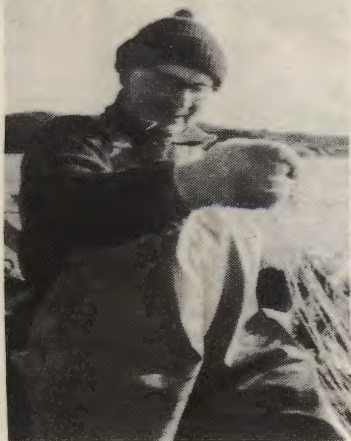
For the first time in many years the building was once more the centre of activity in the Village over the Christmas season. The interim committee organized parties for all age groups and invited Shane O'Dea and Shannie Duff as President and Vice-President of the Trust to join Mayor Dorothy, The Rev. E. Askew Rector of St. Thomas' Church and Rev. Msgr. J. J. Murray, Parish Priest of St. Joseph's as special guests at a turkey supper and dance shortly before Christmas.

Seventy-five people attended the meeting to elect the permanent committee in January. The building remains the property of the Trust and we have signed a one year lease with the Quidi Vidi Community Centre Committee for a nominal rent of \$1.00. A member of the Trust sits on the committee but all other members are residents of Quidi Vidi. The use of the building as a community centre will be reassessed in one year.

# Chronicles of a Bayman

My old homestead in the North East of Harbour Buffet is the only house still standing in the harbor. It stands as a monument to the destruction of personal property caused by the centralization program. My house was built in 1915 by my father and myself and I plan to describe the preparation and building of our home.

As an introduction to this article I shall have to introduce my



Victor Butler, aged 80 plus, the author of "Chronicles of a Bayman", hauling a gill net. Victor now lives in Arnold's Cove but he was born and raised on Harbour Buffet, an Island in Placentia Bay and lived and fished there until the government closed out the community some years ago and the people were forced to move.

## The forge at Moreton's Harbour

There is a forge in Moreton's Harbour. While no one knows exactly how old it is, Gilbert Osmond of Moreton's Harbour says it was built by his grandfather who died in 1911 at the age of 80. Therefore, one can assume that it was built about 1850.

Attached to the rear of the Osmond house, the forge looked out on the Moreton Harbour shipyard and was used for the building and repairing of all iron parts on the schooners that frequented the fine harbour.

Ernest Spencer was an apprentice to old Mr. Osmond and when Mr. Osmond died, Ernest bought the forge and moved it about 800 yards down the road to the back of his house. There he used the forge for iron works until the passing of the schooners in the 1940's. He then went into blacksmith and tinsmith work.

In the remaining years, Ernest was kept busy shoeing the horses in the fall that would be used to carry the wood in the winter. During the winter, gaffs for spring sealing were made and in between kettles had to be

father, Henry Butler, who was very important to me in my earlier days. Although uneducated, he was a very intelligent and energetic man and was skilled in many different trades, especially carpentry. Since I was the only son, my father taught me the art of carpentry and other skills. This working together brought us close together and through the years we became more like pals than father and son.

Prior to building our house in 1915, we lived in one built in 1876. It was built in the style of the times with a shingled mansard roof. Although not large, it was warm and comfortable.

Around 1900-1910, material to construct houses was hard to come by as the earning power of the ordinary man was limited. Material had to be gathered as the opportunities arose.

At the turn of the century all the inhabitants of outport communities used wood for fuel. Therefore, men would spend most of the winter months cutting wood. As he gathered wood any man planning to build a house would select every piece of straight timber which was suitable for building purposes.

My father spent three winters cutting timber until I finished school and was able to help him. The necessary timber included large straight timber for sills for the foundation and straight sticks six inches in diameter and twelve feet long for sleepers to be laid on the foundation sills. For uprights

repaired. Despite the passing of the schooners, rudders still had to be fixed. Ernest never lacked for work.

Ernest was known as a good blacksmith and worked hard until he died about eight years ago. Unfortunately for the forge, Ernest had no apprentices and the forge has remained unused ever since. However, the bellows, anvil and a number of dies can still be found in tact inside of the building.

The forge is now owned by Ernest's son, Frank, who lives in St. John's and at least one local group has expressed an interest in using the building as a meeting place.

It's sad to see this forge and other remaining ones slowly decaying and being forgotten. They are one of the few examples of early community industries that Newfoundland has. It is hoped that local groups will become interested enough in their heritage to restore the forges to their original state and use them either as meeting halls, small museums or libraries.



Photograph taken by Mr. Victor Butler, of the home he built with his father on Harbour Buffet in 1915. It is the only house still standing in the Harbour and in Mr. Butler's own words, "It stands as a monument to the destruction of personal property caused by the centralization programme."

used in framing the walls, we used long straight timbers approximately 5" in diameter and sixteen feet long. For framing the roof, we used straight timbers 4" in diameter and twelve feet long.

All this timber had to be hauled on a slide to the seashore from many different timber stands and then the timber had to be brought to Buffet by boat from many different places. Finally the wood had to be chopped to the desired dimensions by using a hand axe. When all the timber was ready, we stowed it underneath a large barn on our property until we were ready to build.

