



# Trinity Historical Society

## 2025 Annual Report

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

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### Executive Summary

Founded in 1964, our mission is to preserve, present, and promote the built and cultural heritage of Trinity and the area. In 2025 our activities included:

#### **PRESERVE**

- Developed and launched our Leave a Legacy Program
- Installed memory boards in communities throughout the Bight honoring those who lost their lives in World Wars I
- Rick Peddle initiated a cemetery clean-up project across Trinity's cemeteries
- Received significant donations including antique iron fish scales and press from Aiden Duff and a railway speeder from Gerald Hiscock's estate
- Participated in discussions with the Catholic Church regarding the future of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity
- Continued to seek funding for digitization of our archives
- Repairs to the Forge's south wall were postponed due to funding constraints
- Interior repairs to the Lester-Garland House were delayed despite securing funding through the Community Enhancement Employment Program—we couldn't find available workers

## **PRESENT**

- Operated six heritage sites: Trinity Museum, Archives and Office (third floor of Lester-Garland House), Green Family Forge, Lester-Garland House Museum, Courthouse, Cooperage, and Fort Point
- Employed four full-time workers, four seasonal workers, and nine summer students
- Added a 45-minute audio tour narrated by Tom Kennedy at the Museum and rearranged displays
- Expanded our popular Blacksmith Experiences
- Hosted a nine-part Summer Seminar Series
- Hosted art exhibits featuring Cathy Driedzic (July 1–August 10) and the Bonavista Biennale (mid-August to mid-September)
- A fundraising Trinity Garden Tour was organized for August 9<sup>th</sup> and several local gardeners agreed to participate, but the event had to be cancelled due to low ticket sales
- Held a script reading of Ed Burry's play about Rev. Dr. John Clinch in cooperation with Rising Tide Theatre as a fundraiser on July 27<sup>th</sup>
- Created storyboards telling local history along the Walters Point Trail
- Welcomed and engaged with passengers from three cruise ships in September and October

## **PROMOTE**

- Membership grew to 205 members
- Maintained regular communications through monthly Mail Chimp and Memorial Newsletters plus the Trinity Bight Enterprise
- Schools NL ordered 1,000 copies of our self-published book "From Fisher's Cove"
- Advanced the Rev. Dr. John Clinch Monument and Interpretation Centre concept, combining it with our historic Trinity Waterfront redevelopment proposal and submitting a feasibility study application to ACOA
- Resubmitted our nomination of Rev. Dr. John Clinch to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

- Development research for an online events site for Trinity Bight
- Created a Welcome Package for New Residents
- Continued the Pen Pal Program at Bishop White School
- Held memorial ceremonies at the War Monument on July 1st and November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Fundraising events: lobster boil at Fort Point (June 13), auction at Rocky's Place (August 15), music fundraiser featuring The Aldermen (August 2), Golf Tournament (September 20), calendar lottery, and fall Facebook auction
- Participated in the Trinity Fall Festival and the Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair
- Our successful not-for-profit moose hunt provided both food and funds
- Jim Miller was acclaimed Vice President of the Museum Association of NL
- Sharon Jeans and Ian Morris attended the National Trust Annual Conference in Halifax on a John Edwards Conference Bursary
- Presented the Rupert Morris Memorial Scholarship to Owen Verge in December 2025

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## Introduction

Overall, THS had a good year in 2025. With the exception of the Cooperage, the number of visitors to each of our sites increased as compared to 2024 and funding from Government sources also increased. We opened for the season on June 2<sup>nd</sup> as compared to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, and closed on October 12<sup>th</sup>, as compared to October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We undertook a number of projects and were involved with numerous activities as outlined below. We were able to control costs and ended the year with our revenue slightly exceeding expenses.

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in January 2025. The Board decided to hold the 2025 Annual General Meeting in January of 2026.

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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, and the Fort Point Interpretation Centre.

We own the Trinity Museum, the Green Family Forge, and the Courthouse (Figures 1-3).



Fig. 1: Trinity Museum



Fig 2: Green Family Forge



Fig. 3: Trinity Courthouse

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 (Fig. 4) and 2006 for the Cooperage (Fig. 5). We are responsible for the operation and upkeep of these buildings. We are not charged a rental fee.



Fig. 4 Lester Garland House



Fig. 5: Cooperage

The Interpretation Centre Building (Fig. 6) and the trails located at Fort Point (Fig. 7) 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.



Fig. 6: Interpretation Centre, Fort Point



Fig. 7: Fort Point Lighthouse

As a cost saving measure, during 2025, we reduced the work hours for four of our staff: Jim Miller, Dean Bailey, Daphne Clarke, and Kyle Hurdle. Kyle's income is mostly funded through a grant from the Ability Employment Corporation. Daphne and Dean's work week was reduced from 40 hours per week to 15 hours per week from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for Daphne, and January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup> for Dean. Daphne took a lay off on October 31, 2025, and Dean reduced

his hours again to 15 hours per week from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Kyle Hurdle reduced his hours to 20 hours per week from January 1<sup>st</sup> until March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. He returned to work at 40 hours/week from May 12<sup>th</sup> until November 8<sup>th</sup> when he was laid off for the remainder of the year, except for some on-call work. Jim also reduced his work week from 40 hours per week to 35 from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> and again from November 2<sup>nd</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

In 2025, we employed three blacksmiths, Wade Ivany, Devin Hookey, and Kyle Downey. The blacksmiths started work on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Devin Hookey and Kyle Downey were laid off on October 17<sup>th</sup> and Wade Ivany on September 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 2025 and continued to staff the cooperage with summer students. We employed 9 summer students in 2025 and 2024 as compared to 11 in 2023. This limited number of summer students negatively impacts our ability to staff our various sites. The Lester-Garland House was open for tours, and the Gift Shop was operational.

We had 8,562 visitors at the Lester-Garland House in 2025 as compared to 7,292 visitors in 2024, 7,563 in 2023 and 8,374 in 2022. 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 increase in the number of visitors after three seasons of decline is reassuring. The visitors included 1,508 from bus tours and cruise ships. We also hosted an exhibit at the Lester-Garland House as part of the Bonavista Biennale in 2025 which attracted visitors.

The Green Family Forge had 1,917 visitors in 2025 as compared to 1,882 visitors in 2024, 1,927 visitors in 2023, and 1,943 visitors in 2022. Again, this increase in the number of visitors is reassuring after the decline of the previous three seasons. The Forge had 2,824 visitors in 2019 before the Pandemic.

At Fort Point we had 584 visitors in 2025, as compared to 530 visitors in 2024, 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 but the increase in the number of visitors in 2025 is cause for some optimism for the utilization of this site.

The Cooperage had 1,134 visitors in 2025 as compared to 1,147 visitors in 2024, 1,223 visitors in 2023 and 2,695 in 2022. We had the services of a Cooper in 2022 but have had to staff the Cooperage with students since 2023. The absence of a cooper definitely has a negative impact on our operations there. We will continue to explore options for the future operation of the Cooperage which include recruitment of a skilled cooper and other alternatives such as an artist (cooper) in residence program.

