

Fall 2007

## The Newfoundland Historical Society

1905 - 2007



# Newsletter

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## President's Message

Hello NHS members and welcome to the 2007 fall season! On behalf of the executive I'd like to extend a warm thank you to Terry Bishop Stirling, who was President of the organization for the last three years. Terry volunteered to stay on an extra year beyond the original two year term and during that time worked tirelessly on several committees along with her regular duties as president. This fall she will remain a dedicated executive member but, as Past President, will finally get the opportunity to take a much deserved rest! As the fall season begins we also say farewell to a couple of long-serving members of the NHS executive, Jim Hiller and Fred Winsor. Both have given up countless hours of their time to volunteer on behalf of the executive and we wish them the best of luck in the future.

If you have been doing any traveling 'at home' this summer, it is likely that you will have noted the heavy presence of historically motivated work. The history of Newfoundland and Labrador has long provided a backdrop for music, art, literature and theatre. Over the past few years there has been a surge of indigenous works at theatre festivals province-wide. This summer I had the pleasure of seeing *The Garden Party* performed at Commissariat House. As direct participants in the play, the audience stumbles into the middle of a full fledged garden party taking place in the 1820s. Through a series of vignettes the audience weaves through the old house listening to the monologues of the domestics, the rantings of Patrick Morris who is desperate to have a few words with the Governor, and the heated exchange between Bishop Fleming and Governor Cochrane. Consider the historical resources that are utilized to research and create this type of work. *The Garden Party* began as an experiment to determine if visitation could be increased at a provincial historic site. However, this creative use of history employed several young performers for a summer season and allowed the public to access a piece of history in a very animated and enjoyable way.

Albeit a different medium, the NHS continues to play an important role in making history accessible to the public. Our new Program Chair, Larry Coady, and his committee have a wide variety of historical topics lined up for the fall and winter lecture series. There are also murmurs of a possible symposium that could once again take us outside the overpass to enjoy the colorful history of another region [funding permitting].

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies to Dianne O'Mara and the family and friends of John O'Mara on his sudden passing. I had the honor of working with John on a committee a few years ago and experienced firsthand his passion and commitment to the history and heritage of the province. He was a major contributor and valued member of the history community and will be sadly missed.

On a lighter note, I would like to extend best wishes to long-time NHS member Anne Budgell, who retired earlier this summer after a 34-year career with CBC. As the host of Radio Noon and Cross Talk, Anne has always been incredibly supportive by plugging our events on air and interviewing many of our speakers. Thanks for your support and we wish you all the best. See you all Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>!

*Melanie Martin, President*

## 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).

### Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email?

Would you like to help us reduce costs and receive your Newsletter by email? If so, just send a message to the office and let us know.

### New Editor for Newfoundland and Labrador Studies

Jeff Webb has now taken over from Jim Hiller as editor of this journal. Our appreciation goes to Jim for his years at the helm, and best wishes to Jeff in his new position. See [nlstudies@mun.ca](mailto:nlstudies@mun.ca) for subscription details and to order back numbers, or call 709-737-3453 or 2144.

### New Aspects Editor

Jeff Webb having moved on to other things (see above), Terry Bishop-Stirling has taken over the post of editor of Aspects, the NHS contribution to the Newfoundland Quarterly. Thanks to Terry for accepting this position; we know she will keep up the standard.

## Membership

The Membership Committee is made up of Fred Winsor, Rosemary Healy and Debby Andrews. Last year the Committee began sending out personalized reminders to NHS members with fees owing. This practice has worked as the number stands at 541 members.

Thank you to all of the members who paid their annual fee. If you haven't yet paid your annual fee please do so. 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, Chair, Membership Committee*

## Publications

The Publications Committee for the year 2007-2008 has not yet been finalized; details will be provided later. The main item on this front is of course the publication of the *Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador*, which is well advanced. The text is written and in the hands of the publisher, Boulder Publications of Portugal Cove. We look forward to seeing the volume soon.

## Program

The 2007-2008 lecture series is shaping up, with an interesting mix/range of speakers. The Committee is gratified by the willingness of individuals to participate when invited.

Through the fall the Committee will be busy planning a two-day symposium, tentatively set for May 2008. The Society has also been invited to co-sponsor a workshop with researchers at Memorial University - preliminary discussions took place in August.

The monthly lectures provide a great opportunity to learn more about the individuals and events that shaped Newfoundland and Labrador history. Mark your calendar (last Thursday of each month starting September) and bring a friend.

*Larry Coady, Chair, Program Committee*

### A Collector's Item!

The first occasional publication of *Newfoundland and Labrador Studies*, the proceedings of the symposium on *Newfoundland and the Entente Cordiale, 1904-2004* is now available. In addition to the papers presented at the symposium, it includes transcriptions of legislative debates in Newfoundland, Britain and France. Cost: \$20.00 +pp. For contact details, see column at left.

## **Program of Lectures, 2007-2008.**

### **Fall 2007**

Thursday 27 September at 8.00 pm, Hampton Hall, Marine Institute.

**Peter Armitage: *Nutakuanan – The Parable of Herman J. Koehler and his 1931 Disappearance***

Thursday 25 October at 8.00 pm at The Rooms. *(Please note the change of location)*

**Kevin O'Reilly: *A Postal History of Labrador Before Confederation***

Thursday 29 November 29 at 8.00 pm, Hampton Hall, Marine Institute.

**Ted Rowe: *High Tech and High Times – Life at the Heart's Content Cable Station 1866-1884***

### **Winter 2008**

Thursday 31 January

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Thursday 28 February 28 at 8.00 pm, Hampton Hall, Marine Institute.

**Keith Mercer: *Nursery of Seamen: Naval Impressment and the British-Newfoundland Fishery, 1699-1815***

Thursday 27 March at 8.00 pm, Hampton Hall, Marine Institute

**Raoul Andersen: *A New Schooner for the Captain from Newfoundland***

Thursday 24 April at 8.00 pm, Hampton Hall, Marine Institute.

**AGM and George Story Lecture (speaker and topic to be announced)**

May 2008: Annual Symposium - Details in the next Newsletter.



Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archives, Coll. 137 (The Geography Collection), image 29.01.018. View of an unidentified community, date unknown.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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**Membership Fees:** Regular \$28 / Life \$400 / Institutional \$24 / Student (no Quarterly) \$15 **Donations are always welcome!**

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