For the next two years we purchased as much material for the house as our means allowed. On December 8, 1915 we decided to start building because we had finally collected enough material. We laid the foundation on forty eight wooden shores in holes in the ground two feet deep using a bed of wood ashes underneath each shore to protect the house from heaving with frost.

All the lumber used in constructing the house both outside and in was match and fit or plowed and tongue number one material. We planned on building a house to last for many years. We laid the foundation and planked it over, covering the planking with tar paper and another covering of P and G lumber. We framed the walls of the house with the timber prepared by my father, sheathed the walls with P. and G lumber, covered the lumber with tar paper and number one clapboard. I made all the door and window boxes.

We framed the roof with especially prepared timber and covered it with P and G lumber. For roof covering we used the best available at the time, 3 ply tarred felt (Note, no leaks in the roof after 60 years). The dimensions of the house were 24 x 18 with a 6 x 6 porch. The height of the house was 16 feet.

The interior was finished with good quality material. The first floor consisted of a kitchen and a

living room and the pantry was in the porch and had built in cupboards. The hall was at the back and led to the upstairs stairway. Off the upstairs hall were four bedrooms with a 6 x 6 clothes room on the porch leading off to the master's bedroom.

The next job was building a chimney which neither Father nor I had ever built before, but we discussed the matter and I said "Father, we built the house and we are going to build the chimney." He said, "all right, my son." We bought the necessary material and built the chimney which is still in excellent condition after 60 years.

My father owned an old fashioned lathe which he operated with a foot treadle. He used to turn out some beautiful work. We needed two newel posts for the banister rail but the job was too heavy for the treadle operated lathe. Not to be deferred, my father made a wheel six feet in diameter and he set it up in the work store for me to turn by hand. Although he cut the pattern on the post with crude means, he did an excellent job and my, did my arms ache.

My father and I were pretty fair carpenters by the time the house was built and it was comparable to any house built at that time.

In 1943 I installed cold and hot water by gravity feed, a bathroom, sewerage facilities, a powerhouse, a generating lighting plant and wiring. I kept an accurate account of the cost of all material used for the entire house. As a comparison of the cost of building materials today and sixty years ago, I have included an account of what the house cost when finished.

We bought the P. and G lumber at Bay D'Espoir \$50 per 10000, the clapboard, \$75; bought 5 doors from Mark Goss and sons, Spaniards Bay, 7.25 each; 2 doors, 9.25 each; window sashes, 2.80 a set; banister rail, .13 pr foot; window and door facings, \$50 per thousand. All other materials included, the finished house with one coat of paint outside cost \$1,125 in 1915.

# The recycled building

Until this fall, 31 Plymouth Road was just another small warehouse in St. John's. Owned by T.J. Green, this well built three story semi-attached wooden structure was used to store biscuits. It was not considered prime property. But then two architects, Beaton Sheppard and Phil Pratt, became interested in renovating and restoring the structure which they knew could be bought for a reasonable sum. However, that sum was more than they could then afford and so they interested Frank Foley, a building contractor, in the structure and its possibilities. Frank bought the building and this fall its new lease on life began under Beaton and Phil's watchful eye.

The building was a solid structure with approximately eight foot stone foundations in the basement and an already installed hot air furnace. Having always been used as a warehouse, it did not have par-

titions. In renovating the building, the aim was to keep it "natural" looking and to do it as inexpensively, but tastefully, as possible.

The 700 feet of open space on the second floor were rented to Beaton and Phil as an office. They did not change the original floor boards, except for some hard scrubbing, and their only addition to the staircase was a rough iron pipe railing at the top to keep people from plummeting down.

However, they did change the walls and ceiling and paneled them in rough 1" x 4" Newfoundland spruce (10½¢ a foot) which was nailed at the joints through the masonite to the original structure. This type of Newfoundland spruce is usually used for strapping and is normally hidden from view. However, it provides excellent insulation, requires no maintenance or upkeep and is very attractive to the eye. The spruce was clear shellaced to keep it from fading and to bring out the natural grains.

A second floor loading door faced Plymouth Road and was removed. It has since become a conference table layout-coffee table, and will eventually be stripped. Two windows encased in insulated clear wood frames replaced the one loading door. The larger one is double glazed but the smaller one can be opened for ventilation in the summer.

A second-floor rear window is similar in proportions to the large front window, but it opens at the bottom for cross ventilation in the summer. In contrast to the street scape of the two front windows, the rear window offers a magnificent view of the St. John's Battery, the harbour and narrows, and the South Side Hills.

The first floor which contains approximately 700 square feet was converted into several offices by using 2" x 4" and gyp rock. All first floor walls and partitions were gyp rocked and painted white, and the floors were carpeted in variations of gray. In the entrance way and Frank Foley's office, the ceiling was dropped to cover up already existing hot air ducts. To drop the ceiling a skeleton ceiling frame was made which was covered with tar paper. Dressed 1" x 4" were then nailed to the frame. To give the spruce a richer ap-

pearance, several coats of orange shellac were applied.