The Trinity Museum had 1,236 visitors in 2025 as compared to 1,122 visitors in 2024, 1,158 visitors in 2023, and 1,202 in 2022. We introduced a 45-minute audio tour, professionally narrated by THS member Tom Kennedy, at the Museum in 2025 and provided the ability to pay for access to the Museum or all our sites at this location. We added a sandwich board on the street outside advertising the audio tour. Some of the bus tours also visited the Museum.

With the exception of the Cooperage, the number of visitors to each of our sites in 2025 was increased. This is reassuring. We must continue to make our experiences and products as attractive as possible, and market effectively, if we are to continue to increase visitation. The Board and staff are working diligently on this and will continue to do so in 2026.

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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 2025, 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  
Amanda Mitchell, Director

As per the Bylaws of the Society four Director positions (Ian Morris, Michele DuRand, Maurice Devine, and Kris Drodge) were up for election at the AGM on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Maurice Devine decided to step down from the Board and did not reoffer for re-election. Five nominations were received: Ian Morris, Michele DuRand, Kris Drodge, Rick Peddle, and Chloe Gravelle. A vote was held by electronic poll on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Ian Morris, Michele DuRand, Kris Drodge, and Rick Peddle were elected. These positions are for a two-year term.

The new board then consisted of:

Kevin Toope  
Ian Morris  
Kris Drodge  
Rick Peddle  
Sharon Jeans  
Amanda Mitchell  
Michele DuRand

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at which the nomination of officers was held. Nominations were for President: Ian Morris; Vice President: Kevin Toope; Secretary: Michele DuRand; and Treasurer: Sharon Jeans. There were no other nominations, and all four officers were acclaimed.

The new officers were:

President: Ian Morris  
Vice President: Kevin Toope  
Treasurer: Sharon Jeans  
Secretary: Michele DuRand

Jim Miller is the General Manager of THS.

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## **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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and is:

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

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## **Financial Report**

The fiscal year-end of THS is December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Financial Statements as prepared by our Chartered Professional Accountant for 2024 are included with the documents made available for the AGM of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

This 2025 AGM was scheduled for January 2026 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 2025 in this Annual Report. The revenue and expenses reported here for 2025 are subject to some revision as outstanding income is received and expenses paid. The 2025 Financial Statements will be prepared by our accountants and presented at the next (2026) AGM.

In 2025, the Trinity Historical Society had a total revenue of \$399,500.38 as compared to \$397,627.00 in 2024.

Of this 2025 revenue, \$120,102.00 (30.1%) was from 12 Government Grants, as compared to \$94,641.60 from 13 Government Grants in 2024. This includes the Operating Grant which we receive from the Cultural Economic Development Program (CEDP) administered by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation. This Grant has not increased since it was introduced in

2005. We are grateful for this support. 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. 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, we will probably have a continued need for Government support. Along with other organizations in the Heritage Sector, we continue to advocate for this necessary funding.

Expenses for 2025 totaled \$335,704.39 as compared to \$369,294.00 in 2024, of which \$283,265.63 (84%) was spent on personnel as compared to \$285,600.00 (77%) in 2024.

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. Effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, we implemented a 4% pay raise for our employees in recognition of no pay raise 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 2025.

Our revenue for 2025 exceeded our expenses by \$27,010.44 as recorded on December 31<sup>st</sup> in QuickBooks.

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## **THS By-law Amendments Proposed by Board of Directors**

In 2025 the THS Board of Directors proposed amendments to the current By-Laws of the Trinity Historical Society for consideration by the members at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for January 2026. These proposed amendments are detailed in Appendix 1.

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## **THS Leave a Legacy Program**

Past financial legacies such as those of Ada Green-Nemec and Betty Mae Wallis have been invaluable in helping THS meet our mandate. Ada made a financial bequest to THS which provides an annual payment from a trust fund and donated the Green Family Forge building which allowed us to develop our iconic living history (blacksmith) museum. In her will, Betty Mae Wallis left a lump sum donation to THS to be used for maintenance and operation of the Lester Garland House. We

have invested these funds, and they generate an annual income.

As a sustainability strategy, recognizing that legacies can provide an additional opportunity to generate future revenues, Jim Miller and Sharon Jeans developed a planned giving program for THS entitled *Leave a Legacy*. The THS Leave a Legacy program is designed to encourage individuals to include charitable contributions to THS in their estate plans and is initially targeted to current members of THS over the age of 65. The objectives of the program are to create awareness of planned giving options, to develop relationships with potential donors, and to establish trust with the donors that THS can manage legacy gifts as per their wishes.

The planned giving options available through our program include

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- Bequests – These are noted in an individual's will and can be for a specific amount or a percentage of what is remaining after they have provided for loved ones. It could also be a specific piece of property or other non-cash assets such as artwork.
- Beneficiary designations – THS can be named as the beneficiary of retirement funds, insurance policies or an annuity.
- Donations – the gifting of marketable securities.

An In Memoriam Card, a Brochure, and an Informational Package were developed and a dedicated Leave a Legacy section of the THS website was created which outlines the program.

The program was launched in the February 2025 Newsletter, and a specific marketing campaign began in March and April. The Newsletter contained a link to the Leave a Legacy section on the THS website. To create awareness, targeted personal emails were sent to members, especially those who expressed an interest in this program, as well as a personal ask to consider a legacy donation. Potential donors were asked to schedule a call or meeting to discuss various options. Our social media channels were used as a strategy to increase awareness of this program as part of the overall marketing plan for THS.

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## **Projects, Infrastructure, Personnel, and Activities 2025**

Our projects and activities during 2025 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.

- **Projects**

**Rev. Dr. John Clinch Monument and Interpretation Centre/ Historic Waterfront Redevelopment**

Rev. Dr. John Clinch performed the first vaccination in the New World using Edward Jenner's cowpox vaccine against smallpox in Trinity in 1798, or possibly 1797. Clinch's large scale vaccination program in Newfoundland supplied crucial independent evidence about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine that was critical to the acceptance of this vaccination by the medical community of the day.

The concept of erecting a statue in Trinity of Rev. Dr. John Clinch performing a vaccination was approved by THS in 2021. This statue would honour Dr. Clinch and commemorate 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 performing a vaccination on a child (Fig. 8). 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.

Our fundraising efforts for our Clinch Project through to the end of 2024 were only able to raise \$4,000 in donations. At the Clinch 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. In December 2024, June Perry of Pilot Communications was contacted for advice. Pilot recommended that we apply to ACOA for funding to undertake a Feasibility and Development Study for the Project. Pilot suggested that the Clinch statue be combined with an Interpretation Centre and redevelopment of the historic Trinity waterfront.

