

Memorial University of Newfoundland

The only university in Newfoundland and Labrador, Memorial is Atlantic Canada's largest university with a student enrolment of nearly 18,000. It also boasts 900 permanent faculty and 1,400 support staff. Memorial provides undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in virtually all academic disciplines and operates in four locations: St. John's (including the Marine Institute), Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook, the Labrador Institute in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and the Harlow Campus in England. Memorial University has a range of specialized teaching and research facilities, including the Ocean Science Centre in Logy Bay, the Bonne Bay Marine Station in Norris Point and a language institute on the French Island of St-Pierre. Our more than 55,000 alumni are highly valued nationally and internationally.

The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development

Named in honour of scholar and former Memorial University president, Dr. Leslie Harris, The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development was established on October 1, 2004. Dr. Harris is known for his integrity and independence while making a practical contribution to Newfoundland and Labrador, and these are the values which the Centre attempts to emulate.

The Harris Centre co-ordinates and facilitates Memorial's educational, research and outreach activities in the areas of regional policy and development. The Centre does this by encouraging faculty members to undertake research in regional issues, by encouraging departments and faculties to offer more courses in regional policy and development, by organizing regional workshops between the University and stakeholders, and by acting as a catalyst between the University, all levels of government and non-governmental organizations. In brokering these activities, the Harris Centre will in some situations take a leading role, while in others, the role will be that of a partner, supporter or facilitator. Among the Centre's recent activities was a study on the Federal Government presence in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Memorial Presents" is a public forum hosted by the Harris Centre four times per year, where presenters from Memorial University discuss issues of concern to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. This presentation is complemented by panelists, who may be from the University or from the community, and who add their viewpoints to the main presenter's. The audience is then provided an opportunity to question the presenters or to add their own comments. For more information about "Memorial Presents" or about the Harris Centre, visit our Web site:

www.mun.ca/harriscentre



MEMORIAL PRESENTS

Rural: Is It Worth Saving?

Wednesday, May 3, 2006 - 7:30 p.m.

Room AS328

Sir Wilfred Grenfell College



Memorial
University of Newfoundland



Dr. Ivan Emke was born in rural Bruce County, Ontario, in a small town that had been abandoned after the railroad line bypassed it. He attended one of the last one-room school houses in Ontario.

After secondary school, and a stint working with homeless men in an inner-city context, he received degrees at Ohio State University, University of Windsor and Carleton University. He has studied Communication, Anthropology, Sociology and Public Relations.

Since arriving to teach at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in late 1993, Ivan has nurtured his interest in rural areas. In addition to individual research, he has been actively involved in research partnerships, with groups such as the Community Education Network, the New Rural Economy project, the regional Strategic Social Plan (now the Rural Secretariat), Sharing Our Future, Ryakuga Communications, the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and, more recently, the Social Economy and Sustainability project. He is especially interested in the role of communications in community cohesion and development (both the process of communication and decision-making itself, as well as the communication tools which can assist in this process). In the last year, he has been involved in rural communities as varied as Twillingate and Burnt Islands in Newfoundland and Labrador, Tweed in Ontario, and Benito in Manitoba.

When not teaching or researching or driving around rural Canada, he can be found playing traditional music on a variety of instruments or forcing his two children to listen to obscure music from around the world.



Bernard Bromley worked in the publishing industry in Newfoundland and Labrador for 38 years. In 1980, he founded the Northern Pen, the community newspaper serving the Great Northern Peninsula and Southern Labrador. He was owner/publisher of the paper until April 2003 when he sold the business and retired.

Bern has been active in community development for many years. He served on development associations, Community Futures committees and the provincial Advisory Council on the Economy. He was a founding member of St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc. (SABRI), a community development group established to administer an offshore shrimp allocation for the St. Anthony region. He served as vice-chairman of SABRI from 1997 to 2002.

He is a former Mayor of St. Anthony and former chairman of the St. Anthony and Area Chamber of Commerce. At present, he serves as chairman of the St. Anthony and Area Food Sharing Association and vice-chairman of the Newfoundland and Labrador Fish Processing Licensing Board.



Sheila King has been an important member of the Town of Burnt Islands for many years. She was instrumental in the revitalization of this small, outport community which seemed to be destined for failure after the Cod Moratorium of 1992. During the moratorium, Sheila saw her opportunity and seized it. She attended West Viking College and obtained her Level III Certificate along with a diploma in business studies.

After graduation, she began her quest to revive her home community. Her newly acquired business knowledge, coupled with a desire to aid her deteriorating community, led her to the Town Office. There, she applied creative, fresh ideas in order to generate funding for new projects. With such developments under her belt as the Burnt Islands community cable television channel, the Hook and Line Interpretation Centre, a new docking system for the local Harbour Authority, a new radio station, and many other projects, Sheila has definitely brought new life into the Town of Burnt Islands.



Johnny MacPherson has been involved in community economic development - as a volunteer and an employee - for 34 years. With the exception of a three-year stint in Ontario, he has lived all his life in rural Newfoundland and, like most who choose to make a living in this environment, has worked at a variety of jobs: fisherman, fish buyer, logger, farmer, fisheries guardian, biologist assistant and truck driver. Having made a living through a variety of occupations has given him a feel for what most people face in their daily lives. As Johnny says, "I am no expert in any field but feel there is something to be said for being a jack of all trades and master of none."

For the past 16 years, he has worked full-time as an economic development officer. He is a founding member of the Bay St. George South Area Development Association and is currently the Executive Director of the Long Range Regional Economic Development Board (Zone 9), based in Stephenville. He holds a Diploma in Community Economic Development from the University of Waterloo.

Johnny has an extensive track record of volunteer service, including 18 years with the Bay St. George South Area Development Association, 14 years with the Bay St. George South Local Service District, 10 years each with the Bay St. George South Volunteer Fire Brigade and with the Cormack Trail Authority, and many years working with the Codroy Valley Credit Union, the Bay St. George South Harbour Authority, the Newfoundland and Labrador Rural Development Council, the Crabbes River Fisheries Committee, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 36 and his local school council.