

Spring 2009

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The Newfoundland Historical Society
1905-2009



Newsletter

Doug Wells, Harbour Breton's Citizen of the Year for 2008

The NHS has a number of regional representatives on its Executive Committee, and we thought that their activities deserve wider recognition, so we have decided to present a short article on each of them in upcoming Newsletters. We begin with Doug Wells, named by Harbour Breton as Citizen of the Year for 2008.

Doug is a retired high school social studies teacher who completed numerous successful heritage projects in his classes, receiving several awards of recognition along the way. He has been a member of the NHS for about 12 years. In 1992 he received the Provincial Teaching Excellence Award from the Department of Education, for his innovative and creative teaching of social studies courses. Doug has a love of local history and is continuously reading and researching local historical events. His slide show on the history of Harbour Breton is a hit with all groups who view it. He is involved with local and provincial heritage related groups and is often called upon to contribute to community projects related to history, heritage, culture, and tourism development in general. He has a special interest in the Sunny Cottage Heritage Centre in Harbour Breton, the Resettlement Room being his current project. Doug is also expected to play a lead role in the Newman & Co. exhibit planned for the Elliott Premises. In addition, Doug recognizes the tremendous tourism potential that Harbour Breton and the whole Coast of Bays region has as a definite tourist destination. He promotes the community and the region whenever he gets the chance. He has just finished writing a play on Ted Russell and his teaching days in Hr. Breton during the early 1920s, taking pains to make it historically accurate. One former summer student who had worked with Doug at the Sunny Cottage Heritage Centre wrote to him on hearing of his award: "I can't explain how happy I am that you have finally got something to show for all your hard work and dedication. You were an amazing teacher, a great historian, and you've done so much for your students and everyone else in the community. I would also like to thank you for everything you have done for Sunny Cottage, it is a part of my history and if it wasn't for you I would never have known where I came from. You're an amazing person who deserves this award more than anyone else."



Doug (right) receives his Citizen of the Year award from King Lion Lloyd Blake

2009 Symposium: *Exploring Bob Bartlett: The Legacy of an Arctic Adventurer* May 21-24, St. John's and Brigus

Please note that the program is still being finalized; the following is a draft version, and not all titles of papers are available at this point. Further details will be posted at www.infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/nfldhist as they become available.

There will be no charge for the lectures but tickets are available for three cost recovery elements: bus to and from Brigus: \$20; Lunch: \$15; Supper \$35. Please call the Historic Sites Association to book your tickets – 753-9262 or email: info@historicsites.ca

Thursday, May 21, 2009, The Rooms, St. John's. Opening lecture.

- 8 pm. Greetings from NHS president Melanie Martin and Provincial Archivist Greg Walsh.
- Introduction to Bob Bartlett by Catherine Dempsey, Executive Director of Historic Sites Association. Illustrated with photos.
- Lecture by Jennifer Niven, author of *The Ice Master* – overview of her research into the Karluk wreck and trek; with photos.
- Reception given by Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador

Friday, May 22, INCO Centre Theatre, St John's. *Bartlett on Film*.

- 8 pm. Greetings from Hon. Edward Roberts, Chair of *Celebrate Bartlett 2009*
- Introduction to the film clips, by CBC journalist Ted Blades
- A selection of moving images of Bob Bartlett from *The Viking*, and Pâthé newsreels.
- Reception.

Saturday, May 23.

- 9 am. Bus leaves Churchill Square, St. John's, for Knights of Columbus Hall, Brigus. Cost to passengers for round trip: \$20.

Saturday, May 23, Knights of Columbus Hall. Full day of lectures.

- Coffee/tea will be available as people enter and get settled. Programs and free copies of the Brigus Historical Society's "Brigus Walking Tour" handout will be available for attendees.
- 10:45-11:00. Greetings from Joan Ritcey, Chair of Historic Sites Association, and from Luanne Leamon, President of Brigus Historical Society.

Morning session. Session Chair: [TBA; The session Chairs will also introduce the speakers.]

- 11:00-11:40. Lyle Dick, Parks Canada historian, speaking on why the United States needed a hero like Peary at this time.
- 11:40-12:00. Questions.

- 12:00-1:30. Lunch: Soup and sandwich at K of C Hall. Cost to attendees: \$15.00. Greetings from Mayor of Brigus.

