

# the trident

A quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

## The Trust Invites Nominations for the 2013 Buildings at Risk List



Carriage House



Ridley Hall



L.O.L. No. 13



Ruby Church



Wesley Hall in Wesleyville was included on the 2012 Buildings at Risk List.

Natural disasters, neglect and demolition of historic buildings result in the erosion of our built heritage. Over 20% of Canada's historic buildings have already been demolished.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust lists endangered historic sites to alert citizens to the vulnerability of many of our heritage buildings and structures and to solicit aid for their preservation.

The Trust first launched the Buildings at Risk List on Heritage

Day 2009 to bring attention to some of the many sites within our province at risk due to neglect, lack of funding, inappropriate development and weak legislation.

The Buildings at Risk List has brought attention to the listed sites and creates awareness of some of the province's most vulnerable heritage resources in an effort to support building a case for conservation at the local, provincial and national levels.

Its goal is to become a powerful  
*continued on next page >*

### in this issue:

p. 2 Walk St. John's App

p. 3 The Future of Ruby Church

p. 5 Finding Common Ground

p. 6 Newfoundland Pony Census

> continued from page 1

## Buildings at Risk

tool in the fight to make landmarks, not landfill.

The list is compiled from nominations submitted and from reports and news items that the Trust has been following and reporting on throughout the year.

The Trust evaluates selected sites based on the following criteria:

- Significance of the site
- Urgency of the threat
- Community support for its preservation

## Walk St. John's

*The Trust launches its first app*

NHT has worked with local developer, TPLED Technology Inc. to create the *Walk St. John's* app for the iPhone and iPad.

You can select one of four round-trip walking tours which take you through the streets of St. John's, where much of the city was destroyed by fire on at least three occasions.

Experience the alluring streetscapes and heritage architecture, which stand as a testament to the resilience and perseverance of its citizens who rebuilt time and again over the ashes of its past structures.

Visit [www.historictrust.ca/advocacy](http://www.historictrust.ca/advocacy) to view the 2012 Buildings at Risk List and to obtain a 2013 nomination form.

## Membership Survey

We would like to hear from you! The Trust is conducting a membership survey. The results will help to shape our activities over the coming year. You may complete the survey by visiting:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/CP3R85C](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CP3R85C)

Celebrate one of the oldest cities in Canada by exploring each of these unique walking tours in a city where walking and exploring is encouraged.

To download this free app, visit the App Store at: <http://bit.ly/10EIODf>. Share your thoughts with us to help us improve future versions.



## St. Philip's group weighs in on future of Ruby Church

by Steve Sharpe

Dear Editor:

Please accept these comments on the October 3 article about the St. Matthew's Church, known also as the Ruby Church, in the Goulds. It is unfortunate that even after 26 years the owner (i.e. the Diocesan Synod of Eastern NL) appears still to want to demolish this historic church. This is evident by the agreement that was practically forced on the Historical Society in 1986 and the October 3, 2012 Rector's comments that "they" want to see what happens in St. Philip's. The heritage group there, including many parishioners, want to reattach the steeple and save their heritage church, but the Diocese is again appealing the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's decision of an "Order to Repair" this designated Municipal Heritage Church Building. An appeal date is yet to be set. Why is it that the mentality to demolish seems to prevail in this modern day and age of preserving history, not destroying it?

Maybe the present St. Matthew's Rector is unaware that a main reason why the Ruby Church is not in good condition today is as a result of item 8 of the 1986 Diocese agreement, stating, "the Historical Society will perform restoration work to the exterior of the Church Building only." How can one properly maintain a heritage building when one cannot even restore the interior? Item 9 states, "the church building and lands will not be used by the society for any purpose whatsoever." This seems designed by the Diocese so that community interest cannot be maintained in the church, nor can family and supporters hold any events (including fundraisers) at the iconic church: therefore leading eventually to apparent demolition by neglect.

The Rector refers to St. Matthew's Church as just a building: well, many people see it and think of it as a church. She stated, "all the insides need to be redone." If the Historical Society had been allowed to maintain the inside, then this would not be a problem. There was the \$10,000 in funding available, yet the Diocese would not accept it. That grant amount today is \$30,000 through the Heritage Foundation

of NL. There is \$30,000 available for Topsail's Heritage designated St. John the Evangelist's 150 year old church (which has received historic property designations from both the provincial government and the Town of Conception Bay South), and the St. Philip's 1894 Church – if only the Bishop would simply agree to it. Here is possibly \$90,000 that the Diocesan Synod and Parishes are not accepting or applying for.

