

Spring 2006

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# The Newfoundland Historical Society

1905 - 2006

## Newsletter



APR 24 2006

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY  
NEWFOUNDLAND

## President's Message

Hello to all NHS members.

I would like to thank all our speakers this winter for their participation in our lecture series. From a musical history of a genuine Newfoundland diva, to the little known story of the province's correctional institutions, and an introduction to facets of our legal history, we have been informed and entertained by first rate scholars, musicians and singers. It has been a varied and rich winter of meetings.

In the latest provincial budget the Government announced plans to introduce a high school course on the history of Newfoundland and Labrador. For several years the NHS and other interested heritage organizations lobbied hard for such a course and achieved partial success two years ago with the launching of the grade eight course. Though happy with that progress, we all felt that a senior course was preferable. We were about to begin lobbying for this next step, but are pleased that with the Government's recent decision we can now put our time and energies elsewhere. We congratulate the Government on this wise move and will be pleased to provide any requested advice and assistance in planning the new history course.

This spring we are extending our regular offerings a bit. In April we will have our annual general meeting and hear a lecture by the always entertaining Dr. Patrick O'Flaherty on the always fascinating Richard Squires. In May we will be cooperating with the Newfoundland youth sympathy choir to provide some historical context for their new opera based on Kevin Major's poem "Ann and Seamus." On the first weekend in June (2-3) we will work with the Trinity Historical Society to present a conference marking the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of the Somme, and the tragedy of Beaumont Hamel. Kevin Major will read from his work and speakers will discuss such topics as the role of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in World War One, the lesser known story of the Naval Reserves, Dr. Cluny Macpherson's wartime service, POW correspondence, and the role of the Women's Patriotic Association. We will end with a banquet on Saturday night (June 2) where Bert Riggs will speak on Trinity in World War One. We hope many of you will be able to join us there. Look for more details and updates on our website. If you have any questions about accommodation in Trinity, please contact our office.

We envision the Trinity conference as part one of a two part symposium on World War One. The second part, to be held in St. John's from October 19-21, will focus a little more narrowly on the theme of war and remembrance. How did participants deal with their war experience during and immediately after the conflict? How did later generations understand, commemorate and write about the war? We will look at the memoirs of participants, the short and long-term impact on both servicemen and civilians, and examine the ways in which the country (and later, the province) commemorated the war, and particularly the horror of July 1, 1916. In addition to a line-up of local speakers we will be inviting leading scholars from France, Great Britain and Canada to bring the viewpoint of historians from these closely allied nations. We thank the offices of the French embassy, the

## **Committees 2005/06**

### **Program**

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

### **Finance & Membership**

Larry Dohey, *Chair*  
Rosemary Healy  
Debby Andrews  
Veva Moulton

### **History in the Schools**

Jim Hiller  
Fred Winsor

### **Publications**

Linda Cullum,  
*Chair*  
Jeff Webb,  
*Editor of Aspects*  
Joan Ritcey,  
*Web Master*  
Michael Wilkshire and  
Catherine Rice,  
*Newsletter*

### **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?

Simply mail your contribution to the postal address on the first page or email it to [nhs@nf.aibn.com](mailto:nhs@nf.aibn.com)  
<http://www.infonet.st.johns.nf.ca/providers/nfdhist/>

### **A Great Deal!**

**Essays in the History of Canadian Law - Two Islands: Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, Edited By Christopher English.** The book retails for \$70.00. *Our members will receive the book for the special price of \$56.00 – A \$24.00 savings.*

To purchase your copy, contact the NHS Office or visit our lectures.

French Consulate in Moncton, and the British High Commissioner's office for their early interest in and support for this conference. Planning for both the Trinity and St. John's conferences are ongoing. Please mark the dates in your calendars and keep tuned to our website for updates.