Redevelopment of the Trinity waterfront was first articulated in the Long-Term Plan for Trinity Historical Society which was developed about the year 2000. This project was reconsidered in the 2020s and the concept for this redevelopment was presented to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation (TCAR), Gerry Osmond, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, by Ian Morris. The presentation was well received. Mr. Osmond requested that we obtain a sketch of the proposed structures and then meet again. Frank LaPointe kindly provided a sketch of our proposed development (Fig. 9) as a donation to THS, but we have not pursued this project further up to this time due to other competing priorities at the Society.



Fig. 8: Dr. Edward Jenner



Fig. 9: Proposed waterfront redevelopment

In October, we were able to secure a grant from The Canadian Business Development Corporation (CBDC) in the amount of \$5,000 to be used to create a Proposal for Funding to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Association (ACOA) for a Feasibility Study for the Rev. Dr. John Clinch Interpretation Centre and Monument. We engaged Pilot Communications to assist us with the preparation of this proposal. Pilot's fee for this was \$11,500. We used funds from our Clinch Project account to help cover this cost. The proposal was submitted to ACOA's Business Development Program in October 2025.

Ian Morris presented a PowerPoint presentation of our proposal to the Town of Trinity on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and will present this information to ACOA when a time for this presentation can be arranged.

We envision that the Clinch Monument and Interpretation Centre will anchor the proposed historic waterfront redevelopment with a highly relevant Centre for learning, innovation, and science outreach which will celebrate one of the most consequential stories in medical history. Redevelopment of the historic waterfront will be of great economic benefit to Trinity and revenue generation will enable the Interpretation Centre and Monument to be viable and sustainable.

### **Lester-Garland Gift Shop**

The Lester-Garland Gift Shop (Figs. 10 and 11) provides an opportunity for THS to generate the much-needed revenue required to meet the expenses of the Society.

In 2025, Gift Shop sales exclusive of sales of Forge products, totaled \$34,648.10 as compared to \$42,744.48 in 2024. Forge products were sold at both the Gift Shop and the Forge. These sales are detailed in the report on the Forge.



Fig. 10: Gift Shop



Fig. 11: Gift Shop

Daphne Clarke is our Gift Shop manager and the products in the shop are beautifully arranged and regularly refreshed. The product selection is excellent. We will continue to offer a wide variety of high-quality products.

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. We do need to find a way to attract more visitors to the shop. We believe there is a need for wayfinding signs strategically placed on our properties and we plan to erect these signs in 2026.

### The Green Family Forge



Fig. 12. Green Family Forge Logo



Fig. 13: Blacksmith, Devin Hookey

The Green Family Forge (Figs. 12 and 13) again employed three blacksmiths for the 2025 season. In 2023, we established a cost center at the forge. Data generated in this cost center revealed that the forge operated at a loss of approximately \$15,000 in 2023.

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. This profitability analysis was presented to the Board in January 2025.

The forge produced 74 products and 1032 items in 2024 of which 20 were new products. The total dollar sales in 2024 were \$51,939.15. Revenues decreased by 4% in 2024 as compared to 2023 and expenses increased by 22% resulting in a loss of \$33,877.00. The major factor contributing to this loss was the staffing of the Forge with three blacksmiths. Wade Ivany, the senior blacksmith, is nearing retirement and from a succession planning perspective, it was considered necessary to incur this cost. The average profit margin for all items sold was 26%.

Our objective for 2025 was to maintain a profit margin of at least 40%. Sales of Forge products in 2025 increased to \$56,764.32. The forge operations were reviewed in detail again at year end.

This review revealed that the Forge operated at a profit in 2025. The exact amount of profit will depend on income and expenses recorded after the year end.

## **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 at least 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 in 2024 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 obtain a grant from Trades NL in the amount of \$2,000 for this program.

During the 2025 season, we offered both half day and full day workshops on two days per month from June until September. We had a total of 11 attendees at 5 full day and 6 half day workshops and the feedback from the attendees was again very positive. The revenue generated from these workshops in 2025 was \$3,678.58.

In 2026, we will continue to offer blacksmith experiences, and we also plan to offer private exclusive blacksmith experiences on request. Advertising will be initiated in January and booking for these workshops will be available online. These workshops will provide additional publicity and increase revenue to help offset expenses at the Forge.

## **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 grant from Farm Credit Canada for interior work at the Museum, but this was not approved. We will continue to search for funding.

In 2025, Kevin Toope and Ian Morris created the narrative for a 45-minute, 15-station audio tour through the six rooms and two hallways of the museum. The tour relates the displays in the house to the stories of people and significant events in Trinity’s history. We rearranged the displays in the house to match the audio content. The tour includes two ghost stories and one incident of telepathy. The visitor is provided with a wireless headset and can select the corresponding channel at each station on the tour. Those not wishing to listen to the entire tour can simply jump ahead to the next channel. We installed a Square terminal at the Museum, so guests can use a credit card to pay the \$5 fee for the Museum visit alone or buy a ticket for all of our sites at this location. Passers-by the Museum were therefore able to access the tour by buying a ticket on site. We also placed a sandwich board by the side of the road outside the Museum advertising the tour. Tom Kennedy narrated the audio recording for us, and we thank him for his contribution. We are also grateful to Robert Bartlett of Trinity Eco-Tours who generously allowed us to use his WIFI to operate the Square equipment. The tour went live on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. There were 1,236 visitors to the Museum in 2025 as compared to 1,122 in 2024. Seventy-three visitors accessed the tour.

In 2025, the refurbished salvaged binnacle and compass from the M/V *Marvid*, which sank in Trinity Harbour in 1957 were donated to THS by Aiden Duff, Geoff Dawe, and Gary Wilansky. The binnacle and compass were placed in the master bedroom at the Museum with accompanying story of the sinking composed by Kevin Toope.

The biographic display of Henry Vokey which had been located in the Lester Garland House was also moved to the Museum.

Linda Ballett, our Museum Supervisor, instructed the summer students who staffed the Museum in rug hooking. The students hooked two rugs over the summer and invited visitors to place a few stitches.

### **From Fisher's Cove**

In October we received an order from Schools NL for 1000 copies of *From Fisher's Cove*, the collected poems of Rose Sullivan and George Hoskins, which we self-published in 2022.

