Thirty-Fifth Annual Southcott Awards

The Historic Trust recognized the recipients of the 35th Annual Southcott Awards on November 21 during a ceremony and reception at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club in St. John's.

The award recipients featured on the following pages represent a range of people and projects, but all with a common goal: preserving the buildings and places that define the unique architectural character of our province.

The Trust established the Southcott Award program in 1984. The awards are named for J. & J.T. Southcott, one of Newfoundland's most important nineteenth century building firms. Architect John Thomas Southcott (1853-1939) made his mark with the Second Empire style of the Southcott properties at Park Place, on Rennie's Mill Road in St. John's. This "Southcott style" was prominent in the rebuilding that followed the Great Fire of 1892, and spread throughout Newfoundland.

Award nominations are considered in six categories:

- The award for Heritage Restoration is presented to finished architectural restoration projects.
- The Heritage Tradesperson award celebrates the skill and contribution of an individual in the craft or trade professions of heritage conservation.
- The Design in Context award recognizes architectural design projects (infill, additions, or new construction) sensitive to the heritage character of the surrounding environment with regard to style, scale, form, and building materials.
- Awards in the Heritage Stewardship category are considered for excellence in long-term maintenance of heritage properties that have not been significantly altered since construction.
- Awards in the Adaptive Reuse category recognize significant projects that adapt heritage buildings to serve new uses in their communities.
- The Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award, named in honour of inaugural recipients Shannie Duff and Shane O'Dea, recognizes individuals who have made an exceptional contribution over a period of 25 years or more to heritage conservation in the province.

To nominate a deserving person or project for a 2020 Southcott Award, download a nomination form at www.historictrust.ca/southcottnomination.

Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Each year the Trust presents a scholarship in memory of former General Manager Leida Finlayson, who passed away in 2003, at age 31, after a courageous battle with cancer. To honour her contribution to the Trust, her life, and her indomitable spirit, the Trust and the Finlayson family established the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship, to be given to a deserving individual studying history or political science at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The 2019 scholarship was awarded to Zack Seaward.

Charitable donations to the Leida Finlayson Memorial Scholarship (to be presented through Memorial University) can be made payable to the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of the 2019 Southcott Awards









the trident

Bannerman Brewing Co.

Southcott Award for Adaptive Reuse | St. John's Phil Maloney, Jason Sharpe, Stephen Follett

The building owned and occupied by Bannerman Brewing Co. is a significant part of St. John's history. Following the devastating fire of 1892, investigation revealed that St. John's was woefully underprotected against the risk of fire. Subsequently, Newfoundland sent a representative to tour fire departments elsewhere in North America. Recommendations were made to government and in 1893 three new (wooden) fire halls were commissioned: the Central, West, and Eastern Halls.

The building at 90 Duckworth is the second fire hall on the site. The original fire hall, constructed c.1893-1895, was a wooden three and a half storey structure. By 1947, with the wooden building in a state of disrepair, the government was petitioned for its replacement. Plans for a modern, reinforced concrete station building, designed by an employee of the Department of Public Works, date from early 1948. Two storeys high with a basement, the building is very similar in design to the West End Station, also constructed in the 1940s at 205 LeMarchant Road.

Prior to Bannerman Brewing Co.'s involvement with 90 Duckworth Street, the existing fire hall, which had ceased to be used as a municipal fire hall in the early 1990s, was in danger of being demolished. In 2013 a developer proposed the demolition and replacement of the fire hall with a new five-storey building. The City was prepared to allow the development, but it ultimately did not proceed. In 2016 Bannerman Brewing began work with the City to change the zoning to permit the brewery to operate. Approvals were obtained by 2017, when construction began. The brewery opened its doors on May 11, 2019.

Bannerman Brewery has maintained the existing footprint and structure of the original building. Exterior work consisted primarily of parging, repainting, and installing a new roof. All but one of the existing windows were maintained, with original casings and mechanisms retained. Three existing windows were converted into doors, for fire code compliance, with one additional door opening added. Returning the garage door on the south-east side of the building to to its original size was initially planned; however, during construction the decision was made to install a slightly smaller door. The size of the original opening is acknowledged by the inclusion of a vertical element on the south-east façade. On the interior, visitors can see the building's original materials in the cement floor that remains in one area of the open plan brew hall; open-web steel joists and cement at the ceiling; and the exposed cement wall that divides the beer hall from the brewing room.



Bannerman Brewing Co. after renovation.