There is a reference to the St. Paul's Parish having "enough on its hands and the other parish buildings." If the Historical Society had been allowed then it would have looked after the Ruby Church at no cost to the Parish, plus I suspect it would have brought funds into the Parish as a whole. Imagine saying that it takes "a lot of paperwork" to turn over St. Matthew's to look after its upkeep. It is a straightforward matter of an agreement without negative constraints. St. George's Church in Brigus, and All Saints Anglican Church in English Harbour have been successfully turned over to volunteer groups.

The church hierarchy apparently still want to demolish the Ruby Church, seemingly because they said so and to show that they have the power to do it eventually. Those interested in their history and heritage need to keep an eye on what might be done to the St. Matthew's church tower now – after all, a steeple was actually torn off in St. Philip's, and the Parish Rector and the Diocese refused to even ask the police to investigate that major vandalism.

*Steve Sharpe is president of The Church By The Sea Inc. This letter originally appeared in the Irish Loop Post on November 14, 2012.*



## Mystery Photos

Trust member Chris Sharpe recently forwarded these photos for publication in *The Trident* with the hope of finding assistance in identifying the people in the photos and the location where they were taken.

Chris has identified Sir Brian Dunfield, Governor, and Gordon Macdonald. He assumes that they were taken during a photo op in a newly-constructed house in Churchill Park, probably in November 1946.

If you can verify the location or the names of the people shown, please e-mail [coordinator@historictrust.ca](mailto:coordinator@historictrust.ca).



## Professional Development Workshops

The Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador currently has five workshops scheduled for 2013:

Training Seasonal Staff

January 29, 2013

Grenfell Interpretation Centre, St. Anthony

Preventative Conservation in Rural Museums

February 25-26, 2013

Bay Roberts

Preventative Conservation in Rural Museums

February 7-8, 2013

Corner Brook Museum and Archives

Developing Collections Management Systems for Museums

March 5-6, 2013

Deer Lake

Training Seasonal Staff

February 19, 2013

Grand Falls- Windsor

For more information: [www.manl.nf.ca](http://www.manl.nf.ca)



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

Board of Directors

Robyn Pike, *President*; John Drover, *Vice President*; Heather Comerford, *Treasurer*; Deborah O'Rielly, *Executive Director*; Kim Blanchard; Dave Lane; Greg Locke; Terry O'Rielly; Leslie Pierce; Sue Wright.

# Finding Common Ground

by Dave Lane

As those of us in the heritage preservation world know all too well, there is a constantly simmering tension between developers and heritage advocates. In fact, this tension regularly boils over, leading to fractious debate and ill-will toward our fellow person (not to mention complete stalemate, or worse: poor design).

It has come to our attention at Happy City, however, that many of these controversies and battles could be alleviated (or at least moderated) if all the parties involved had a better awareness of each others' shared values and used the same vocabulary.

Right now the City of St. John's is conducting a review of its municipal plan. This document will set out the guiding principles that City Hall will follow as it makes decisions regarding land use and city services in the next 5 to 10 years.

With this in mind, Happy City St. John's -- a community group that encourages and informs dialogue about municipal issues -- invited three groups to sit down and discuss a shared vision for the future of St. John's.

The three groups were the Newfoundland Historic Trust, Downtown St. John's (formerly the DDC), and the St. John's Board of Trade. We all have a stake in the success of Downtown St. John's, so our discussion revolved around Heritage and Development in the Downtown. (Happy City tacked on a section on municipal engagement to make sure the discussion continues).

After an enthusiastic meeting, a flurry of email activity, and multiple document revisions, a three-page report was produced, which contains this note in the opening:

*"We are a diverse set whose membership, while sometimes overlapping, often have differing views and opinions on how our city should grow and develop. However, these differences often mask the broad agreements that exist amongst our membership.*

*"It is our hope that this document, in highlighting a set of shared views from disparate groups, will help the City create a plan that works for everyone."*

And that's just the point: City Hall is working to manage very rapid changes in our city with multiple pressure points and uncertainties. What we're trying to do is show the city what we all agree on so they at least have a solid foundation for tackling issues where we don't agree.

So, what does this collaboration mean for heritage advocates? First of all, it has helped to ensure we remain part of the discussion as City Hall manages development not only downtown but throughout the city. Second, it has helped to legitimize our relationship with and presence in the business community (because, let's admit, they have a strong influence on land use). And finally, it has signaled the beginning of a shared vocabulary for future "debates."

