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Town of Robert's Arm Recognizes a First

Robert's Arm, NL, January 5, 2007- The Town of Robert's Arm has designated the first municipal heritage site in the town the Hewlett House and Grounds recognizing its historical significance to the area. With this designation comes 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 Hewlett House and Grounds along with photos can be found on the website 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.

Hewlett House is a good example of early bungalow construction in the community and the region. It was constructed for pulpwood contractor Jack Hewlett in the summer of 1937. It has historical value due to its association with Bowater Newfoundland Limited, the company that took over the operation of the Corner Brook pulp and paper mill in 1938. A few years previous, Bowater had started cutting and exporting pulpwood from the Robert's Arm area. In 1936 Jack Hewlett, secured the contract from Bowater and by 1939 two hundred and fifty men were employed cutting pulpwood in the community. Bowater operations in and around Robert's Arm continued into the 1970s, with one notable disruption occurring in October of 1937. One of the first loggers' strikes in Canada was then executed in Robert's Arm when workers protested pay rates and living conditions at logging camps.

The property as a whole, including the surrounding land, has further heritage value as it is the gateway point to the community's expansive recreation area. The property is easily seen along Route 380 leading into Robert's Arm and is surrounded by municipal parklands.

HFNL supports municipal designation of heritage sites and listing on the Canadian Register. "We've had great feedback from this campaign, with towns like Robert's Arm 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. 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.