As usual, I thank all executive members for their hard work. For those executive members who are not able to continue next year, we wish you well in your plans and know that you will keep in touch. I particularly want to acknowledge the dedication of Linda Cullum who has been such a hard working chair of our publication committee for the past three years. We will welcome new executive members after our April AGM and look forward to continuing our full range of activities. All the executive realize how lucky we are in having such an efficient and pleasant office administrator in Catherine Rice and I thank her for all her work this year.

Our members make our efforts worthwhile by their attendance at lectures, and their interest and participation in all our activities. We thank you all for renewing your membership and hope to see you at some of our spring events and again next fall. Enjoy your spring and summer.

Terry Bishop - Stirling, President

## **Membership**

Well it worked! Our committee decided to send a personalized reminder to those owing membership fees for 2005 and many people paid up. Thank you. We now have 491 members.

Membership renewal for 2006 was due this past January. If you haven't yet paid your membership, you will receive a personalized reminder of the amount owing, in this newsletter. Disregard the request for payment if you have already paid.

The Society depends on your continued financial support to bring you the newsletter, the Newfoundland Quarterly, other publications and to hold monthly lectures and symposia.

Deborah Andrews, Membership Committee Chair

## **Publications**

Another year has flown by with lots of hard work by the Publications Committee. While we have continued our work in the *Newfoundland Quarterly*, the NHS Newsletter and our Website, we have also launched a new initiative — an engaging and accessible Guide to Newfoundland History. We are partnering with Gavin Will of Boulder Publications to produce this 200-page, well-illustrated and highly readable book. With expert authors, such as the Committee's Jim Hiller, drawing on excellent contemporary research, this book will dispel many of the "myths" circulating about Newfoundland history! Our aim is to have it for sale in 2007. Stay tuned for further developments.

I am stepping down as Chair of the Publications Committee this year, and Mike Wilkshire will be taking my place. I want to thank Jeff Webb for his tireless editorship of *Aspects*, Joan Ritcey for the on-going work on our website, Mike for assistance in "beautifying" our Newsletter and, finally, to Catherine Rice for her vital contribution to the NHS and our Newsletter production over the past few years. It's been fun working with you all.

Linda Cullum, Publications Committee Chair

## Program Committee Report

I hope you have all enjoyed the lecture series we brought you this year. From the annals of the Society's own archives we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, and enjoyed the oral presentations and literary works of our local scholars on topics such as the famous photographer, Robert Edwards Holloway and the history of whaling in Newfoundland. We also tried our hand at something new bringing you a musical history based on the life of Georgina Stirling, as well as an interesting tale of a prison ship in St. John's harbour and the overcrowding of our prisons during the 1930s and 40s. Rounding out our year we learned about the legal history of Newfoundland. Our final lecture will feature a rogue in Newfoundland politics – Sir Richard Squires. A big thank you to all our speakers for sharing your knowledge and your work with us!

Currently, the programme committee is working on a two-part symposium based on the 90th anniversary of Beaumont Hamel. The first part will be a regional conference in partnership with the Trinity Historical Society, to be held in Trinity June 2-3, 2006. The second, larger symposium, based on the theme of War and Remembrance, is set to take place October 19 -21 in St. John's. Stay tuned over the coming months for more information on the symposia.

At this time I would like to thank my programme committee: Terry Bishop Stirling, Joan Ritcey, Debby Andrews, Larry Coady, and Mike Wilkshire (with ideas from Bert Riggs) for their constant participation in meetings and their suggestions and ideas.

Melanie Martin, Programme Committee Chair

### The George Story Lecture – April 27, 2006

#### Dr. Patrick O'Flaherty

Eminent writer and English professor Dr. Patrick O'Flaherty will address the Society as the George Story Lecturer on April 27. Dr. O'Flaherty has been a commentator on Newfoundland literature, history and current affairs for four decades. He is the author of standard and landmark works such as *The Rock Observed* (1979), *Part of the Main* (1983), *Come Near at Your Peril* (1994), *Old Newfoundland* (1999), and novels such as *Priest of God* (1989) and *Benny's Island* (1994).

