

Spring 2006

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Fred Winsor

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**Questions, comments,  
letters to the Editor  
and membership  
inquiries may be  
addressed to:**

NHS Office

P.O. Box 23154

Churchill Square

St. John's, NL

A1B 4J9

(709) 722 3191

(709) 739 6458

email:

[nhs@nf.aibn.com](mailto:nhs@nf.aibn.com)

[www.infonet.stjohns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist](http://www.infonet.stjohns.nf.ca/providers/nfldhist)

# The Newfoundland Historical Society

1905 - 2006

## Newsletter



APR 24 2006

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

