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## Western Union Operator's House

Heart's Content | Craig Oates and Bruce Brookings | *Heritage Restoration*



The Western Union Operator's House, located at 187 Main Road in Heart's Content, was built circa 1921 and was home to Edgar (Ed) Hopkins, an operator at the Heart's Content cable station. The house was one of eight underwritten at the time by Western Union, the successor to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, to house its employees. It was designed by noted Carbonear architecture firm Saunders and Howell and incorporates Late Victorian style architectural elements.

Craig Oates and Bruce Brookings purchased the property in 2010, becoming its third owners. Because of its prime oceanfront location, the house, then in deteriorated condition, was in danger of demolition. Mr. Oates and Mr. Brookings painstakingly restored and furnished the home, taking care to preserve historic features whenever possible. All of the house's original windows were restored, as were original interior elements and details.

The Western Union Operator's House contributes to the Heart's Content Registered Heritage District and was designated a Registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015 for its historic and aesthetic value.

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## 28 Monkstown Road

St. John's | Ian Neath and Aimee Surprenant | *Heritage Restoration*



28 Monkstown Road, built circa 1883, is one of six houses designed by John Thomas Southcott on the site of the former Warne estate in St. John's. It was home to John Southcott of the firm J. and J. T. Southcott, architects and builders.

The house is notable for its associations with Mary Meager Southcott (1862-1943). She was a founder of the Graduate Nurses Association, vice-president of the Newfoundland Midwifery Board, president of the Child Welfare Association, and was active in Newfoundland Outport Nursing and Industrial Association (NONIA), the Girl Guides, the women's suffrage movement, and the League of Women Voters.

After resigning as Superintendent of Nursing at the General Hospital in St. John's, she operated a 10-bed private hospital at 28 Monkstown Road.

Ian Neath and Aimee Surprenant purchased the house in 2014 and undertook extensive restoration work, assisted by architect Chris Woodford of Woodford Sheppard Architecture and general contractor Garnet Kindervater. At the interior, mouldings, plasterwork, stairs, hardwood floors, doors, and light fixtures were restored. At the exterior, double hung windows were replaced with wood frame windows matching the originals in style and scale. The slate roof, clapboards, and front entrance were restored, and the house was returned to its original yellow colour.

## The Lodge (60 Circular Road)

St. John's | Thomas Crosbie and Jill Slater | *Heritage Restoration*

The Lodge, a small, Gothic Revival style house, sits at the eastern edge of the Sunnyside estate at 60 Circular Road in St. John's. Built in 1890, the house originally served as a residence for the Murray family's carriage driver. After a series of tenants, the house eventually fell into disuse in 2005, during which it suffered from occasional vandalism.



Current owners Thomas Crosbie and Jill Slater, together with Tom's mother Suzanne Brake, her partner Bob O'Brien, and Tom's father David Crosbie, have undertaken a complete restoration of the Lodge. Replacement windows were constructed by Mike Paterson of Paterson Woodworking, recipient of a Southcott Award in the Heritage Tradesperson category in 2015. Richard Parsons of RJ Custom Contracting meticulously duplicated the Lodge's distinctive beveled siding, originally meant to mimic stone. The interior required extensive modern renovations but incorporates older elements in deference to the house's historic character.

Also known as the Sunnyside Gatehouse, the Lodge was designated a Municipal Heritage Building by the City of St. John's in 2006 in recognition of its historic and aesthetic value. Sunnyside has been owned by descendants of James Murray, the operator one of Newfoundland's largest fishery supply firms, since 1872; Tom Crosbie is Murray's great-great grandson.

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## Fishers' Loft

Port Rexton | John and Peggy Fisher | *Design in Context*

Fishers' Loft, located in Port Rexton, is tucked away on a quiet back lane, overlooking the harbour of Ship Cove. The Inn is comprised of a collection of buildings, scattered organically over a hillside, that reflect the historic vernacular architecture of Trinity Bay between 1865 and 1920, including saltbox and Second Empire style forms. The region's traditional aesthetic and architectural sensibilities are blended with a modern sense of clarity and minimalism, creating a compelling connection between the past and the present.