Afternoon session 1. Session Chair: [TBA]

- 1:30-2:10. Joanna Kafarowski, Ph.D., Research Affiliate, Canadian Circumpolar Institute, University of Alberta, on 'The Trouble With Women': Captain Bob and the 1941 Louise Arner Boyd Greenland Expedition.
- 2:10-2:50. Maura Hanrahan, Ph.D., Author, on the Bartlett family of Brigus.
- 2:50-3:00. Questions.
- 3:00-3:20. Coffee break.

Afternoon session 2. Session chair: [TBA]

- 3:20-4:00. Willen Keough, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of History, Simon Fraser University, on masculinity and seal hunting.
- 4:00-5:00. Capt. John Broderick, Master of Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker Henry Larsen, on conditions in the Arctic (navigation, ice, geography) and Bartlett's legacy, with photos/video.
- 5:00-5:15. Questions and housekeeping announcements.
- 5:15-- . Speaker's Corner. Attendees may hang out at the hall and chat with attendees and speakers until it's time to move to the United Church Academy Hall for supper.

6:00 pm. Supper at United Church Academy Hall. Cost is \$35 per person, with pre-purchased tickets. You may bring your own bottle of wine if you wish.

- Guests sit down at 6:30.
- Shane O'Dea will wrap up the symposium and provide some words of wisdom.
- Buffet supper by Skipper Ben's catering.
- Symposium concludes.

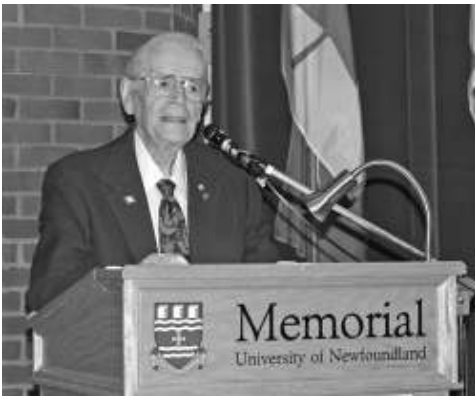
9:30 bus leaves United Church Hall for Churchill Square, St. John's.

Sunday, May 24, Brigus.

- Post-symposium Walking Tour of Brigus. Using the "Brigus walking Tour" handout, people can take their own tours of the town, including visits to Hawthorne Cottage and Landfall House.

Speakers from our Winter 2009 Lecture Series

In February 2009, the NHS was delighted to present the inaugural Gilbert Higgins Lecture. This event, now to become an annual feature of our programme, was hosted in collaboration with the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANL) and the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA). It honours the memory of a long-time, very active and much-missed historian and member of our association.



Above: Paul O'Neill gave a short presentation on his recollections of Gilbert Higgins.



Right: Allan Dwyer giving the inaugural lecture, *British Imperial Identity and the Newfoundland Irish Threat, 1740 – 1800*.



Left: Jim Feehan, who delivered the March lecture on the very topical subject *Smallwood, Pearson, and the Power Corridor Through Quebec*

Notes in brief:

Congratulations to Joan Ritcey on assuming the role of Chair of the Historic Sites Association!

Copies of the NHS *Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador* may be ordered from the NHS office (see p. 1) at \$19.95 each to non-members, 20% less to members.

Have you seen what *Newfoundland and Labrador Studies* has been doing lately? Go to <http://www.mun.ca/nls/>.

George Story Lecture, 30 April 2009

George Story was devoted to the preservation of the history and culture of Newfoundland and Labrador, and we believe it is very appropriate to honour his memory this year with a panel discussion of our recently-published book, *A Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador*. We will have a panel consisting of several of the authors – James Hiller, Peter Pope, Jeff Webb, and Terry Bishop-Stirling – who will speak briefly about their section of the book, focusing especially on areas of dispute or controversy. There will of course be ample opportunity for audience participation.

As usual, this event will be preceded by our AGM, which we pride ourselves on keeping to about 10 minutes.

Fall 2009 Lecture Series

This series is still being finalized, but we are pleased to announce the first two lectures.

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*

Sessions will be at Hampton Hall, Marine Institute, at 8.00 p.m.

if you should ever find yourself wondering whether a lecture is going ahead or not because of inclement weather, please consult the cbc.ca/nl website, which has a STORM CENTRE; any cancellations will be announced there.

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