



Trinity Historical Society

2024 Annual Report

January 29th, 2025

Executive Summary

- The Trinity Historical Society (THS) operates the Trinity Museum, Trinity Historical Society Archives and Office located on the third floor of the Lester-Garland House (LGH), the Green Family Forge (GFF), the Lester-Garland House Museum, the Courthouse, the Cooperage, and Fort Point.
- THS owns the Trinity Museum, the Green Family Forge and the Courthouse. We have lease agreements with the Provincial Government for the Lester-Garland House and the Cooperage. Our Methodist School Building lease expired in October 2023. The Government issued a request for proposal (RFP). We could not identify a use for the building within the terms of the RFP and did not submit a proposal. The Fort Point site is owned by the Town of Trinity.
- In 2024 we employed 4 workers full time, 4 seasonal workers, and 9 summer students.
- A 2024 season debrief and planning session was held in October.
- A written Operations Plan and Budget for 2025 was completed in December 2024.
- Monthly staff activity reports were continued
- Letters were submitted to various politicians in an effort to reverse the discontinuation of the Federal Supported Employment Program which will defund the wage support for Kyle Hurdle, our Maintenance Person.
- Photocopying and printing services were offered at competitive prices.
- Office space and the Exhibit Room at LGH were offered for rent.

- Admission fees were increased.
- A fundraiser lottery was held in July.
- A music fundraiser was held at Rocky's Place on July 13th, 2024 in cooperation with Corey Jones.
- The Trinity Chocolate Company continued to occupy the entire space at the Courthouse. The lease was renegotiated in 2024 for five years, and the rent increased.
- Lester-Garland Gift Shop sales were maintained in 2024 despite a decrease in the number of visitors.
- Sharon Jeans and Jim Miller attended the Thriving Non-Profits Cohort Program.
- The THS External Financial Review for 2023 was completed in 2024.
- THS membership increased to 184 members.
- The Board proposed an amendment to the bylaws that would omit the requirement for Board approval of applicants. This amendment was approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January 2024.
- A third blacksmith, Kyle Downey, started work at the Green Family Forge.
- A one-day Blacksmith Experience was introduced in 2024. Two sessions were held and were well received.
- Repairs to the south wall of the Forge had to be postponed as we did not have the funds for this repair.
- The historic bellows at the Forge was restored.
- We established a cost centre for the Forge and undertook a review of operations and a product profitability analysis.
- A Medical History Symposium was planned for May 2024 but had to be cancelled due to low registration.
- A Land Acknowledgement Statement for THS was developed.
- A Trinity Historical Society Anniversary Logo was launched.

- We continued to publish the monthly Mail Chimp and Memorial Newsletters.
- The Trinity Bight Enterprise was published once a month.
- Repairs and repainting of the interior of the LGH had to be postponed. We secured funding from the Community Enhancement Employment Program but were unable to find workers.
- Digitization of our archives had to be postponed as we were unable to secure funding for this project.
- Refurbishment of the Trinity Museum had to be postponed as we were unable to secure funding.
- Fundraising for a statue to commemorate Rev. Dr. John Clinch’s administration of the first vaccination in the New World in Trinity in 1798 was continued.
- THS submitted an application to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame to nominate John Clinch for membership in this organization.
- THS obtained sketches of our proposed buildings in the Waterfront Redevelopment. No further interaction was taken with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation in 2024.
- The new Walters Point Extension of the Lower Gun Hill Hiking Trail was further improved. Topographical maps were added to both entrances of the trail. Storyboards telling the local history are still required.
- THS continued to advocate for a map of Trinity featuring historic sites and businesses to be erected by the Council, and for an app with this information once adequate cell service can be established. We have also advocated for an “Events Tab” on the Town website.
- A concrete foundation for the display of the Trinity Trust Bell was created next to the LGH.
- A Summer Seminar Series (8 evening seminars) was hosted.
- Two fall author readings were hosted in cooperation with Breakwater Books.
- THS held memorial ceremonies at the War Monument in Trinity on July 1st and November 11th, 2024.
- A proposal to refresh the anchors and cannon in front of the courthouse was developed.

- A 60th Anniversary Launch and Business Community Luncheon was held at the LGH on June 13th, 2024.
- The Pen Pal Program at Bishop White School was continued.
- The auction in the garden of the museum was held on August 16th, 2024.
- THS hosted a garden tour of Trinity in August.
- The THS Golf Tournament was held on September 21th, 2024.
- An exhibit of the art of Frank LaPointe was hosted at the Lester-Garland House in July and August.
- A not-for-profit moose license was obtained.
- THS participated in the Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair in November.
- A Founder's Plaque/Storyboard was developed.
- THS participated in a committee struck to work with the Catholic Church with regard to the future of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity located in Trinity.
- On behalf of THS, Kevin Toope and Ian Morris presented "Preservation, Presentation, and Promotion of Trinity and its History" at The Rooms, on June 6th, 2024.
- Kevin Toope presented our experience with the Adopt a Headstone Project to the Heart's Content Historical Society on November 21st, 2024.
- The third annual Loyal Trinity Volunteer Ranger Award was presented to Frank LaPointe at the auction in August.
- The Trinity Historical Society Rupert Morris Memorial Scholarship was presented in December 2024 to Robert Stanley.
- THS was awarded one of the inaugural Premier's Medals for Arts, Heritage, Sports, and Recreation for our contribution to Heritage.

Introduction

This past year has been another challenging one for THS. The number of visitors to our facilities was decreased as compared to 2023 and funding from Government sources was also decreased. We opened for the season on June 3rd as compared to May 19th, 2023, and closed on October 6th. The later opening date was chosen to reduce labour costs. Anticipated lower admission numbers and giftshop sales did not warrant an earlier opening date.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in January 2024. The Board decided to hold the 2024 Annual General Meeting in January again this year.

Operations

The THS operates the Trinity Museum, Trinity Historical Society Archives and Office located on the third floor of the Lester-Garland House, the Green Family Forge, the Lester-Garland House, the Courthouse, the Cooperage, and the Fort Point Interpretation Centre.



We own the Trinity Museum, the Green Family Forge, and the Courthouse.

The Methodist School House is a Provincial Historic Site that we leased for educational programming and exhibits. This lease expired in October 2023. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Provincial Historic Sites issued a request for proposals (RFP) for this building during the winter of 2024. This building has no electric lighting and no bathroom facilities. Possible uses are therefore limited. We were unable to identify suitable utilization within the terms of the RFP and therefore did not submit a proposal. The building was not open in 2024. The Lester-Garland House and the Cooperage are built on Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Historic Sites land and are leased to THS. Although THS

was instrumental in the fundraising to build these structures, the lease agreement states that if THS ceases operations, the buildings revert to the Government of NL. These leases are for 50 years and have been in place since 1996 for the Lester -Garland House and 2006 for the Cooperage. We are responsible for the operation and upkeep of these buildings. We are not charged a rental fee.

The Interpretation Centre Building and the trails located at Fort Point are owned by the Town of Trinity but maintained by THS. The Town acquired these assets when the Government of Canada downsized, but the Town could not access funding to get the building repaired and restored. THS could access funding through a Canadian Heritage Program at that time. The building was restored, trails around the site were repaired and enhanced, and trail signage completed in 2012. The town and THS agreed that THS would operate the Interpretation Centre at the site and it continues to do so. The Town maintains the road to the site. The archaeological resources in the ground at Fort Point including those on display in the building are owned by the Provincial Government. The Government of Canada owns the current lighthouse keeper's house, the gate/entry area, and has a right of access on the path to the actual lighthouse to ensure its proper operation. The Government of Canada is responsible for maintenance of the lighthouse keeper's house and the light itself.

