

Winter 2011

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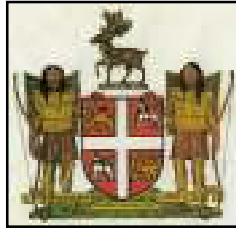
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The Newfoundland Historical Society 1905-2011



Newsletter

The Placentia Area Historical Society

The origins of the Placentia Area Historical Society reach back to 1937 when its precursor, the Ancient Capital Historical Society, was founded by individuals in the community. Close to thirty years later, in 1971, the Society revitalized itself and the newly organized Placentia Area Historical Society (PAHS) was born. With its gain in momentum, in the following year, the Placentia Area Historical Society was incorporated.

PAHS is presently managed by a nine-person board of directors but there are usually a few additional regular members. Ex-officio members are also appointed to the board to represent the Town of Placentia and Castle Hill National Historic Site. The current officers are: President Thomas O'Keefe, Vice-President Christopher Newhook, Secretary Elizabeth MacDonald and Treasurer Cyril Bambrick

The main activity of PAHS is operating and maintaining the O'Reilly House museum. Originally called "Brefery House" this Balustrade Queen Anne Victorian house was built in 1902 by W. J. Ellis for the William O'Reilly family of Placentia. William O'Reilly was the Magistrate from 1897 to 1923. After he completed his tenure, the O'Reilly House served as a home to the Magistrates of Placentia until the 1970s. Displays now in this museum include: ancient Basque headstones, gifts from an English king to Placentia, period furniture, a resettlement display and more.

In addition to the museum, the Society promotes the history of the region through the collection and digitization of historical information and makes it available through the local public library. It also operates tours of the town and welcomes school visits. Most activities go on in summer, but school visits are sometimes accommodated in the fall and spring. PAHS also encourages and supports the archaeology digs that are ongoing in the community as well as other activities to promote Placentia's history.



PAHS President Tom O'Keefe



Tea party at the O'Reilly House

A special summer event for PAHS is the Annual Tea Party and presentation of heritage awards. At this outdoor event, people dress in period costume and enjoy the entertainment and refreshments provided as awards are presented. Each year the Society selects up to three people to receive heritage awards for their support of history and the PAHS during the previous year. The award is recognized with an attractive period wood-framed certificate which is presented to the recipients. Other events include a "Speaker Series", held at various locations around the community in fall and winter, and participation in "Doors Open Newfoundland and Labrador" during August.

This year the Placentia Area Historical Society was given an extra presence with the launch of its new website at www.placentiahistory.ca. It is a wonderful place to go for more information.

Tom O'Keefe

DISCOVERIES CONTINUE AT CUPIDS

Ten graves have now been found at the Cupids excavation. Another recent find is a 17th-century gun platform near the defensive wall. For details and photographs, see <http://www.baccalieudigs.ca/discoveries.asp>.

OCCUPIED ST JOHN'S: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF A CITY AT WAR, 1939-1945

This handsome and richly illustrated volume, edited by Steven High and published by McGill-Queens, with contributions from Christopher Sharpe and A.J. Shawyer, Paul Collins, Barbara Lorenzkowski, Stephen High, Jeff Webb, Gillian Poulter and Douglas Baldwin, Ken Coates and William Morrison, is now available in bookstores. Suzanne Morton of McGill's department of history has written: "This original and highly readable study of an international city at war greatly expands what we know about the home front during the Second World War as well as Canada-Newfoundland relations. It will no doubt fascinate anyone interested in Newfoundland, the Second World War, as well as Canadian veterans, and their families." Great winter reading.

Winter 2011 Lecture Series

- 27 January:** Mekaela Mahoney, *A Reflection of Ourselves: Nationalistic Theatre in Newfoundland, 1965 – 1983*.
- 24 February:** Carolyn Lambert, *Born on the Wrong Side of the Water: Newfoundland Nativism in the Nineteenth Century*.
- 31 March:** Peter Armitage, *From Uapamekushtu to Tshakashkue matshiteuieau: Place Names, History and the Labrador Innu*.
- 28 April:** Story Lecture and AGM: speaker to be announced later.

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

Weather cancellations: if the weather is bad, please consult the Storm Centre at cbc.ca/nl; cancellations will be announced there.

Note: the Program Committee is currently planning the Fall 2011/Winter 2012 lecture series and would welcome your input. If you have any suggestions to make, please send them to the Chair of that committee, Heidi Coombs-Thorne, via the NHS office.

CUPIDS SYMPOSIUM

The 2010 symposium, *Faire Woodes and Freshe Rivers: Settling Cupids 1610-2010*, organized jointly by the NHS and the Cupids Historical Society and held on 24-25 September (replacing the September public lecture), was a great success. It began with Peter Pope's presentation at The Rooms in St. John's on the Friday evening, continued with a full day of activities in Cupids on the Saturday, including presentations from William Gilbert, Gordon Handcock, Chesley Sanger, Laurie McLean, Robert Cuff, Philip Hiscock, and Hans Rollman, and closed with a much-enjoyed banquet in the evening with an address by Patrick O'Flaherty. Attendance was good, and all of the feedback was very positive. When the 500th anniversary of the founding of the first English settlement in North America comes around in 2110, the organizers can look at this and try to pick out who is who.



WE ARE MOVING AGAIN!

As a result of a change in ownership of Elizabeth Towers, we are moving offices again at the end of this month. Details will be announced when they are available.

Speakers at our Fall 2010 meetings



Bruce Ryan, our October lecturer, who spoke on Newfoundland's Pre-Confederation Mining History as Captured in Postage Stamps, Picture Postcards, Stock Certificates and Other Ephemera



The guest for November, the Gilbert Higgins lecture, co-sponsored by MANL, ANLA and the NHS, was Christopher Pratt, who spoke on the 30th anniversary of the "new" provincial flag. Seen here with Stephanie Harlick, President of ANLA.



View of Placentia showing Mount Pleasant, pre-1901. Photographer: Holloway. Centre for Newfoundland Studies, M.U.N., Geography Collection, ref. 8.01.001.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

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Membership Fees: Regular or Institutional \$35 / Life \$400 / Joint NHS-Heritage Canada Foundation \$50

Note: As announced at our AGM, we have had to increase regular membership to meet rising costs; however, our fees still compare favourably to those of similar organizations. In addition, instead of running from January to December, memberships are now valid for 12 mos. from the date of payment of the fee. Your expiry date will appear at the bottom left of your mailing label; the figures on the bottom right are a mailing code.

Donations are always welcome! And remember that memberships make great gifts; gift cards are available from the NHS office.

- Would you like to save paper and receive our Newsletter electronically (in colour)?
- Would you like to be added to our list to be notified of upcoming events?
- Would you like to be removed from the list of those receiving notification of upcoming events?

Please check the relevant box(es).

Fee _____ Donation _____ Total _____

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Signature _____

Payment may be made by VISA, cheque or money order to the Newfoundland Historical Society. Please send this form with your payment to the address on the front page. US subscribers please pay in US funds to cover postage. International subscribers please pay 18 pounds sterling or Canadian equivalent.

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