



# Trinity Historical Society

## 2022 Annual Report

January 2023

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### 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, the Lester-Garland House, the Courthouse, the Cooperage, the Methodist School House, 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, the Cooperage, and the Methodist School. The Fort Point site is owned by the Town of Trinity.
- In 2022 we employed 3 workers full time, 4 seasonal workers, and 11 summer students.
- External financial reviews for 2020 and 2021 were completed in 2022.
- The Adopt a Headstone Project restored 151 of the 188 headstones in St. Paul's Churchyard, as well as 6 headstones in the old Methodist Cemetery in Trinity.
- Our self-publication of *From Fisher's Cove*, a book of poems composed by Trinitarians Rose Sullivan and George Hoskins was completed and the books offered for sale at our giftshop. A book launch was held in Trinity on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 attended by 47 people, including descendants of Rose and George.
- The construction of a new multipurpose building was explored but projected revenue could not justify the cost of construction, and the project was placed on hold.

- Fundraising for a statue to commemorate John Clinch's administration of the first vaccination in the New World in Trinity in 1800 was continued.
- The Lester-Garland Giftshop was reorganized and sales dramatically improved.
- A sitting area with four Adirondack chairs was created adjacent to the Lester-Garland House.
- A one-day Blacksmith Experience was planned for 2022 but had to be placed on hold due the loss of one chimney and staff illness.
- The new Walters Point Extension of the Lower Gun Hill Hiking Trail was improved. The addition of signage and storyboards telling the local history is still required.
- An audio tour of the Lester-Garland House was created and implemented.
- Revision of the Trinity Historical Society logo was undertaken.
- An update of the THS website was begun and is in progress at year end.
- THS sent a written recommendation to the Town of Trinity that the Town develop and display a map of the Town and a mobile app that includes points of interest in Trinity.
- Extensive damage to the exterior brickwork at the Lester-Garland House was identified and an estimate for the masonry repair obtained.
- The Museum was painted using the colour scheme chosen by our members in a membership survey. Minor repairs were done.
- A torch on roof was installed on the Courthouse
- The Trinity Chocolate Company continued to occupy the entire space at the Courthouse.
- One of the two chimneys at the Green Family Forge was noted to be cracked and had to be dismantled. The rebuild of the chimney is scheduled for April 2023.
- Historic signage was erected on the exterior of the Cooperage
- The Johnson Family sign was replaced at our expense.
- Additional storage space for artifacts was rented.

- The Newsletter which presents the stories of men who lost their lives in the World Wars was published once a month.
- The Trinity Bight Enterprise, which now includes a crossword puzzle of Trinity Bight topics, a guest author article, and the Newsletter was published once a month.
- A cooper was recruited. Recruitment of a third blacksmith was postponed to 2023
- Monthly staff activity reports were introduced.
- The THS Long-Term Plan was reviewed and updated.
- Communications were reviewed and plans made for improvement.
- A THS Travel and Transportation Policy was developed.
- Fagan Consulting was engaged to perform a Human Resources Review of THS.
- A written Operations Plan and Budget for 2023 was completed in December 2022.
- A membership survey was undertaken.
- The first annual Loyal Trinity Ranger Award was presented at the auction in August.
- The THS Scholarship at Bishop White School, which was established in 2021, was combined with the endowment from Dr. Rusted and renamed the Trinity Historical Society Rupert Morris Memorial Scholarship. The first combined scholarship was presented in December 2022.
- The Pen Pal Program at Bishop White School was continued.
- The auction in the garden of the museum was held on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The THS Golf Tournament was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Two exhibits at the Lester-Garland House were hosted during the summer.
- A “Meet the Board” event was hosted at Lester-Garland House on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Two homecooked breakfasts and one lunch were held at Fort Point.
- THS participated in the Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair.

- An endowment from Dr. Brian Rusted was gratefully accepted.
  - A donated image created by David Blackwood was sold at auction
  - The donated wheel of the Marion Rogers was erected with a storyboard behind the Courthouse and a second storyboard was erected on Fort Point near the site of the shipwreck.
  - A donated brass chandelier was restored and hung at the Lester-Garland House.
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## **Introduction**

Although uncertainty existed at the beginning of the year, we were able to return to operation at full capacity during 2022. We opened for the season on May 6<sup>th</sup> and closed on October 7<sup>th</sup>. During the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 we operated at reduced capacity from July 6<sup>th</sup> to September 12<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was planned for the fall of 2022 but had to be postponed to due to delays in obtaining the external financial review for 2021.

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## **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, the Methodist School House, and Fort Point.

