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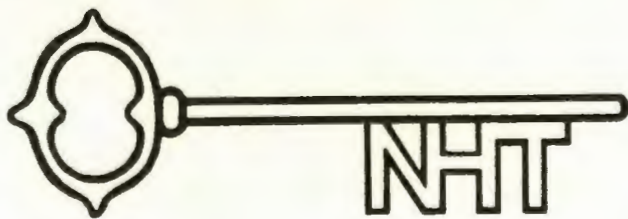
SEPT., 1991

# **trident**



# 25<sup>th</sup>

# *Anniversary*



Newfoundland Historic Trust

Associated with







## *Message from the President*

The Newfoundland Historic Trust was started 25 years ago by a small group of people getting together with the aim of saving Christ Church, in Quidi Vidi, from demolition. The minutes of the Trust from the mid-sixties to the early seventies reflect this effort.

During the early seventies the aims of the Trust were broadened and projects such as antique shows and lectures were undertaken. Around this time the Trust also started to lobby the levels of government by submitting papers on topics such as Plan 91 and the need for Heritage Legislation.

With funding from the Provincial Government and Heritage Canada the Trust commissioned a study on a Heritage Precinct for St. John's in the mid-seventies. This study led to the establishment of the St. John's Heritage Foundation in which Trust members had an important role. The Foundation played a large part in revitalizing the downtown neighbourhoods of the City. Around the same time the restoration of the Murray Premises and Powers Court was undertaken as a result of the Trust's efforts.

The next step was publications. The Trust, with the assistance of Jean Ball produced "A Gift of Heritage" and "Ten Historic Towns". Both of these important publications sold well and have since been reprinted.

As well the Trust published "The Architectural Heritage of St. John's, An Evaluative Inventory". This project was undertaken under the supervision of Shane O'Dea and gives information on the age, architecture and history of older buildings in St. John's.

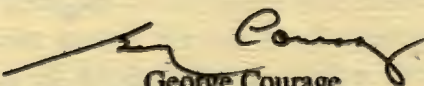
During the eighties it was decided to establish the Southcott Awards which are given to owners of successfully renovated older buildings. Awards have been given to the owners of 70 buildings over the past eight years. As well projects such as plaquing buildings associated with prominent Newfoundlanders and Walking Tour Brochures of St. John's were also undertaken.

The Trust was the main instigator behind the establishment of the Newfoundland Heritage Foundation. The Trust had submitted papers and lobbied the Provincial Government for a number of years to establish such a group. As a result of these actions the Newfoundland Government established the Newfoundland Heritage Foundation in 1984 to provide grants to persons and organizations renovating older buildings.

Of course during the eighties there were many battles over the development of the downtown with the Trust being active in opposing the Toronto Dominion Building and lobbying for the restoration of the O'Dwyer Block.

We have started the nineties with a number of projects in the education area. In 1990 a Heritage brochure was printed and the Time Capsule project was completed. We are presently working on renovation brochures to be distributed to home owners and an Old Home type show on Cable TV.

There is no doubt that the efforts of the Trust over the past twenty-five years have raised the level of awareness of heritage and helped to save a number of structures in the Province. For example, of the 95 buildings shown in "A Gift of Heritage" and "Ten Historic Towns" 44 have been restored in the last fifteen years and only 8 have been demolished. There is still much to be done and I expect the Trust will be celebrating its 50th. anniversary in twenty-five years time.

  
 George Courage  
 President



# the

past  
present  
future

# trident

## NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST NEWS BULLETIN

A THREE-PRONGED IMPLIMENT

VOL. 1 NO. 1



## This News Bulletin: an SOS

An SOS to save our historic sites, buildings, landmarks and records that bind together our history and heritage. It is only through action that those remaining will stand to tell our story.

If the Newfoundland Historic Trust has learned anything in the past two years we have learned that a significant contribution in the preservation and restoration of these sites and artifacts cannot be made by a handful of people.

We know that the job we feel should be done is too big and the group too small. Even the job of organizing and expanding the Trust has seemed impossible and was always put off "until we finished the church." Now we realize this job cannot be completed without your help. This newsletter is an SOS, to everyone who is interested in the work we are trying to do. Our work must also include a threefold program that can only be carried out if you are part of it.

