

# Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador

## February 2007 Newsletter



### Heritage Day: February 19, 2007

Heritage Day is the third Monday of February each year. It is an opportunity to explore the past and discover what shaped our communities and our history. Each year at the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) we look forward to this celebration. In the fall, we start the count down as the posters begin to roll in for the Heritage Day Student Poster Contest.

This year we have integrated a number of new aspects into our Heritage Day plans. On February 5, Premier Danny Williams met with HFNL to sign a proclamation declaring February 19, 2007 as Heritage Day. He was enthused about the initiatives the heritage community is undertaking. To support this proclamation, HFNL has encouraged municipalities to make the same proclamation, and to take the opportunity to celebrate heritage in their respective communities. At the time of printing, we received nearly 25 signed copies – a great step in recognizing our fascinating heritage.

HFNL also partnered with the Association of Heritage Industries and its partner organizations to provide an informational advertisement about the resources and heritage work in Newfoundland and Labrador. This will run in the Telegram and the Western Star on Saturday, February 17 and on Heritage Day February 19.

Again this year, we are hosting an awards ceremony on Heritage Day to present the winning student in the poster contest with her award (more information on this contest is in the following column) as well as to profile the work of HFNL. If you would like to attend, you must RSVP to [sandy@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:sandy@heritagefoundation.ca) by February 15.

Please take an opportunity to celebrate Heritage Day on February 19, and please send photos of your celebrations for posting in an upcoming newsletter or on our website.



**Heritage Day Proclamation:** (F:L-R) Robert Parsons, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL), Premier Danny Williams, Lara Maynard, HFNL, Debbie O'Rielly, HFNL. (B:L-R) Natalie Falk (Association of Heritage Industries), Andrea O'Brien (HFNL), George Chalker (Heritage Canada Foundation), & Dale Jarvis, Newfoundland Historic Trust.

### Student Heritage Poster Contest – 2006 Results

The Heritage Poster Contest was received this year with great enthusiasm and displayed varying skill levels. Students from across the province submitted their interpretations of local heritage and the judges had a difficult time picking just one winner. Submissions came from Labrador to St John's, with the winning submission from Bay Roberts. We received posters created in many mediums from all grade levels.

As part of the contest all students were required to submit a short statement explaining why the subject of their particular poster was important to them. Students were judged on both parts. Alyssa Crane of Ascension Collegiate was the overall winner. Her poster depicted a house in her community that was not formally recognized as a historic place, but Alyssa was able to recognize that the building held architectural, historic and cultural values. Depicting the house in vivid and strong colors and accompanied by a well-thought-out statement, the poster stood out amongst all the other impressive entries.

The judges were also pleased to note the variety of subject matter submitted by the students. While some entries were of well-known sites, others revealed a cultural richness as seen through the eyes of the province's young people. It was evident that the fishery still holds a large place in the hearts of these youngsters, but other places such as Bryan Rich's hunting grounds near Natuashish and a now demolished family homestead in Wreckhouse show the variety of heritage sites yet to be revealed in Newfoundland and Labrador.



### REGISTERED HERITAGE STRUCTURE DESIGNATION AND GRANT DEADLINE



**Do you have an old building you think deserves recognition? HFNL is currently accepting applications for designation of Registered Heritage Structures and for funding under its grants program for Registered Heritage Structures.**

**The deadline for applications is: March 1, 2007**

**The Registered Heritage Structure grant is available to any owner of a Registered Heritage property. The grant, to a maximum of \$10,000.00, is matched 50/50 with funding supplied by the owner. The funds will assist with preservation measures and/or exterior restorations only.**

Application forms are available online at [www.heritagefoundation.ca](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca) or by calling the HFNL office at 1-888-739-1892 ext 2

#### Contact:

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1-888-739-1892 [info@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:info@heritagefoundation.ca) [www.heritagefoundation.ca](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca)



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## Dr. Stella Burry & Emmanuel House: A very remarkable ministry" - Lara Maynard

The stately Queen Anne style residence on Cochrane Street that has been known as Emmanuel House since 1946 has seen its share of excitement. The wooden building narrowly escaped the Great Fire which left most of St. John's in ashes in 1892. Since then, it has sheltered folks from all walks of life, including the tenacious social activist Dr. Stella Burry. She left her mark on the building and beyond as the founder and first director of the social service centre operating there.

Stella Burry was born to a fishing family in the small island community of Greenspond in Bonavista Bay on the island's northeast coast in 1897. She spent the first eight years of her career as a teacher, but was compelled by the social needs to which that job exposed her to study at the Methodist National Training School in Toronto. Burry became a deaconess and worked in Toronto for more than a dozen years. She returned to Newfoundland to take on the role of social worker in 1938.

Upon filling her post in St. John's, Burry established the United Church Community Service Centre, based out of two humble rooms on Gower Street. Within a year, the centre was the hub for an escalating number of activities.

Seven years later the building in which the Community Service Centre was located was razed by fire. Stella Burry committed herself to securing a new place to carry on her work. The grand home at 38 Cochrane Street, next door to the United Church, was purchased in 1945 through fund-raising and an appeal to the Women's Missionary Society. The WMS turned over money from the sale of Emmanuel Church in Montreal. Hence, Stella Burry soon took up her post as director of Emmanuel House, a community centre and hostel for young women relocating to St. John's.

