

Fall 2009

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The Newfoundland Historical Society 1905-2009



Newsletter

NHS West Coast Regional Representative: Sandra Wheeler

Sandra Wheeler was born and raised in Curling, one of the four communities including Townsite, Westside and Humbermouth which amalgamated in 1957 to form the City of Corner Brook. She graduated from Amalgamated Regional High School and started her working career as a secretary at Bowater's Pulp and Paper Limited in Corner Brook.

It was in 1995 while a graduate student in the Folklore Department at Memorial University of Newfoundland that Sandra was lured by then vice-president Linda White to become a west coast regional representative of the Newfoundland Historical Society. She and her husband Graham enjoy attending the various symposia sponsored by the Society throughout the province. In 2001, she chaired the committee which sponsored *Woodland Echoes: History of the Logging Industry in Western Newfoundland*.

Graduating from Memorial University in 1995 with a Master's degree in Folklore, Sandra has worked as a sessional lecturer at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College at Corner Brook. Then in June 2000, she joined Parks Canada Agency as a seasonal employee at the Discovery Centre in Gros Morne National Park. "I am fortunate to spend the summer months in a magnificent environment and to promote the history and culture of Newfoundland and Labrador to people from all over the world," she states.

Sandra has been working on a film about rughooking which profiles the Tableland Rughookers from the south side of Bonne Bay. In March 2009, she and Dale Jarvis, the Provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer, hosted *Tea with Hookers* at the Red Mantle Lodge in Shoal Brook. Attended by roughly 50 people consisting of residents from the south side of Bonne Bay, members of the Tableland Rughookers and Corner Brook's Marbellous Matters, this event saw Jarvis interview Florence Crocker, Trout River's most famous rughooker, and two of the founding members of Tableland Rughookers, Molly White and Rose Dewhirst. Just recently, the Tableland Rughookers held an exhibition of hooked heritage buildings at the Writers' Festival in the beautifully-restored Woody Point Heritage Theatre. "My involvement with the Newfoundland Historical Society has kept me grounded as a lover of Newfoundland and Labrador," Sandra reveals.



Sandra (r.) with Florence Crocker



Exhibition of hooked heritage buildings at Woody Point Heritage Theatre

2008-2009: An Excellent Year for the NHS!

Despite the economic turmoil around the world, the NHS succeeded in completing an excellent year.

- ✓ We had a fine series of public lectures, culminating in the splendid and well-attended panel discussion on our *Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador*, with a number of the contributors participating. We extend our thanks to all of our speakers over the past year: Derek Wilton, Whitney Lackenbauer, Jeff Webb, Allan Dwyer, James Feehan, Peter Pope, Terry Bishop-Stirling, and James Hiller.
- ✓ The Bartlett symposium was a resounding success, and much appreciated by the large crowds in attendance. Many thanks to all those who, under the remarkably efficient leadership of Joan Ritcey, contributed countless volunteer hours to bring this about.
- ✓ Our financial position is now much improved, due to careful attention to expenditures, efforts made on membership retention and growth, and an increase in government funding. While we still have a deficit of just over \$1,600 for the year, this is much improved over the previous year, and we hope to be in positive territory next year. Thanks to our Treasurer, Nancy Snedden, and the Executive for their stewardship.
- ✓ The publication of our *Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador* has been very well received, to the extent that the first printing is close to being sold out and has just been reprinted. This initiative has met a distinct need in the marketplace and proven to be a sound investment for the Society. Once again, our thanks go to the contributors, without whose generous support this would not have been possible.

There are times when it is entirely appropriate to celebrate our own successes, and this is one of them!

2009-2010 Lecture Series

Fall 2009

- 24 September:** Heather Gogacz-O'Brien - *Pre-Confederation Women Writers and Mythologies of Empire* (rescheduled from January due to weather conditions at the time).
- 29 October:** Allan Byrne - *Lee Wulff, Stanley Truman Brooks and the Newfoundland Tourist Development Board, 1925 to 1946*
- 26 November:** Derek Wilton - *A.P. Low's 1893-94 Expedition Through Labrador: A Tale of Iron and Irony* [Gilbert Higgins Lecture]