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

The Methodist School House is a Provincial Historic Site that we lease for educational programming and exhibits. This lease expires in 2023. The Lester-Garland House and the Cooperage are built on Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Provincial Historic Site 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. The 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 had 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 agrees to maintain 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 and 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 2022 we continued to employ our three full time staff, Jim Miller, Dean Bailey, and Daphne Clarke. However, Daphne and Dean's work week was reduced to 20 hours per week from January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup> for Daphne and January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup> for Dean. They both reduced their hours to 20 hours per week again on October 24<sup>th</sup> and will likely continue at this workload until late April or early May 2023. We employed our two blacksmiths, Wade Ivany and Devin Hookey, for their usual season. The Forge was open to visitors and Forge products were sold there. Forge products were also sold at the Lester-Garland Giftshop (LGG). Linda Ballett continued her seasonal employment at our Fort Point Site. We recruited a new Cooper, Darren Hookey, who started work on May 9<sup>th</sup>. We continued to employ Kyle Hurdle in his capacity in maintenance for the usual season. We also employed 11 summer students. The Lester-Garland House was open for tours and the Giftshop was operational.

We had 8,374 visitors at the Lester-Garland House in 2022 as compared to 3,284 in 2021 and 1,827 in 2020. In 2019, the last season before the Pandemic we had 5,796 visitors. These numbers include visitors to the Lester-Garland Giftshop and Lester-Garland House.

The Green Family Forge had 1,943 visitors in 2022 as compared to 1,261 visitors in 2021, 761 in 2020, and 2,824 in 2019.

At Fort Point we had 897 visitors in 2022, 620 visitors in 2021, 920 in 2020 and 428 in 2019.

The Cooperage had 2,695 visitors in 2022, 601 in 2021, 497 in 2020, and 1487 in 2019.

The Museum had 1,202 visitors in 2022, as compared to 1,620 in 2019. It was closed in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

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## 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 2022, the members of the Board were:

Ian Morris, President  
Kevin Toope, Vice President  
Tony Huys, Treasurer  
Joan Kane, Secretary  
Geoff Dawe, Director  
Maurice Devine, Director  
Gerald Spurrell, Director and Past President

As per the Bylaws of the Society three Director positions (Kevin Toope, Joan Kane, and Gerald Spurrell) were up for election at the AGM on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Six nominations were received: Kris Drodge, Sharon Jeans, Kevin Toope, Joan Kane, Gerald Spurrell, and Pam Sullivan. Voting was by e-mail ballot to Jim Miller. Sharon Jeans, Pam Sullivan, and Kevin Toope were elected. The new board then consisted of:

Kevin Toope  
Ian Morris  
Geoff Dawe  
Maurice Devine  
Sharon Jeans  
Pam Sullivan  
Tony Huys  
Gerald Spurrell, Past President

At the next Board of Directors meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the nomination of officers was held. Nominations were: for President: Ian Morris; for Vice President: Kevin Toope; for Secretary: Sharon Jeans; and for Treasurer: Tony Huys. There were no other nominations and all four officers were acclaimed.

The new officers were:

President: Ian Morris  
Vice President: Kevin Toope  
Treasurer: Tony Huys  
Secretary: Sharon Jeans

Jim Miller is the General Manager of THS.

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## Financial Report

In 2022, the Trinity Historical society had a total revenue of \$511,154.07. Of this amount, \$269,577.86 (53%) was from 22 Government Grants. Each of these grants requires an annual application and some mid-term and final reporting. This process is very labour intensive and the funding is not guaranteed. As a result, planning operations and budgeting for the next season is difficult. Expenses for 2022 totalled \$500,053.43 of which \$268,792.32 (54%) was spent on personnel. Details of the revenue and expenses for 2022 can be found in the Treasurer's Report.

In 2022 Richard Power Inc., Chartered Professional Accountant, was engaged to perform an external financial review of the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The fiscal year end of THS is December 31st. The Financial Statements for 2020 and 2021 were included with the documents made available for the AGM of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. This AGM had been postponed from 2022 pending the receipt of the 2021 financial statement. The financial statement for 2022 will be presented at the next AGM.

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## Projects and Activities, 2022

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Our projects and activities during 2022 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

#### The Adopt a Headstone Project

As we noted in our 2021 Annual Report, many of the headstones in the churchyard at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Trinity were leaning at advanced angles and many had fractured. The base of the war monument located in the churchyard was also badly fractured. In 2021 we undertook the restoration of the War Monument and added four storyboards positioned around the Monument which told the stories of the 21 men whose names were inscribed in the marble. We completed this restoration and enhancement of the Monument (**Phase I**) in time for a ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The storyboards were unveiled by descendants of these men at that ceremony.

In January 2022, we launched the next phase of this project which was the restoration of the headstones in St. Paul's Churchyard. The cemetery at St. Paul's was used from 1731 until 1888, when the new Anglican Cemetery was opened about a half a kilometer away. A search of available burial records, which start in 1757, indicates that more than 2100 individuals were buried in the churchyard. Of those who originally had grave markers, only 188 headstones remain. The inscriptions on the headstones were recorded onto paper by two students in the summer of 1993 at which time 138 were legible. A grid was also created such that the location of each legible headstone could be identified

In the winter of 2019-2020, Kevin Toope and Ian Morris entered this information into an Excel spreadsheet using a standard format for Newfoundland cemeteries kindly supplied by Mr. Dale Jarvis of Heritage Newfoundland.