During 2024, we employed four full time staff, Jim Miller, Dean Bailey, Daphne Clarke, and Kyle Hurdle. Kyle's income is mostly funded through a grant from the Ability Employment Corporation. As a cost saving measure, Daphne and Dean's work week was reduced to 15 hours per week from January 1st to May 20th, 2024 for Daphne, and January 1st to June 3rd for Dean. They both reduced their hours again to 15 hours per week on October 18th, 2024, until December 31st. Kyle Hurdle reduced his hours to 20 hours per week from January 1st until March 29th, 2024. He returned to work at 40 hours/week from May 6th until November 1st, when he again reduced his hours to 20 hr/week. Jim also reduced his work week from 40 hours per week to 35 from January 1st to May 3rd and again from November 1st to December 31st in 2024.

In 2024, we employed three blacksmiths, Wade Ivany, Devin Hookey, and Kyle Downey. The blacksmiths started work on April 29th. Devin Hookey was laid off on October 11th and Wade Ivany on September 12th. Kyle Downey was laid off on November 1st. The Forge was open to visitors and Forge products were sold there as well as at the Lester-Garland Gift Shop (LGG). Linda Ballett continued her seasonal employment as our Museum Supervisor. We did not have the services of a cooper in 2024 and continued to staff the cooperage with summer students. We employed 9 summer students in 2024 as compared to 11 students the previous year. This decrease in the number of summer students had a negative impact on our ability to staff our various sites. The Lester-Garland House was open for tours and the Gift Shop was operational.

We had 7,292 visitors at the Lester-Garland House in 2024 as compared to 7,563 in 2023 and 8,374 in 2022, a 13% reduction over three seasons. These numbers include visitors to the Lester-Garland Gift Shop (unpaid admission) and the Lester-Garland House. There were 5,796 visitors to the LGH in 2019 before the Pandemic.

The Green Family Forge had 1,882 visitors in 2024 as compared to 1,927 visitors in 2023, and 1,943 visitors in 2022, again a year over year decline. The Forge had 2,824 visitors in 2019 before

the Pandemic.

At Fort Point we had 530 visitors in 2024 as compared to 729 visitors in 2023, and 897 visitors in 2022. The Fort had 428 visitors in 2019 before the Pandemic and peaked at 920 visitors in 2020. Attracting visitors to Fort Point has been a challenge.

The Cooperage had 1,147 visitors in 2024 as compared to 1,223 visitors in 2023 and 2,695 in 2022. We had the services of a Cooper in 2022 but had to staff the Cooperage with students in 2023 and 2024. There were 601 visitors to the Cooperage in 2021, 497 in 2020 (Covid years) and 1,487 in 2019. We had a cooper on staff in 2019. The presence of a cooper definitely attracts visitors to the Cooperage. We will continue to explore options for the future operation of the Cooperage which would include recruitment of a skilled cooper and other alternatives such as an artist (cooper) in residence program.

The Trinity Museum had 1,122 visitors in 2024 as compared to 1,158 visitors in 2023 and 1,202 in 2022. The Museum was closed in 2021 and 2020 during the pandemic due to the confined spaces and multiple touch points. There were 1,620 visitors in 2019. There has been a year over year decline in the number of visitors and this may reflect the decreased appeal of a static museum.

As detailed above, the number of visitors to each of our sites has decreased year over year since 2022. This downward trend is concerning. We understand from verbal communication that other businesses in Trinity Bight and the Bonavista Peninsula have also experienced a decrease in visitation. It is imperative that we make our experiences and products as attractive as possible, and market effectively, if we are to reverse this trend. The Board and staff are working diligently on this and will continue to do so in 2025.

Governance

The Board of Directors of the THS is composed of seven individuals elected from the membership and the Past President. At the start of 2024, the members of the Board were:

Ian Morris, President
Kevin Toope, Vice President
Maurice Devine, Treasurer
Sharon Jeans, Secretary
Michele DuRand, Director
Kris Drodge, Director
Pam Sullivan, Director

As per the Bylaws of the Society three Director positions (Pam Sullivan, Kevin Toope, and Sharon Jeans) were up for election at the AGM on January 29th, 2024. Pam Sullivan decided to step down from the Board and did not reoffer for re-election. Three nominations were received: Sharon

Jeans, Kevin Toope, and Amanda Mitchell. These individuals were acclaimed. These positions are for a two-year term.

The new board then consisted of:

Kevin Toope
Ian Morris
Kris Drodge
Maurice Devine
Sharon Jeans
Amanda Mitchell
Michele DuRand

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held on February 5th, 2024, at which the nomination of officers was held. Nominations were for President: Ian Morris; Vice President: Kevin Toope; Secretary: Sharon Jeans; and Treasurer: Maurice Devine. There were no other nominations and all four officers were acclaimed.

The new officers were:

President: Ian Morris
Vice President: Kevin Toope
Treasurer: Maurice Devine
Secretary: Sharon Jeans

Jim Miller is the General Manager of THS.

Mission Statement

In 2023 the Board of Directors developed a mission statement for Trinity Historical Society to guide the development of plans for the future and to ensure activities undertaken reflect the organizational goals and objectives of the Society. This mission statement was approved at the Board meeting of March 16th, 2023, and is:

To preserve, present, and promote the built and cultural heritage of Trinity and area.

Application for THS membership as defined in the bylaws.

The Bylaws of THS were amended at the AGM of January 29th, 2024 as outlined below.

The pre-existing bylaws of THS required an application for membership to be approved by the Board of Directors. Everyone who had applied for membership for many years had been accepted. The Board questioned whether approval by the Board was necessary and agreed that all who apply for membership should be automatically accepted.

At the Board of Directors meeting of July 20th, 2023, a motion was passed to change the bylaws as follows:

in Article 3.1, delete “*and whose application for admission as a member has been approved by the Board of Directors*” and,

in Article 3.3, change the word “*Application*” to “*Submission*” and,

in Article 3.3 (a) change the word “*applicant*” to “*individuals*” and,

delete 3.3 (b) entirely.

The pre-existing bylaw was:

ARTICLE 3 -MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Entitlement. Membership in THS shall be available to individuals who have a continuing commitment to furthering the objectives and participation in the activities of THS, including its administration and program delivery, and whose application for admission as a Member has been approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may also adopt membership rules providing, among other things, for the admission of Members, membership fees and the benefits and privileges accorded to each class of membership.

3.3 Application for Membership.

(a) *Application.* Applicants may seek membership in THS by making application in accordance with directions and procedures established by the Board of Directors or a Committee appointed by it.

(b) *Approval.* The Board of Directors or a Committee appointed by it, shall review applications for membership. Approval if given will be at the discretion of the Board.

The existing bylaw as amended at the AGM of January 29th, 2024 is:

3.1 Entitlement. Membership in THS shall be available to individuals who have a continuing commitment to furthering the objectives and participation in the activities of THS, including its administration and program delivery. The Board of Directors may also adopt membership rules providing, among other things, for the admission of Members, membership fees and the benefits and privileges accorded to each class of membership.

3.3 Submission for Membership.

Individuals may seek membership in THS by making submission in accordance with directions and procedures established by the Board of Directors or a Committee appointed by it.