## Threefold program of Trust

**1. TO INFORM:** by newsletter and the use of the media so that the public is aware of all that is of historic value in our province. The fact that 17,000 people visited the newly restored Queen's Battery at Quidi Vidi during the miserable summer of 1968 should be ample proof of the interest of tourists and residents alike, once an effort at restoration is made.

**2. TO PROTEST:** when historic sites are threatened and to help co-ordinate the efforts of other interested groups who endeavour to preserve our landmarks. To protest, the Trust feels, is an important and vital part of our work as a group, but without the public to back us and assist us our protesting will fall on empty ears.

**3. TO RAISE MONEY:** must also be an important part of our work, so that we many undertake to restore and preserve suitable sites and artifacts where possible and to commission qualified professionals to make records through photographs and sketches of those sites which cannot be saved. The money we raise will be used also to establish an organization that is effective and efficient.





*Quidi Vidi By J.H. Hayward, Lent By Mr. and Mrs. Chester Dawe*

## But where is our history?

By SHANNIE DUFF,  
Secretary

Like most other families in St. John's during that "Come Home Year" summer of 1966, ours came in for its fair share of visitors, and it fell to my lot quite often to be unofficial tour guide around the city. As I had just returned home myself after an absence of some years and was full of pride at all the new and progressive things which had so obviously happened I found it a most enjoyable task.

Visitors were impressed, no doubt at all, especially those who were returning Newfoundlanders whose last memories of St. John's were many long lean years ago. Somewhere along the way always came the proud boast, "St. John's is the oldest city in North America". And then immediately the unbidden question, "Yes, but where is our history? Where is some link with our past that we can see?" I always felt a bit lame driving past the Hotel Nfld. and saying, "This is the site of Fort William"

Earlier in the summer Christ Church, or as it is better known, the little Church at Quidi Vidi, had been threatened with demolition. Built as a very early ecumenical effort of three denominations, Methodists, Anglicans and Congregationalists it later became a mission church of St. Thomas' Anglican Parish. Now in a era of motor cars and shortened distances it was no longer really necessary. In 1966 the building was in sad repair and according to an estimate given to the Anglican Synod the cost of the necessary renovations would be in the neighbourhood of \$20,000. As much as the decision was regretted it had to be made. Christ Church would be demolished.

Often painted by local artists, object of Sunday walks by countless St. John's families and of fond memories of those for whom it had served for years as village church, this decision to demolish Christ Church raised a howl of indignant protest. Everybody asked, "Why don't THEY do something about it?" "THEY let Fort Townsend and Fort William go." "THEY didn't do anything about St. Mary's Church. But who are they?"

Spearheaded by a small group of members of the Art Gallery Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and a handful of concerned citizens the Newfoundland Historic Trust was formed. Its meetings were indignant, energetic and informal and its main purpose at that time was to save yet another historic landmark from destruction. First the members acquired the Little Church from the Anglican Synod and it was duly secularized in a ceremony presided over by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Seaborn in July of 1966. A sign was proudly erected,

This Building  
Is Being Restored  
by the  
Nfld. Historic Trust.

and full of high hopes that the restoration would be completed and ready to be opened as a museum by the following Spring, the small group started work.

I am sure most of you have seen the sign many times and wondered if and when this restoration would show some results. One of the main aims of this Newsletter is to tell the story of the ensuing two years, the story of the Trust, its difficulties, its frustrations and its accomplishments.



**Old Quidi Vidi  
Church target  
for vandals**

July 4, 1974 - Evening Telegram

**Recreation Centre  
opens after clean-up**

August 2, 1974 - Evening Telegram

**Disgusting  
Vandalism**

July 6, 1974 - Evening Telegram

**Historic Trust turning  
building over to Council**

July 4, 1974 - Evening Telegram

## Christ Church — An epic of frustration

The little church at Quidi Vidi hit the headlines again this summer, unfortunately not in the most favourable light, and in the wake of the publicity a lot of confusion was generated about the current status of the building—and possibly some second thoughts about the wisdom of the decision to rescue it from demolition in the first place. Certainly the history of the Trust's involvement with the building has been frustrating to say the least.