**Phase II** of the project was the up-righting, repair, and cleaning of the approximately 50 headstones most in need of repair and **Phase III** included the remaining stones. Although some cleaning of the stones is possible, reengraving the inscriptions is not advised as it can further damage the stone.

We engaged Black Cat Cemetery Preservation, a company formed by Robyn Lacy and Ian Petty, two archaeologists who have a combined 20-year experience in the heritage sector, to do the restoration. Robyn and Ian spent a total of four weeks working in the churchyard and reset, repaired and cleaned a total of 151 headstones, which includes all of those which needed to be up-righted and repaired. The remaining stones do not need to be up-righted or repaired but do need to be cleaned. During their fourth week in Trinity, they also restored 6 headstones in the old Methodist Cemetery on High Street which were in urgent need of restoration. Robyn and Ian are experts in cemetery preservation. They have taught us much about the care of the headstones and what not to do to avoid damaging the stones.

The cost for Black Cat to perform this work over four weeks was \$30,795.04. We incurred additional costs related to materials and transportation of \$1,508.43. Other expenses including the printing of tickets and promotional material, ticket license fee, and bank fees totalled \$653.78. The cost of the initial site visit by Black Cat was \$342.24 and the cost of the final report was an additional \$258.75. Total expenses were \$33,299.99.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, we have raised a total of \$34,698.75. We applied for and received a grant from Come Home 2022 in the amount of \$13,000.00. We raised \$3,700.00 on ticket sales on a painting donated by Ed Roche. Mike Murphy of Halifax won the hooked rug donated by Pam Sullivan which we sold on tickets to raise money for the War Monument Restoration and he donated this back to the Society. The rug was sold at our in-person auction in 2022 for \$1000.00. Masonic Union Lodge #28 donated \$500.00 and the remainder of the funds raised came from private donors. The amount remaining in the project account as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 is \$1118.01.



Kevin Toope and Ian Morris were the Co-Leads for the project. Its success depended on the efforts and contributions of numerous individuals. We would like to thank Corey Jones for providing accommodations for Ian and Robyn at Trinity Cabins free of charge for the four weeks they were in Trinity and we thank Pam Sullivan and Ed Roche for donating the beautiful hooked rug and painting for sale on tickets. We thank Ervin Locke for the donation of crusher dust used to stabilize the headstones. We thank those members of THS who helped with ticket sales and we thank Pam Sullivan and Sharon Jeans for their communications expertise. We thank THS staff members Jim Miller and Dean Bailey for their work in the organization and implementation of the Project and Kyle Hurdle for his help on site. We would again like to thank all of those who donated to the Project and those who bought tickets on the hooked rug and the painting. Many of you who made donations are descendants of those whose remains are in the churchyard and we appreciate being able to make contact with you. Some of you have joined the Society and we welcome your membership. We thank the Government of NL for their support through the Come Home Year Program, the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their grant toward the War Monument Restoration, and the Town of Trinity and the Masonic Lodge for their donations. The Adopt a Headstone Project would not have been possible without this considerable effort and financial support.

The churchyard looks lovely following this restoration. We believe caring for these headstones honours the memory of those who are buried there.

Black Cat Cemetery Preservation estimates that about three days of work will be required to clean the remaining headstones. Further work to complete the restoration of these remaining stones will depend on our ability to raise the additional funds required.

### **Self-Publication by THS of the poems of Rose Sullivan and George Hoskins**

Siblings Rose Sullivan and George Hoskins were born in Trinity. Rose lived most of her life here. George grew up in Trinity and worked here with the railway. He was transferred to Carbonear in 1939 and spent the rest of his life there. Both Rose and George wrote poems.

THS obtained permission from the Sullivan and Hoskins families to publish these poems and put together the manuscript with the help of Michael Sullivan and Jennifer Collins, grandchildren of Rose and George. We added images and historical notes to complement the poems and undertook self-publication of this book. We are indebted to Dr. Andy Seaman, Professor of English (retired), St. Mary's University, who donated many hours of his time to the formatting of the manuscript for self-publication. The manuscript underwent multiple proof readings by Michael Sullivan, Andy Seaman, and Ian Morris.

*From Fisher's Cove, Trinity, Poetry and Prose by Siblings Rose Sullivan and George Hoskins* was ready for self-publication in the spring of 2022. A book launch at the Lester-Garland House was scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> to coincide with a visit to Trinity by Dr. Seaman but had to be cancelled due

to covid exposure. The launch was rescheduled and held in the garden of the Lester-Garland House on the evening of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 with readings by Ruth Lawrence and Des Walsh. Des and Cyril Toope provided musical interludes on fiddle and accordion. Whiskey and wine refreshments were donated for the event by Corby's Distillery through Mr. Rick Hollihan. The weather was warm and the sky was lovely. The setting in the lingering twilight was perfect for the occasion. Forty-seven people, including members of the Sullivan and Hoskins families, attended and the evening was well received. We sold 29 books.