Winter 2010

- 28 January:** TBA
- 25 February:** Jessie Chisholm - *The Response of the FPU to the Sealing Disasters of 1914 – an Illustrated Presentation.*
- 25 March:** Susan Newhook – *The Grandchildren of Fogo: the Ripples of the Fogo Island Films of 1968.*
- 29 April:** Sandra Clarke – *Tracing our Linguistic Roots: Mapping Regional Diversity in Newfoundland and Labrador English* [George Story Lecture]

Lectures will be in Hampton Hall at the Marine Institute on Ridge Road at 8.00 p.m.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: *If the weather is bad, please consult the Storm Centre at cbc.ca/nl; cancellations will be announced there.*

The Bartlett Symposium

Our 20th symposium, Exploring Bob Bartlett: the Legacy of An Arctic Adventurer, was held on May 21-23, 2009. It was officially part of the provincial Celebrate Bartlett 2009 initiative, which runs under the auspices of the Historic Sites Association. Celebrate Bartlett is chaired by longtime NHS member Edward Roberts and was created to partner with heritage groups on events that fulfill their mandates while advancing public awareness of Captain Bob. The Bartlett symposium surpassed our expectations. Symposium organizers were gratified to hear nothing but compliments and rave reviews from those who attended the lectures and get together.

Joan Ritcey chaired the Symposium Committee for the NHS, supported by Terry Bishop-Stirling, Mekaela Mahoney, Victoria Barbour and Allan Byrne, with Catherine Dempsey, Jennifer Butt, Dean Williams and Jeannie House from the Historic Sites Association. There was also wonderful liaison and support from the Brigus Historical & Conservation Society through Luanne Leamon.

Thursday night's talk by Jennifer Niven at The Rooms, hosted by Greg Walsh of the Archives, saw over 220 people in attendance. The Friday night showing of film clips of Bob Bartlett, prepared and presented by Ted Blades and Victoria King, at Memorial University's Inco Centre, was equally stimulating and interesting. Thank you to both venues for participating in and supporting the symposium.

Saturday couldn't have been better - from the wonderful weather to the over 150 people who were fully engaged for the five sessions. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the use of the hall, and to the Rec. Centre for a venue for the dinner. All of the equipment worked (thanks to Joan's husband Klaus) and all of the presenters were interesting. The topics of the presentations flowed from one to the other. The buffet dinner was a huge hit, and a delicious and relaxing end to the event. Afterwards people dispersed homewards via the chartered bus and their cars, or to local homes and b&bs.

Thank you to the volunteers who opened up the Stone Barn Museum and Landfall for visits. And congratulations to the Brigus Historical and Conservation Society for their three new walking tour pamphlets, recently completed and offered to the symposium participants. All of the introductions, summations, and toasts measured up to the eloquence of the presentations. Thank you to Shane O'Dea and Clyde Wells for their "final words". Thanks to Parks Canada for covering the costs for Lyle Dick's attendance and the Canadian Coast Guard for Capt. John Broderick's attendance, and to the CBC for providing the expertise of both Ted Blades and Victoria King. Also, thanks to Willeen Keough and Joanna Kafarowski for flying in at their own expense, and Jennifer Niven and Maura Hanrahan for their valuable time. Finally, thank you to the audiences for making Exploring Bartlett so successful.

by Joan Ritcey

Memories of the Bartlett Symposium - Photos by Heidi Coombs



Catherine Dempsey at The Rooms



Melanie Martin, Joan Ritcey & Joanna Kafarowski at Brigus



Jennifer Niven at The Rooms



Maura Hanrahan at Brigus



The audience at Brigus



Lyle Dick at Brigus



24.01.003 Northern and Western railway, Hall's Bay Line, c. August 1893
 From the Geography Collection, Centre for Newfoundland Studies, Memorial University

We've moved!

The Colonial Building is currently undergoing extensive renovations, and we have had to move our office to room 904 of the 9th floor of the TD Building at the corner of Duckworth and Prescott Streets. However, our postal address, phone number and email remain the same. **Please be advised that due to space issues in our new location our Archives and Reading Room are closed to researchers until further notice.** We look forward to moving back in to the Colonial Building eventually, but that will not be for some time yet.

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Membership Fees: Regular \$28 / Life \$400 / Institutional \$24 / Student (no Quarterly) \$15 / Joint NHS-Heritage Canada Foundation \$50
Donations are always welcome!

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