In the two offices which are rented to the Cerebral Palsy Association, the ceilings were not dropped, but instead were covered with gyp rock painted white. A washroom completes the rooms on the first floor.

The basement has yet to be fixed up, but it has its own entrance on Cooks Hill and one already partitioned section has been rented to an oil burner repairman.

The facade has not yet been touched with the exception of

replacing the front door.

The cost of renovating the building was approximately \$7000 and was done by two men in one month. Already offers price have been made on the building.

Neither Beaton nor Phil plan to stay at 31 Plymouth Road forever. Much as they like their office, their idea is to find other old buildings and renovate them or have others renovate them. At the rate they are going, in ten years much of downtown will be renovated.



The exterior of 31 Plymouth Row is still 'waiting for Spring' for a paint job will bring the outside of the building up to the newly recycled interior. The sign over the door not only identifies the new tenants but is an excellent example of the type of signing which is in harmony with buildings of an older vintage and lends charm to the older sections of a city.



Interior view of 31 Plymouth Road, converted from warehouse to offices for architects Beaton Sheppard and Philip Pratt. Varnished tongue and groove makes a functional attractive and inexpensive finish for ceilings and walls. The original wide pine plank floor remains, improved by scrubbing and a coat of shellac. Photo Philip Pratt.



View of the narrows from the back window of 31 Plymouth Road. Photo Philip Pratt.

## It's your heritage! Programmes to involve the community

In recent months the Research and Planning Committee has instituted several new programs. Several years ago the Federal Government began to compile the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings which attempted to identify the exteriors of buildings in Canada which were valuable because of architecture, construction, age or historical association. In an attempt to make the public aware of these buildings the Research and Planning Committee will attempt to inform the owners of buildings in St. John's which appear on the inventory. Francis Puddister is in charge of this aspect of the committee's work.

It was also felt that the Trust should give recognition to owners of buildings in the old part of the city who repaired or refurbished their buildings without destroying the character of the structures.

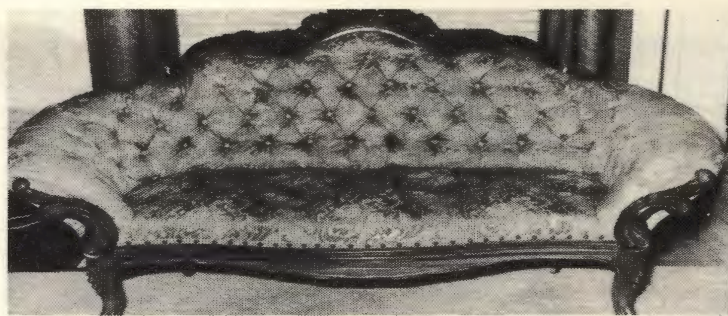
Since November, 1974, Barbara Koski has written many St. John's residents congratulating them on the care and concern they have shown in repairing their homes without destroying the original exterior features of these buildings. Some of the people we have written include Mr. H.T. Gough, Devon Row, Mr. Lewis Murphy, Military Rd., Dr. and Mrs. S. Pierion, Monkstown Rd., Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Crutcher, Maxie St., and Mr. P. Clinton and Mr. Richard Stoker, both with homes on Military Road.

It is our hope that others in our community will become interested and involved in the restoration of the older areas of our city. So much can be done by the individual - as the above mentioned have shown!

In December the committee was approached by the Extension Service of MUN about the possibility of organizing a course on antiques to be offered by the Trust in conjunction with the Extension Service. The Research Committee was fortunate to have Dr. Eric Watts agree to coordinate the course which started the beginning of February with an enthusiastic enrollment of more than twenty five people.

For about a year the Research and Planning Committee had hoped to expand its educational activities through a series of newspaper articles on significant heritage buildings in the city. Doreen Fitzpatrick has agreed to take over this project.

In the fall the committee again offered the course on "Buying and Restoring a House in Old St. John's", also given in conjunction with the extension service. Research and Planning was also active in researching the history of buildings which appeared on the Historic Map and in drawing up the plans for the presentation of the Heritage Conservancy Area to the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada.



## Antiques for fun and profit

The Extension Service of Memorial University is offering, this year for the first time, a course on antiques. The class, called "Antiques for Fun and Profit", is being sponsored by the Newfoundland Historic Trust. The response to the course has been gratifying and although the registration was held during extremely cold and stormy weather, twenty seven people signed up (twenty five women and two men).

The first class, on antique silver which was to be given by

Raymonde O'Dea was cancelled due to the "State of Emergency" and will be rescheduled at the end of the course. Shane O'Dea opened the series of classes with a very informative lecture on antique fine furniture. In the second class, Walter Peddle described different styles of Newfoundland outport furniture and how they differ from mainland and other types of furniture.

The remaining classes will cover topics such as preservation and restoration of furniture,

books, prints and maps, tools, collectibles, silver and glass. It appears the course has made a fine start and many of the Trust members are both lecturing and in the audience.