THS is very pleased to be able to honour the memories of Rose and George, two gifted Trinitarians. *From Fisher's Cove* can be purchased at the Lester-Garland Giftshop or at our online store.

### **New Multipurpose Building**

Possible relocation of the Lester-Garland Giftshop to a new structure built for this purpose was considered in 2021. Architectural drawings for this building were completed by Frank LaPointe, in kind. THS greatly appreciates this donation of his professional services. Application was made to the Trinity Town Council to construct this new building located between the Parish Hall and the Courthouse. On further discussion, the Board decided not to proceed with relocation of the Lester-Garland Giftshop at this time, and that other uses for this proposed building should be explored.

Application to construct this new building as a multipurpose structure was subsequently approved by Trinity Town Council. The Board then decided that the addition of a bathroom to this proposed new building would expand its potential utilization. Mr. Lapointe added a linhay to the building drawings that would house a bathroom and storage room. This modification was subsequently approved by the Town Council on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A request for expressions of interest from the business community for possible utilization of such a building was widely publicized but only one expression of interest was received. That proposal was for a seasonal operation which would not allow us to fund the construction or operation of the building. The Board therefore decided not to pursue construction of such a building at this time.

### **Clinch Statue**

The concept of erecting a statue in Trinity of Rev. Dr. John Clinch vaccinating a child was approved by the 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 1800. Such a statue would honour the achievement of Clinch and also be a symbol of the importance of vaccination. The statue would be similar to the existing one 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. Fundraising for this project is ongoing.

### **Lester-Garland Giftshop**

Operation of the giftshop located in the Lester-Garland House was reviewed in 2021. Items made at the Forge have been sold here as well as at the Forge since 2020. Cooperage items are also sold here. Between 2017 and 2019 giftshop sales declined year over year from \$32,226.98 in 2017 to \$19,937.16 in 2019. Sales were further decreased during the Pandemic to \$6,232.00 in 2020 and \$6,160.00 in 2021.

The giftshop is located on the first floor of the Lester-Garland House at the back of the building and this location may have negatively impacted sales. Possible relocation of the giftshop to a new structure built for this purpose was considered as previously noted. However, the Board decided not to proceed with relocation of the Giftshop at this time.

Ms. Daphne Clarke was designated as Giftshop Manager in 2022 and Directors Sharon Jeans and Pam Sullivan worked with Daphne and Jim Miller to help rejuvenate the shop. The inventory was increased and the displays rearranged. New giftshop signage was added at the roadside adjacent to the concrete walkway leading to the side door of the LGH which is the giftshop entrance. Flowers were planted along the sides of the walkway. Adirondack chairs were added to the lawn adjacent to the giftshop entrance to make the area more inviting and the area was cleared of dead trees and pruned. Inside the LGH, the entrance hallway to the giftshop was used to display THS awards and a tribute to master boat builder Henry Vokey.

The giftshop had a very successful season. Sales totalled \$44,539.75. We are very appreciative of the efforts of all those involved and especially Ms. Clarke in making this a success.

### **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 master blacksmith was discussed. This one-day workshop would increase revenue to help offset expenses at the Forge and provide publicity. The outline for this workshop experience was developed and the Safety Plan was written and approved by our insurance company. The Board intended to introduce this experience in the 2022 season. However, one of the two chimneys at the Forge was found to be cracked. This constituted a workplace hazard and the chimney had to be dismantled. The chimney is scheduled to be rebuilt in the spring of 2023. In addition, one of the blacksmiths experienced health issues that limited his availability during 2022. This Forge Experience project was therefore postponed until the personnel and equipment were ready to undertake it.

## **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 has been completed and directional signage has been placed. Signage on the Walters Point trail is in progress and storyboards which will present the historical features of both trails will be placed in 2023.

In February 2022 the Board made a written request to the Town of Trinity that the Council apply to the Provincial Government for the 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. As of December 2022, the Licence to Occupy had not been granted and THS requested that the Town apply for Licence to Occupy the section from Gott's Cove to Lockston, as this might be granted more quickly. This License to Occupy is still pending.

## **Audio Recording for Tour at the Lester-Garland House**

Tours of the Lester-Garland House have been conducted by students in the summer and by THS staff members in the spring and fall. This was labour intensive for staff in the shoulder seasons and the quality of tours in the summer was dependant on the training and experience of the students. The Board therefore decided to implement a recorded audio tour using hardware and software that was already present at THS. Mr. Tom Kennedy preciously agreed to do the narration and Jim Miller provided the script. The tour was implemented in September 2022.