(Fig. 14). We understand that Schools NL intends to place copies of the book in all the schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. We were able to obtain these copies from Blurb Publishing, the same publishing company that we used in 2022, at a cost of \$11.10/copy. We sold the books to Schools NL at the discounted price of \$14.95/copy. We have to pay shipping costs which we estimate to be about \$800.00. We do not know our exact profit at this time but estimate it to be at least \$2000.00. We are very proud of this book and are delighted that it will be made available to school children and teenagers. Copies of *From Fisher's Cove* are available for

purchase at the Lester-Garland Gift Shop and online on the website – [www.trinityhistoricalssociety.com](http://www.trinityhistoricalssociety.com)

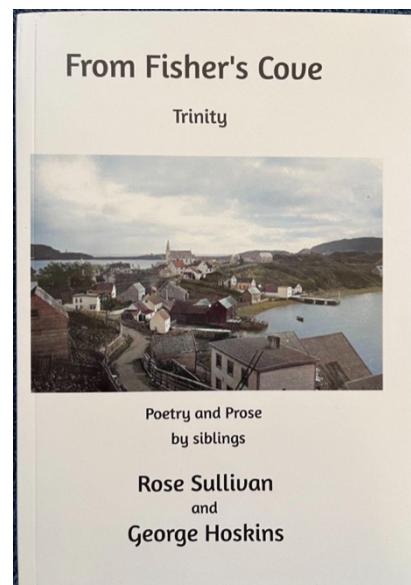


Fig. 14: From Fisher's Cove

### **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. 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 2025. Topographical maps were placed at the two entrances to the Gun Hill/ Walter's Point Trail in 2024. Storyboards about the railway cut and Vice Admiral's Cove on the Walters Point Trail have been created and will be installed in 2026. A storyboard about lighthouse keeper Bob Clarke will be created and installed on the South Side Trail in 2026. Footage for a drone tour of the South

Side was also shot in 2025 will be used to promote the South Side Trails in 2026.

THS continues to endorse the development of the mixed-use trail on the railbed between Lethbridge and Bonavista.

### **Drone Tour of Fort Point and the South Side**

Cindy Kendall of Rising Tide arranged for a drone photographer to do a drone tour of Fort Point and the South Side for THS for promotional purposes. Corey Jones provided accommodations for the photographer at Trinity Cabins free of charge and Sherry Locke knitted a quilt which she donated to THS for sale to cover the photographer's fee. The footage was obtained on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. This footage will be edited and audio added to the tour before the 2026 season. The narrative includes commentary on the history and geography of the South Side. The audiovisual tour can then be used to advertise Fort Point and the South Side trails.

### **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 to digitize the church records but this was not approved. We were unable to secure funds for this in 2025. We will continue to search for funding for this project.

### **Fort Point Historic Site**



Fig. 15: Fort Point

The Fort Point Historic Site (Fig. 15) continues to be underutilized and attracting visitors to this beautiful location has been a challenge, although visitation increased slightly in 2025.

Staffing the Fort Point Site has also been challenging as the number of summer students that we have been able to employ has been limited. However, we did have a summer student to staff the Fort Point Site in 2025. We scheduled our Museum Supervisor, Linda Ballett, to be at the Trinity Museum in the morning and then go to Fort Point in the afternoon. The Fort Point Site was open from 9:30 – 4:30 pm.

A lobster boil was held at Fort Point on June 13<sup>th</sup> in an effort to increase awareness of the site. There were 28 attendees and the reaction to the event was quite favourable.

Kevin Toope and Ian Morris took the audio tour of the site in September. The tour has been available since 2012 and is excellent. It does need a minor update about the whale factory at Maggotty Cove and Kevin has added this.

There are many campers who visit Fort Point each summer from Quebec, and Colleen Denty has agreed to translate the audio tour into French. We plan to erect signage where the campers overnight which will advertise the French language tour.

We will also have the drone tour of the South Side (described above) which can be used to promote the site.

### **Cemetery Clean-up**

Rick Peddle, who is a member of our Board of Directors, generously donated his labour and equipment to do grave site clean ups in any of the four cemeteries in Trinity as a fundraiser for THS. The fee for a 10-foot by 10-foot plot is \$200. For an additional \$50, flowers can be laid at the annual flower service. Rick did cemetery clean ups for two families and collected \$600. He took before and after photos and did a write up on the project for The Enterprise.

### **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 did not have the funds available to complete this project in 2025 and it is on hold until we have the necessary funds.

### **Memory Boards in Trinity Bight**

In 2025 THS installed 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. Kevin Toope did the research for these memory boards.

We plan to create and install memory boards in British Harbour for those who died in war from that community. We will also explore erecting memory boards to the two men who died from Ireland's Eye.

### **Welcome Package for New Residents**

Rick Peddle, Maura Peddle, Amanda Mitchell, and Jim Miller put together a welcome package for new residents which included a copy of *The Story of Trinity*, a copy of our document on Historic Trinity Architecture, Hike Discovery Maps, THS brochures, a bar of Karen Huy's soap, and a package of Ian White's coffee. This was distributed to two new households in 2025.

### **Founders Award/Plaque**

At the Board meeting of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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. This project was not completed in 2025 and has been postponed to 2026.

### **The Trinity Trust Bell and Antique Weigh Scales/Press**

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 had planned to install the bell on that foundation in 2025 with an explanatory storyboard but the brass in the bell is valuable and the theft of the bronze statue of Amelia Earhart from Harbour Grace in April 2025 suggested that the bell would be at risk in this location. The bell was therefore placed in the linney of the Trinity Museum.

In 2025 Aiden Duff generously donated a large antique iron Victorian weigh scales and part of a fish press to THS. The scales and press are ornate and will attract attention. We plan to enlarge the concrete foundation intended for the Trinity Bell and place the scales on this, adjacent to the entrance to the Gift Shop.

### **Railway Speeder**

THS accepted the donation of a railway speeder from the estate of Gerald Hiscock and placed it in the garden behind the courthouse. We will place an explanatory storyboard next to the speeder.

## **Trinity Town Map**

A map of Trinity which includes sites of interest suitable for visitors was created by Elizabeth Burry in cooperation with local businesses in 2025. We erected laminated copies of this map at four locations on our properties in Trinity.

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## **• 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. However, we were unable to find workers who met the criteria set out in this grant and had to return these funds.

In 2025, we received \$2,000 from the Bonaventure-English Harbour Development Association (BEDA) to be used toward archival shelving and air conditioning for the archive room at Lester-Garland House. We thank them for their support.

### **The Green Family Forge**

The south wall of the Forge requires significant repair. The revised cost of this repair has been estimated at \$35,257. We did not have the funds necessary to carry out this work in 2025 and this maintenance had to be deferred to 2026. We cannot continue to defer this repair, and it may be necessary for THS to take out a loan to cover this cost.

### **Exterior Floodlights at Lester-Garland House**

In 2025, Provincial Historic Sites repaired or replaced floodlights on the front exterior of Ryan's Shop that had been installed in the 1990s. The lighting attracts attention to the property and by contrast makes the Lester-Garland House look quite dark. The Board explored the cost of adding exterior lighting to Lester-Garland House. The estimate from Bartlett's Electrical for the installation of two LED floodlights was \$2,600. We currently do not have the funds for this project, and it was therefore placed on hold.