Extension service has indicated that perhaps a dozen potential students had to be turned away because the class was filled and it is hoped that the course can be offered again in the fall. Many thanks to Eric Watts who has done an excellent job of organizing the course.

## Essay contest - deadline April 15th.

Last year, as part of its Confederation anniversary celebrations, the Newfoundland Historic Trust sponsored an essay contest for all the Grade Five students of Newfoundland and Labrador. As the contest was an overwhelming success we have decided to sponsor a second contest this year for the Grade Ten and Eleven students of the Province.

Discuss the statement "We do not own our heritage - we only rent it from our children."

Length of essay: 300-500 words. There will be a Grand Prize of \$50.00 for the first place essay, and three regional prizes of \$25.00 each.

Entries should be sent to the address below.  
Essay Contest,

## Exhibition

The title of the 6th annual Newfoundland Historic Trust Exhibition is "Seven Generations" and will concentrate on fashions from 1800-1975. In preparation for this showing we are soliciting clothing items for consideration. In order to alleviate problems previously experienced through short deadlines we are appealing to you to respond as quickly as possible to our request. Now's the time to check the old trunks for old hats, dresses, coats, shoes, bathing clothing...etc....Please contact either Oonagh O'Dea (753-0341) or Metz Devine (726-1270) any evening after 6:00 p.m.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust,  
P.O. Box 5542,  
St. John's, Newfoundland.

The contest deadline is April 30, 1975 and only essays received on or before that date will be eligible for the prizes described above. Winners will be notified by mail as soon as possible after the

judging has been completed, approximately May 15, 1975.

We hope that many of our high school students will decide to take part in this contest and look forward to receiving entries.

Mary Barry,  
Contest Committee  
Chairman

## Tours

The major fund raising effort of the Trust last year was the summer tour guiding programme. Volunteer guides from the Trust, using an itinerary and historical information produced by the Research and Planning committee conducted tours of historic St. John's for visiting convention groups. On several occasions, at the special request of the groups day long tours were conducted to Harbour Grace and Placentia in cooperation with the local Historical Societies, but most of our efforts were concentrated on two hour tours of the older sections of the city.

The programme was a great financial success and a very enjoyable experience for the members who volunteered. We hope to continue the programme this summer and will be looking for volunteers. There will be a short training programme for new guides later in the Spring. If you are interested in helping contact

Janet Gardiner  
726-5712.

## New series of programme meetings

In an effort to provide a wider variety of activities for its members, the Newfoundland Historic Trust has begun a series of programme meetings. The first of these meetings was held on Tuesday, February 18, in the main lecture room of the Arts and Culture Center. The featured speaker was Dr. Robert Barakat of MUN who led the archaeological "dig" at Cupids.

Dr. Barakat divided his talk into two sections. In the first part he assessed the various motives John Guy had in choosing the site at Cupids. The second part of the talk featured a large number of slides dealing with the actual excavations which were done on the site. Several of the slides were graphic representations of the results of the "dig" showing the outlines of possible structures, sites of wells, a saw pit, etc. Other slides included actual shots of the general area and the excavations which were made. The talk was very well received by the audience of about seventy people and there were a large number of questions following the presentation. Many thanks to Dr. Barakat for an interesting and informative presentation.



# Trust opens exhibition at City Hall

In the Spring of 1974 the Newfoundland Historic Trust received a \$2,600 grant from the Carling Community Arts Foundation to produce and map an exhibit of Historic St. John's.

The project, which took nine months to complete, was officially opened in the 3rd floor exhibition area of City Hall by Mayor Dorothy Wyatt on Jan. 17th. The opening was arranged to coincide with the meetings of the Board of Directors of Heritage Canada which took place in St. John's on Jan. 18th and 19th and members of the Board of Directors attended the City Hall opening ceremony. Also present was Mr. Gerry Tilly, General Manager of the Newfoundland branch of Carling O'Keefe - Dr. G.A. Frecker Chancellor of Memorial University and John C. Perein, Director of Cultural Affairs for the province.

Line drawings by local artist Jean Ball of representative heritage buildings in the city are mounted on location on a 12 by five foot map of the older sections of St. John's. In addition there are over forty photos and prints of old St. John's including many of our vanished heritage buildings and a series of maps depicting the city at various

stages of its growth and development. The text includes detailed background information on individual historic buildings as well as a general history of St. John's and a history of its architectural development.

The Exhibit, which really amounts to a pictorial history lesson on St. John's has received

very favourable comment from those who have seen it and has attracted many classes of local school children.

An illustrated book based on the Exhibition and folios of the line drawings are currently in preparation and should be ready by the fall.

Credits and Thanks to the

Carling Community Arts Foundation and to the many volunteers who contributed to the preparation and setting up of the exhibition.

If you have not had an opportunity to see this exhibition make. It will be on view on the 3rd floor of City Hall until May 1st.