## **Logo Revision**

At the Planning Meeting of the Board held on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 it was proposed that the THS Logo be updated. The current logo is the image of a sailing ship surrounded by the words Trinity Customs House, Trinity. This logo has been used by THS for many years. It was noted that the wording did not identify Trinity Historical Society and, whereas the image of the ship was historic, it did not specifically relate to THS. Directors Pam Sullivan and Sharon Jeans worked with our IT Specialist over the next few months and produced a number of variations of a logo modification. The wording was replaced with Trinity Historical Society and the central image was replaced by an image of the Lester-Garland House as this structure was felt to be iconic and readily identified with the Society. The revised logo was adopted by the Board at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Pam Sullivan and Sharon Jeans will prepare a communications plan for the launch of this new logo.

## **THS Website Update**

Directors Pam Sullivan and Sharon Jeans worked with Dean Bailly on a redesign and update of the THS website during 2022. The launch of the new website is planned for April 2023. The Harry Clarke Genealogy has been added to the current site.

## **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 was not done in 2022.

THS further recommended that the Town develop an interactive mobile APP of all the sites, landmarks and businesses in the area. We were informed that this project would likely be included in the new town plan. THS also recommended that the Town add an events tab to the Town website such that visitors could be kept informed about upcoming activities.

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## **II. Infrastructure**

### **Repairs at Lester-Garland House**

Deterioration of exterior brickwork at the Lester-Garland House was noted in 2022. The initial quote for repairs was \$66,000.00. Additional quotes are being obtained.

The windows at LGH also require repair and caulking. Hedley Johnson was engaged to perform this work but it could not be done before the weather deteriorated in the fall of 2022. Mr. Johnson will complete this work in the spring of 2023.

The ceiling lighting was upgraded in the Exhibit Room.

### **Painting of the Museum**

The Museum underwent exterior painting and minor repairs in the summer and fall of 2022. We secured funding from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Come Home Program in the amount of \$20,000.00. The Board decided to engage the membership with

regard to selecting the paint color of the building. This was done by way of a survey of the membership. The color was chosen based on the greatest number of responses in favour of one of the choices presented. The repairs and painting included the picket fence, the adjacent shed, the historic Fire Engine House and repair of the base of the WWI artillery piece located on the property.

### **The Green Family Forge**

As noted above, one of the two working chimneys at the Forge had to be dismantled in 2022. The cost of taking down this chimney was \$2300.00. The chimney is scheduled to be rebuilt in April 2023. The estimated cost of this rebuild is \$18,000.00.

The historic bellows at the Forge is also not operational. We have obtained an estimate of \$30,000.00 to repair or rebuild the bellows.

Significant dampness has been noted by the blacksmiths in the earth floor at the Forge. A drain was created in the summer of 2022 but the dampness has persisted. A sump pump was installed in the existing shallow well in the building in the fall and the blacksmiths modified the drainage.

Bowing of the front wall of the Forge was also noted in 2022 with consequent damage to the front window. This was assessed by a contractor. Temporary stabilization will be placed early in 2023 and the repairs completed in the spring.

### **Trinity Courthouse**

The Courthouse roof developed a significant leak. A new torch-on roof was completed in May 2022 with resolution of the leak. The cost of this installation was \$7,762.50. Water damage to the ceiling of the third floor of the building was repaired by Dean Bailey. The sump pump in the basement of the building also required replacement this past year and two storm windows required repair and replacement. The Courthouse was painted and underwent minor repairs in 2021.

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 seven full time positions, all within Trinity Bight, and over 20 seasonal positions. Of this complement, 7 seasonal employees were based in Trinity in 2022. 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.

### **Historic Signage for the Cooperage.**

In 2021, the Board agreed to erect an historically appropriate sign on the Cooperage to draw the attention of visitors to the building. Mr. Lester Cooper, our retired cooper, fabricated the sign “Cooperage” and donated it to the Society in 2021. This sign was erected on the exterior of the Cooperage prior to the 2022 season.

### **Storage Facility**

In 2022, storage space for THS artifacts was found to be inadequate. The Board recognized that some culling of artifacts was necessary but additional space was still required. The most cost-effective option was found to be rental of storage space from Corey Jones at his Trouty facility. A 20-foot x 10-foot secured space was rented at a cost of \$800.00 per year.

### **Johnson Family Foundation Sign**

This sign located on Garland Road had become badly weathered and needed replacement. However, we were unable to get further funding from the Johnson Family Foundation. THS replaced this sign at our expense in 2022.

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## **III. Publications**

### **Newsletter**

We continued to publish our monthly Newsletter co-edited by Kevin Toope and Ian Morris which was initiated in February 2021. The October 2022 issue presented the last of the 21 men whose names are inscribed on the War Monument in St. Paul’s Churchyard in Trinity. In the November issue we published the story of the first of the men who are remembered on the War Monument in Trouty. When we have presented the stories of these men, we will move on to those who are remembered on the stained-glass windows in the church of St. John the Evangelist in New Bonaventure.

The Newsletter is published on the THS website, posted on our Facebook page, and sent by email to each of the members of our Society.