Financial Report

The fiscal year end of THS is December 31st. The Financial Statements as prepared by our Chartered Professional Accountant for 2023 are included with the documents made available for the AGM of January 27th, 2025.

This 2024 AGM has been scheduled for January 2025 to avoid the workload required to prepare the Annual Report in the period before Christmas and to allow presentation of the non-externally reviewed finances for 2024 in this Annual Report. The revenue and expenses reported here for 2024 are subject to some revision as outstanding income is received and expenses paid. The 2024 Financial Statements will be prepared by our accountants and presented at the next (2025) AGM.

In 2024, the Trinity Historical Society had a total revenue of \$341,234.65 as compared to \$319,710.00 in 2023.

Of this 2024 revenue, \$94,641.60 was from 13 Government Grants, as compared to \$123,726.16 from 15 Government Grants in 2023 and \$269,577.86 from 22 Government Grants in 2022. Government Grants must be applied for every year and require mid-term and final reporting. The process is very labour intensive, and the funding is not guaranteed. In 2024 our funding from Government Grants was decreased by \$29,084.56, a decrease of 24%. In 2022 we received some Federal Government funding and salary support related to the Covid pandemic. Planning operations and budgeting for the next season is difficult in the face of uncertain funding. It is essential that we continue to develop revenue streams independent of these Government Grants. We have had some success with this, however costs related to staffing, operations, and maintenance continue to increase and are greater than the revenue that we have been able to generate through admission fees, gift shop sales, rent, and fundraising. We will probably have a continued need for Government support if we are to maintain operations. THS along with other organizations in the Heritage Section continues to advocate for this necessary funding.

Expenses for 2024 totaled \$353,117.08 as compared to \$377,498.00 in 2023, of which \$281,933.81 (80%) was spent on personnel as compared to \$299,656.00 (79%) in 2023.

In 2023 we increased our pay scale for our employees as recommended by our Human Resources Report such that we pay fair and competitive wages. We did not increase the pay scale in 2024.

On the advice of Richard Power Inc., Chartered Professional Accountant, in 2023 we implemented QuickBooks accounting software to track our income and expenses and continued to use this in 2024.

Our expenses for 2024 exceeded our revenue by \$11,882.43 as recorded on December 31st in QuickBooks. However, there is revenue owed for 2024 and we anticipate that at the year-end financial review, we will show a small profit for the past year.

We continue to take active measures to increase revenue wherever possible and minimize costs.

Projects, Infrastructure, Personnel, and Activities 2024

Our projects and activities during 2024 are grouped into categories below for descriptive purposes. The categories are not mutually exclusive and significant overlap can be seen between some of the groups.

I. Projects

Rev. Dr. John Clinch Statue

The concept of erecting a statue in Trinity of Rev. Dr. John Clinch performing a vaccination was approved by THS in 2021. This idea was proposed by Ian Morris and would commemorate the administration of the first vaccination in the New World (against smallpox) by Dr. Clinch in Trinity in 1798. Such a statue would honour Dr. Clinch and his historic achievement. It would also be a powerful symbol of the critical importance of vaccination in the prevention of infectious disease. This statue would be similar to the existing statue of Dr. Edward Jenner who developed the smallpox vaccination and who was a lifelong friend and colleague of Clinch. The gifted Newfoundland sculptor, Morgan MacDonald, has agreed to create this statue if funding can be secured. The statue would be analogous to the Home from the Sea statue in Elliston.



The date when Clinch first administered Jenner's vaccine in Trinity has been variously stated to be 1798 and 1800. This date is important as Jenner's vaccine was administered by Benjamin Waterhouse in Boston in 1800. Ian Morris and Kevin Toope undertook research to determine that the correct date for the vaccination by Clinch is in fact 1798, or possibly 1797. Jenner's vaccine was delivered to Clinch by Jenner's nephew, George. George is the Rev. George Jenner, who was the Anglican Priest in Harbour Grace from 1795 until May 1799 when he returned to England, as recorded in the records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG).

George was present and performing baptisms in Harbour Grace throughout 1797 with the exception of the period between March 27th and June 5th; and in 1798, with the exception of the

period between May 22nd and August 12th. (Newfoundland's Grand Bank, Harbour Grace Record of Births). The SPG history states that Jenner visited England in 1798 due to the deaths of several family members and his brother's illness. There is no notation of him visiting England in 1797. The only time that George could have brought threads of cowpox material to Clinch would have been in 1797 or 1798 and given the record of his visiting England in 1798, that would be the more likely date.

Fundraising for our Clinch Project is ongoing. In 2024, funding applications were submitted to Moderna, Pfizer and Astra Zeneca. A Clinch Monument Fundraising Committee was struck in 2023 to better organize our fundraising efforts. The members of this committee currently are Ian Morris (Chair), Kevin Toope, Maurice Device, Sharon Jeans, Michele DuRand, Kris Drodge, Geoff Dawe, Weldon Chafe, Amanda Mitchell, and Paul Stapleton. Paul Stapleton joined the committee in January as the representative of the Town of Trinity. Pam Sullivan was a member of this committee before she stepped down from the Board and she developed a PowerPoint proposal for the project in January 2024. We requested and were granted permission to use the site adjacent to the existing Clinch Monument Plaque for our proposed statue. We also requested funding support from the Wellcome, Fry, and Patten Foundations and the Provincial Government. We were unable to secure any additional funding in 2024. At the Fundraising Committee meeting in December 2024, we discussed expanding the monument project to include an interactive exhibit, linking it with an educational or health benefit, and the possibility of incorporating the monument into the proposed waterfront redevelopment. A subgroup of the Fundraising Committee was scheduled to meet in January 2025 to determine next steps.

Lester-Garland Gift Shop

The Lester-Garland Gift Shop is one of the few places where we have the opportunity to generate the much-needed revenue required to meet the expenses of the Society. The gift shop is located on the first floor of the Lester-Garland House at the back of the building, and this location may have a negative impact on sales. Possible relocation of the gift shop was considered by the Board in 2022. However, relocation was not felt to be feasible.

Ms. Daphne Clarke was appointed Gift Shop Manager in 2022 and Directors Sharon Jeans and Pam Sullivan worked with Daphne and Jim Miller to help optimize sales at the shop. The inventory was increased and the displays rearranged. In 2022, new gift shop signage was added at the roadside adjacent to the concrete walkway leading to the side door of the LGH which is the gift shop entrance, flowers were planted along the sides of the walkway, and Adirondack chairs were added to the lawn adjacent to the gift shop entrance to make the area more inviting. In 2023, tours at the Lester Garland House were rerouted to end at the gift shop.



In 2023 we also implemented Square Point of Sales software at the gift shop which streamlined our transactions and enabled bar-coded inventory management. Square is also used in our e-commerce site. This system has greatly improved our business organization.

Forge products are sold both at the Gift Shop and the Forge itself. In 2024, sales at the Gift Shop and Forge totaled \$97,360.94 as compared to \$97,543.52 in 2023. Sales were maintained in 2024 despite the decrease in the number of visitors.

We are very appreciative of the efforts of all those involved and especially Ms. Clarke in making the Lester-Garland Gift Shop Project a success. In 2025 we plan to use the entrance hallway to the gift shop to display additional products.