On the completion of renovations in the fall of 1972, Quidi Vidi Church was used by the Extension Service of Memorial University. The final interior renovations of the building were designed on the advice of the Extension Art Department to make the building suitable for the teaching of arts and crafts, on the understanding that a programme would be conducted which would involve the people of the Village.

At the end of the trial period, in April 1974, the Extension Service terminated their use of the building by mutual agreement.

The building is now ready for use as a community centre. Its potential has been demonstrated by the success of this summer's recreation programme and there are many other possibilities

which could involve the adult and teenage population in the village. The needs of the community are very real and the vandalism to which the building has been subjected is not unrelated to these needs. But the job of utilizing the potential of this building to fulfill these needs requires skill in the co-ordination of a full community centered programme and the funds to run it.

The Trust has neither.

Faced with the unwelcome prospect of having the building unoccupied for the winter, the Trust has now done what should have been done eight years ago. The executive called a meeting with the people in the Village to discuss the future of the building and the way it can be used in the best interest of the community. As a result of this meeting the people who attended are attempting to form a steering committee in the village with a view to taking some responsibility for the programme themselves. We have told them that when they are ready we will meet with them again and will do everything in our power to make the programme they want possible.

SHANNIE DUFF

SEPT., 1974

## The Church in Quidi Vidi

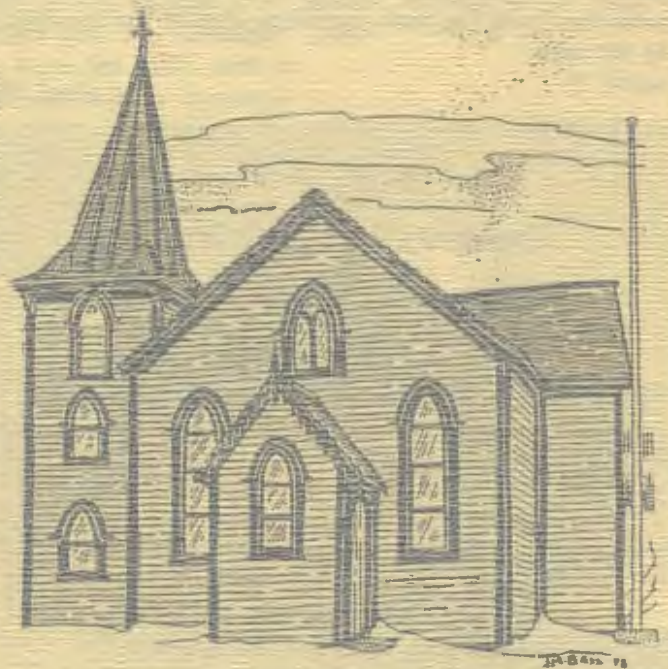
There will be new life in the old Church in Quidi Vidi. Repairs will soon begin to make the building once again a source of pride to the community. The site will soon be the location of a retail business, named HOMEWORKS, specializing in decorative hardware.

Homeworks will also carry a selection of used items, such as interior and exterior panel doors, door knobs, cast iron tubs, basins and whatever else that can be found, bought or bartered.

The new store is trying for a target opening date in mid-October. The opening will be advertised and browsers will be very welcome.

Catherine McManus

OCT., 1980





MAR., 1984

## Quidi Vidi Church Today

Christ Church in Quidi Vidi Village is the Trust's only real estate holding. The church was designed by local architect James Purcell and opened on November 9, 1842. By 1966, the little church had fallen on hard times. It was in a state of disrepair and the Anglican Synod decided to demolish the building for reasons of safety. An interested group of people spearheaded by Edith Goodrich, then president of Newfoundland Art Association, banded together to save the church and the Trust was born.

Exterior restoration and interior renovation were completed in 1972. In September of 1980, a business called Homeworks rented the premises from the Trust. Homeworks provided various bits and pieces of hardware, often difficult to find, for use in renovation of older homes. Since the spring of 1983, the church has been rented by This Olde House, a furniture refinishing company. Proprietor Ed Godden provides hand-crafted service for the stripping, staining and finishing of genuine antique furniture, usually 100 or more years old. It is a specialty shop, depending on word-of-mouth advertisement.