Opening of the Exhibition of Historic St. John's on Fri. Jan. 17th. L-R. Dr. G.A. Frecker, Chancellor of Memorial University, Shannie Duff, Exhibition co-ordinator, Mr. Gerry Tilly, Newfoundland manager of Carling O'Keefe Brewery, Mayor Dorothy Wyatt, Mr. Hartland MacDougall, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada and Shane O'Dea, President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust (after a hard day).



View of the exhibition of "Historic St. John's" currently on display at the third floor exhibition area of City Hall.

(R. STOKER PHOTO)

## MEMBERSHIP THE NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST JOINS HERITAGE CANADA

One of the decisions taken at the Nov. annual meeting of the Trust was that our organization become officially associated with Heritage Canada.

For the past year, members of the Trust have been automatically members of

Heritage Canada under the terms of a special free introductory membership offer which terminated in January 1975.

Our new association with Heritage Canada, in addition to the advantages which come to us as an organization, including national support for our projects and priority consideration in the use of Heritage Canada's programme, information and research facilities offers our

individual members a renewal of their membership in Heritage Canada at a specially reduced rate but with full membership privileges including subscriptions to Heritage Canada quarterly news magazine and full voting rights.

The condition of our association is that ten percent of the Trust Membership become paid members of Heritage Canada at this reduced rate of \$3.00 for a

single membership and \$5.00 for a family membership. (Regular membership rates are \$5.00 and \$7.00)

You may join Heritage Canada whether by using the membership card enclosed in the last issue of HERITAGE or by including your Heritage Canada Membership Fee when you renew your membership in the Trust and letting us forward your application for you.

## Can you identify these photos?



These photos are part of a collection recently developed from glass plates in the possession of the Newfoundland Archives. If you can tell us anything about the dates, events or the people involved please write—The Editor, The Trident, P.O. Box. 5542.



### THE KYLE

(Continued from page 1)

was sold to Dominion Metals of St. John's for an undisclosed amount.

It was at this point that Dr. Rowe, the now Provincial Minister of Health, started to write governments, service clubs and historical groups to see if anyone was interested in putting money into the restoration of the Kyle for use as a tourist attraction.

Dr. Rowe's idea was to convert the ship into a floating museum, possibly with a restaurant and other standard tourist attraction accessories. The Carbonear area is historically one of Newfoundland's oldest commercial areas and the ship would provide the necessary atmosphere and appeal to draw tourists to the area, Dr. Rowe feels.

Through Dr. Rowe's efforts the government purchased the vessel for \$4000 from Dominion Metals. Several estimates of the cost to renew and refinish the vessel have ranged from \$100,00 to \$400,000, but no actual study has been done nor has anyone been willing to try and raise the money. He feels the project is worthy of sea cadet groups, young people's organizations, and other interested groups who would like to have some practical experience in marine carpentry,

mechanical and related work.

Dr. Rowe feels Newfoundlanders are forgetting their heritage, the sea, the men and ships that made the Province the Maritime power it once was. He says there are examples all over Maritime Canada of ships preserved for various purposes, and, while Newfoundland has one or two, the possibilities of the Kyle and her history, are being overlooked.

Recently the government decided that the Kyle was not worth saving any longer, that the cost was too great to salvage and refurbish the ship, and that the project was a lost cause. It has resold the ship to another scrap dealer for \$4,000. The last two Ministers of Tourism have felt that restoring the Kyle was a private rather than public responsibility. Rev. Pearce, Chairman of the Harbour Grace Area Development Association, said that the government should have looked into the situation more closely when they bought her, and several residents of the Harbour Grace area when asked how they felt about her, said, "blow her up". However, the Lions Club of the Carbonear area has expressed an interest in restoring her.

The S.S. Kyle, once the proud

princess of Newfoundland coastal waters, lies, a steel hulk, grounded on sand at the foot of Harbour Grace's harbour. Her future has run out.

Unless, as Dr. Rowe says, "You don't happen to know someone, or some group, who'd be interested in preserving her, do you?"

### THE NORMA AND GLADYS

(Continued from page 1)

\$18,000 through funds made available from the Newfoundland government and the Secretary of State.

In 1975, the Norma and Gladys made the 12 hour trip from St. John's to Clarenville shipyards where under the watchful eye of Mr. Mercer and Mr. Hiscock, she has been rerigged, restored and refitted as a banking schooner.

It was no easy task and was done in four steps. First she had to be renovated, especially the hull. Local residents replaced planking from the water line to the deck and the stern and keel were replaced. The entire ship was recaulked and recemented. Then she had to be reconverted from a coastal freighter into a banking schooner which involved removing the deck house and the deck. Then her masts had to be

lengthened and placed further apart. New sails had to be ordered, and electricity and navigational equipment had to be installed. And lastly the cabins had to be refurbished, the exhibition area made ready and the iron steering wheel installed.

She now stands ready. The front hull provides sleeping quarters for six crewmen as well as room for a galley and a washroom. The captain, engineer and four others will occupy the stern which will also house the engine room. The 40' x 15' centre areas will be used for public displays which will be reached by a spiral staircase from the loading hatch.