## **The Trinity Bight Enterprise**

We continued to publish The Trinity Bight Enterprise in 2022. In 2021 we added a copy of the Newsletter in each issue of the Enterprise. We also added a crossword puzzle developed by Kevin Toope, with questions on topics related to Trinity Bight. Kevin composes the crossword questions each month using a Trinity Historical Society Question Bank, which we have created. If any members have questions to contribute to this bank, please send them to [kevintoope@gmail.com](mailto:kevintoope@gmail.com). We also added a guest author article in each issue on a topic related to Trinity Bight.

Printing of the Enterprise has been labour intensive as the THS collating copier has ceased to function and cannot be repaired. We have leased a new colour collating copier (currently on back order) which will decrease the hours required to put the publication together and allow an expansion of content.

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## **IV. Organization/Personnel**

### **Recruitment of Blacksmith and Cooper**

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

We were unable to secure funding for a third blacksmith in 2022 and this recruitment was deferred until 2023.

A new cooper was recruited in 2022. A committee of the Board interviewed three applicants. Darren Hookey was the successful applicant and started work on May 9, 2022. The Board agreed that part of the job requirement would be the construction of at least one barrel per season. Funding support in the amount of \$10,000.00 was secured from Heritage Newfoundland for this position.

We corresponded with Heritage Newfoundland with regard to funding for “traditional trades at risk” and possibly creating a “Heritage Hub” in Trinity. One of our blacksmiths, Devin Hookey, has expressed an interest in learning the trade of tin smithing which he could use in combination with blacksmithing, and which would qualify for this funding. However, funding for



this project was not obtained.

### **Internal Communications**

Monthly staff activity reports were introduced in April 2022 to facilitate communications between the staff and the Board.

### **Travel and Transportation Policy**

A Travel and Transportation Policy was developed for THS by the Board which included compensation for travel on behalf of THS, use of private vehicles for THS business, and insurance issues. This policy was approved by the Board in October 2022.

### **Review of Long-term/Strategic Plan**

A special meeting of the Board was held on June 27<sup>th</sup> to review the existing Long-Term Plan of the Society and to discuss organizational issues, marketing, communications, membership, and future projects.

At this meeting the following committees of the board were formed:

Human Resources: Geoff Dawe, Pam Sullivan, and Sharon Jeans.

Maintenance: Geoff Dawe, Maurice Devine, and Kevin Toope.

Executive: Ian Morris and Kevin Toope

Finance: Tony Huys, Maurice Devine, and Sharon Jeans

The Board identified the need to:

1. develop staff job descriptions
2. implement an electronic accounting system
3. implementation an electronic point of sale inventory system
4. apply for financial support to perform an external human resources review
5. identify marketing strategies utilizing the Trinity Bight Enterprise, our website, and other social media
6. revise our logo
7. review our membership renewal process and communication

Future projects were discussed and prioritized.

## **Human Resources Review**

At the Board meeting of July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the Human Resources Committee proposed that a Human Resources Consultant be engaged by THS to undertake a review of the organization and develop position descriptions for staff. The Board agreed to proceed with this review at a special meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Fagan Consulting was subsequently engaged to perform this review and a review of staff remuneration was added. Ian Morris and Kevin Toope met with staff to inform them about this project.

The Fagan Report was submitted to the Board on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The report and its recommendations will be reviewed by the Board in January 2023. The cost of this review was \$14,900.00. Financial support in the amount of \$5,000.00 was obtained from the Consulting Advisory Services (CAS) program of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) through the Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) Clarendville Office.

## **Operational Plan and Budget**

Utilization of a written operational plan and budget for the following year was implemented in 2022. These documents were prepared by Jim Miller in December 2022 and will be reviewed by the Board in January 2023.

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## **V. Membership**

THS membership at the beginning of 2022 included 107 members in good standing. As of December 2022, our membership increased to 117 members in good standing.

Directors Pam Sullivan and Sharon Jeans developed a membership survey which was distributed in November 2022, and requested feedback on THS activity to determine if THS was meeting member's expectations. The response rate was 34%. Sixty percent of respondents had been members for more than 5 years. An analysis of the responses indicated that strategies need to be implemented to improve engagement with members. Specifically, we need to increase content in the Enterprise, update and improve the current website including the addition of feedback and events tabs, increase the number of events hosted by THS, and increase awareness of our membership policy.

In 2023 we will also implement a quarterly THS Activity Report which will be sent to members and provide updates on our events and projects.

The Board has proposed the addition of individual affiliate membership. This proposed amendment to the By-Laws will be presented at the AGM in January 2023.

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## **VI. Awards**

### **Trinity Bight Award**

It was recommended by member Capt. Kris Drodge that the THS establish a Trinity Bight Award to recognize an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the promotion and preservation of our collective heritage. The Board endorsed this recommendation and terms of reference were created. Nominations are requested from the membership and the recipient selected by the Board. The first annual Loyal Trinity Ranger Award was presented to Chris O'Dea at the Trinity Historical Society Auction at the museum garden in August.

