

Spring 2005

EXECUTIVE 2005

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**Questions, comments,
letters to the Editor
and membership
inquires may be
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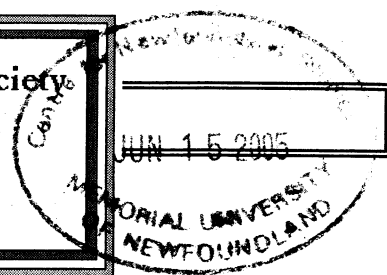
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The Newfoundland Historical Society



Newsletter



President's Message

The Newfoundland Historical Society has come to the end of another busy and successful year. Since our last newsletter in January we have met for three individual presentations on topics spanning three centuries and as diverse as 18th century Irish settlement, divorce legislation, and the flamboyant life and career of Charles Henry Danielle. We also held a symposium marking the 150th anniversary of Responsible Government in Newfoundland and Labrador. All events were well attended and we extend thanks to all speakers. The symposium was made possible by the financial support of the Provincial Government, the City of St. John's and Memorial University, and we gratefully acknowledge this support.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the Society was very concerned about user fees planned for the Archives upon its move to the Rooms. We asked members to write government expressing their disapproval of this policy. We are pleased that efforts by our group, other interested organizations, and individuals throughout the province were successful. The Board of Directors of the Rooms has reversed its decision and there will be no new entrance fees at the Archives. Thanks to all who made the effort to contribute to this important lobbying campaign. It really made a difference!

We are still awaiting a long-term decision regarding the future of the Colonial Building but have been allowed to retain our basement office, at least until a permanent plan is approved. We will continue to express our concerns that this most important historic building is protected and used in a productive and appropriate manner.

Thank you to all executive members for their work this year. We are sorry to be losing Willeen Keough and Anita Best, two dedicated members. We wish Willeen much happiness and success as she leaves the province to join the faculty at Simon Fraser University.

We were saddened to hear of the death this winter of David White, a long-time member and executive representative for Trinity; we send condolences to his family and friends.

Our executive is expanded this year with the addition of six new members: Larry Coady, Veva Moulton, Michael Wilkshire, Glenn Keough, Melanie Martin and Carman Carroll. All bring different backgrounds and talents to our group and we look forward to working with them.

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Committees 2005/06

Program

Melanie Martin, *Chair*
Terry Bishop Stirling
Debbie Andrews
Larry Coady
Veva Moulton
Joan Ritcey
Maudie Whelan

Finance & Membership

Larry Dohey, *chair*
Rosemary Healy
Debbie Andrews

History in the Schools

Jim Hiller
Fred Winsor

Publications

Linda Cullum, *Chair*
Jeff Webb, Editor, *Aspects*
Maudie Whelan, Newsletter
Joan Ritcey, Web Master
<http://www.infonet.st.johns.nf.ca/providers/nfdhist/>

Your Newsletter

If you have an item of news, an anecdote, a picture from the past, an old saying, an event of historical interest happening in your corner of Newfoundland and Labrador, why not share it with fellow members in your NHS Newsletter?

You may have a question such as the one puzzling Larry Dohey:

What is the term used to describe a gathering of men shooting off guns at a wedding or other celebration?

E-mail your answer and anything you would like to see in your newsletter to:

nhs@thezone.net

We would like to thank our patron, The Honourable Edward Roberts, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, for his constant encouragement of the Society. He kindly hosted a dinner for our guest speakers during the Entente Cordiale Symposium and was the after-dinner speaker at our closing banquet. He also chaired a very entertaining panel discussion at the Responsible Government Symposium. We are indeed lucky to have such an active and enthusiastic patron.

As the Provincial Archives gets ready for its move to the Rooms, the Newfoundland Historical Society would like to thank the directors and the staff who have, since 1965, supported our efforts in countless ways and we are extremely grateful. It was, I think, particularly nice to end our last year together working on a joint project in September. We wish Shelley Smith and all of the staff much success and fulfilment in their outstanding new facility and though we are now down the road a ways, we look forward to a continuing friendly, cooperative relationship.