90 Duckworth Street before renovation.

St. John's Farmers' Market

Southcott Award for Adaptive Reuse | St. John's St. John's Farmers' Market Board of Directors

The St. John's Farmers' Market is a nonprofit cooperative of vendors and consumers founded in 2007. SJFM successfully partnered with the City of St. John's to transform the former Metrobus Depot into the vibrant community hub that is the St. John's Community Market.

The market moved to the Lions Chalet in 2008, soon outgrowing the 2500 square foot building: there was no appropriate space for butchers, fishmongers, or other vendors with infrastructure needs; it could not accommodate the number of vendors who wished to participate; it suffered from overcrowding and accessibility issues; and prevented the market from offering a full "incubation ladder" for vendors.

The search for a larger, permanent home continued for a number of years. The soon-to-be vacant Metrobus Depot was at the top of SJFM's list, but remained a dream until 2012, when informal discussions with the City of St. John's began. In 2013, the SJFM, the City, ACOA, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador partnered to fund a feasibility study to examine the potential of the building. With adaptive reuse looking possible, the SJFM's cooperative membership gave the plan the green light in 2014; a subsequent business and marketing plan was funded by ACOA and the provincial government.

The next year, the SJFM raised over \$100,000 in six months, half from small donors. Additional capital funding was provided by the City of St. John's (\$2 million), ACOA (\$1.17 million), and the provincial government (\$490,000). With a lease and transitional funding arranged, detailed design work began in 2016, with construction breaking ground in 2017.

The grand opening of the new St. John's Farmers' Market on July 21, 2018 saw the building transformed from an unused bus station to a joyful community hub. The renovated 14,000 square foot building allows for semi-permanent, indoor, serviced stalls; indoor spots for farm vendors; expanded hot food options; an on-site café; and public space and play areas, serving 3000-5000 people per market from every neighbourhood in St. John's and beyond.

The new space allows the SJFM to fulfill its mission of promoting local, quality produce and goods; provides an economic outlet for small business; helps to build a healthy community by creating opportunities to gather, interact, and learn; and celebrates the City's history, uniqueness, cultural diversity, and potential.





The St. John's Farmers' Market after renovation.





The Metrobus Depot before renovation.

Crocker House

Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration | Heart's Delight

Charles and Deborah Donnelly

The careful restoration of the Crocker House by owners Charles and Deborah Donnelly is notable for its integrity and attention to historic detail.

According to local records, the Crocker House, located in Heart's Delight-Islington, was built circa 1850 by James Crocker. A rear linhay extension, a characteristic typical of Newfoundland saltbox houses, was added on to the main body of the house in the mid-1880s.

The Crocker House was purchased by the Donnellys in 2001, who first secured the house against the elements, a necessity after several years of neglect, and then began a conscientious restoration.

Amazingly, the interior and exterior of the house were almost entirely in their original form, having undergone very few alterations. The windows, doors, moldings, stairs, hardware, and flooring are all original, making it remarkably intact for a house of its period.

The Donnellys undertook a sensitive approach to restoration, replacing the roof and clapboard siding with historically appropriate wood materials.

The only substantive alterations to the original structure are the addition of plumbing and electrical services, necessary to make the house livable by modern standards; these were added as sensitively as possible, so as not to detract from the house's integrity.

Several original pieces of furniture remain in the house and the Donnellys have added appropriate local period pieces, further enhancing the Crocker House's distinct heritage character.









Exterior and interior views of the carefully restored Crocker House.

Harbour Grace Railway Station

Southcott Award for Heritage Restoration | Harbour Grace

Town of Harbour Grace

The Harbour Grace branch line was constructed for the bondholders of the bankrupt Newfoundland Railway Company and completed on October 4, 1884 – the first railway line in Newfoundland. The Harbour Grace Railway Station was built circa 1884 to serve this new branch line.

The building exemplifies the form and style common to Newfoundland train stations, characterized by a large hip roof with deep overhangs, a multi-bay façade with multiple doors, the use of shiplap and clapboard siding, and a dominant horizontal orientation. Local builders likely erected the station using readily available materials. Investigations conducted by Heritage NL in 2016 uncovered evidence of the building's original ochre paint scheme, corroborated by Wayne Cashin, son of Harold Cashin, the last station agent in Harbour Grace.

The station passed to the control of the Reid Newfoundland Company when it took over control of provincial railway interests in the 1890s and operated until provincial rail service ended in 1984. The colour of the station soon changed from ochre red to yellow and green, standard among Reid Newfoundland Company stations.

The interior of the Harbour Grace Railway Station has aesthetic value due to its largely intact finishes. The station contained three rooms: the waiting room, express room, and main office. The Reid colour scheme was continued from the exterior and built-in benches and a small ticket window speak to its use as a railway station.