Blacksmith For a Day Workshop

The concept of developing a one day “Forge Experience” at the Green Family Forge during which a group of attendees would create one item each from raw iron under the guidance of a blacksmith was approved by the Board in 2022. We were unable to implement this initiative in 2022 and 2023 due to the need to replace one of the two chimneys at the Forge. The rebuilt chimney was not fully operational until the end of the 2023 season. We introduced the “Blacksmith for a Day Workshop” in 2024. We hosted two workshops with one attendee per workshop. The attendees were enthusiastic about their experience, made several items each, and provided very positive feedback. We were able to access a grant from Trades NL in the amount of \$2,000.00 for this program.

We plan to offer both half day and full day workshops on two days per month from June until September during the 2025 season. Advertising will be initiated in January and booking for these workshops will be available online. These workshops will provide additional publicity and could increase revenue to help offset expenses at the Forge.

Hiking Trails of Historic Interest

In 2021 THS endorsed the creation of two new hiking trails of historic interest, one on the South Side and the other an extension of the Lower Gun Hill Trail to Walter’s Point and Taverner’s Point.

The South Side Trinity Trail was completed, and signage was placed in 2022. Three members of THS (Ed Burry, Kevin Toope, and Ian Morris) continued to perform maintenance on these trails in 2024. Storyboards which will present the historical features of the trails were not erected in 2024 but will be placed in 2025. Topographical maps were placed at the two entrances to the Gun Hill/Walter's Point Trail in 2024.

In February 2022 the Board made a written request to the Town of Trinity that the Council apply to the Provincial Government for a Licence to Occupy the area of the railbed from Gott's Cove to Trinity East and the adjacent area of Newell's Neck, such that a hiking trail could be created there. This License to Occupy is still pending. There is currently an initiative underway to reconstruct a mixed-use trail on the railbed between Lethbridge and Bonavista and this local section of the trail may be incorporated in this initiative. THS provided a letter of support for the development of this mixed-use trail in 2024.

These trails have the potential to attract more visitors to Trinity and therefore to our historic sites.

THS 60th Anniversary Logo



A special THS logo was developed to celebrate our 60th anniversary in 2024. This logo was used in all correspondence and advertising during our anniversary year.

Town Map and App

THS sent a written recommendation to the Town of Trinity that the Council develop and install a detailed sitemap of all the historic sites, points of interest, businesses, and restaurants in Trinity. This was approved at the Council Meeting of March 2022. THS was informed that the sign would be installed near the Post Office, however, this has not yet been done. THS will continue to advocate for this in 2025.

In 2022 THS further recommended that the Town develop an interactive mobile APP of all the sites, landmarks, and businesses in the area. This APP would require cell phone coverage in Trinity which continues to be poor. THS will continue to advocate for this. THS also

recommended that the Town add an events tab to the Town website such that visitors could be kept informed about upcoming activities. We will continue to advocate for this.

Waterfront Redevelopment

As reported in our 2023 Annual Report, our Waterfront Redevelopment Proposal was presented to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation (TCAR), Gerry Osmond, on October 4th, 2023 by Ian Morris. The presentation was well received. The proposed development is on land owned by Provincial Historic Sites. Ian was informed that there was legislation that prevented the sale of property designated as heritage land. However, a lease arrangement was possible similar to that which exists for the LGH. Mr. Osmond requested that we obtain a sketch of the proposed structures and then meet again

with a representative of the Department of TCAR. Frank LaPointe provided us with preliminary drawings of our proposed buildings in 2024 as a donation to THS. We are grateful to Frank for his generosity. Follow up with the Department of TCAR has not yet been arranged. A meeting with the Northpine Foundation is also pending to discuss this proposal.

Although this project has the potential to stimulate our local tourist economy, in the face of a decreasing number of visitors to Trinity over the past three seasons, investment in this development may be difficult to secure at this time. We will need to prioritize this development along with our other projects.

The Trinity Trust Bell

The Trinity Trust Bell has been in storage at the Lester-Garland House for many years. In 2024 we poured a concrete block foundation in the green space adjacent to the entrance to the Gift Shop. We plan to install the bell on that foundation in 2025 with an explanatory storyboard. It will be a tourist attraction in itself and attract visitors to the entrance to the gift shop.

Photocopying and Printing Services

In 2023 we upgraded to a good quality color copier and printer located at the LGH. In 2024 we offered photocopying and printing services to the community at competitive rates as a revenue generator for THS.

Medical History Symposium

A committee was struck in 2023 to plan for a Medical History Symposium which we planned to host at Rising Tide Theatre in Trinity on May 24th and 25th, 2024. The committee was comprised

of: Ian Morris (Chair), Kevin Toope, Eric Parsons, Trudy Metcalfe, Weldon Chafe, Ian Landells, and David Metcalfe. Active planning began in October 2023. An application was submitted to the College of Family Practice of NL for Main-Pro+ Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits, an itinerary was developed, speakers secured, and accommodations for the speakers were donated on request by local businesses.

An online brochure was created and advertising/registration was launched in January 2024. The application process for CME credits was initiated in October 2023 but approval was not granted until April 30th, 2024. The number of registrants required to break even without government funding was 56. We were unable to secure funding support for this project and the number of registrants for the Symposium as of April 18th was only 16. We could not afford to incur a financial loss associated with this Symposium and at the Board meeting of April 18th, 2024, the Symposium was cancelled.

Cancellation at this time allowed the speakers to be notified well in advance of their scheduled presentations.

Digitization of Archives

Digitization of our archives is important to protect the paper record from deterioration, create an electronic copy as a backup should the paper record be destroyed, and to permit remote access. Digitization will allow the THS archives to be accessed from anywhere in the world that has an internet connection. Making the THS archives available for research remotely will add to the historical resources available, raise the profile of our Society, and expand its influence. This may result in an increase in membership and funding but most importantly it helps preserve our history.

The Slade-Kelson and Ryan Diaries have already been digitized. However, this is just a tiny fragment of our inventory, and digitization of the remaining records is a huge undertaking. We have prioritized St. Paul's Church Records as the next group of files to be digitized. In 2024 Jim Miller applied for a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 to digitize the church records but this was not approved.

Refurbishment of Trinity Museum

Our Trinity Museum is badly in need of refreshment and there is a need to make the museum experience more interactive. Jim Miller applied to the Museum Assistance Program for funding support for Phase I of this project: *Development of an Interpretation Plan* for the museum but this was declined. We were encouraged to apply again in the next round of applications. We also applied for a \$20,000.00 grant from Farm Credit Canada for interior work at the Museum but this was not approved. We are exploring funding options with Heritage Canada.

If we are unable to secure funding to refurbish the Museum, we may still be able to implement an audio tour to improve the Museum experience in 2025.

II. Infrastructure

Repairs at Lester-Garland House

We applied for a grant from Community Enhancement Employment Program (CEEP) for interior repairs and repainting at the LGH and were approved for \$30,000.00. However, we were unable to find workers who met the criteria set out in this grant and had to return these funds.

The Green Family Forge

The historic bellows at the Forge has not been operational for several years. However, the action of the bellows is demonstrated to visitors by the blacksmiths and is a popular tourist attraction. In 2023 we located a leather worker who could rebuild the bellows at an estimated cost of \$5,200.00 + HST. We obtained a grant in the amount of \$5,600.00 from the Cultural Economic Development Program toward this repair. The bellows was transported to the repair shop in Carbonear in February 2024 and the refurbished bellows was installed at the Forge in July. The restoration is beautiful and the bellows functions well. The final cost of the repair was \$6,670.00. The restored bellows is a wonderful addition to the Forge.