### **Trinity Courthouse**

The space at the Courthouse is leased and continues to be fully occupied by the Trinity Chocolate Company, Ltd. The Trinity Chocolate Company currently supports five full time positions, all within Trinity Bight, and 28 seasonal positions. Of this complement, ten seasonal employees

were based in Trinity in 2025. The lease with the Trinity Chocolate Company was renegotiated in 2024 for the following five years. The rent on the Courthouse was increased by 5% in the first year and then by 2% per year for the remaining four years.

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.

### **Fort Point Historic Site**

The trails on Fort Point need maintenance, as do the existing storyboards. We will perform this maintenance before the 2026 season. The Interpretation Centre at Fort Point also needs to be painted to make it more welcoming and distinct from the other Government structures that are not open to the public. There is also a need for signage advertising the site and the audio tour. The Interpretation Centre building is owned by the Town of Trinity. We plan to review our operations at Fort Point before the 2026 season and meet with the Town to discuss the future of this site.

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- **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 Clarenville. Kyle Hurdle has worked in maintenance for THS since 2012. Kyle maintains our grounds and the Town of Trinity's Field during the tourist season and performs many other jobs for us and the Town. Kyle earns minimum wage. The Ability Employment Corporation contributed \$14.50/hour of his minimum wage pay rate and THS paid the remainder. The Supported Employment Program was to stop in June 2024 but was extended until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and then until December 31<sup>st</sup> on a three-monthly basis. However, the hourly contribution was decreased to \$10.00. Minimum wage in 2025 was \$16.00/hour. THS met with the Town, and it was agreed that we would each contribute \$3.00/hour to Kyle's wages for 2025. Continuation of funding from the Supported Employment program remains uncertain. 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 years' experience. Kyle began work with us at the start of the 2024 summer season. In addition to the fabrication of artistic items, Kyle interacts with visitors to the Forge and teaches in the Blacksmith Experience Workshops.

In consideration of the cost of having three blacksmiths on staff in 2024 and again in 2025, 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. As noted above, were able to get funding for nine students in 2025. 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**

The 2025 operational plan and budget was presented to the Board in December 2024. The Board held an Operational Planning Meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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### **• Activities/Events**

#### **July 1<sup>st</sup> Memorial Ceremony**

Trinity Historical Society held a Memorial Day Ceremony in St. Paul's Churchyard in Trinity on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 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. As in the previous year, there were about 100 people in attendance.

#### **November 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Ceremony**

Trinity Historical Society also held a Ceremony of Remembrance in St. Paul's Churchyard in

Trinity on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to again honour the memory of the men and women who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. There were about 70 people in attendance. The ceremony had to be held indoors due to the inclement weather.

### **New Housing Development on High Street**

In response to a request from the Town of Trinity, THS provided input about proposed housing located at 35 High Street in the Heritage Section of Trinity. We stressed the importance of following heritage requirements in this proposed development.

### **Canadian Medical Hall of Fame**

Trinity Historical Society resubmitted an application to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame to nominate Rev. Dr. John Clinch for posthumous membership in this charitable organization. Dr. Clinch was not selected for membership in 2025. We will resubmit this application in 2026.

### **Music Event at Rocky's Place in Trinity**

THS hosted a fundraiser music event at Rocky's Place in cooperation with Corey Jones on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, with live music by The Aldermen from Carbonear (Fig. 16). The band generously donated their time. We reimbursed them for their travel expenses. Corey did not charge us for the use of Rocky's and agreed to allow us to take the admission fees (door). We also held a 50/50 draw. One hundred and eight people attended the event. THS made a profit of \$765.

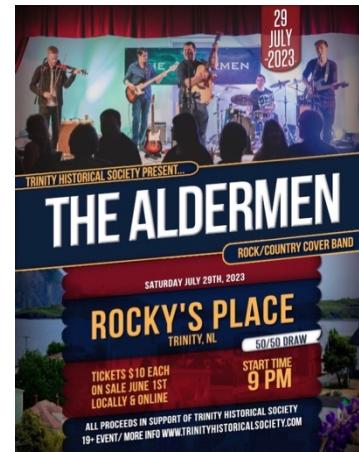


Fig. 16: The Aldermen

### **Lobster Boil at Fort Point**

THS hosted a lobster boil on Fort Point on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, catered by Katie Hayes. The event had to be held indoors at the Interpretation Centre on Fort Point due to the weather. It was attended by 28 people. The event was well received and there was much positive feedback. THS staff assisted with the preparation of the meal. We made a profit of \$460. The event was conceived as a way to increase awareness of the Fort Point site.

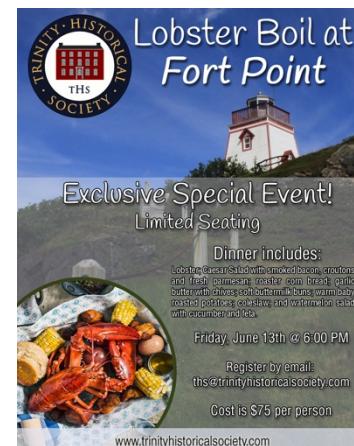


Fig. 17: Lobster Boil

## Script Reading of *Clinch*.

Rising Tide Theatre kindly agreed to do a script reading of Ed Burry's stage play about Rev. Dr. John Clinch as a fundraiser for THS on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Fig. 18). The technicians, staff, and actors donated their time and expertise. THS sold the tickets for this event. There were 47 people in attendance and THS's profit was \$705.

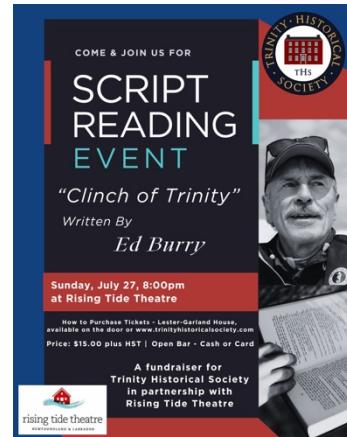


Fig. 18: Script Reading

## Summer Seminar Series 2025

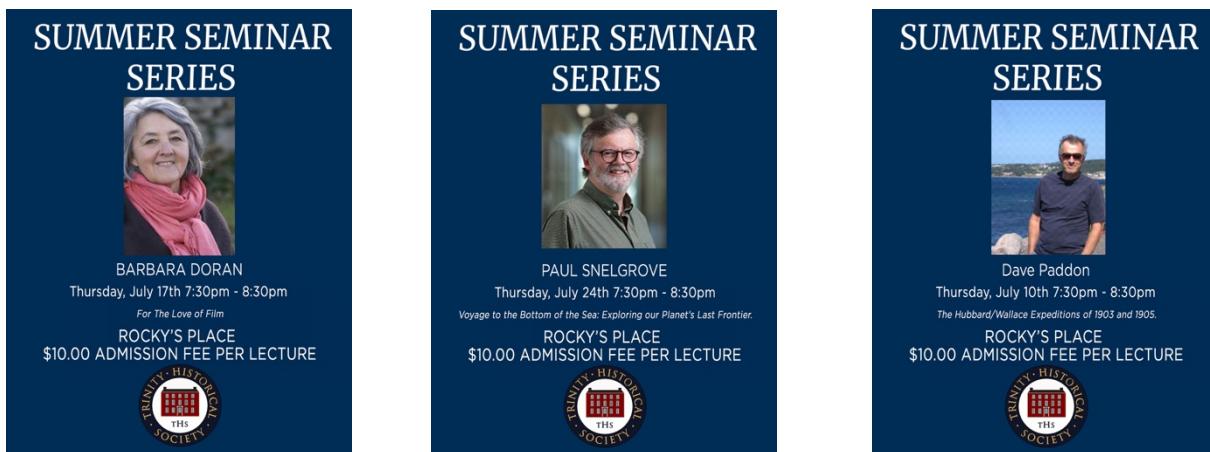


Fig. 19: Selected seminar posters

THS hosted a series of nine evening seminars during July and August of 2025 (Fig. 19), with the following presenters and titles.