The Harbour Grace Historical Society obtained custody of the building in 1996. The group used the station as their regular meeting place, later converting the building into a museum. The station was renamed the Gordon G. Pike Railway Station Heritage Museum and Park, after the former mayor and leading member of the Historical Society. The museum regularly operated during the summer for years, eventually closing due to needed repairs. The station was designated a Municipal Heritage Site in 1996 and a Registered Heritage Structure by Heritage NL in 2016.

In 2017, the station underwent careful exterior restoration using historically-appropriate cladding and roofing materials and was returned to its original ochre red paint scheme. In 2018-19 the interior of the station was fully restored and repainted with the financial assistance of Heritage NL.



The newly restored Harbour Grace Railway Station after, before, and during its extensive restoration.

Edna Hall

Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award

The 2019 recipient of the Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award is Edna Hall. Edna was nominated by Shannie Duff, Ted Rowe, Catherine Dempsey, and Shane O'Dea in recognition of her longstanding commitment to the history and built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador, to which she has dedicated both her professional life and volunteer time over more than 40 years.

She began her career in Newfoundland as the first manager of the newly opened National Historic Site at Castle Hill, Placentia. She went on to serve in increasingly senior positions in both Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, culminating in her appointment as District Superintendent for Parks



Edna Hall pictured in The Trident in 1981.

Canada and Regional Director of the Department of Canadian Heritage, from which she retired in 2016. Her career saw the development of a number of significant historic sites, including Red Bay, Port au Choix, Ryan Premises, Hawthorne Cottage, and Cape Spear; recognition of L'Anse aux Meadows as a UNESCO World Heritage site; and implementation of interpretative signage at Signal Hill, breaching what until then had been a prohibition on such signage and making the park much more interesting to visitors.

Edna was involved with the Historic Trust from the beginning of her time in Newfoundland and saw her role with Parks Canada as a facilitator of heritage and community. Notably, she was able to see how one could work imaginatively within the agency's standards and guidelines to foster both park and local needs. She was, in the very best sense of the term, a creative administrator.

In the late 1970s, after an intense but ultimately unsuccessful lobby against high-rise development in the heritage area of downtown St. John's, the Historic Trust was running out of wind (and money) and wondering what to do next. Enter Edna. She approached the Trust with the news that Parks Canada was introducing the concept of Cooperating Associations across Canada - nonprofit community organizations that would engage with Parks to support their mandate, for example by developing site-related products for sale at on-site gift shops. Edna saw this as a role the Trust could take on for the Parks Canada sites in Newfoundland, and help revitalize itself in the process.

First formed as a committee of the Trust, the initiative ultimately resulted in the creation of the Newfoundland Historic Parks Association (now the Historic Sites Association), which became a highly successful, self-sustaining model of a cooperating association, renowned across the country. Many talented and committed people came together to make this happen, but it was kickstarted by Edna. She was an expert and respected counsellor and advisor on behalf of Parks Canada, always with a no-nonsense, can-do attitude, a desire for excellence, and a knack for creating positive partnerships.

In her private life, Edna has a commendable record of community service. Among her many volunteer commitments, she has served as Chair of the Historic Sites Association, during which time she worked to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the landing of the Atlantic Cable at Heart's Content. This project, in collaboration with the Heart's Content Heritage Society, culminated in a two-day celebration and symposium in 2016. The committee also investigated the designation of the historic cable stations at Heart's Content and Valentia, Ireland as UNESCO Heritage Sites. Edna was invaluable in establishing contact with the Canadian Selection Committee and a former member of the UNESCO Board; the Heart's Content station is now under active consideration by UNESCO.

She has also served on the executive committee of the Board of the Historic Trust; as a member of the St. John's Heritage Foundation, the City of St. John's Heritage Advisory Committee, the Grand Concourse Authority, and the First Nations Trust; and has been honoured with life memberships in the Historic Trust, the Conception Bay Museum Association, and the Placentia Area Historical Society. She currently serves on the Board of the O'Brien Farm Foundation and the OBFF Capital Campaign Committee. In 2002, Edna received the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal for volunteerism, she was named the highest performing Senior Executive in the Department of Canadian Heritage in 2003, and, in 2008, was honoured with the Pierre De Blois National Leadership Award by the Association of Professional Executives of the Public Service of Canada.

For her lifelong commitment to community engagement, her advice and support for the province's community-based heritage organizations, her advocacy for volunteer-government partnerships, and her creative leadership, Edna Hall is a deserving recipient of the 2019 Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award.