Significant dampness had been noted by the blacksmiths in the earth floor at the Forge. A drain was created in the summer of 2022, but the dampness persisted. A sump pump was installed in the existing shallow well in the building in the fall of 2022 and the blacksmiths modified this drainage. The wooden flooring was removed in 2023 and replaced by crushed stone. The blacksmiths reported significant improvement in the humidity at the Forge during the 2024 season and an improvement in temperature.

The south wall of the Forge requires significant repair. The cost of this repair has been estimated at \$28,500.00. We did not have the funds necessary to carry out this work in 2024 and this maintenance had to be deferred to 2025.

In 2023, we established a cost centre at the forge. Data generated in this cost centre revealed that the forge operated at a loss of approximately \$15,000 in 2023 and \$30,000.00 in 2024. In 2024 Sharon Jeans, Maurice Devine, and Jim Miller undertook a review of the forge operations which included a product profitability analysis, with the goal of making the forge break even or make a profit. The number of items produced by the Forge was reduced from 76 to 40 based on the previous year's sales and profit margins. The blacksmiths selected an additional 5-6 items that they produced to showcase their creative and artistic expertise. This profitability analysis will be presented to the Board in January 2025.



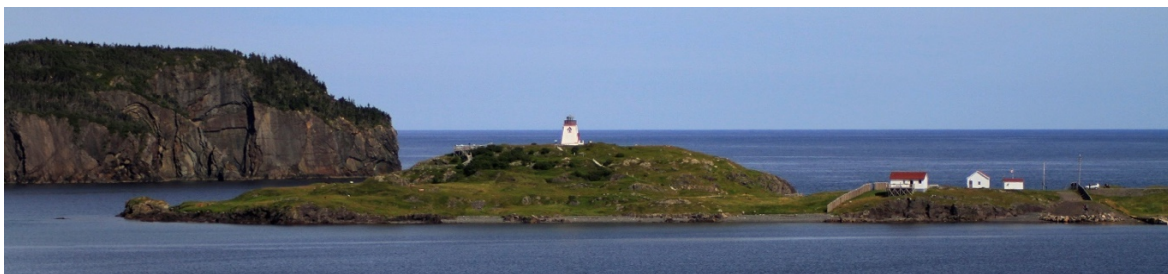
Trinity Courthouse

The space at the Courthouse is leased and continues to be fully occupied by the Trinity Chocolate Company (TCC). The Trinity Chocolate Company currently supports five full time positions, all within Trinity Bight, and twenty-eight seasonal positions. Of this complement, 10 seasonal employees were based in Trinity in 2024. Trinity Chocolate Company is a major contributor to the economy of Trinity Bight. THS is pleased to be able to facilitate the growth and success of a local company while securing revenue to help maintain this beautiful 1903 historic landmark building. This lease had been in effect for five years and was scheduled for review in 2024. The lease was renegotiated for the next five years and the rent on the Courthouse was increased by 5% in the first year and then by 2% per year for the remaining 4 years.



Fort Point Historic Site

The Fort Point Historic Site continues to be underutilized and attracting visitors to this beautiful location is a challenge. As noted above, visitation at the Fort was decreased in 2023 as compared with the previous year and was decreased again in 2024. We hosted two breakfasts at Fort Point in 2023 but attendance was disappointing. We had planned to host a breakfast there on July 1st, 2024 but cancelled this event. Staffing the Fort Point Site has also been challenging as the number of summer students that we have been able to employ has decreased. We will continue to explore ways to attract visitors to this site.



Anchors, propeller, and cannon in front of Courthouse.

In 2024 Director Kris Drodge proposed that the anchors, propeller, and cannon located in front of the courthouse be refreshed to highlight their significance, secure the propeller, and improve the aesthetics of the area. The anchors have sunken into the ground and the propeller is unstable. The origin of these items is unknown and there is no available documentation of how they were acquired by THS. It was the consensus of the Board that one of the anchors be sold at our Annual Auction to help cover the cost of this initiative. We plan to complete this project in 2025.

III. Organization/Personnel

Discontinuation of Federal Supported Employment Program

In May 2024 we were informed that the Government of Canada had discontinued the Supported Employment Program administered locally by the Ability Employment Corporation in Clarendville. Kyle Hurdle has worked in maintenance for THS since 2012 and a large portion of his salary has been funded through this program. He maintains our grounds and the Town's Field during the tourist season and performs many other jobs for us and the Town of Trinity. THS and the Town of Trinity sent letters protesting this defunding to Hon. Churence Rogers, Hon. Craig Pardy, Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Hon. Gerry Byrne, Hon. Randy Boissannault, and Ms. Krista Butler. This funding was to stop in June 2024 but has been extended until March 31st, 2025. If this funding is discontinued, we will work with the Town of Trinity to attempt to identify alternative funding sources for Kyle. Kyle is an essential part of our team.

Recruitment of Blacksmith and Cooper

In 2021, it was the consensus of the Board that a third blacksmith needed to be recruited. Wade Ivany, the senior blacksmith, is nearing retirement and it was felt that a new blacksmith should be recruited such there was a period of overlap prior to Wade's retirement. This would provide a period of mentorship and skill development for the new blacksmith.

In December 2023, we were successful in the recruitment of Kyle Downey, a blacksmith with seven year's experience. Kyle began work with us at the start of the 2024 summer season. We were also successful in obtaining a grant from Youth in Heritage in the amount of \$3,200.00 as partial reimbursement for Kyle's wages in 2024. In addition to the fabrication of artistic items, Kyle will interact with visitors to the Forge, and teach in the Blacksmith Experience Workshops.



In consideration of the cost of having three blacksmiths on staff in 2024, we did not seek the services of a new cooper and continued to operate the Cooperage as a museum staffed by summer students.

Summer students

The number of summer students who apply for jobs at THS has decreased in recent years. We were able to get funding for 9 students in 2024 as compared to 11 in 2023. Filling these positions was a challenge. If the trend continues, it is likely we will not be able to depend on summer students to staff our sites.

Operational Plan and Budget

An annual written operational plan and budget prepared by Jim Miller was implemented in 2022 and was again used in 2024. The 2025 operational plan and budget was presented to the Board in December 2024.

IV. Activities/Events

July 1st Memorial Ceremony

Trinity Historical Society held a Memorial Day Ceremony in St. Paul's Churchyard in Trinity on July 1st, 2024 to honour the memory of the men and women who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. The ceremony was once again led by Kris Drodge and was very moving. As in the previous year, there were about 100 people in attendance.



November 11th Memorial Ceremony

Trinity Historical Society also held a Ceremony of Remembrance in St. Paul's Churchyard in Trinity on November 11th, 2024 to again honour the memory of the men and women who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. In 2025 THS will install memory boards in the communities in the Bight outside of Trinity detailing the stories of the men from these communities who lost their lives in these conflicts. These memory boards were unveiled at the November ceremony. Once again, Kris Drodge organized and led the ceremony. There were about 70 people in attendance.

Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

Trinity Historical Society submitted an application to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame to nominate Rev. Dr. John Clinch for membership in this charitable organization. We were informed that Dr. Clinch was not selected for membership in 2024 but that he would be reconsidered next year.

