



LANDFALL TRUST and KENT COTTAGE Winter 2021 Newsletter



Bradley Jacob Folensbee, Jr. (Jake)

For over fifty years, Jake Folensbee owned and cherished the Landfall property and Kent Cottage. In the fall of 2004, only a few months after his death, his executors, Bob and Norm Frampton, met with Jake's friends in Brigus and the concept of a trust to fulfill his wishes was born. In the spring of 2005, Landfall Trust was established; its members were among Jake's closest friends and acquaintances. Jake's bequest became our mission: "To preserve Landfall Cottage, protect the natural environment and conserve the cultural heritage for the benefit of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. To be a centre for life-long learning for people and organizations to practice the arts and humanities. And to achieve long term sustainability for the Trust through fund development and appropriate activities." Since 2010, we have successfully operated the cottage as an artist-in-residence program providing cultural, heritage, and educational activities.

LATEST NEWS:



Our new Musician-in-Residence partnership will give members of Music NL the opportunity to apply for a two-week songwriters residency at Kent Cottage. You can learn more about the Musician-in-Residence program from the Music NL website: <https://musicnl.ca/programs-services/>.



As winner of the Landfall Trust Award at the annual SPARKS Literary Festival, William Ping is our 2021 Writer-in-Residence and will be staying at Kent Cottage this season.

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2020 : What a Year

We were just beginning to think about our 2020 operations, when we were hit with the world-wide lockdown. We feared we would have no cottage rentals, no opportunities for fundraising, and no chance to showcase our programs, but in the end, it was a pretty good year. Due to the generosity of Landfall's supporters (a cry for help resulted in over \$4,000 in donations), combined with a reduction in our operating expenses, we are on track to close out the year with a healthy amount of money in the bank. In the end, we did manage to rent out the cottage and hosted a Writer in Residence, but our flagship artist residency did not take place. As for next season, we plan to continue where we left off at the end of 2019, with some exciting new ideas in the works. We will be calling on you again as these plans take shape. It's good to know that there are generous people willing to support our vision for creative uses of one of the oldest properties in Newfoundland.

Writers in Residence by Marcia Spence



In the upstairs front room at Kent Cottage, next to the window where the wooden topknot of the figurehead can just be seen peeking above the window ledge, there is a small bookshelf beside a squat, leather reading chair. This shelf now boasts three new additions: *Approaching Fire* by Michelle Porter, *Melt* by Heidi Wicks and *Some People's Children* by Bridget Canning. All three books – a multi genre biography and two novels – were published by Breakwater Books in late 2020 and these three women authors, all grad-

uates of the Creative Writing Program in the English Department of Memorial University, stayed at Kent Cottage as writers-in-residence.

Bridget Canning was the first in 2017, marking the beginning of a new and exciting partnership between Landfall Trust and the English Department, to offer a two-week residency each year to a selected graduate of the Creative Writing Program. The next year, Matthew Hollett – who also had a noteworthy 2020 in winning the CBC Poetry Prize for his poem *Tickling the Scar* – was our writer-in-residence, followed by Heidi Wicks in 2019 and Michelle Porter in 2020.

For those who are fortunate enough to stay at Kent Cottage, and sit in that front upstairs room on that squat leather chair to read, they will also find another book, *Best Kind* (Breakwater Books, 2018), on that same shelf. *Best Kind* includes an essay from each of these four, up-and-coming writers and is edited by Robert Finley, who co-ordinates our partnership with Memorial University and is a staunch supporter of the writers' residency programs.

Providing a place removed from everyday concerns, where writers can devote a stretch of time to reading, reflection and writing, is a rewarding undertaking – one that keeps our volunteer board inspired to continue with Jake's vision for the cottage as a retreat for artists. We can imagine him smiling as we add these three writers-in-residence books to our cottage library for future summer guests to enjoy.



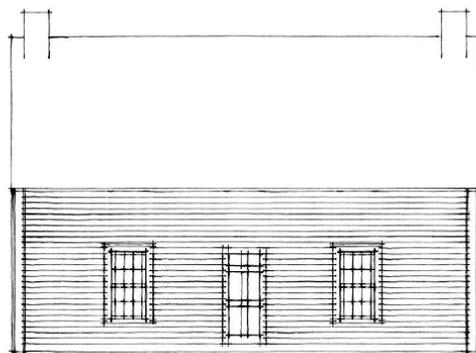
All the books mentioned are available from Breakwater Books (<https://www.breakwaterbooks.com>) or online from Indigo, Barnes and Noble or Amazon or through local bookstores.

The Story of Kent Cottage at Freshwater by Rex Passion

The winter's snow was still on the ground when two brothers walked up a steep path in the Battery on the north side of Brigus. One of them had a long saw balanced on his shoulder, the other carried an ax. They were going to build a small house on a narrow ledge of land overlooking Brigus Harbor.

In 1699, King William III (of William and Mary fame)* gave them the right to cut the trees and build the house and stages, and to use them as they saw fit, and this out-of-the-way piece of land was theirs for the taking. It was out of town, up a steep, narrow path high above the bay, with no place to build a wharf or to launch a ship. It was an unlikely place to set down a plantation, but then all the likely places were already occupied. It did have one advantage, it had two streams running cold and clear with the best water in Brigus. The brothers named the land, Freshwater and started their own enterprise on the rocky ledge.

The builders of this first house are unknown, as is the date of its construction. Perhaps it is as early as 1786, or as late as 1811; perhaps it was one of the Norman brothers, or perhaps a Peabody who sawed the first logs. What we do know is that this tiny cottage is one of the oldest buildings still standing in Newfoundland, and its history, over more than two centuries, is indeed interesting.



* "All such Persons...shall build, cut out or make, any Houses, Stages, Cook-rooms...for fishing there...may peaceably and quietly enjoy the same to his or their own Use, without any Disturbance of or from any Person or Persons whatsoever." Imperial Act 10 and 11 William III, Cap.25 An Act to Encourage the Trade to Newfoundland

Rock Solid Builds



While Kent Cottage is certainly one of the oldest residences in Brigus, the town has no shortage of beautiful houses, old ones which have been lovingly restored or tastefully renovated alongside big, new builds. If you happened to be in Brigus during 2020, you may have noticed a flurry of activity at a few residences involving a construction crew and a camera team. This activity was the HGTV's film crew for *Rock Solid Builds* who, working with Newfound Builders of Brigus, were producing a series of home renovation shows. The series premieres on HGTV on February 18, 2021. For a sneak preview, check out <https://www.hgtv.ca/shows/rock-solid-builds/>.

There are two connections to Kent Cottage at Landfall. Scott Lindsay, the line producer for HGTV, booked Kent Cottage for a week last summer, writing "The reason we want to rent the cottage is to do exactly what the Trust is trying to achieve. We will be using the cottage mainly as a place to reconnect with our craft and do some writing for the series, something that is hard to do when you have distractions of wi-fi and daily life." The second connection – well, you'll have to watch the show to find out whose home among Landfall Trust's board members is featured.



Randy Spracklin and the crew of Newfound Builders

Landfall Trust Board of Directors

The Landfall Trust Board of Directors 2021

Tony Dearness, President
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Kent Cottage, Real or Edible



The Real Kent Cottage



Gingerbread Kent Cottage
by Marcia Spence (C) 2020

Donate to Landfall Trust

The Landfall Trust, Inc. was incorporated, under the Corporations Act of Newfoundland and Labrador, in March of 2005, Canadian Revenue Agency Registered Charity. No.839156544RR001 . Tax deductible receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10.00.

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