July 3	Weldon Chafe: Cradle of the North: Some Historic Insights on Giving Birth in Newfoundland and Labrador
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July 10      Dave Paddon:  
The Hubbard/Wallace Expeditions of 1903 and 1905

July 17      Barbara Doran:  
For The Love of Film

July 24      Paul Snelgrove:  
Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea: Exploring our Planet's Last Frontier

July 31      Elizabeth Burry:  
A Hidden Treasure: Gemstones of Newfoundland and Labrador

August 7      Rick Peddle:  
Heave Out, Lash Up and Stow. A family returns to Trinity after 75 years away

August 14      Julia Laite:  
Artist, Rebel, Witness: The Hidden History of Shanawdihit

August 21      Stephen Millar:  
Impressions of Central Asia - From the Life of a Diplomat

Attendance ranged from 34 to 74. The seminars were held at Rocky's Place, and we thank Corey Jones for allowing us to use this venue free of charge. The total revenue generated by the series was \$4,445.

The seminars were recorded with the presenter's permission. The video presentations have been posted on our THS website where they can be viewed for \$10 per seminar, which is the same as the in-person admission fee.

### Exhibits Hosted

In 2025 we hosted an exhibit of Cathy Driedzic's art in the Exhibit Room at the LGH from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup> (Fig. 20). An opening reception was held at LGH on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cathy donated 20 of her art books that we could then sell at our Gift Shop. We thank her for this donation.

Following the Cathy Driedzic exhibit, we hosted the Bonavista Biennale in the Exhibit Room from mid-August to mid-September.



Fig. 20: Cathy Driedzic Exhibit Poster

## Trinity Bight Happenings Hub

Amanda Mitchell took the lead in the development of one online site where events in Trinity Bight can be listed, and individual groups can enter their information. This Hub is still under development.

## THS Auction

The in-person auction was held on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Fig. 21). The auction had to be held at Rocky's Place due to inclement weather. The work group for the auction consisted of Chris O'Dea, Daphne Clarke, Jim Miller, and Dean Bailey with assistance of Kyle Hurdle. Sales from the auction totaled \$19,318.50 as compared to \$16,195.50 in 2024. We thank all of those who contributed to making the auction a success again this year.



Fig. 21: Auction Poster

## THS Golf Tournament



Fig. 22: Golf Tournament

The THS Golf Tournament was held on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Terra Nova (Fig. 22). There were 23 sponsors as compared to 20 in 2024 and registration for this event was 40 as compared to 38 in 2024. Revenue generated from the tournament totaled \$8883.50 as compared to \$8771.64 in 2024 and net revenue was \$6,105.04 as compared to \$6,480.38 in 2024.

## **September Lottery**

THS held a calendar lottery during the month of September 2025 as a fundraiser. Cash draws occurred daily during the month. Profit from this fundraiser totaled \$8,655 after expenses and prizes were awarded. Several prize winners graciously donated their winnings to THS or other charities.

## **Fall Festival**

The Fall Festival was very successful with sales just over \$4,000.

## **Facebook Auction**

We held a successful Facebook auction in December, raising a total of \$1,539.

## **Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair Participation**

Jim Miller and Kyle Downey represented THS at the Craft Council of NL Christmas Craft Fair in St. John's, November 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Amanda Mitchell also helped with the show. THS sales totaled \$10,037.72 as compared to \$6,800.00 in 2024. The demand for Green Family Forge products was excellent.

## **THS Moose License**

In 2024 THS applied for a Not-for-Profit Moose License which was approved. Dean Bailey carried out the hunt and was successful. The ground meat was sold at \$5.00 per pound and THS realized a profit of \$651.00. We were awarded a moose license again in 2025 and the hunt was again successful.

## **Cruise Ship Tours**

Three cruise ships visited Trinity in 2025, two in September and one in October. These visits were coordinated by the Town. THS offered visits to our sites and the Blacksmith Experience to these visitors. Dean Bailey designed a post card that had our tour sites on one side and an offer of a 15% discount on merchandise at our Gift Shop on the other. Chloe Gravelle translated the text into French as the cruise ship passengers in September were French speakers. Chloe and Amanda Mitchell passed out the cards to passengers and spoke with them as they came ashore. The cruise ship that visited Trinity in October bought 198 of our site passes at \$15 each and we estimate that between 120 and 150 people visited our sites. The passengers on this Adventure Canada Cruise appeared to be interested in Trinity and its history and purchased merchandise in our Gift Shop.

## **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.

## **Funding for Heritage Organizations**

In 2025, the Provincial Government Budget contained a two million dollar increase to the Cultural Economic Development Program (CEDP) to be shared between Arts and Heritage. This was after much advocacy. Provincial Government funding for heritage organizations had not been increased since 2005. Unfortunately, up to this time (January 17, 2026) how this increased funding will be disbursed to arts and heritage organizations has not been decided. THS will continue to advocate for increased funding for Heritage.

## **Church of the Most Holy Trinity**

In January 2024 THS was informed by the Saints 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 (Fig. 23). The intention of the Catholic Church to sell Holy Trinity Church was confirmed by Bishop Daniels at a meeting held in Trinity on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. At a special meeting of the Board in August of 2024 it was the consensus of the Board that the creation of a trust independent of THS that 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. The other members of this group included Ian Morris, Kris Drodge, Jim Miller, Chris O'Dea, John O'Dea and Paul Stapleton. This community group was initially called the Trinity Heritage Foundation 2025 Inc. This name was subsequently changed to Trinity 1833 Trust Inc. An appraisal of the property was performed for THS by Kirkland, Balsom, and Associates on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Paul Stapleton resigned from the group in 2025.

Dialogue with the Catholic Church is ongoing.



Fig. 23: Holy Trinity Church

### **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 2025 but 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 as exhibit space was developed by Sharon Jeans, Michele DuRand, and Amanda Mitchell.

