



The Killick

Newsletter of the Torbay Heritage Committee

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Manning Award “comes home” to Torbay

In 1993 the Historic Sites Association created the annual Manning Award for Excellence in the Public Presentation of Historic places in order to recognize and encourage the fine work being done by heritage groups. This award honours the late Bill Manning, Torbay's first mayor and former

Parks Canada Superintendent of Historic Sites for Newfoundland and Labrador, who realized that the preservation and presentation of our heritage needs community level involvement. The Manning Award is a fitting tribute to this man and his achievements and is under the distinguished patronage of His Honour, the

Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.

At an awards ceremony on March 11, 2003 the Torbay Heritage Committee proudly accepted a Manning Award in the community category in recognition of its work with Torbay Museum and special heritage projects. Lara Maynard, who is in her

second term as president of the Torbay Heritage Committee, says, “Receiving this award is an honour for any organization, but it's extra special for us because of the connection with our community. It's also a lovely boost for our volunteers who work so hard at making the most of our resources.”

Torbay Heritage sends women into cyberspace

On May 18, 2003 the Torbay Heritage Committee was glad to host the official Atlantic Canadian launch of the Community Memories section of the Virtual Museum of Canada. The Virtual Museum is Canada's national museum on the Internet at www.virtualmuseum.ca.

The people at the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) thought that there should be a special section of the Virtual Museum where community-based museums could share their collections and stories. They worked on computer software that would help the staff and volunteers of small museums or heritage groups to put together exhibits that could be shown on the Virtual Museum, and picked Newfoundland and Labrador as the place to try out the

software.

The Torbay Heritage Committee was fortunate to be one of the groups chosen to participate in the Community Memories pilot project, testing the software by designing an exhibit with it. We chose as our topic the history of our community's volunteer women's groups. This was because the Girl Guides, Anglican Church Women and Catholic Women's League had laid out information, photos and documents into photo albums or scrapbooks which were deposited at Torbay Museum as a Women's History Month project during International Year of Volunteers 2001. Now those records are part of the Virtual Museum's Community Memories Section.

When all the pilot projects See Provincial, page 2



Torbay Heritage Committee Chair Lara Maynard speaks at the launch of the Community Memories section of the Virtual Museum of Canada .

Flea market fund-raiser

You're invited to this year's Torbay Museum/Library Flea Market, Bake and Book Sale on Saturday, August 16, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kinsmen Community Centre on Bauline Line. Members of the Torbay

Heritage Committee will also be on hand selling lots of homemade yummy treats and cool drinks. Admission is only 25 cents. There'll be tonnes of great deals so be sure to support our annual fund-raiser.

We're planning for posterity

The Torbay Heritage Committee is grateful to the Association of Heritage Industries (AHI) who chose us to help them develop their Heritage Planning Guide for Natural

and Cultural Projects. The AHI's coordinator, Jerry Dick, helped us through some of the process of making plans for the future of Torbay Heritage Committee and Torbay Museum.

And we're keen on seeing AHI's new Heritage Planning Guide supplement, which is being developed in response to the many municipalities in Newfoundland and Labrador interested in protecting and developing their heritage

resources.

If you have any suggestions or concerns about the preservation and promotion of our community's heritage that you think we should address, please contact us. You can call the Torbay Museum at 437-6532, ext. 308, or send an email to Curator Jerri Pellegrinetti at museum@town.torbay.nf.ca or the Torbay Heritage Committee at torbayheritage@nfmail.net.



Chris Mahon and Jessica Decker sell Torbay Heritage balloons at the Hillside Festival last month.

We're on the Killick Coast

Our regional tourism organization, the Killick Coast Tourism Association is working to promote Torbay, Bell Island, Flatrock, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Pouch Cove and Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove as visitor destinations. Deputy Mayor Peggy Roche chairs the association, and Torbay's other representative is Lara Maynard.

Keep an eye out for Killick Coast brochures this summer,

containing information about area attractions – and be a tourist in your own neighbourhood! Most of the towns of the Killick Coast have community museums, including Torbay's museum, which is open at the town hall on weekdays from 9am-4pm, and also Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm-8:30pm during the summer. Call the museum at 437-6532, extension 308 for more information.