His latest history - *Lost Country: The rise and fall of Newfoundland, 1843 – 1933* (2005), which will be available for sale after the lecture. Dr. O'Flaherty is a longtime NHS member and has been kind enough to address the society in the past. He will be introduced by Dr. Helen Peters.



#### New Discovery at Cupids

Excavations conducted at Cupids since 2002 have produced evidence of the enclosure erected by John Guy and his party in the fall of 1610. Recent research has allowed us to produce a map showing the projected outline of this enclosure based on the data recovered to date. The map, a photograph, and a brief discussion have been posted in the 'New Discoveries' section of the Baccalieu Trail Archaeology website. You can go directly to 'New Discoveries' by clicking on this link: <http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/discoveries.asp>

## Check It Out

### Newfoundland Studies

Back issues of the journal are available:

\$5.00 ea. - subscribers

\$7.50 ea. - non subscribers

**Limited Edition Set** of back issues \$160.00.

Tables of contents and searchable index available at [www.mun.ca/nflds](http://www.mun.ca/nflds).

Order: [nstudies@mun.ca](mailto:nstudies@mun.ca)  
709-737-2144

### Exploring the History of Corner Brook

As part of the 50th Anniversary of Amalgamation (the four separate towns that amalgamated to form the City of Corner Brook:

Curling, Corner Brook West, Corner Brook East and Townsite)

The West Coast Historical Society is presenting a series of lectures on the early days of Corner Brook, leading up to the time of amalgamation. The next presentation in series is a history of Townsite. There will be a panel discussion, facilitated by Elaine Watton, president of the West Coast Historical Society, and . At the Glynmill Inn, Thursday, May 25th at 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

### New Book

#### Municipal Designation of Cemeteries and the Historic Places Initiative

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has published a booklet directed at municipalities in the province. The booklet outlines how town councils can formally designate cemeteries within their municipal boundaries as heritage places. The booklet also includes a section called "Ten Steps to Cemetery Preservation" and a list of resources.

The book is being distributed to town council offices in the province. Or get your copy from the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador by emailing [info@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:info@heritagefoundation.ca) or calling (709) 739-1892 or toll free 1-888-739-1892.

# Great News!

The Provincial government has announced a commitment of \$300,000 for each of the next 3 years to develop a senior high school Newfoundland and Labrador history course brings to fruition a long campaign for this much need curriculum. The Provincial Government in their recent budget has demonstrated a commitment to help fund cultural and heritage initiatives through out Newfoundland and Labrador. \$760,000 will be invested in heritage organizations, community museums and archives, as well for research and development in the heritage sector.



Old Fort Bay – Reputed site of large French Settlement called Brest (Pre Cartier) CNS, Coll. 199, 1.050

Waterfront area of Conche, White Bay circa 1880. CNS, Coll. 199, 1.048



## NHS Events Calendar



**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 8.00 pm - George Story Lecture and the AGM.**

Patrick O'Flaherty: "A Portrait of Richard Squires."

*May 25, 2006. A.P.M. and Seamus. Lecture with Shallaway Singers.*

**2006 Symposium**

**Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006.** Trinity Symposium on Beaumont Hamel and WWI, at Trinity. A 2-day event in partnership with the Trinity Historical Society. Please contact the NHS office or visit the NHS website for information.

**Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006.** War and Remembrance Symposium at St. John's. Our second event to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beaumont Hamel. Please contact the NHS office or visit the NHS website for information.

### Fall 2006 Book Launch

**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> 2006.** Guest speakers Jo Shawyer, Alan MacPherson and Keith Storey will launch of their new book "Four Centuries and the City: Historical Perspectives on the Historical Geography of St. John's". Topics include agricultural history and the history of Churchill Square.

All regular lectures are at 8:00 PM at Hampton Hall, Marine Institute Ridge Road St. John's.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:** Regular \$28 / Life \$400 / Institutional \$28

**Donations 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 send this form 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.**

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