Emmanuel House became a model of community service and remained a flagship operation of Burry's many social programs over the years. She gave her attention in turn to women's issues, pre-school care for children, housing, and programs for seniors, addicts, and people with mental illness. For this, the St. John's Junior Chamber of Commerce recognized Stella Burry as Citizen of the Year in 1967. And in 1971 she became Dr. Stella Burry when Pine Hill Divinity Hall of Halifax conferred upon her the honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 2000, Hermitage Publishing released her biography, *No Ordinary Woman*, by Joseph C. Burke.

When Dr. Stella Burry reached the fiftieth anniversary of her deaconship, K. Harriet Christie of the United Church of Canada's Division of Mission wrote to her in appreciation of her work at Emmanuel House and elsewhere, even into her "so-called 'retirement'." Harriet wrote: "Wherever you have gone, your gaiety and sense of humour and your great supply of Newfoundland stories, your deep compassion for people and capacity to work with people, and your energy, imagination and determination, have all combined to make a very remarkable ministry."

The City of St. John's designated Emmanuel House as a Municipal Heritage Building in 1989. The grand old Queen Anne continues to operate today under a non-profit organization known as Stella Burry Community Services (SBCS). Since 1979 more than 1200 people with social and emotional problems have received counseling and support through SBCS's live-in program at Emmanuel House. Its dedicated founder passed away in 1991, and is remembered as a tireless community leader who made a singular, pioneering contribution to social welfare policy and programs in Newfoundland.



## PROFILE: St. Bride's College, Litledale - Deborah O'Rielly

The St. Bride's College complex, constructed in 1967, sits on a large parcel of land set back from Waterford Bridge Road and is accessed by winding roadways near the Litledale convents. Known locally as Litledale the school was built as a junior college for the training of female Roman Catholic teachers. The complex consists of ten buildings grouped around a quadrangle and interconnected by underground tunnels. The buildings climb the gently sloping hill on the north side so to allow sunlight and a view for those in that side of the complex.

Made entirely of concrete, the complex is constructed in the Brutalism style of architecture, marked by raw and exposed materials, weighty textured surfaces and massiveness created by patterns of concrete. The linear texture of the exterior façade gives interest and variety to the stark concrete and draws the eye upwards. The design motifs repeat in each building, though the chapel is unique in scale and proportion as it was meant to be. The courtyard is accessed through an iron gate by the bell tower and the yard contains mature foliage and ample green space.

The college was a self-sufficient complex of buildings and included, besides academic buildings, two residences, a library, chapel, cafeteria and an administration building. There was also a large gymnasium and a swimming pool that were connected by the underground tunnels, as well as the chapel, the Mother House, and the residences. The college was very modern for its time and a source of pride for the Sisters of Mercy.

Today, the buildings appear to have changed little since their construction and remain in their original locations and in excellent condition. The college represents a superb extant example of mid-century construction and the trend at that time towards modern architecture.



## Call for nominations for the 2007 Southcott Awards

The Newfoundland Historic Trust invites nominations for its annual Southcott Awards. Awards are normally considered for architectural restoration projects completed within the past three years in Newfoundland and Labrador. Awards may also be considered for excellence in long-term maintenance of heritage properties; for new or infill construction which is sensitive to the historic context (architecture, streetscape, viewscape, etc.) of its environment; or for other noteworthy built heritage preservation projects. Individuals, families, organizations, municipalities, etc. may nominate projects for award consideration and receive awards.

The nomination deadline is April 15, 2007. Nomination forms and information are available at [www.historictrust.com/southcott.shtml](http://www.historictrust.com/southcott.shtml); or by emailing [historictrust@yahoo.ca](mailto:historictrust@yahoo.ca); or by calling (709) 739-7870.



The restoration of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Newtown earned the Town of New-Wes-Valley a Southcott Award from the Newfoundland Historic Trust in 2006.

## Heritage is Happening in Elliston - Lara Maynard

The Town of Elliston declared itself "The Root Cellar Capital of the World" in 2000, after a study in partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland documented 135 root cellars in the area. Tourism Elliston is building upon that title, offering guided tours and presenting the community as a unique place to learn about early subsistence in our province.

Elliston also boasts three Registered Heritage Structures: St. Mary's Anglican Church, Robert Tilley House and the James Ryan Shop. The exterior of the latter building was recently restored with the assistance of a grant from HFNL. Colleen Duffett, Tourism Elliston's Heritage Development Coordinator, reports her group is now seeking funding to work on the interior so the three-storey building can accommodate a museum, gift store, lecture room, and a privately operated natural interpretation and touring business.

Tourism Elliston is also working on a built heritage inventory project, with support from the provincial Cultural Economic Development Program. The project will build upon the root cellar study and an inventory of buildings on the Bonavista Peninsula conducted by the Heritage Foundation in 1995. "We decided to do a heritage inventory because of the abundance of heritage structures and the fact that most of these houses are being sold," says Duffett. "We would like to stress to residents they are heritage homes, the significance of this in such a small town, and to encourage people to keep the heritage style."

In December 2006 Colleen and her coworker Jeanette Hayward were provided with some preparatory training for their inventory work. They will upload the historical and architectural information that they compile to the Newfoundland and Labrador Register of Historic Places maintained by HFNL. The project is scheduled for completion the winter of 2007.