### **Trinity Historical Society Scholarship**

The THS Scholarship at Bishop White School established in 2021 was combined with an endowment from Dr. Brian Rusted. The first combined scholarship was awarded in 2022. For more details, please see Donations below.

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## **VII. Activities/Events**

### **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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This was the first in-person auction that we have been able to hold since 2019. The auction committee consisted of Chris O’Dea, John O’Dea, Sharon Jeans, Pam Sullivan, Kris Drodge, Daphne Clarke, Jim Miller, and Dean Bailey. As a strategy to engage clients during the event, a Hat Contest was undertaken with prizes for the “best” male and female hats. Elizabeth Burry agreed to champion this activity. The net revenue from the auction was \$23,810.60.

Considerations for future auctions in the garden include: promoting nominations for the Loyal Trinity Ranger Award in the Enterprise on our website and on our Facebook page, making the presentation of the award mid-way through the auction, exploring the use of an open sided tent to provide protection from the rain and sun, and using a wi-fi booster to allow electronic payments.

A Facebook auction was held in November which generated a net revenue of \$1,100.

## **THS Golf Tournament**

The THS Golf Tournament was held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at The View. There were 24 sponsors and registration for this event was 42, which was at capacity for this venue. Revenue from the tournament totaled \$8,977.45 and net revenue was \$5,2909.00. Dean Bailey has been asked to explore the feasibility of moving the THS Golf Tournament to the golf course at Terra Nova Park such that registration can be increased.

## **Exhibits hosted**

Exhibits hosted in the exhibit room at the Lester-Garland House included commemorative items from our collection in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June and July and *Connected by Tradition*, an exhibit of hooked rugs by Anastasia Tiller and Winnie Glavine in August and September.

In 2023 from mid-May until mid-August, we will host *A Captain’s Life at Home and at Sea* which focuses on the Randell family of Port Rexton and their involvement in the sealing industry. This exhibit is on loan from the Sealer’s Museum in Elliston. We anticipate hosting an exhibit from the Bonavista Biennale from mid-August to mid-September.

## **Meet the Board Event**

A “Meet the Board” event was hosted in the Exhibit Room at the Lester-Garland House on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to provide an opportunity for members to meet and discuss issues with the Board members.

## **Fort Point Site**

The Fort Point Historic Site is very beautiful but underutilized and it would be desirable to increase publicity and attract more visitors to the site. Linda Ballett, our Museum Supervisor, suggested we host home cooked breakfasts at Fort Point in 2021. In 2022, Linda hosted a breakfast on July 2<sup>nd</sup> which was attended by 33 individuals, a pea soup lunch on August 13<sup>th</sup> which attracted 13, and a breakfast on September 3<sup>rd</sup> which was attended by 25 individuals. The lunch on August 13<sup>th</sup> was the same day as Dunfield Day. This schedule conflict was inadvertent. We also required ticket sales at least 3 days prior to the event, which unfortunately precluded many visitors who could not plan breakfast that far in advance. The meals were delicious and the venue was lovely. Meal tickets were \$10.00. We plan to offer three breakfasts in 2023, improve advertising, and remove the requirement that tickets be purchased at least three days in advance.

As noted above, visitation at the Fort was 897 in 2022, as compared to 620 in 2021.

## **Movies and Children’s Programs**

THS hosted three movie showings during 2022, one at Easter, one in July, and one at Halloween, and two Heritage Quest Programs for children ages 12 and under. One of these was a visit to the Forge and Cooperage and the other a hike of the Lower Gun Hill Trail. These events were organized by Daphne Clarke.

## **Craft Fair Participation**

In 2022 Jim Miller represented THS at the Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair in St. John’s, November 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>. THS sold \$8,584.75 worth of products from the Forge and Cooperage. Our net profit was \$7,563.96. We did not participate in any other craft fairs.

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## **VIII. Donations**

### **Endowment from Dr. Brian Rusted**

Dr. Brian Rusted endowed \$3000 to THS to fund a scholarship at Bishop White School in memory of Rupert Morris. This endowment would fund the annual scholarship of a \$100.00 indefinitely.

In 2021, THS established an annual scholarship at Bishop White in the amount of \$100.00. The scholarship recipient, as determined by the school, was to be a level 2 or 3 social studies student who has demonstrated an appreciation for history.

Following discussion with Dr. Rusted, the Board decided to combine this scholarship with Dr. Rusted's endowment to form a single scholarship. This combined \$200.00 scholarship will be known as the Trinity Historical Society Rupert Morris Memorial Scholarship and will be awarded to a senior student at Bishop White who has an interest in local history and/or the THS. The first combined scholarship was awarded to Daniel Lander of English Harbour at the Awards Ceremony at Bishop White in December 2022. Daniel is a grade 12 student who worked at THS for the past two summers as a tour guide at the Forge and Cooperage, and who has a strong interest in history.