On the day I spoke to Ed Godden, he was working on a 1907 oak dining room table which he described as a typical catalogue piece obtained from one of the mail order catalogues of that day. Newfoundland antiques tend to be walnut and mahogany although pine is becoming popular with younger families.

If you have quality old furniture which needs repair, part replacement or refinishing, then This Olde House may be just the service you need. It is good to see faithfully renovated exteriors from the past providing shelter for economic activity of today.

*Paul Thorburn*



*Christ Church, Quidi Vidi Village, presently the home of "This Olde House"*

MAR., 1985

## Quidi Vidi Church Update

Christ Church in Quidi Vidi Village has been sold by the Newfoundland Historic Trust to Mr. Aiden Duff. The Church was the catalyst for the formation of the Newfoundland Historic Trust when its demolition was threatened in 1966. Mr. Duff is renovating the inside of the Church to make a most interesting and attractive residence for himself and his wife. The Trust has a covenant which protects the exterior facade of the Church and guarantees its upkeep.

*Paul Thorburn*

FEB., 1990

## Tour Christ Church Quidi Vidi with Aiden Duff

Wednesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>

7:30 p.m.



# Powerscourt, Signal Hill

MAR., 1973

*It is likely that in the next six months St. John's will lose another significant building. Powerscourt on Signal Hill Road has been acquired by St. Joseph's Parish to be torn down and the land made into a playground. The Parish Council has indicated some concern about the building and would like to do anything possible to preserve it -- but on a different site. Unless some arrangement is made soon the building will be destroyed.*

## The James Anderson House



James Anderson House 1976

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

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

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

looked as if it might be lost.

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

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

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

The above article, written by Sylvia Cullum, is a personal account of the Cullum's involvement with the Anderson House from late 1976 until it was completed in January

1979. To say, as Sylvia does in her article, that the prospects in late 1976 were "discouraging" is more than a bit of an understatement. The finished building is a great credit to their devotion to a project which must, at times, have seemed overwhelming.

The Trust has leased the property to the Cullums.

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

B. Miller



James Anderson House 1979

APR., 1979



OCT., 1975

## St. John's Heritage Area Conservation Programme

### A SITUATION REPORT

In the field of heritage conservation it is pleasant to be able to report progress. So often conservation efforts are met with misunderstanding, defeat or at best frustrating delays.

The Heritage area conservation programme for a section of old St. John's has been moving steadily ahead since last spring and so far all signs point to its being, 'an idea whose time has come.'



*The winning submission for the St. John's Heritage conservation studies was chosen by a jury consisting of, left to right, seated, Mr. Wilfred Ayre, Mr. Allan Duffus, Mrs. Shannie Duff; back row, Dr. George Story, Mr. Don Hurd and Mr. Charles Cullum. The winning proposal, for the \$50,000 Feasibility Study and Design, Planning Proposal for the St. John's Heritage Conservation area, was submitted by the local consortium of Sheppard Burt associates and Hans Arends associates. The group was chosen by a jury from a field which included submissions by five national firms. In the above photo - members of the jury go over a map of the proposed conservation area with Project Co-ordinator Shannie Duff.*

MAY, 1977

## Heritage Conservation Area Study Released



The long awaited feasibility study, which strongly recommends the establishment of a heritage conservation areas as the best form of development for the centre of the old town was released to the media on Thursday, March 24th by Mr. Lewis Ayre, Chairman of the St. John's Heritage Foundation.

The study, which took over a year to complete was initiated by the Newfoundland Historic Trust with funding from Heritage Canada and the Provincial Government. A consortium of local firms, Sheppard Burt and Associates and Hans Arends Associates were chosen as consultants for the study on the basis of a National Competition.

The Area of St. John's recommended as most suitable for development as a heritage conservation area is bounded on the East by King's Road and on the West by Beck's Cove and Adelaide Street. The area extends from the



Waterfront to Queen's Road. The Basilica Square and the Fort Townshend site have been recommended as Associated Conservation Area.

Mr. Ayre explained that the St. John's Heritage Foundation had been established in November as a private, non-profit corporation under the Companies Act of Newfoundland and would be the body responsible for the co-ordination and management of the Conservation programme. The twenty-five members include property owners and residents from the area, businessmen, lawyers, historians, engineers, architects and conservationists who share a concern for the future of old St. John's.