In November she was recommissioned and Captain Kean, now in his 70's was there as were Norma Vey and Gladys Mechura. This spring she will travel around Newfoundland as a floating museum with exhibits about the Labrador fishery. As soon as the Labrador ice melts, she will head northward and those who never knew the Labrador fishery in its hey day will have the opportunity to see one of the original ships and a number of exhibits that will tell the story. From there, the Norma and Gladys might go anywhere, even Japan, because those involved in her restoration feel it was thorough enough for her to sail the high seas once again.

## News from our National Historic Parks

All Federal Historic sites in the Province have completed a very successful year and record visitor counts indicate the rapidly increasing interest of tourists and local residents in the province's historic resources.

The five National Historic Parks are now planning for their summer programme with the recruitment of interpretive guides and the publication of new pamphlets and brochures. THE NORTH HEAD TRAIL, a new pamphlet being designed for the Signal Hill National Historic Park will point out points of interest along the walk and describe the unique geology and flora of the area.

Presently the Signal Hill Slide

## Western Newfoundland Historical Society formed

Recently a western Newfoundland Historical Society was organized in Corner Brook. Members come from as far away as Cowhead to the north and Stephenville to the south. The constitution has already been drawn up and the society expects to have four programs before summer.

At the initial meeting of the society last fall approximately one dozen people attended but close to forty have expressed an interest, and as one director said "there's a great deal of material out here that hasn't yet been tapped."

## Labrador Heritage Society

Formed two years ago in Happy Valley, the Labrador Heritage Society was concerned at that time with the number of artifacts being removed from Labrador which rightfully belonged to the people. There are now 40 members and their purpose is not only in preserving artifacts, but also in preserving the oral and written history of the area. During the last year, members have been taping stories told by some of the older residents and it is hoped that these tapes can be compiled into a booklet or magazine. Obviously, a great deal depends on money, and right now they are operating on a New Horizons grant given to some of the older members.

The plans for the future include the establishment of Heritage groups in communities other than

Program is being shown in various schools in St. John's and surrounding areas. It deals with the history of five National Historic Parks and eighteen National Historic Sites in the Province and identifies closely with the history of Newfoundland studied by Grade V's. This year as well, due to numerous requests from Grade VI's has been set up a slide program of Port Au Choix area dealing with the Maritime Archaic Indians. Although the primary aim of these programs is to reach the children and make them more aware of their heritage, they are available to any other interested groups in and around the city.

AT CASTLE HILL PLACENTIA The continued landscaping project which was temporarily halted this fall will resume in the spring and continue into the summer.

During the past few weeks, Superintendent Edna Hall has been visiting schools in the area and showing the Interpretive Slide Program.

The Visitor Centre at Port Au Choix National Historic Park, the site of the Archaic Indian and Dorset Eskimos, is complete and the refurbishing of the display is now underway and will be enriched by more material and original artifacts.

Archaeologists, headed by Dr. B. Schonback, will again begin work at the site this summer, in an effort to interpret more accurately the settlement which existed there and Norse life in general.

A staff house has been constructed and a full time superintendent will shortly be hired and the number of interpretive guides will be increased from three to seven. Visitors to the park will be able to avail of guided tours inside the temporary Visitor Reception Centre.

Happy Valley. It is hoped that eventually each community can collect books, stories, artifacts and photographs of their community instead of contributing to one central museum.

Already in L'anse au Clair, an OFY group have built a museum and papered it and the traditional way with newsprint. The Heritage Society hopes that other communities can start similar projects as well as involve schools in the Province and elsewhere in developing an interest in Labrador.

One of the artifacts the Heritage Society has been most keen in acquiring is the Churchill Falls bottle. For years, trappers journeyed up the Churchill Falls River to their trapping grounds near the Falls. Whenever they visited the Falls, they left their name or X in the bottle. But when development of the Churchill Falls for electricity began, BRINCO or another company, removed the bottle and gave it to the then Premier Smallwood. For the past several years, the Heritage group has requested that the bottle be returned to

## Book Review by Alice Story

Kenneth Westhues, Peter R. Sinclair, *Village in Crisis* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, Montreal, 1974).

In this day and age of citizens' committees, pressure groups and action committees struggling against the construction of this or that road, or the demolishing of such and such a building, or the destruction of whole areas of significant historic importance, it is refreshing to read an objective study of conflict treated in an unemotional manner.

"Fringetown" is a real village, its pseudonym used not so much to protect the community and persons involved, but to encourage readers (successfully I might add), to consider the more general social process of conflict and change. In the broad sense, Fringetown reflects the "disaffection with urban and industrial development now common throughout the liberal culture of the western industrialized world". In particular, its citizens were divided over the proposed construction of its first apartment buildings and a bridge across the gorge on the river which bisects the village. Dynamite! Not only that, but Fringetown faces the additional imminent danger of no longer remaining in a rural-urban fringe, but being absorbed by Toronto's metropolitan surge: population and industrial growth.

It was the newcomers to Fringetown who opposed the new construction; the oldtimers wanted development. Would the village be improved by development, or should it rather remain picturesque and more comprehensively 'historic'? What is it about Fringetown which makes people identify with it in a significant way?