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

### **National Trust for Canada Conference**

Sharon Jeans and Ian Morris were both awarded a John Edwards Conference Bursary for heritage volunteers and attended the National Trust Conference: Heritage Now! in Halifax on October 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on behalf of THS.

### **Museum Association of NL**

Jim Miller, General Manager of THS, had been acclaimed as Vice President of the Museum Association of NL. Jim previously served as Eastern Director of the Association.

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## **Publications/Communication**

### **Newsletter**

In February 2023 we initiated our Mail Chimp monthly Newsletter, and we continue to publish this. The Newsletter contains rotating photographs, news, an historical story, the memorial newsletter presenting the stories of the men from the Trinity area who lost their lives in the World Wars, 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 2025 was opened by 177 email recipients.

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## **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 monthly in 2025. The Enterprise includes our Memorial Newsletter, a crossword puzzle developed by Kevin Toope with questions on topics related to Trinity Bight and NL, local news, and advertising. We also feature a guest article in selected issues. If any members have an article that they would like published in The Enterprise, please send the article to Jim Miller at [ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ths@trinityhistoricalsociety.com). Questions for our crossword question bank, can be sent to [kevintoope@gmail.com](mailto: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. Discounted advertisements are available for not-for-profit organizations. In 2025 we provided complimentary space for candidates in the municipal elections in Trinity and Port Rexton to introduce themselves and send a brief message to the community. Revenue generated by The Enterprise in 2025 totaled \$3,608.90 as compared to \$3,445.30 in 2024.

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 2026.

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## **Membership**

Membership in THS was 184 at the beginning of 2025. Our goal was to reach 200 members by the end of the year. Membership increased to 205 members, due in part to an effort by Board members to identify and encourage potential new members.

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## Awards

### Loyal Trinity Volunteer Ranger Award

We did not receive any nominations for the Loyal Trinity Volunteer Ranger Award in 2025.

### 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 fourth combined scholarship in the amount of \$200 was awarded in 2025 to Owen Verge (Fig 24).



Fig. 24: Scholarship Award

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## Donations

### Ada Green Nemec Endowment

We continue to receive the annual dividends from this trust. In 2025 we received \$1,405.81. This amount was reduced in 2025 due to a bank error which caused significant overpayment in 2024.

### ClanMac Donation

We are grateful to the ClanMac Foundation for their \$5000 donation in 2025. 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. We invested these funds with Manulife and receive an annual income from this investment. In 2025 we received \$15,000 from this Fund.

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## **Projects and Activities in 2026**

Tourism is an essential component of our operations. The number of visitors to our sites was slightly increased in 2025. We believe that Trinity needs to maintain or increase its market share. We therefore believe that we need to undertake a focused marketing campaign in 2026 to attract visitors to our sites. We will continue to emphasize experiences such as our Blacksmith Experience, events such as our Summer Seminars, and our audio tours at the Trinity Museum and Fort Point.

We will need to contain costs within our 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 for 2026 include:

### **Exhibition of the Art of Anastasia Tiller**

We will host an exhibit of the art of Anastasia Tiller in the Exhibit Room at the Lester-Garland House in July and August 2026.

### **Renewal of the Trinity Museum**

We will continue to apply for funding to re-curate the Trinity Museum. We will continue to incorporate the traditional craft of rug hooking at the Museum and invite visitors to participate. We will also promote our audio tour.

### **THS Auction**

We plan to hold our annual in-person auction in the garden of the Museum on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **Hiking Trails**

We will continue to promote the hiking trails on the South Side and 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 in 2026.

### **Refurbish Anchor Display in front of Courthouse**

We plan to complete this project when funding permits.

### **Blacksmith for a Day Experience**

We plan to offer more full day or half day Blacksmith Experiences in 2026. We will also offer exclusive private experiences. We will begin advertising this in January 2026.

### **Hosting events in cooperation with Rising Tide Theatre**

Rising Tide Theatre has agreed to partner with THS to screen selected movies on dark nights at the theatre during the summer of 2026. This venture will be an added attraction for visitors and an opportunity to generate revenue. We plan to begin advertising for these events early in the winter of 2026.

### **THS Summer Seminar Series 2026**

We plan to host six evening seminars on topics of local interest at Rocky's Place during July and August 2026. We also plan to screen three movies that were filmed in Newfoundland as part of this series. The seminars and films will start at 7:30 pm and the admission fee is \$10.

The list of presenters and topics follows.

July 2                    Newfoundland movie: *The Grand Seduction*

July 9                    Graham Hookey:  
*Family History in the Context of Mental Well-being*

July 16                    Dave Paddon:  
*Nurse Fortescue and Doctor Paddon*

July 23	Newfoundland movie: <i>Young Triffie</i>
July 30	Stephen Millar: <i>Witnessing the Collapse of the Soviet Block</i>
August 6	Bruce Miller (interviewed by Amanda Mitchell) <i>Stories of Resettlement in Trinity Bight</i>
August 13	Julia Laite: <i>“Fish fit for no other human consumption”: slavery, salt, cod and the Triangular Trade</i>
August 20	Donna Butt: TBA <i>A Journey Through Theatre, Community and Remarkable Characters</i>
August 27	Newfoundland movie: <i>Secret Nation</i>

We plan to make audio-visual recordings of the seminars in 2026 with the presenter's permission and will make the seminars available on our website where they can be viewed for the same \$10 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 2025. In 2026 we will continue to search for the funding required for this important project.

### **Clinch Monument and Interpretation Centre / Historic Waterfront Development**

We will advocate for creation of a Rev. Dr. John Clinch Monument and Interpretation Centre in Trinity as a component of the redevelopment of the historic Trinity waterfront. Combination of this Centre with reconstruction of the historic waterfront on the site of the Lester-Garland premises will provide an opportunity to generate revenue and ensure that the Centre is viable and sustainable as a component of economic development. THS has submitted a proposal to ACOA for funding to undertake a Feasibility Study for this project. We will follow up with ACOA in 2026.

## **Leave a Legacy Program**

As illustrated by our annual income from the Estate of Ada Nemec and our gift from the Estate of Betty Mae Wallis, these legacy funds contribute significantly to our ability to meet our expenses. We have developed a Leave a Legacy Program which we launched in 2025. We would welcome any contributions to THS made through this program.

## **Town of Trinity Cruise Ship Visits**

Three cruise ships visited Trinity in the fall of 2025. Cruise ship visits are expected in 2026, but the dates have yet to be determined. Our sites will be open during these cruise ship visits, and we will offer our Blacksmith Experience. The audio tours of the Trinity Museum and Fort Point will be available, and we can conduct a tour of our sites on request.

We will continue to encourage cruise ship visits. The cruise ship business has the potential to increase the profile of THS, augment our publicity, and can be a revenue source.

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## **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 planning and fundraising for several large projects such as the Rev. Dr. Clinch Monument and Interpretation Centre/Waterfront Redevelopment, refurbishment of the Trinity Museum, and digitization of our Archives.