The recommendations of the study have been endorsed by Heritage Canada and the Foundation and have been presented to the City Council and the Provincial Government for consideration. Heritage Canada has made a

commitment to invest \$500,000 in the area as a property revolving fund to purchase and rehabilitate buildings which are presently vacant or for sale. These will then be sold and the money reinvested in other properties. The participation of Heritage Canada is contingent on appropriate support from the Municipal and Provincial Government. Meetings have been held with the City and the Province and there is every indication of support from these levels of government.

Mr. Ayre stressed that much of the success of the programme will depend on the co-operation and support of the property owners in the area and the Foundation will be undertaking a public information programme to inform the public of the benefits of the programme to the area and the city.

One of the major projects the Foundation hopes to undertake is the rehabilitation of the historic A.H. Murray Pre-

mises along the lines of the Historic Properties Development in Halifax. This group of buildings has recently been designated as a Site of National Historic Significance and is eligible for funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Other proposals for which it is hoped to attract Federal Government support include the development of the War Memorial, King's Beach Area is a major historic site and the clean-up and development of the network of back alleys and lanes in the area.

The rehabilitation projects will use local labor and materials and should provide a considerable number of jobs, particularly in the building trades. Such programmes also generally result in greatly increased tourist spending in the area. Mr. Ayre said that the development of a heritage conservation area in old St. John's will be of great benefit to the city and should be one of the most exciting developments to take place in St. John's in many years.

## The Murray Premises Officially Opened JAN., 1980



The Murray Premises, a restored and commercially revitalized group of national historic buildings on the St. John's waterfront, was officially opened on November 30 with a ceremonial ribbon cutting and the unveiling of a bronze plaque recognizing the partnership of the St. John's Heritage Foundation and the Government of Canada.

Built between 1847 and 1849, after fire swept through St. John's, this group of warehouses on the waterfront at Beck's Cove is composed of three main buildings. Each structure was originally 2½ storeys high although the warehouses at each end have received additional storeys with flat roofs.

The total restoration and

renovation costs of this project is estimated at \$2.5 million by the developers — Atlantic Leasing Limited.

Representing the Honourable John Fraser, Minister of the Environment at the official opening, the Honourable John C. Crosbie presented a cheque for \$24,500. to Paul Johnson, Chairman of the St. John's Heritage Foundation. The cheque was the final payment in the \$500,000. contribution from Parks Canada to the Foundation in a partnership to purchase the Murray Premises and restore the exterior.

The Minister concluded by saying that the Murray Premises would give a major boost to the entire St. John's Area Conservation scheme, one of the most ambitious projects of its kind in Canada.

"This unique commercial and office complex demonstrates effectively that being high, new and modern isn't always the most viable nor the most valued way of revitalizing the downtown core."



NOV., 1990

## NHT Members Receive Heritage Awards



*The Sunday Telegram*

Two members of the Newfoundland Historic Trust have been presented with national awards recognizing their significant contributions to heritage preservation. The presentations were made by the Honourable James McGrath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province, at the recent Heritage Canada conference Awards banquet.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award, presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding achievement in heritage conservation benefitting the recipient's province, was presented to Shane O'Dea for the year 1990.

Mr. O'Dea is a native of St. John's and has been a member of the faculty of English at Memorial University since 1970. He also teaches architectural history with the department of Engineering and is Co-director of the Centre for Material Culture Studies. In his capacity as an educator he was awarded the Distinguished Teaching

Award by Memorial in 1988. That same year the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education honoured him as Canadian Professor of the Year. Shane O'Dea's voluntary contribution to heritage conservation is equal to his professional career. He served as president of the Newfoundland Historic Trust from 1973-75 and Chairperson of the Community Planning Association of Newfoundland. He is one of a group of people responsible for the promotion of the Neighbourhood Improvement Program in St. John's and helped establish the Heritage Conservation Areas in the city. Nationally Shane O'Dea has been a board member of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada and a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Mr. O'Dea has previously been awarded a Southcott award for his work restoring houses in St. John's and Brigus and a Heritage Canada Community Service Award.