

2024 - Frank Lapointe

Nomination

I have known Frank for decades and have always had great respect for his capabilities as an architectural draftsman, even before he took up permanent residency in Trinity East. As a member of the heritage committee appointed by the Town of Trinity, any time an application is submitted for a new build or a modification / extension to an existing structure, there are never any challenges presented when the design is by Frank LaPointe. However, when any other designs are submitted, there is usually a considerable need for an exchange of information with the proponent to try and make sure that the designs comply with the intent of the Town plan.

As we all know, Frank has designed many homes in Trinity / the Trinity Bight and feedback on all of his designs has been always positive. Not only does he do well executed design, but he also is strongly influenced with the positioning of the house on land and it's orientation. He also honours the proportions of the Golden Mean which goes back to the days of Greek architecture which results in a pleasing dimensional relationship of all elements of the façade of a home.

Among his designs, I can highlight the two salt box designs for Fisher's Loft, Commander's Keep, a complementary extension to the Lockyer home, the new home built by the Gow's on High St, design of a new build about to be built on Hog's Nose, the Wallace house on Ballett's Lane, the Harris House in Trinity East, and many more in the Trinity Bight area.

It is important that we honour his contribution and his incredible body of work.

In 2023, Frank LaPointe was recognized for his contribution with the awarding of the Duff-O'Dea award by the Newfoundland Historic Trust.

I trust that my nomination will be given consideration by the Trinity Historical Society.

Frank Lapointe's Bio

Frank Lapointe was born in Port Rexton, Newfoundland and Labrador. Following studies at Memorial University and the Washington School of Art, he attended the Ontario College of Art and Design, graduating with honours in 1966. He taught art for the following four years in Newfoundland and Labrador, and at the Dundas Valley School of Art in Hamilton, Ontario.

In 1970, Frank was appointed specialist in art at Memorial University and was Curator of the Art Gallery of MUN from 1972 to late 1973 when he resigned the position to devote himself to his art full time.

In 1974, Frank received a Canada Council grant during which time he settled in the Tors Cove area, produced the "Island Imagery" collection of watercolours focusing on the Witless Bay

Ecological Reserve Islands, and started experimenting with sculpture and multi-medial installations. These included audio-visual works as well as large abstract canvasses and assemblages such as the controversial series “The Black Wardrobe”.

From the mid-1970’s to early 1980’s, he created the Newfoundland Postcard series of lithographs based on turn-of-the-century postcard image and messages. This series, which explored the feelings and events that touched the lives of Newfoundlanders, has toured internationally.

Frank collaborated with the late musician/composer Don Wherry and other musicians on several multi-screen photographic projects such as “Ice Report” which toured Canada and was exhibited in Paris, France; “Door as a Circular Passage” where the screen was an inflated weather balloon; and “Birds” and “The Pond” which were acquired by the National Film Board in 1981. Frank also participated in the Sound Symposium for a number of years and was a co-founder of the St. Michael’s Printshop where he was a resident printmaker.

While renowned as a visual artist, for over 30 years Frank has also been actively engaged in architectural design. Many houses in the Trinity Bay area and the Southern Shore have been designed by Frank. For this work, Frank was awarded the Duff-O’Dea Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023 by the Newfoundland & Labrador Historic Trust and the Manning Award for Excellence in the Public Presentation of Historic Places in 2020 by the Historic Sites Association.

Frank has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions across Canada, USA, Japan, England, Ireland, and France. His artworks are included in numerous private, corporate, and public collections, including National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario, Vancouver Art Gallery, University of Oregon, Simon Fraser University, Canada Council Art Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia, Royal Bank, Air Canada, Imperial Oil, Petro Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Public Works Canada.