Music Event at Rocky's Place in Trinity

THS hosted a fundraiser music event at Rocky's Place in cooperation with Corey Jones on July 13th, 2024 with live music by Brian Hiscock. Corey agreed to cover half of Brian's fee, did not charge us for the use of his facility, and agreed to allow us to take the admission fees (door). About 130 people attended the event. THS made a profit of \$835.00.

Fall Author Readings

In cooperation with Breakwater Books we organized a series of Fall Author's Readings for the fall of 2024. Four authors were scheduled but one had to subsequently cancel.

Accommodations for the authors were provided free of charge by Sherwood Suites. Greg Naterer presented *Called by Nature* on August 30th at Rocky's Place. There were 26 in attendance. The second reading was presented by Clayton B. Smith on *A Seal of Salvage* on September 27th at the LGH with 7 in attendance. Following discussion with Rebecca Rose of Breakwater books the remaining reading by Susie Taylor on *Vigil* scheduled for October 11th was cancelled. It may be possible to reschedule this reading for the spring of 2025.

Summer Seminar Series

THS hosted a series of eight evening seminars during July and August of 2024. The presenters and titles were:

Shawna Prince: Humpback whales from breeding to feeding grounds and everything in between

Jenny Higgins: Devilfish on the Doorstep: The Island of Newfoundland's Remarkable History with the Giant Squid

Martin Jamieson: Tales from the Trail: Walking over 2500 kms on the Camino de Santiago in France, Portugal and Spain

Tom Kennedy: Tall but True Tales from the Road

Trudy Morgan-Cole: Imagining Women's Histories. A novelist's approach to the Historical Record

Dave Paddon: Two generations of Pioneer Medicine in Labrador

Robyn Lacy and Ian Petty: Remember me as you pass by. Gravestone preservation in Newfoundland

Julia Laite: Twisted Roots, New Stories: Family History and Anti- Colonial History in Trinity Bight.

Attendance ranged from 21 to 85. The seminars were held at Rocky's Place and we are grateful to Corey Jones for allowing us to use this venue free of charge.

At the request of one of our members, in 2024 we attempted to make audio-video recordings of these seminars with the intention of posting the seminars on our website where they could be viewed for the same \$10.00 fee as the in-person seminar. This would make the lectures available to a much larger audience and could generate additional revenue for the Society. Unfortunately, we encountered technical difficulties in getting recordings of adequate quality to post.

The revenue generated from the Summer Seminar Series was \$3,890.00. We also obtained a grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 from Confederation 75th Anniversary in support of the seminars and we used this funding to purchase quality audiovisual equipment which included two wireless microphones, a video camera, and a mixer. The total cost of this equipment was \$2,551.00. We plan to record these seminars with the speaker's permission in 2025.



**SUMMER SEMINAR
SERIES**



Thursday, August 22nd 7:30pm - 8:30pm - Julia Laite
*Twisted Roots, New Stories: Family History, Beothuk History, and
Anti-Colonial History in Trinity and Beyond*

**ROCKY'S PLACE
\$10.00 ADMISSION FEE PER LECTURE**

Presentation to Heart's Content Historical Society

Kevin Toope, on behalf of THS, presented our experience with the Adopt a Headstone Project to the Heart's Content Historical Society on November 21st, 2024. The Heart's Content Historical Society is planning to start a program of Gravestone Restoration in their community.

The Rooms Presentation

Kevin Toope and Ian Morris were invited to give a presentation on behalf of THS at The Rooms on June 6th, 2024. The presentation was entitled "Preservation, Presentation, and Promotion of Trinity and its History".

This PowerPoint presentation reviewed the history of THS and its past accomplishments, highlighted our recent major projects, and outlined our plans for the future. There were 74 in attendance and the presentation was well received.

60th Anniversary Launch and Business Community Luncheon.

THS hosted a Community Business Luncheon on June 13^t, 2024 as part of our 60th Anniversary Celebrations to acknowledge and thank local businesses for their support. There were 13 in attendance in addition to Board members.

2024 Season Debrief and 2025 Planning Session

In October we held an in-person 2024 season debrief and 2025 planning session in Trinity attended by Jim Miller, Dean Bailey, Daphne Clarke, Sharon Jeans, and Amanda Mitchell. At this session a calendar was developed for our 2025 events. Digital promotion of these events was started in December using the provincial tourism site and the THS website. We are now also participating in the "Behind the Scenes" community event calendar for Trinity Bight. Our events will be added to this calendar along with the events from other organizations such that scheduling conflicts can be minimized.

Garden Tour of Trinity

On August 3rd, 2024 THS hosted a garden tour of Trinity as a fundraiser. Four gardens were featured: Brenda O'Brien/Ian Morris, John/Jan O'Dea, Judy Kennedy/Bruce Grant, and Ed Simmons/Deborah McGrath. Sharon Jeans and Amanda Mitchell guided the tour from garden to garden and the property owners led the tour of their respective gardens. THS would like to thank

the owners of the gardens for sharing their knowledge, property, and time. There were 11 participants and there was much positive feedback from this group.

Pen-Pal Program at Bishop White School

The THS continues to participate in this program which promotes intergenerational communication between seniors and youth in the area. Multiple members of THS have agreed to be pen-pals for students at Bishop White School. The program is administered by Daphne Clarke.

THS Auction

The in-person auction was held in the museum garden on August 16th, 2024. The auction work group consisted of Chris O’Dea, Daphne Clarke, Jim Miller, and Dean Bailey with assistance of John O’Dea, Sharon Jeans, Kris Drodge and Amanda Mitchell. As in 2023, the use of our Square technology significantly improved the time required to process payments. In 2024 we used a new lay-out for the garden auction to facilitate viewing of the items and this seemed to work well. The revenue from the auction was \$16,350.50 as compared to \$21,546.00 in 2023. Some early feedback included adding refreshments and limiting the auction to 100 items and 2 hours. The auction requires a tremendous amount of effort. We would like to thank Chris O’Dea and the THS staff for making this a success.



THS Golf Tournament

The THS Golf Tournament was held on September 21st, 2024 at Terra Nova. There were 19 sponsors as compared to 17 in 2023 and registration for this event was 38 as compared to 30 in 2023 and 42 in 2022. Revenue from the tournament totaled \$8771.647 as compared to \$7,275.67 in 2023 and net revenue was \$6480.28 as compared to \$5,238.00 in 2023.



Founders Award/Plaque

At the Board meeting of August 22nd, 2024 the Board agreed that THS would recognize the founders of THS by awarding them the Loyal Trinity Volunteer Ranger Award as a group and by creating a storyboard with headshots and brief biographies. The location of this storyboard has not yet been determined.

Rental of office and exhibit space at LGH

In 2024 we cleared out and painted an office on the third floor of the LGH which had been used for storage for several years. We advertised this space for rent in the fall of 2024 but have received no inquiries.

The Board also agreed that the Exhibit Room on the second floor of the LGH be offered for rent from September to June when the room is not used to host exhibits. A policy for utilization of this room was developed by Sharon Jeans, Michele, DuRand, and Amanda Mitchell.

Rental of both these spaces would be an additional source of revenue for THS.

THS Moose License

In 2024 THS submitted an application for a Not-for-Profit Moose License which was approved. Dean Bailey carried out the hunt and was successful. The meat can be sold by THS. The minced meat will be sold at \$5.00 per pound. Should anyone be interested in purchasing or reserving some please contact Jim at the office - ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com or (709) 464-3599.