Provincial groups represented

Continued from 1

in the province were done, CHIN staff members from Quebec and representatives of other heritage groups in our province, were among the

crowd gathered in the council chambers in Torbay to celebrate the launch of Community Memories. It went very well, thanks to the volunteers and town staff who helped.

Fall elections

The Torbay Heritage Committee held its fall executive elections October 16, 2002. President Lara Maynard and Vice President Jeff Green were re-elected. Treasurer Cathy Boylan will share her duties with co-treasurer Jim Eustace and Brian White was elected Secretary. Other committee members include: Lynda Lalonde, Tish O'Brien, Anna Piercey, Cal Patey, Eleanor Robson, Leo Ryan, councillor Pam Evans

and Torbay Museum Curator Jerri Pellegrinetti. This past year, our group also welcomed new members Laurie Dempster and Bernadette Parsons. If you're interested in helping preserve Torbay's heritage or want to find out more about our group, give Jerri a call at: 437-6532, ext. 308 or e-mail torbayheritage@nfmail.net or drop by our next committee meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. upstairs in Liddy's.

Web site wins local award

The Torbay Heritage Committee's Web site (<http://torbay.museum.tripod.com>) has been nominated as a Port of Call site and is now in the running for the Downhomer's second annual Top Newfoundland and Labrador web sites feature.

"Web sites nominated by

the Web public and selected by the editors of Downhomer magazine are listed in Downhomer.com Port of Call. They are chosen for their overall quality, including visual and editorial content, and their popularity with the Web public."

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Featured artifacts: Greeting cards

Sending greeting cards is a tradition that goes back about two centuries. They were mainly sent by the elite during the first half of the nineteenth century, but gained mass popularity with the introduction of the first postage stamp in 1840 and advances in printing technology.

The oldest known greeting card is a Valentine from the 1400's in the British Museum. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, when lovers said or sang their Valentines. Written Valentines began to appear after 1400. Handmade paper Valentines were especially popular in England. In the mid to early 1800's, Valentines began to be assembled in

factories.

Greeting cards gained their highest popularity in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Victorian age give us the most prolific cards. Publishers used embossing techniques, glitter, ribbon and interesting artwork.

The development of post-cards is connected to many of the same postal and technological advances as greeting cards. Prior to postcards, there were lithograph prints, woodcuts, broadsides and envelopes printed with pictures. The period 1907 to 1915 is considered the "Golden Age" of postcards, when Germany especially produced good quality cards, and the post-card hobby took off. WWII helped put the brakes on that, and during the war years the telephone replaced much writing.

Today deltiology, collect-



"Look Ma! that old cow has got some fine calves!" exclaims the boy in this 1915 colour cartoon postcard from the Torbay Museum.

ing postcards, is the third most popular collectible hobby in the world, after stamp and coin collecting. It's easy to understand the allure of beautiful antique greeting cards and postcards. Torbay Museum has a wonderful collection of them, donated by Joe Tilley in memory of his aunt. These cards range from 1909 to 1938 and include birthday, Valentines, Christmas, New Year's

and sympathy cards. Their designs are floral, gold-foiled, embossed, or hand-coloured. Some are photographic and show sites in Newfoundland, Labrador, Ontario and the US and Europe. Some have cartoons, others have poetry or religious phrases. They are variously funny, maudlin, touching, and beautiful, and each one is a little piece of illustrated, printed history.

Students at work

Two of our summer students, Jessica Decker and Dawn Lambert, are interviewing residents about day-to-day Torbay history. If you have something to share, please call Torbay Museum at 437-6532, extension 308. The girls would love to meet you. We'd also like to get copies of documents, photos and family history information. Also, Andrew Dickson is helping us again with our newsletter and Web site. If you have memories or images to share for these publications, we'd be happy to have them!

Committee lectures at school

President Lara Maynard and Vice President Jeff Green organized individual guest lectures this past year at Holy

Trinity Regional High. They were invited attend a Folk Literature class taught by Linda Budgell where they provided

students with pointers on interviewing, using technology to preserve heritage, photography and folk songs.