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 2025, our funding from government grants was increased and we are grateful for this support. We were 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

donations, 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 2026 and beyond, we must 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 effectively market our attractions and expand tourism in Trinity. We need to attract more visitors to our historic sites and offer more services and products. We need to expand our experiences and adapt to the changing expectations and desires of our visitors. 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.

I would like to thank Jim Miller for providing the information necessary to generate this report and Michele DuRand, Kevin Toope, and Sharon Jeans for their input and proofreading.

Respectfully submitted,



Ian Morris,  
President

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Kevin Toope  
Sharon Jeans  
Michele DuRand  
Kris Drodge  
Amanda Mitchell  
Rick Peddle

# Trinity Historical Society

## Appendix 1:

### THS By-law Amendments Proposed by Board of Directors AGM, January 2026

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*Articles 3.2.3 and 5.4(b):*

*Purpose: To grant voting status to Honorary Members*

*At the last AGM, a Member of THS suggested that Honorary Members should be allowed to vote. The Board agrees that Honorary Members should be voting members.*

Current Article 3.2.3:

**3.2.3 Honorary Members:** Honorary Members are non-voting members, nominated by a voting member and shall have access to all services offered by THS.

Proposed amendment to Article 3.2.3:

**3.2.3 Honorary Members.** Honorary Members are nominated by a voting member, are voting members, shall have access to all services offered by THS, and are entitled to serve on the Board of Directors or on any of its committees.

Current Article 5.4(b):

**5.4 Election.**

(b) All Regular Members in good standing and registered as present for the meeting shall be eligible to vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Once voting is satisfactorily concluded, the Chair shall solicit a motion to destroy the ballots.

Proposed amendment to 5.4(b):

**5.4 Election.**

*(b) All Regular Members in good standing and Honorary Members registered as present for the meeting shall be eligible to vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Once voting is satisfactorily concluded, the Chair shall solicit a motion to destroy the ballots.*

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Article 3.2:

*Purpose: To add a minimum voting age*

Current Article 3.2:

3.2 Membership classes. Members of THS shall be divided into voting members and non-voting members in accordance with this By-Law.

Proposed amendment to 3.2:

*3.2 Membership classes. Members of THS shall be divided into voting members and non-voting members in accordance with this By-Law. Members must be eighteen years of age or older to be eligible to vote.*

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Articles 5.3.2 and 7.1:

*Purpose: To remove term limits for Directors and Officers of the Board.*

*The Board believes that term limits reduce input from effective directors. The fact that directors have a short term (two years) provides a safety valve so that directors who are not effective can be voted out. Officers are elected by the Board every year. Removing term limits will also improve continuity for the Board.*

Current Article 5.3.2:

5.3.2. Members of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-election provided that no Director shall serve more than eight (8) years consecutively. Notwithstanding the limit of eight (8) years, they may be eligible for election provided they have been out of office for a minimum period of one (1) year.

Proposed amendment to 5.3.2:

*5.3.2. Members of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-election.*

Current Article 7.1:

7.1 Appointment and Term of Officers. As provided for in the By-Laws of THS, the Board of Directors shall appoint as Officers of THS, a President of the Board, a Vice-President of the Board, a Secretary, a Treasurer and three Directors, and may from time to time, in addition to those Offices prescribed herein, appoint such other Officers as it shall deem necessary who shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board for two years

Officers shall serve a term of one (1) year.

Officers shall be eligible for re-appointment provided that no Officer shall serve as an Officer for more than eight (8) years consecutively. Notwithstanding the limit of eight (8) years, a former Officer who has served a term of eight (8) years may be eligible for election as a new Officer provided that they remain out of office for a period of one (1) year.

Proposed amendment to Article 7.1:

*Remove the last paragraph from Article 7.1, starting “Officers shall be eligible for re-appointment...” and ending “...for a period of one (1) year.”*

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Article 5.6:

*Purpose: To update the number of meetings per year to reflect the current practice of the Board*

Current Article 5.6:

**5.6 Place and Notice of Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time and place to be determined by the Directors provided that ten (10) days' written Notice of such meeting shall be given to each Director. There shall be not less than three (3) meetings per year of the Board of Directors, this is in addition to the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed amendment to 5.6:

**5.6 Place and Notice of Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time and place to be determined by the Directors provided that ten (10) days' written Notice of such meeting shall be given to each Director. The Board will usually have one regular meeting each month, but there shall be not less than ten (10) meetings per year of the Board of Directors, this is in addition to the Annual General Meeting.

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Articles 5.1 and 5.13:

*Purpose: To implement a Board meeting attendance policy for Directors. The Directors determined that it is common practice to include a meeting attendance policy in By-laws. This policy increases accountability and also informs Board members of the responsibilities and expectations of their position.*

Current Article 5.1:

**5.1 Duties and Number.** The property and business of the THS shall be managed by a Board of Directors that shall reflect representation from voting Members. The Board shall be composed of seven (7) individuals with a right to cast votes. A quorum shall be constituted by a majority of Directors in person, teleconference or video conference.

Proposed addition to Article 5.1 (to be included after the existing text, above):

*Directors are expected to attend at least 75% of regularly scheduled board meetings in any fiscal year. The Board will try to schedule meetings at times convenient to the Directors and absences due to extenuating circumstances will be excused. Directors who fail to meet this attendance expectation may be subject to removal by a majority vote of the Board.*

Current Article 5.13:

**5.13 Vacancies.** The office of a Director shall be automatically vacated:  
[reasons (a), (b), (c) not stated here, for clarity]

Proposed addition to 5.13 (reasons (a), (b), (c) to remain the same):

*5.13 (d) If a majority of the Board votes to remove a Board member.*

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Articles 12.1 and 12.1.1:

*Purpose: To clarify the meaning of Articles 12.1 and 12.1.1 about amendment of by-laws.*

Current Articles 12.1 and 12.1.1:

12.1 Amendment of By-Laws.

The By-Laws of the THS not embodied in the Articles of Incorporation may be repealed, amended by By-Law, or by new By-Law, may be enacted by a majority of the Directors, provided that the repeal, amendment, or new By-Law shall not be enforced or acted upon until approval by the Board.

12.1.1 Repeals, amendments, or new By-Law so enacted shall be presented to the next AGM and sanctioned by at least two thirds (2/3) of the Members present.

Proposed amendments to 12.1 and 12.1.1:

*12.1 Amendment of By-Laws*

*The By-Laws of the THS not embodied in the Articles of Incorporation may be repealed, amended, or new By-Laws added. These repeals, amendments, or new By-Laws may be approved by a majority of the Directors, provided that the repeals, amendments, or new By-Laws shall not be enforced or acted upon until approval by the Membership.*

*12.1.1 Repeals, amendments, or new By-Laws so approved by the Board of Directors shall be presented to the next AGM and must be approved by at least two thirds (2/3) of the Members present before they are enforced or acted upon.*