THS Land Acknowledgement Statement

In the course of planning for the Medical History Symposium, it was necessary to development a Land Acknowledgement Statement that could be used at the opening of the symposium. The statement as approved by the Board is:

The Trinity Historical Society acknowledges Newfoundland and Labrador as the ancestral homelands of the many diverse populations of Indigenous people who have contributed to our history, including the Beothuk of Newfoundland. We especially recognise the documented past presence of the Beothuk, and previous Indigenous peoples, in the Trinity area. The Society also acknowledges the unique histories and cultures of our present day Indigenous peoples; the Mi'kmaq, the Innu, and the Inuit.

We are committed to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

This statement could be used at any future symposium.

July Lottery

THS held a lottery during the month of July 2024 as a fundraiser. Nine hundred and twenty four tickets were sold and cash draws occurred daily during the month. Ticket sales generated \$18,160.00 in revenue. Expenses totalled \$4,409.78. The profit from this initiative was therefore \$13,550.22. In addition, \$300 was donated back to THS from winning tickets.

Thriving Non-Profits Cohort Program

Sharon Jeans and Jim Miller attended a 30-hour course offered through the Community Sector Council entitled Thriving Non-Profits Cohort Program. We were approved for a grant of \$3,300 + HST to offset the expenses associated with this course.

Funding for Heritage Organizations

Provincial Government funding for heritage organizations has not increased since 2008. In 2024 THS participated in a letter writing campaign to various politicians to lobby for an increase in funding. This campaign was spearheaded by a committee representing various heritage organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador. Jim Miller is a member of that committee. The committee has gathered information on the economic and employment contributions made by heritage organizations and museums and plans to request a meeting with Government to present this information. The information gathered will also be used in a media/social media campaign. THS will continue to participate in this initiative.

Admission Fee Increase

At the Board meeting of April 18th, 2024, the Board approved an increase in THS admission fees. This was the first increase in several years. The admission fees include entrance to all THS facilities including the Fort Point Site. The new fees are:

Adult:	\$23.00
Seniors/Students	\$18.00
Children:	Free

Church of the Most Holy Trinity

In January 2024 THS was informed by the Sts. Joseph and Patrick Parish Council in Port Union that Holy Trinity Church in Trinity would be sold and that THS was being given the opportunity to purchase the property. The intention of the Catholic Church to sell Holy Trinity Church was confirmed by Bishop Daniels at a meeting held in Trinity on July 31st, 2024. At a special meeting of the Board in August, it was the consensus of the Board that the creation of a trust independent of THS which could acquire the Church was the most favourable option. The Board endorsed the formation of an independent group led by Martin Jamieson to respond to the position laid out by Bishop Daniels. Ian Morris, Kris Drodge, and Jim Miller are the THS representatives in this group. The other members of the committee include: Chris O’Dea, John O’Dea, Father William Hann, and Paul Stapleton. An appraisal of the property was performed for THS by Kirkland, Balsom, and Associates on September 20, 2024. Dialogue with the Catholic Church is ongoing. In addition, on behalf of THS, Jim Miller applied for a grant from the Next Great Save Competition for repairs on the church but this was not approved.



Exhibits Hosted

In 2024 we hosted an exhibit of Frank LaPointe’s art during July and August in the Exhibit Room at the LGH. The exhibit featured Frank’s lithographs of historic postcards. An opening reception was held at LGH on July 5th.

Combined Event Planning with Rising Tide Theatre

In the fall of 2024 Jim Miller met with representatives of Rising Tide Theatre, the Town of Trinity, and the Town of Port Rexton to explore the possibility of undertaking a music festival or multiple smaller music events as a strategy to increase visitation and revenue. This meeting was initiated by Rising Tide. THS is very supportive of this initiative.

Craft Fair Participation

In 2024 Jim Miller and Kyle Downey represented THS at the Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair in St. John’s, November 6th - 10th. THS sales totalled just over \$6,800.00 as compared to \$9,952.90 in 2023. We did not participate in any other craft fairs in 2024.

At the Craft Fair, staff from the Craft Council invited THS to enter an item from the Forge in their “Under the Stars” themed Comfort and Joy Exhibit that was hosted at their Gallery on Water Street from November 22nd - December 20th.

Publications/Communication

Newsletter

In February 2023 we initiated our Mail Chimp monthly newsletter and we continue to publish this. The Newsletter contains rotating photographs of our sites, news, an historical story, the memorial newsletter presenting the story of the men remembered on war memorials and church windows in the Trinity area, and information on upcoming activities and events. The Newsletter format contains a measuring tool which enables us to measure the success of our communication. The most recent newsletter in December 2024 was opened by 153 email recipients.

THS Website

We continue to maintain and refresh our THS website which includes an e-commerce section.

The Trinity Bight Enterprise

We continued to publish The Trinity Bight Enterprise in 2024 which includes our Memorial Newsletter, a crossword puzzle developed by Kevin Toope, with questions on topics related to Trinity Bight, local news, and advertising. We also feature a guest article in selected issues and in 2024 we featured drawings by students at Bishop White School on our cover.

If any members have questions to contribute to our crossword question bank, please send them to kevintoope@gmail.com.

The Enterprise is distributed as a paper copy to residents of Trinity Bight (500 copies) and is published on our website.

Advertising rates were increased 25% in December 2023. The rates had not been raised for many years. Complimentary advertisements are available for not-for-profit organizations. Revenue generated by The Enterprise in 2024 totaled \$,3445.30 as compared to \$3942.70 in 2023. We will continue to try to increase the revenue generated by The Enterprise. It was also recognized by the Board that The Enterprise needs to incorporate social media strategies as part of a rethinking/refreshment of this publication. Some planning has taken place for this, and it will be incorporated into the Society's overall marketing plan for 2025.

Membership

Membership in THS was 164 at the beginning of 2024 and increased to 184 members at year end. John and Chris O’Dea were made Honorary members at the AGM on January 29th, 2024.

Awards

Loyal Trinity Volunteer Ranger Award

The third annual Loyal Trinity Volunteer Ranger Award was presented to Frank LaPointe at the Trinity Historical Society Auction at the museum garden in August 2024. Nominations for this award are requested from the community and the membership and the recipient is chosen by a committee of the membership.



Trinity Historical Society Scholarship

The THS Scholarship at Bishop White School established in 2021 was combined with an endowment from Dr. Brian Rusted in 2022. The third combined scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 was awarded in 2024 to Robert Stanley.

Premier’s Medal for Heritage

In 2024 THS was awarded one of the inaugural Premier’s Medals for Arts, Heritage, Sports, and Recreation for its contribution to Heritage. Ten medals were awarded for the Arts and 10 for Heritage. The Town of Trinity nominated THS for this award. Ian Morris and Jim Miller accepted the award on behalf of THS at an award ceremony at the Colonial Building on December 9th, 2024.



Donations

Ada Green Nemec Endowment

We continue to receive the annual dividends from this trust. In 2024 we received \$18,384.96.

ClanMac Donation

We are grateful to the ClanMac Foundation for their \$5000.00 donation in 2024. ClanMac has made a regular donation to THS for many years, and we thank them for their generosity.

Gift from Estate of Betty May Wallis

In 2021 THS received a donation from the estate of Betty May Wallis of Poole, England in the amount of \$218,415.35. The donor directed that these funds were to be used for the ongoing operation of the Lester-Garland House which can include funding for operations, maintenance, restoration, and programming. In 2024 we received \$15,894.96 from this Fund.

