

Special places in Holyrood to receive heritage status

by Shannon Duff

The town of Holyrood is well known for its beauty, the valleys, beach coastline and breathtaking scenery. It's history is steep and rich - brimming with fascinating facts, stories, myths and legends.

Earlier this week Holyrood added three new highlights to its repertoire of municipal heritage sites. The Shoreline News is highlighting the first of those three here now. The others will follow in upcoming editions of The Shoreline.

At 328 Conception Bay Highway in Holyrood sits the Fjordiem property, the former home of Captain Olaf Olsen and the current location of the Tea Garden Restaurant. Built in 1931 by Theo and John LaCour of Holyrood, the property was considered a retreat for the busy fisherman and businessman. The name Fjordheim translated means 'Harbour Home.'

The newly acquired status as one of the town's latest attractions includes the remaining original portion of the Olsen House and the former 'maid house' which also still stands on the property. As well, the concrete posts and famous whale bone entrance are included in the designation.

The original building was a wooden single storey house with a gable roof and projecting eaves and stringers.

The buildings, home and land was originally owned by the Carroll family who operated a fishing supply business near the waterside property supplying bait and ice for the Labrador and Grand Bank Fisheries. They were the first business in Newfoundland to operate a cold storage facility.

Through his work in the fishing industry, Mr. Jack Carroll eventually sold his operation to friend and business associate, Olaf Olsen, (1881-1945) a Norwegian fishing captain. Olsen was involved in the whaling and sealing industry and acted as consul to Newfoundland for Sweden and Norway and vice-consul for Latvia and Finland. He was awarded the Latvian Order of the Three Stars in 1939, and adjudicated a knight of the Order of St. Olav by King Haaken VI of Norway.

There have been many renovations and restorations made to the property over the years, however, a portion of the original building is still visible at the front facade. As well, the



FLOCCINAUCINIHLIPILIFICATION-----At 29 letters long this word is rumoured to be the longest in the dictionary. It basically means 'nothing.' Hopefully it wasn't one of the words called out on May 12th, 2008 at the Kiwanis Club of Kelligrews. That's when the club hosted their 37th Annual Spelling Bee. This year's event saw participation from four schools within the CBS area including St. Edward's, Villanova, and Upper Gullies, and St. George's. After 13 rounds of competition Emily Tenbrook of St. George's Elementary in Long Pond was declared the winner. She was presented with a plaque and a \$50.00 dollar cheque. All other participants received a Kiwanis Terrific Kids Certificate and a cheque for \$20.00.

original maid's quarters at the back of the property still stands as it did back then. The small wooden building is similar to the 'harbour home' and it's evident the same design was applied to it as the roof and eaves are very similar.

The most striking original feature of the property is the entrance to the Fjordheim Property which is easily recognized as a Holyrood landmark today. The arch constructed from a pair of Right Whale jawbones based on a rock wall was a custom made design by Olaf Olsen who had the bones sent from one of his whaling stations.

Closer to the CB highway, a pair of ornamental concrete posts remain as well.

MHA spells it out

especially in the tourism industry, Internet access is vital. Collins explains what people need to realize is that communications comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government and is controlled by the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission. "The Newfoundland government can't say 'internet service is to be provided to any one community', it doesn't have that jurisdiction." Collins adds, what it can do - and is trying to do is - extend the lines to government services in hopes it will enhance the likelihood of a private company extending the line out further, possibly as far of Branch. "That's the hope and the dream, of extending those services."

In the budget municipal affairs announced 90/10 cost sharing with many of the towns in Collins district. "We have Point La Haye, Gaskiers which has water problems, all these communities fall under the 90/10 arrangement." Collins says a town looking at a 100 thousand dollar infrastructure project will need to come up with only 10 thousand dollars. "That's a heck of a lot better than the 70/30 system." He says many towns just couldn't afford their 30 per cent and simply went without.

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