Old Photos wanted

- The Gully
- North Side School, inside and outside
- Convent, inside and outside
- Convent School, inside and outside
- Old Anglican School, inside and outside
- Wedding photos, inside and outside
- Old School photos, inside and outside
- Wedding photos (1930's and 1940's)
- Garden parties
- Club Commodore, inside and outside
- Old photos of the beach
- Old cars in Torbay
- War photos
- Regatta photos
- Farming
- Photos of the old church in Torbay
- Photos of the Presentation Sisters in Torbay

Caring for paper documents and newspaper clippings

Almost everyone has paper documents (old school drawings, old deeds, yellowed newspaper clippings, etc.) they want to keep as mementos. The key to preserving these family treasures lies in proper handling and storage.

Early paper was handmade from a variety of plant fibres (e.g. flax, hemp, and cotton), and it is generally quite durable. When machine-made paper was introduced in the 1840s, wood became the most common ingredient. Wood was inexpensive, and easy to use, but wood pulp paper is susceptible to yellowing and embrittlement over time. Newspaper is particularly unstable due to the large percentage of acidic ground wood pulp in the manufacturing process.

Causes of Damage

Papers made from wood fibres are vulnerable to heat, light, dampness, and airborne pollutants, all of which can speed up the chemical reactions that weaken the paper and cause it to discolour and become brittle. Dampness promotes the growth of mould and mildew,

and can attract insect pests.

Light (especially fluorescent light and sunlight) promotes chemical degradation and may fade many inks. Light exposure from repeated photocopying, scanning, and flash photography can cause additional damage.

Frequent or careless handling can lead to tears, folds, creases, and abrasions. The oil from human hands can stain or transfer dirt to the surface of paper.

Lamination can be harmful. In addition to the damage caused by the heat and adhesives used in the lamination process, many plastics will turn yellow, become brittle, and produce acids that attack paper.

Handling

Wear clean white cotton gloves when handling old documents, and be very careful because these gloves will likely reduce dexterity. Alternatively, wash and dry hands immediately before handling objects. Carry vulnerable papers on a slightly larger support such as a folder.

Storage systems should be designed to safeguard documents while in storage and to

minimize their handling. They should provide protection from light, dust, and physical damage, and keep papers separated from each other with individual folders, window mats, Mylar envelopes, or tissue interleaving. Any paper products in physical contact with valuable documents should be plain white and acid-free. A number of segregated documents can then be placed within a rigid storage box made from polyethylene, polypropylene, or acid-free cardboard. Suitable storage materials may be available at art supply stores, framing shops, conservation suppliers, and some stationery or photocopy outlets.

When filling storage boxes, don't over-stuff them. When partially full containers are stored vertically, ensure that documents are not allowed to slump. Store fragile papers, such as newsprint or damaged items, horizontally. Do not store important papers in the attic, basement, or garage (environments that are generally too humid).

Do not use tape, glue, pa-

per clips, or staples on valuable papers. The damage caused by these items over time is difficult, if not impossible, to repair. Avoid eating, drinking, or smoking around important documents, and be aware of other potential dangers, e.g. ballpoint pens rarely leak but it would still be safer to use a pencil near these items.

Consider making photocopies or digital copies of papers so that the originals do not have to be handled often. Although copying requires a short exposure to intense light, it will allow the originals to be kept safely in dark storage thereafter and may be beneficial in the long run.

Another option is to mat and frame old documents. Request that the framer use starch paste hinges and acid-free mats, and make sure that the document is not touching the glass in the frame. If the framed document is to be displayed, conservation glass that filters most harmful UV light is available from better framers.

Adapted from the Preserving My Heritage Web Site at <http://www.preservation.gc.ca>



Women from the Torbay Women's Institute helped make the Community Memories launch event special by donning period costumes. From left to right, Mary Codnor, Lucy Cole, and Joyce Manning.



Museum Curator Jerrri Pellegrinetti (right) greets visitors during the Community Memories launch event.