

Spring 2005

The Newfoundland Historical Society



Newsletter

JUN 15 2005

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
NEWFOUNDLAND

EXECUTIVE 2005

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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