We hope all members have a pleasant summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Terry Bishop Stirling

Publications Committee Report

As Chair of the Publications Committee, I want to thank Anita Best for her wonderful service to the NHS as Newsletter Editor during the past years. Her dedication to the job and to connections outside of St. John's is greatly appreciated. So, Thanks Anita! Welcome to Maudie Whelan, our new newsletter editor, as it's a challenging task. *Aspects*, our strong essay contribution to *The Newfoundland Quarterly* has continued in fine form under the editorship of Jeff Webb, bringing new stories to light about Newfoundland and Labrador. Webmaster Joan Ritcey has produced a streamlined, functional and attractive NHS website full of detailed information about the Society, our lectures, symposia, and publications. Finally, changes in office management can sometimes be a bumpy affair. However, our new office manager, Catherine Rice, has moved smoothly into the job and provides excellent support to the committee. We look forward to many more years of work together!

Linda Cullum

Program Committee Report

We have had a busy year. In addition to our monthly lecture series, the program committee has been responsible for an unprecedented four symposia: History of Health Care in Newfoundland and Labrador, 25-27 March, 2004; Labrador Fishery (in Bay Roberts), 4-5 June, 2004; Entente Cordiale, 16-20 September, 2004 (in St. John's and Corner Brook); Responsible Government, 21-23 April, 2005.

Weather cancelled the first in our monthly lecture series in 2005 so that Bert Riggs's lecture, "Master of the Terpsichorean Art: Professor Charles Henry Danielle" was rescheduled to 19 May. Dr. Christopher English's lecture, "'What is to be Done About Failed Marriages?' The Supreme Court Recovers Jurisdiction over Marital Causes in 1948" was presented as scheduled 24 February. The George Storey Lecture was delivered 31 March by Dr. John Mannion entitled "Forging a New Identity? Irish Adaptations on the Newfoundland Shore, 1732-1765." All lectures received enthusiastic response.

The Responsible Government Symposium was well attended beginning Thursday evening, 21 April, with the David Alexander Lecture, "The Transition to Responsible Government in British North America: Some Afterthoughts" presented by Dr. Phillip Buckner. The Friday evening panel discussion, "Experience of Responsible Government" was chaired by The Honourable Edward Roberts, Lieutenant Governor, with panellists, Alex Hickman, Sandra Kelly, and Bill Rompkey. Saturday's lectures covered topics on the franchise, electoral districts, Labrador, the French Shore, Church and State, the Press, and Responsible Government at the community level.

I would like to thank committee members Terry Bishop Stirling, Rosemary Healy, Jim Hiller, Willeen Keough, Bert Riggs, Jeff Webb, and Maudie Whelan, for being so willing to volunteer their time and ideas. Melanie Martin has kindly taken on the position of Chair of the Program Committee. I wish Melanie and her committee all the very best of luck in the coming year.

Debby Andrews

The Newfoundland Historical Society Lectures resume at Hampton Hall in the Fall. Your Program Committee is already planning a series of interesting topics with engaging speakers for those special Thursday evenings that you will not want to miss. Your next newsletter should have the complete schedule. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you visit the famous Limestone Barrens on the Great Northern Peninsula, watch where you step – history is literally growing out of the crevices. Rare (and endangered) vibrant arctic-alpine plants, known as Fernald's braya and Long's braya, grow nowhere else in the world. It happened 400 million years ago, but it was not until the early 1900s that Harvard University botanist, M. L. Fernald identified the species, drawing attention from the international science community. Learn more about this Newfoundland history at the MUN Botanical Gardens.

Check It Out

Dildo Digs

Kathy Stewart at Canadian Museum of Nature in Hull, Quebec has completed her analysis of the faunal material (bones) recovered from the 1200 year old Recent Indian hearth on Dildo Island. Based on Kathy's findings, it now looks like the site was probably a base camp occupied by Recent Indian people during the spring, summer and early fall.