### **David Blackwood Image of Joey Smallwood**

Dr. Brian Rusted donated an artist's proof of Joey Smallwood created by David Blackwood which the Society could sell at auction. We subsequently placed the image in the online auction held at Bartlett's Auctions Inc. on October 3, 2022. The item sold for \$4,300. Mr. Bartlett waived his commission. We are thankful to Dr. Rusted for his donation and to Mr. Wayne Bartlett for allowing us to place the item in his auction free of charge.

### **Wheel of Marion Rogers**

Ms. Kay Butler donated the wheel of the Marion Rogers to the Trinity Historical Society in 2021. The schooner Marion Rogers was lost with all hands at the entrance to Trinity Harbour in 1938. The wheel was placed on a concrete foundation in the garden behind the Courthouse in Trinity in the summer of 2022 with an accompanying storyboard. A second story board describing the tragedy was erected at Fort Point near the site of the shipwreck.

### **Brass chandelier from Mr. Stuart Fraser**

In the summer of 2021 Mr. Stuart Fraser donated a magnificent brass chandelier to THS. The chandelier had once hung in St. Paul's Anglican church in Trinity before the installation of electric lighting. It was heavily corroded and the original shade had long since disappeared. THS undertook the restoration of the chandelier, which required multiple applications of corrosion remover and Brasso and many hours of work. When the brass was restored, lacquer was applied and the chandelier with its splendid gargoyles (or chimera) is now hanging in the giftshop of the Lester-Garland House. THS is thankful to Mr. Fraser for his thoughtful donation.

### **ClanMac Donation**

We are grateful to the ClanMac Foundation for their \$5000.00 donation in 2022. 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 are to be used for the ongoing operation of the Lester-Garland House which can include funding for operations, maintenance, restoration, and programming. Of this amount, \$18,415.35 was allocated for current needs at the House and the remainder of this donation was invested with Manulife Securities in the spring of 2022. The annual income from this investment will be used to offset ongoing expenses incurred at the LGH.

This investment with Manulife was made before the need for repair of the exterior brickwork was identified in the summer of 2022.

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## **Projects and Activities in 2023**

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

### **Implementation of an Electronic Accounting and Inventory System**

We plan to implement electronic accounting and inventory systems in 2023.

### **Human Resources Review**

The Human Resources Review performed by Fagan Consulting is being reviewed by the Board in January 2023. The recommendations approved by the Board will be implemented.

### **Adopt a Headstone Project**

We plan to complete the cleaning of the remaining headstones in St. Paul's Churchyard as our fundraising permits.

### **THS Auction**

We plan to hold our in-person auction in the garden of the Museum on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We anticipate being able to have an on-line auction as well, but the timing has not yet been determined.

### **Clinch/Vaccination Statue**

Fundraising efforts for this project will continue. In the immediate future, we will direct our attention primarily to corporate donors.

### **Fort Point Site**

We plan to offer three home cooked breakfasts at the Fort Point Site in 2023. This activity will augment visitation to this lovely part of Trinity. The site will also be used for at least one THS lecture in 2023.

### **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 railbed trail between Trinity and Trinity East.

### **Recruitment of a third blacksmith**

Recruitment will be undertaken in 2023.



## **Maintenance at the Lester-Garland House and Green Family Forge**

As noted above, extensive repairs are required at the Lester-Garland House and the Green Family Forge. Significant revenue will be required to pay for these repairs. Much of our effort in 2023 will be devoted to fundraising for these two major maintenance projects.

## **Launch of updated THS website**

Much work is in progress on this project and we anticipate the launch of our updated website in the spring of 2023.

## **THS Lecture Series**

We plan to host four evening lectures on topics of local interest during the summer of 2023.

## **Digitization of THS 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. In 2023, we will prioritize the next group of files to be digitized, seek funding for this project, and proceed with this digitization.

## **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 would be of great economic benefit to the Town. We had planned to initiate discussions in 2021 on how this project could be advanced, but uncertainly related to the Pandemic persisted and the economic environment was not conducive to planning such as this. The timing may now be opportune, given that the Town is currently in the process of developing a new municipal plan.

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## **Conclusion**

Trinity Historical Society continues to preserve, promote and present the history and heritage of Trinity and the surrounding area. We will continue to maintain our historic buildings, preserve our heritage trades, and connect visitors and members with our past through our archives, publications, programming, and events. 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. The Society is appreciative of this funding; however, it is beneficial for the Society to generate revenue from other sources to decrease its dependence on Government. Revenue from rental income, donations, giftshop, forge and cooperage sales, and fundraising activities such as the auction are important to help fund our operations and allow the Society to fulfill its mandate. We are appreciative of the legacy donation, endowment, and other donations that we have received and we welcome other such support.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Ian Morris,  
President

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Kevin Toope

Sharon Jeans  
Tony Huys  
Pam Sullivan  
Geoff Dawe  
Maurice Devine