Projects and Activities in 2025

In the face of declining visitor numbers and therefore potentially decreased revenue it will be imperative that we contain costs to within that revenue. We will continue to advocate for an increase in funding for the Heritage Sector from Government. We must also identify additional sources of revenue where possible.

Our ongoing projects and activities will continue. Particular projects include:

Exhibition of the art of Cathy Driedzic

We will host an exhibit of the art of Cathy Driedzic in the Exhibit Room at the Lester Garland House from July 1st – August 10th, 2025. We have made the room available from mid-August to mid-September for the Bonavista Biennale.

Renewal of the Trinity Museum

We will continue to apply for funding to re-curate the Trinity Museum. We also plan to incorporate the traditional craft of rug hooking in this plan. In the absence of additional funding, we may still be able to add an interactive component to the museum in 2025.

THS Auction

We plan to hold our annual in-person auction in the garden of the Museum on August 15th, 2025, and will begin planning soon for our bi-annual on-line auction in the fall.

Hiking Trails

We will continue to promote the hiking trails on the South Side and to Walters Point and will add storyboards that will tell the history of these areas. We will continue to advocate for the creation of a hiking trail to Newell's Neck and the mixed-use railbed trail between Trinity and Lockston.

Maintenance at the Green Family Forge

As noted above, extensive repairs are still required at the Green Family Forge. We will continue to fundraise for this and undertake these repairs as soon as we are able.

Refurbish Anchor Display in front of Courthouse

We plan to complete this project in 2025.

Blacksmith for a Day Experience

We plan to offer six full day or half day Blacksmith Experiences in 2025 as a strategy to increase the profile of the Green Family Forge and increase revenue. We will begin advertising this in January 2025.

Hosting music events in cooperation with Rising Tide Theatre

As a strategy to increase visitation and revenue we will explore the possibility of hosting music events in cooperation with Rising Tide Theatre in 2025.

THS Summer Seminar Series

We plan to host nine evening seminars on topics of local interest at Rocky's Place during July and August 2025. The seminars will start at 7:30 pm and the admission fee is \$10.00. The list of presenters and topics is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| July 3 | Weldon Chafe:
<i>Cradle of the North: Some Historic Insights on Giving Birth in Newfoundland and Labrador.</i> |
| July 10 | Dave Paddon:
<i>The Hubbard/Wallace Expeditions of 1903 and 1905.</i> |
| July 17 | Barbara Doran:
<i>For The Love Of Film.</i> |
| July 24 | Paul Snelgrove:
<i>Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea: Exploring our Planet's Last Frontier.</i> |
| July 31 | Elizabeth Burry:
<i>A Hidden Treasure: Gemstones of Newfoundland and Labrador.</i> |
| August 7 | Rick Peddle:
<i>Heave Out, Lash Up and Stow. A family returns to Trinity after 75 years away.</i> |
| August 14 | Julia Laite:
<i>Artist, Rebel, Witness: The Hidden History of Shanawdihit.</i> |
| August 21 | Stephen Millar:
<i>Impressions of Central Asia-From the Life of a Diplomat.</i> |
| August 28 | Chris Aylward
<i>Beothuk: How Story Made a People (Almost) Disappear.</i> |

We plan to make audio-visual recordings of these seminars with the presenter's permission and will make the seminars available on our website where they can be viewed for the same \$10.00 fee as we charge for the in-person seminar.

Digitization of THS Archives

Digitization of archives held by THS at the LGH is necessary to preserve this information and to facilitate searches. We have prioritized St. Paul's Church Records as the next group of files to be digitized but were unable to secure funding for this in 2024. In 2025 we will continue to search for the funding required for this important project.

Clinch/Vaccination Statue

Fundraising efforts for this project will continue. It may be desirable and necessary to combine this monument with a refurbished interactive Clinch Exhibit and to combine this expanded exhibit/monument with the proposed Waterfront Redevelopment or other development. We will engage with the Town of Trinity as well in this initiative and continue to plan the most appropriate way forward.

Waterfront Development

The reconstruction of some of the waterfront properties of the Lester-Garland Premises, which were constructed in the 1760s or before, and removed in the 1960s, was identified in the THS Long-Term Plan of 2000. These buildings would recreate the historic waterfront and provide the opportunity for a variety of uses as business or community ventures. This of course is a major project comparable to the rebuilding of the Lester-Garland House in 1996-1997 and would require the cooperation of multiple levels of Government. The Trinity Historical Society would like to facilitate this historically important development which could be of great economic benefit to the Town. It may be possible to combine this development with the creation of the

statue memorializing Dr. Clinch and the administration of the first vaccination in the Americas in Trinity and with other initiatives. We will continue to advocate for this development, however in the face of a decline in the number of visitors to Trinity, securing investment for this project may be difficult at this time.

Legacy Planned Giving Program

As illustrated by our annual income from the Estate of Ada Nemeč and our gift from the Estate of Betty Mae Wallis, these legacy funds contribute significantly to our ability to meet our expenses. We are in the process of development of a Legacy Planned Giving Program which we will launch in 2025. We would welcome any contributions to THS made through this program.

Town of Trinity Cruise Ship Visit

Planning is in progress to accommodate a visit from a cruise ship to Trinity in the fall of 2025. We will develop a tour of our sites which we will offer as an activity to these cruise ship passengers during their stay. The cruise ship business has the potential to increase the profile of THS, augment our publicity, and can be a revenue source.

Conclusion

Trinity Historical Society continues to preserve, present, and promote the history and heritage of Trinity and the surrounding area. We will continue to maintain our historic buildings, preserve the heritage trade of blacksmithing, and connect visitors and members with our past through our archives, publications, programming, and events. We continue to explore ways to preserve the historic trade of coopering at our Cooperage. We are actively involved in the planning and fundraising for several large projects such as the Clinch Monument, Waterfront Redevelopment, refurbishment of the Trinity Museum, and digitization of our Archives. We will need to prioritize these large projects. The Society promotes economic development and in particular tourism, which is intimately related to our activities. It also provides local employment and itself contributes to the local economy.

THS is highly dependent on Government grants to fund its operations, and the receipt of these grants is uncertain from year to year. This uncertainty makes planning and budgeting difficult. In 2024, our funding from government grants was again reduced. We were, however, able to generate revenue sufficient to meet our expenses.

The Society is appreciative of Government funding; however, it is essential that THS generate revenue from other sources to decrease its dependence on Government. Revenue from rental income, donations, sales at the Lester Garland Gift Shop, the Green Family Forge and the Cooperage, and fundraising activities, such as the auction are important to help fund our operations and allow the Society to fulfill its mandate. We are very appreciative of the legacy donation, endowment, and other donations that we have received, and we welcome other such support. Donations have made a very significant contribution to our operations and will continue to be an important component in the future.

In 2025 and beyond, it is critical that we identify new ways to increase our revenues, such as involvement with the cruise ship business and hosting events in cooperation with Rising Tide Theatre. We need to increase our efforts to expand tourism in Trinity, attract more visitors to our historic sites, and offer more services and products. We also need to be mindful of expenses and minimize these as much as possible.

The day-to-day operation of THS requires organization, visitor engagement, and lots of hard work. The amount of effort that goes on behind the scenes is immense. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of skilled employees, and the Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity once again to express our appreciation for all their efforts on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Morris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian Morris,
President

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Kevin Toope
Sharon Jeans
Maurice Devine
Amanda Mitchell
Michele DuRand
Kris Drodge