The buildings that comprise Fishers' Loft were constructed between 1997 and 2011 and were designed by Frank Lapointe, a multi-talented, multi-media artist and designer born in Port Rexton. Lapointe is best known for his celebrated *Newfoundland Postcard Series* and design for the Tors Cove House.

Owners John and Peggy Fisher, who moved to Port Rexton in 1990, partner with artists and artisans from across Newfoundland. The Inn incorporates locally made wood windows and furniture handcrafted by Mike Paterson, the recipient of a 2015 Southcott Award in the Heritage Tradesperson category.

## Southcott Awards

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### Ballyhack Treehouse

Middle Arm, Avondale | David and Karen Hood | *Design in Context*



The main objective in the design of Ballyhack Treehouse, a seaside home in Middle Arm, Avondale owned by David and Karen Hood, was to conserve the natural character of the existing shoreline, in direct contrast to many construction projects that begin by clear-cutting trees to provide unobstructed ocean views. The house was built with a minimal footprint and care was taken to only clear trees within five feet of the foundation to allow for the erection of scaffolding; taller trees were tied back during construction and now surround the house.

Acclaimed architect, educator, and author Robert Mellin, winner of multiple Southcott Awards in the Restoration and Design in Context categories, designed Ballyhack Treehouse as a small tower dwelling set atop a hill, with views through the trees on the first and second levels and views over the trees in the main gathering space on level three. The house is comprised of two main parts united by an overhead bridge inspired by an enclosed bridge that once connected two twine stores in Joe Batt's Arm, Fogo Island.

Completed in 2015, the house's understated, plain modernism recalls the 1950s residential projects of Newfoundland architect Frederick Colbourne. The design attempts to create a sculptural form with small volumes; these relate to the small volumes and small scale of houses and outbuildings that characterize Newfoundland's historic cultural landscapes.

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### Rosedale Manor B & B Inn

Placentia | Linda Grimm | *Heritage Stewardship*



Linda Grimm has been an excellent steward of Placentia's Verran House, home to the Rosedale Manor B & B Inn, for over a decade.

Built in 1893 in the Second Empire style by Henry Verran, a telegraph operator, and his wife Mary, the house remained in the Verran family until 1972 and had a series of owners before being sold to the town of Placentia. It was bought and fully restored in 1989, at which time it opened its doors as a bed and breakfast. Although she did not complete the original restoration, Ms. Grimm has

maintained the house to a high standard since taking ownership, using historically appropriate replacement materials and repair methods at both exterior and interior that preserve the house's original appearance and character.

The house is one of a handful of well-preserved historic buildings along Orcan Drive that form a visual reminder of Placentia's heritage and reinforce the town's long and unique history for residents and visitors alike.

## 32 Queen's Road

St. John's | Morris Reid | *Heritage Stewardship*

32 Queen's Road is owned by Morris Reid, who purchased the home in a condemned state in 2008. Estimated to have been built between 1854 and 1875, the Queen Anne Revival style house is unique for its use of brick and stone, materials not often seen in St. John's residential buildings of the period. It is a rare surviving example of mid-nineteenth century masonry construction that predates the Great Fire of 1892. The house was not unscathed, however; while the exterior walls survived, the interior had to be rebuilt. A single original window remains in the house's basement, a tangible reminder of the damage wrought by the fire.

Today, the house retains most of its original architectural features, a testament to its excellent construction. Mr. Reid has fully restored the property's interior and exterior over the past eight years and now leases the house as two executive suites.



The house was designated a Registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1992 and a St. John's Municipal Heritage Building in 2004.