And so, from the final document, a shared definition of "heritage":

*"...we have developed the following statement, which we believe represents a shared vision for development in our historic, colourful, and thriving city."*

*"Heritage refers to a set of design principles, integral to all stages of development and planning, that reflect the distinctive sense of place and a tangible connection to our history. These design principles should include the creation of functional, mixed-use urban environments that optimize the benefits to stakeholders. In short, heritage is good design."*

You will most certainly have an opinion on this statement. You may think it's great or misses the point entirely. At the least, you'll most likely want a say on these "design principles."

That's our opening: we have agreed that there needs to be a set of design principles that developers can, and should, follow when creating or renovating the built environment. Let's be at the forefront of this by proposing what those principles ought to be.

You can read the full report and share your views at [www.HappyCity.ca/SharedVision](http://www.HappyCity.ca/SharedVision)

*Dave Lane is the chair of Happy City St. John's.*

## Brigus Anglican Rectory Property Purchased

by Luanne Leamon

Following a 2.5 year fundraising campaign, the Brigus Historical and Conservation Society has completed the purchase of the old Anglican Rectory Property across from Bishop's Beach in Brigus. This property has been used by the town residents and visitors for family outings and picnics since the rectory building was demolished many years ago.

This traditional use of the property was threatened at the time that the Anglican Diocese deconsecrated and sold St. George's Church and it's property in 2004. The church itself was preserved as a historic landmark for the community by the St. George's Heritage Committee, and the land where the rectory formerly stood was purchased privately.

When the rectory property was again offered for sale, the Brigus Historical and Conservation Society began a campaign to raise sufficient funds for the purpose of purchasing the land to protect it and preserve the history of site for

the community. The owner of the property was pleased with the Society's offer to name the site the *Payne Family Park* as an acknowledgement of the Payne family connection to Brigus.

The purchase of the property would not have been possible for a small heritage organization without the generous financial support of a number of people. While our major donors were Ms. Elinor Gill Ratcliffe and Mr. Ches Penney, many other individuals from the local community and numerous Friends of Brigus contributed generously as well. We made personal appeals, held dinners and sold tickets on a painting, and crossed our fingers that the property would not sell before we had the funds in place. We thank everyone who contributed and are so pleased that it all came together for the community.

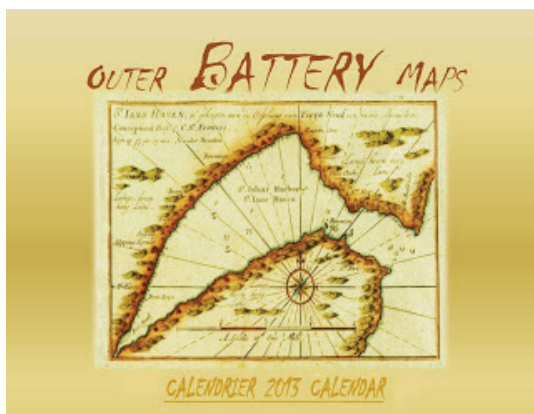
*Luanne Leamon was the fundraising chair for the Brigus Historical and Conservation Society's fundraising campaign.*

## 2013 Calendars

The Outer Battery Neighbourhood Association has put together a colourful selection of historic maps that depict the Battery over the past four centuries.

The 2013 calendar contains unique maps of handline grounds, cod trap berths, sunkeners and fortifications dating from 1675 to the present.

Limited quantities remain. The calendars are available for purchase at Blue Moon Pottery and Belbin's Grocery in St. John's for \$10 each.



The OBNA's 2013 Calendar

## Where is the Oldest Home or Cabin?

*Home & Cabin Magazine* is trying to determine where the oldest home or cabin is located in Newfoundland and Labrador. Send suggestions by e-mail to [editor@homeandcabin.ca](mailto:editor@homeandcabin.ca) or tweet @HomeAndCabin.

## Funding Allocated for Building Upgrades

Good news for the Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell Historical Society - they will receive \$88,115 to upgrade the Grenfell Historic Properties building in St. Anthony through the Federal Infrastructure Fund. The project will allow for improvements to the roof, replacement of damaged siding and new window frames, and exterior painting.



# Newfoundland Pony Census Project

by Joelle Carey

This past summer I was privileged to work with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador to learn about and document one mode of transportation that helped develop our province, the make and break engine. This winter, I continue my research into historically important methods of transportation and development in our province by taking an indepth look at Canada's only heritage animal: the Newfoundland Pony.