Beginning with such concepts

Labrador, but Mr. Smallwood has yet to acknowledge their correspondence.

One of the Heritage Society's more interesting moments of glory occurred last summer when they hosted Premier Blakney of Saskatchewan, Premier Moores, and several other Government officials for a Confederation celebration. Near Muskrat Falls, about 18 miles upstream from Happy Valley, was a small nameless mountain, which they christened Black Strap Mountain in honor of Saskatchewan's Black Strap Mountain.

The naming ceremony was held near the mountain on a little island, which is important for another reason. It is one of the few remaining sites that people can still reach, which gives some idea of a trapper's way of life.

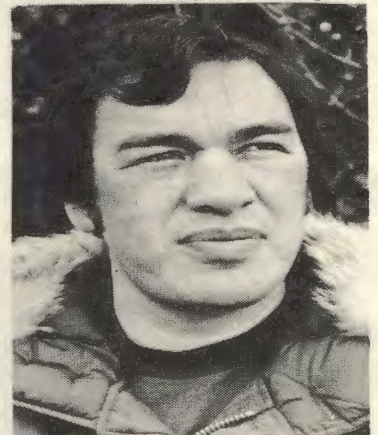
Up until the 1940's trappers from the Lake Melville area would leave in the fall with five months provisions in their 18-foot canoes. Muskrat Falls was the first portage they came to and the old trail is still there. While it's about 50 miles from the Lower

as what does make a "community" and following through with comments on development versus conservation, the authors conclude with a chapter on mass society, local-national relations, and alienation and capitalism. In other words, *Village in Crisis* is about the change processes involved in an increasingly urban and industrialized world. How do people tend to cope with such change? What shape can be projected for a future way of life when (and a small if) communities give way to less locally organized political and economic structures?

The emotionalism of citizens fighting for their cause, the sensational and often distorted newspaper accounts, and the cross-currents of human conflict are juxtaposed with the large machinery of big government, big corporations and an impersonal mass society. The conclusions are not entirely optimistic, but one need only review the unexpurgated report of the political election campaign meeting where opposing sides aired their views in the Legion Hall, to recognize almost in total one's own community. This rather shattering perspective is indeed a reading experience devoutly to be wished: the humour of the situation is delightful—but only if one is distant enough from it.

Produced as one in a series of monographs on cultures and communities under the general editorship of Gordon Inglis, of MUN, this highly interesting, albeit academic book, can give quite a jolt. Whether the jolt is productive or not depends upon the individual's reaction to his problems being just as ordinary and just as explosive as elsewhere.

Churchill Development, the Heritage Society is afraid that the trail will be destroyed. They are making every effort to insure that it isn't and that it be preserved as a provincial park.



Mr. Joe Goudie, who works with the Company of Young Canadians in Happy Valley, was instrumental in forming the Labrador Heritage Society.

## Heritage area conservation. Will it work for St. John's?

If you have already visited Savannah, Georgia or the Old Quarter of New Orleans there is no need to explain to you what Heritage Conservation Areas are all about.

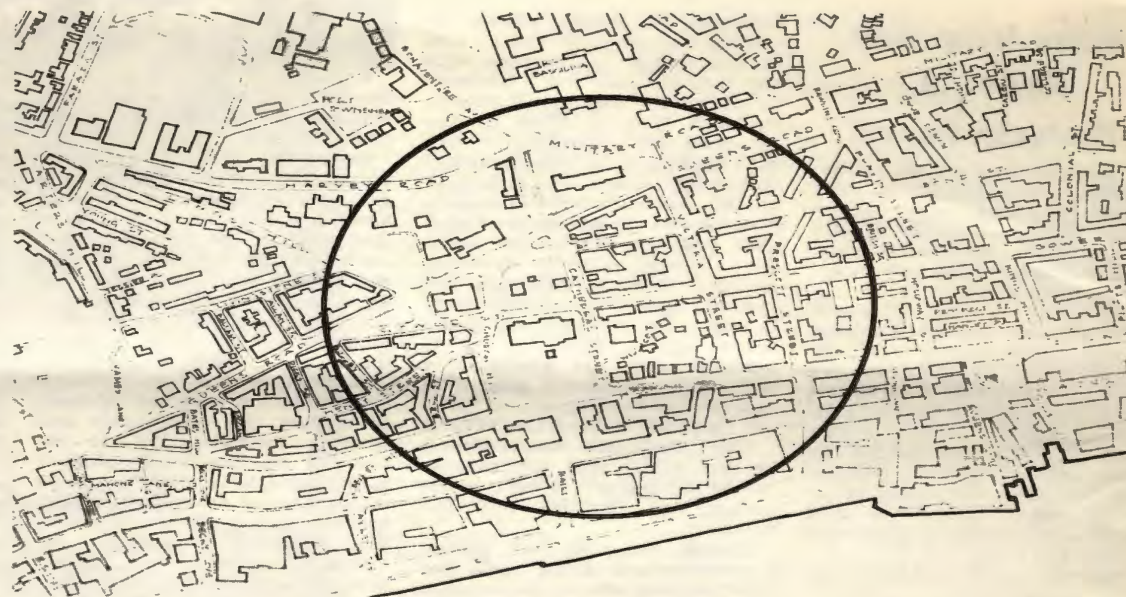
If you have been to Gastown, Vancouver, Lower Town, Quebec or Bonsecours Market Area in Montreal or have paid a recent visit to the 'work in progress' on the waterfront in Halifax you are familiar with the special atmosphere of these older areas and with the delight of discovering the unexpected and different which is so much a part of their charm.

