

The Landfall Trust
President's Report 2009-2010
(With a view on 2011 and beyond)

The Landfall Trust activities for 2009-2010 are summarised below. This list is by no means complete but it is hoped it will give members of the Trust a good picture of the year past with an insight to the future:

1. **General Activities:**

One of the most important activities for 2009 was as a participant in the Bartlett 2009 celebrations. As President, I was pleased and honoured to represent the Trust on the Brigus Committee with the specific role to assist with the arrival in Brigus of the Arctic Schooner Bowdoin on July 11. On July 12, and throughout the week following, Landfall was open for public visiting during which we welcomed about 300 visitors.

In June we were pleased to host a visit from Parks Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador East which utilized Landfall as part of a staff orientation team building session for about 20 employees. Landfall is an ideal venue for motivating staff creativity and enthusiasm!



A cold, wet, windy, foggy day. Photo by
Dave Maunder

We also participated in Doors Open – Newfoundland and Labrador on September 27 bringing about another 80 visitors to Landfall.

On November 3rd, a cold, windy, foggy wet day, Director Jenifer Soper and I were honoured to join other “heritage” volunteers in welcoming The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on a brief visit to Brigus during which they toured various heritage sites. While time constraints prevented Landfall from being on the itinerary, it nevertheless captured the Prince’s interest and fascination in brief conversation.

2. **Occupancy:** Occupancy was down over the summer of 2009. This was partially due to some late cancellations and deposits for 2009 being paid in the previous year. I am happy to report that Landfall is now fully booked for the 1020 season, a total of 15 weeks. With 5 weeks assigned to artist and writer residencies, there is little vacant time available at Landfall over the summer.

3. **Programming:** It was an active year for programming with continuation of the Rooms Partnership and the formalizing of our Writer-in-Residence Program.

3(a) Artist-in-Residence: The Rooms Partnership – Another successful residency was conducted this year in partnership with the Rooms. We were fortunate to have Brian Hoxha, a visual artist from Toronto, “in residence” from June 19 to July 10. Brian conducted a workshop for children in Brigus during his residency.

For the 2010 artist-in-residence in partnership with the Rooms, we are very pleased to be hosting Christy George of Boston, an accomplished sculptural artist with a broad range of talent. Christy is now embarking upon a nautical-based body of sculpture, *Nautical Body*, which “began with a year of researching maritime history and culture to actualize a modern relationship to stories, lore, and tricks and trades of explorers, pirates, fishermen, ‘old salts,’ and anonymous sailors” influenced by her experience living and working on tall-ships.

With this background, Christy should blend in well with the Landfall and Brigus environment and we look forward to welcoming her as our 6th artist-in-residence.

3(b) Writer-in-Residence: This year, we were able to formalize a Writer-in-Residence program and delighted to announce in March the selection of Marie Wadden, accomplished journalist and author, of St. John's as the Trust's 2010 Writer-in-Residence. Marie will be resident in Landfall for two weeks in September when she will work on her first venture into fiction with a strong Conception Bay flavour.

3(c) Other Residencies: Again this year, Gerry Squires continued work he had commenced in 2007 and 2008 spending time at Landfall in early June. One piece of his work from Landfall, the water colour "Kent Cottage at Landfall", he kindly offered for the Trust to release as a limited edition giclée print for fund development. (See below under "Fund Development").

We were also fortunate to have Dennis Flynn resident in Landfall in late June when he completed an extensive "as built" photographic record of Landfall, both internal and external. This will be of considerable value to conservation and preservation planning.

Dennis's considerable talents also resulted in an article for the April 2010 issue of "Life is Better Downhome", entitled "*The Landfall Legacy*". Dennis has done a superb job of capturing and combining the essence, mystique, atmosphere and history of Landfall all in one article. (See www.downhomelife.com)

5. **Landfall Trust Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee met at Landfall on October 3, 2009 providing much valuable advice on matters relating to artist and writer residencies, Squires Print sales strategy, conservation, programming and several other relevant issues. Those participating generated such discussion and enthusiasm that it was decided to reconvene the meeting later in October with Kevin and Ann Major kindly offering their home as a meeting venue.



Brian Hoxa, Artist-in-Residence 2009.
Photo by A. Crichton

6. **Website:** Vanessa Stockley of Granite Studios, who had generously donated web site hosting services over the past two years, reluctantly indicated that she was unable to continue the service. Bob Frampton, our vice-president facilities generously offered to take on this task. Much work was involved in the transfer and the Trust is most grateful to Bob for his efforts in this regard. I would also like to express, on behalf of the Trust, sincere thanks to Vanessa who had been most generous with her time and expertise.
7. **Financial:** We finished the year with a surplus of almost \$7,500. This was due largely to sales of the Squires Print and a \$2,500 grant from the Folensbee Estate. When factoring out the grants from the Estate and government, on an operating basis, Landfall functions on deficit of about \$1,000 deficit per year. We are most grateful to our Vice President – Finance, Lorne Spracklin who diligently keeps us on track financially and in good standing with our CRA charitable status
8. **Fund Development:** The key fund development activity for the year was the sale of the print "Kent Cottage at Landfall". The Launch was held at Bally Haly Golf and Curling Club in St. John's on Wednesday, June 24. This was a most successful occasion attended by about 75

people to whom we sold several prints – a great launch! The artist Gerald Squires gave an entertaining account of his work at Landfall. For those still interested, prints are available by contacting the Trust directly, on-line at www.landfalltrust.org, from the Squires Gallery at 52 Prescott Street or The Red Ochre Gallery at 96 Duckworth Street, St. John's or from a range of shops and sites around Brigus during the summer and early fall.



The Fowler House "that was". Circa 1960. Photo by Jake Folensbee

In 2009, The Landfall Press was born. Much of Jake's photographic and artwork is to be reproduced for sale for fund development purposes. Of particular interest are the many photographs which Jake took of Brigus in the 1950s and 60s showing structures and features that have now disappeared from the Brigus landscape. Sue Crichton, our secretary, staffed a booth for the sale of these items at both the Bartlett 2009 celebrations and at the Blueberry Festival. Sales reached over \$700.00 – not a "goldmine" but a sign that an important market exists.

9. **Board of Directors:** The Board met on five occasions throughout the year – May 20, September 28, November 9 February 17 and April 14. Our Alaska directors were able to participate through tele-conference. In addition, there were numerous consultations through electronic media.
10. **Conservation:** Initial steps have been taken in the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan for Landfall and its environment. Shane O'Dea and Philip Pratt have started a historical documentation of the Landfall structure. Dennis Flynn has also undertaken an extensive photographic record of Landfall to be used in the conservation planning. It is hoped that this work will have progressed sufficiently to form the basis of a funding proposal in late summer, 2010.

11. **Operations and Facilities:**

Maintenance is a continuing activity at Landfall during the season and for this we are most grateful to Ron Burke who makes Landfall operational each spring and undertakes many small projects, copes with emergencies, meets and orients arriving occupants and completes the "shut down" procedure each fall. We are also grateful to Pat Burke for her commitment and hard work with the housekeeping.

We are also grateful to the Provincial Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation from whom we received a grant of \$3,960 under the Cultural Economic Development Program (CDEP), to install interpretive signage for Landfall. This project is now almost complete with installation imminent. We are also grateful for an operating grant from CEDP of \$557.00.

Finally, I extend sincere thanks to all the Board, both in Newfoundland and Alaska, to the Advisory Committee, and to all others who have worked with and supported Landfall over the past year for their dedication and commitment in what has been another successful and eventful year of progress in the long-term conservation and preservation of Landfall.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Crichton
President
May 15, 2010