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## Shannie Duff

*Inaugural Duff-O'Dea Lifetime Achievement Award*

Shannie Duff has worked tirelessly for more than four decades to help preserve and promote the unique heritage and character of St. John's, while also advocating for growth through good planning and appropriate development.

Known for her lifelong commitment to volunteer work, Ms. Duff has been a strong voice for affordable housing, heritage conservation, the arts, urban planning, and health care. She is also an advocate for citizen engagement, accountability, and transparency in municipal government and the important role of municipalities in fostering livable, people-friendly urban environments.



She entered municipal politics in 1977 and served as the 12<sup>th</sup> Mayor of St. John's (1990-1993), Acting Mayor (2008), Deputy Mayor (2009-2013), and Councillor At Large (1997-2009) before retiring from politics in 2013. She is a former Member of the House of Assembly, representing St. John's East from 1989 to 1990.

She is a founding member of a number of organizations, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, the Quidi Vidi/Rennie's River Development Foundation, and Cabot Habitat for Humanity. She has been recognized for her contributions with numerous awards, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, the Heritage Canada Foundation National Award of Honour, the Gabrielle Leger Medal for outstanding contributions to Heritage Conservation, the Habitat for Humanity National Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. She was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2003 and appointed to the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015.

## Southcott Awards

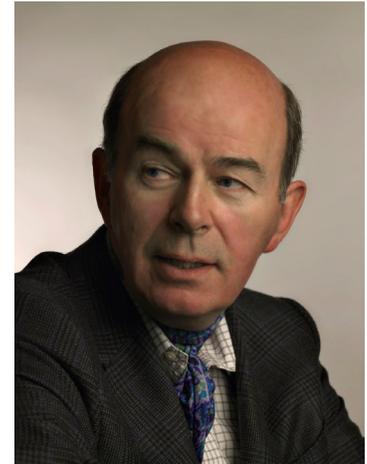
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### Shane O’Dea

#### *Inaugural Duff-O’Dea Lifetime Achievement Award*

Shane O’Dea, Professor of English and Public Orator at Memorial University, has long been involved with the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador’s built heritage.

Having distinguished himself as a teacher, scholar, and preservationist, Mr. O’Dea has gained provincial and national renown for his service to the heritage community. His knowledge of the architectural and material culture of the province, his commitment to its preservation, and his ability to communicate this knowledge and passion has been instrumental in safeguarding the architectural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador for generations to come.



Mr. O’Dea has played a significant role in the majority of preservation efforts and activities that have taken place in the province over the past 40 years. He has chaired the boards of Heritage Canada, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, and the Newfoundland Historical Society.

He is the co-author of two books on Newfoundland buildings and has published a number of articles and reviews in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects*, *Canadian Review of American Studies*, and *Newfoundland Studies*.

In 1988 he was named Memorial University’s first Distinguished Teacher and Canadian Professor of the Year. He was made a 3M Teaching Fellow in 2002 and in 2005 was appointed to the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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### Remembering Artist Jean Ball

Jean Ball, well known to many through her drawings of some of the province’s most cherished landmarks, would have celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 3. She passed away in 2001.

Ms. Ball was long associated with the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, completing the line drawings of historic buildings that grace the pages of two books published by the Trust: *A Gift of Heritage: Historic Architecture of St. John’s* and *Ten Historic Towns: Heritage Architecture in Newfoundland*.

Her keen eye for architectural detail set her work apart. In an interview with Anne Hart published in *The Trident* in 1980, she confessed, “I sometimes think I am really a thwarted architect.” Her passion for built heritage was also evident in the meticulously crafted dollhouses she created, replicating Mallard Cottage and a Southcott style St. John’s house. As she told Hart, “I always think it is the old houses which sweeten our landscape.” For more on her life and work, visit the Centre for Newfoundland Studies’ blog at [bit.ly/2fGkde3](http://bit.ly/2fGkde3).



Jean Ball and her Southcott style dollhouse.

Photo credit: Centre for Newfoundland Studies