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Newfoundland Pony Society are coming together this winter to try to get a better picture of how many of these heritage animals are left in our province. A census will begin to be completed over a twelve week period which will attempt to create a database of all the ponies in the province.

By conducting oral interviews and recording details of ponies, we hope to identify ponies that may have been mistaken for horses or other equine types. This will be done by recording physical features of ponies and comparing them to guidelines set forth by the Newfoundland Pony Society. The hope is that there will be ponies which have not been identified as such and with this comes the promise of there being a larger population than currently known. This would add to the overall population of the pony type.

The reasoning for this project is really quite simple. Worldwide, the current Newfoundland Pony population is thought to be around 400 ponies and only 250 of these ponies have reproductive capabilities. This number is down from around 12,000 in the 1970s! With the threat of extinction on the horizon it is important for us to recognize all animals which may be of the Newfoundland Pony type. This project will hopefully identify animals who have not been previously documented so that a population can be better determined. This project could help secure the future of the Newfoundland Pony.

This work also hopes to bring awareness to the plight of the Newfoundland Pony. Many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians do not realize that the Newfoundland Pony exists, or, if



they recognize the name, they mistakenly liken it to the much smaller miniature pony types. The knowledge of the Newfoundland Pony is held with the older generations but it is due time that our heritage animal be recognized across our province for the animal that it is. The oral history project, which will be conducted simultaneously with the census, hopes to document the memories of Newfoundland Ponies on our island throughout our history so that future generations can understand the relationship between our provinces development and these noble animals.

These hard working, diligent, and strong ponies are often fondly remembered by their owners. These animals helped improve the livelihood of many people in our province throughout the ages and were seen as an indispensable part of life until the introduction of modern technology. Used for many work purposes, such as drafting and carting, as well as recreational travel, either being hitched to a sled or being rode, these animals created opportunities for people that would have been impossible otherwise - hauling wood through the forest in the winter or seeking medical attention in a nearby town. Capturing the memories created during such work and outings will provide an indepth history of how the Newfoundland Pony has been utilized in our past and give an indication of how important these animals have been throughout our development.

If you own a Newfoundland Pony, or think you might, and would like to get involved with our project, please call 1-888-739-1892 ext. 5 or e-mail [joelle@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:joelle@heritagefoundation.ca).



## the trident

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

join  
follow  
like

[historictrust.ca/membership](http://historictrust.ca/membership)  
[@NLHistoricTrust](https://www.facebook.com/NLHistoricTrust)  
[facebook.com/NLHistoricTrust](https://www.facebook.com/NLHistoricTrust)

Complimentary printing of  
the **trident** provided by



### 2013 Membership Form - **Membership counts!**

Annual membership fees support the ongoing work of the Trust in fulfilling its mandate of education, advocacy and outreach. The ability of the Trust to speak confidently and lobby effectively to protect our province's built heritage, neighbourhoods, streetscapes and open spaces depends to a large extent on the degree of public support it enjoys.

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

Advocacy	Educational Lectures	Wine Tastings	Storytelling	Theatre
Workshops	Joint Membership	Discounts	Southcott Awards	<i>Trident</i> Newsletter
Provincial Historic Sites Admission		Free Online Courses with Smart Force	Conferences	

Please indicate if you prefer:

- ☐ a paper copy of the *Trident*    ☐ an electronic copy of the *Trident*  
☐ e-news updating you on Trust news & events    ☐ your information not to be shared

Volunteering with the Trust's Committees:

- ☐ Southcott Awards    ☐ Preservation    ☐ Programming    ☐ Fundraising    ☐ Newsletter  
☐ Newman Wine Vaults    ☐ Other > Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

The Trust is a registered charity. Memberships and donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newfoundland Historic Trust Membership Fees:

- ☐ Student \$15    ☐ Individual/Family \$25    ☐ Group, Institution, Organization \$40

☐ I include a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation

☐ I include a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ gift in honour of: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment made by:

- ☐ Cash    ☐ Enclosed Cheque

☐ VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date (m/d/y): \_\_\_\_\_

Send form with cheque payable to *Newfoundland Historic Trust* or VISA information to:  
Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 2403, St. John's, NL A1C 6E7  
Tel 709-739-7870 | Fax 709-739-5413 | [coordinator@historictrust.ca](mailto:coordinator@historictrust.ca)

For Office Use Only: Tax No.