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**Town of Fortune Recognizes a First**

**Fortune, NL, January 5, 2007-** The Town of Fortune has designated the first municipal heritage sites in the town - the George and Mary Lake House, Victoria Hall Masonic Lodge #1378 and the Fortune Fishing Sheds. With this designation comes recognition of the historical significance of these places to the area and promotion on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) is working with municipalities to recognize local heritage and to help promote these places. A description of the Fortune structures along with photos can be found on the website [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca).

The designation of these sites is representative of the new opportunity for municipalities to recognize their heritage. "Municipal designations allow towns to protect and preserve the special places in their community, whether it be buildings, structures, or lands," explains Dale Jarvis, Provincial Registrar with HFNL.

The George and Mary Lake House is significant because it is a good regional example of a type of vernacular design once typical in the Fortune area, featuring a steeply pitched gable roof and primary entrances on the gable ends. Unlike a number of early twentieth century houses in the community, this home has escaped the trend of modernization and has retained its overall shape, including the original roof form.

Victoria Hall is a physical reminder of a time when fraternal organizations played a significant role in society. Membership in such organizations was a highly sought after honour. Pride in the affiliation with Freemasonry is reflected in the use of Masonic symbolism on the facade of Victoria Hall.

The Fortune Fishing Sheds are a collection of fifteen fisheries structures including sheds, wharfs, walkways and slipways. Constructed between 1900 and 1970, they represent a specific time and place, particularly of a time when life was intrinsically linked to the sea. The sheds originally served a vital purpose in a subsistence economy based on the bounty of the ocean surrounding the community and on the procurement, curing and storage of fish. The continued use and maintenance of this collection of fisheries buildings is a testament to the value the community places on the site.

HFNL supports municipal designation of heritage sites and listing on the Canadian Register. "We've had great feedback from this campaign, with towns like Fortune taking the initiative in designation," says Jarvis. "I think every town has a site of local importance that could be listed on the Canadian Register"

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**About the Heritage Foundation**

To view designated structures, visit [www.heritagefoundation.ca](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca). HFNL was established in 1984 to stimulate an understanding of and an appreciation for the architectural heritage of the province and to support and contribute to the preservation and restoration of buildings of architectural or historical significance in the province. Since its creation, the Foundation has designated 261 buildings as Registered Heritage Structures. It has disbursed more than \$1.1 million in restoration grants across Newfoundland and Labrador, with an estimated economic spin off of close to eight times that amount.