All these areas have common characteristics. They are usually the areas where their cities began and so are the birth places of the city's history. They all contain representative examples of earlier periods of architecture and their buildings and streetscapes give us an idea of how life was lived generations ago. They give our cities roots and allow us to see and live their history instead of just reading about it.

Another important characteristic shared by these areas is the fact that they all, before they were rescued and brought to life again by heritage area conservation, were urban slums and in the opinion of many, prime candidates for the bulldozer.

St. John's shares with these areas all the characteristics that gave them their heritage potential without being in a terminal state of urban decay. Not that we can afford to be complacent about our old city. There is no doubt that it is declining, slowly but surely, and in dire need of revitalization and development to reach its full commercial and residential potential as well as very careful planning to protect its special character.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust has never had any doubt about the potential of old St. John's for this kind of development or about the value of such a programme in enhancing our provincial capital, increasing tourist revenue to the city and providing a resource for the education and enjoyment of our own and future generations. What was lacking was some kind of concrete 'where with all' to



start the planning and get things under way. It now looks as if at least some of this 'where with all', may be available through Heritage Canada's Area Conservation programme.

Heritage Canada announced at its annual meeting last September that the main thrust of its property acquisition programme was to be in Heritage Area Conservation and that it had already committed half a million dollars for this purpose to the Strathcona area of Edmonton. The Newfoundland Historic Trust was very interested in the terms and conditions of Heritage Canada's involvement and particularly in the fact that the initial impetus had to come from a local heritage group.

Accordingly a committee of the Trust was set up to choose an area of downtown St. John's suitable for Heritage Area Conservation and to prepare a proposal for the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada at their meeting in St. John's on Jan. 18th. The proposal was endorsed by the Board of Governors and Heritage Canada agreed to commit \$500,000 to the project, payable over five years subject to a number of terms and conditions and also to fund half the cost of an in-depth feasibility study up to \$25,000. Heritage Canada asked the Trust as a condition of its involvement to go to the Provincial and Municipal governments and obtain support for the project and to raise, through local government or private sources the matching \$25,000 for the feasibility study. The acceptance of the Trust proposal by Heritage Canada is only the first step down a long road which must be travelled.

before a Heritage Conservation area becomes a reality for St. John's.

The next step is to obtain the \$25,000 matching grant to conduct the feasibility study and the blessing of the provincial and municipal government. We have approached the provincial government through Mr. John Crosbie, in his capacity as Minister of Inter-Governmental Affairs, and we will be meeting the Mayor and Council at a briefing session on Monday April 14th. If the necessary support and funding are forthcoming, and indications on both points have so far been encouraging, our next step is to issue a proposal call for the study and to set up a jury to evaluate submissions.

Heritage Canada defines a Heritage Conservation Area as "one whose size and character combine to create an atmosphere where a passerby can immerse himself in a sense of the past. The area chosen by the Trust, which centers on the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (see diagram) has a decidedly Victorian ambience. It contains a high proportion of heritage structures and sites and the majority of structures in the area, which date from the period immediately after the fire of 1892 are in the original condition and a reasonable state of repair. The area is crisscrossed with lanes and contains many stepped streets and stone walls as well as good Victorian row housing often of quite individual size and decoration, all of which are characteristic of a city which grew largely unplanned and made its own unique adaptations to its terrain. They also lend the city much of its charm and humanity.

This section of St. John's is

also a balanced mix of residential, institutional and commercial uses and is not under threat of immediate development. At least part of the area will in all probability become a Neighbourhood Improvement Area and Heritage Canada's involvement will help to ensure that renovations and improvements carried out under this programme will be carried out in a way that is compatible with the character of the area by providing an overall plan for the coordinated development of the area.

The first major administrative step, if the feasibility study indicates that the area is a good one for Heritage Area Conservation will be to establish a local foundation legally able to buy and sell property and to manage the project. The trust and Heritage Canada will be represented on the Board of Directors of the Foundation as will the Province, the Municipality and members of the local business community. The foundation will have a small administrative staff.

While the Trust is convinced that the creation of a Heritage Area Conservation programme in St. John's will be of great benefit to the city we do not think it will be easy. There is a great need for organization and public education. There will be problems and there will be mistakes but there is a busy and exciting time ahead.

We would like to hear how you feel about the project. If you have a comment or an opinion please let us hear from you in care of:

The Editor  
The Trident  
P.O. Box 5542,  
St. John's.

—Shannie Duff.