A brief description of some of Kathy's findings has been posted in New Discoveries segment of the Baccalieu Trail Archaeology Web Site. You can go directly to New Discoveries by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/discoveries.asp>

Plum Point Conference

Selma Barkham's Basques Conference is going ahead again this year, September 23-25 at Plum Point, Great Northern Peninsula.

Conference topics this year will include Basques whaling, the history of the Plum Point region and environmental waste (natural and man-made). Mark Kurlansky is slated to be a speaker.

For more information: email: elaine.bishop1@btopenworld.com

Contact Selma at the Plum Point Motel (709) 247-2533 around June 5.

Newfoundland Studies

Back issues of the journal are available:

\$5.00 each for subscribers
\$7.50 each for non subscribers

Limited Edition Set of back issues \$160.00.

Tables of contents and searchable index available at www.mun.ca/nflds.

Order: nstudies@mun.ca
709-737-2144



NHS Events Calendar



Battle Harbour – Newfoundland Historical Society Workshop

August 11-14, 2005:

Depart: St. John's 9.30 AM via Provincial Airlines to Blanc Sablon, Quebec; to Mary's Harbour by bus, and to Battle Harbour by ferry.

Fees Per Person

Airfare - \$423.71. Bus fare – \$46.00. Ferry from Mary's Harbour to Battle Harbour return - \$40.00. Meals enroute - \$30.00. Meals and accommodations at Battle Harbour for three nights - \$345.00. Trip to Cape St. Charles by tour boat return - \$20.00. Total Package Fees/Person \$886.77.

Highlights

Workshop, Hiking, Guided Tours of National Historic Site, Boat Tours and Day Trips to Cape St. Charles and Red Bay, Dinners and Entertainment including a Kitchen Party.

For More Information

Gordon Slade - Chair and Managing Director -Battle Harbour Historic Trust/o Walter P. Miller and Company, 108 LeMarchant Road, P.O. Box 8505 St. John's, NL, A1B 3N9, Tel: (709)778-0519, Fax: (709)778-0413. Or contact the Newfoundland Historical Society.

ANLA General Meeting and Spring Luncheon - June 3

ANLA annual General Meeting and Spring Luncheon will be held at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, 100 Military Road, St. John's (next to the Basilica) commencing at 9:00 a.m. Free parking is available at the Basilica parking lot. Payment of membership fees for 2005-2006 welcomed. Lunch will be 12:30 - 1:30 PM. Cost for the luncheon: \$20.00. (vegetarian options available upon advance notice). RSVP required to book seatings – please contact the ANLA office by May 30 if you wish to attend the luncheon. 709-726-2867.

AHI Annual Heritage Forum and AGM - June 4

AHI will be holding its annual Heritage Forum and AGM at the Basilica Museum in St. John's. Registration is open to all interested individuals. The cost is \$20 which includes lunch and refreshments. For a registration form

The 150th Anniversary of the Basilica Cathedral Celebration – Summer Events

June 6: The Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese launches a unique series of post cards with images from their extensive photograph collection and on **June 24** the virtual exhibit "Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming, His Life and Times." **June 19 - September 30:** The Basilica Museum will open for the summer. Special exhibits this summer include "Newfoundland in Print" - 18th and 19th century Newfoundland books and "Building the Cathedral" featuring architectural drawings, maps, and sketches on exhibit for the first time. **June 26:** St. Patrick's Parish as St. Patrick's Church is being designated as a National Historic Site. For more information contact: Larry Dohey @726-3660 or ldohey@nf.aibn.com. website: www.stjohnsarchdiocese.nf.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Membership Fees:

Regular \$28

Life \$400

Institutional \$24

Student (no Quarterly) \$15

Donations to the Newfoundland Historical Society are always welcome

Fee _____ Donation _____ Total _____

Visa Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Payment may be made by VISA, cheque or money order to the Newfoundland Historical Society. Please clip this form and send it, with your payment to the address on the front page. US subscribers please pay in US funds to cover postage. International subscribers please pay 18 pounds sterling or Canadian equivalent.