

THE
BASILICA HERITAGE
— ∞ —
FOUNDATION

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON FOUNDATION OPERATIONS 2019**



200 Military Road, St. John's, NL
A1C 2E8 • Canada
(709) 726-3660 • www.thebasilica.net

GENERAL NOTE

2019 was one of the busiest years in the history of the Foundation. Here are some highlights of our accomplishments:

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

The Foundation took three weeks and participated with the Archives of the Archdiocese, the Human Resource office and the Basilica Museum Committee in designing, writing and submitting applications for summertime student grants from various programs of the Government of Canada.

MARCH/APRIL 2019

In the wake of the devastating attic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral Paris, the Executive Director with the assistance of Gerry Duggan P.Eng and Fire Captain John Barrington (ret'd) undertook a review of the susceptibility of the Basilica Cathedral to fire. The report recommended to the board that it install wireless internet and a video/security monitoring system which included infrared heat and alarm detection.

6 APRIL 2019

The Foundation hosted Organ Music for Lent, a recital of Organ Music by Sean Jackman. 89 persons attended.

APRIL 2019

The Foundation assisted with the costs of restoration which was completed on ten stained glass windows in the Episcopal Library National Historic Site.

MAY 2019

The Foundation acquired, adapted and installed three Visitors Desks as a base of operations at the entrance to the Basilica.

MAY 2019

Works grants; 5 student tour guides were hired, trained and supervised.

MAY 2019

The Foundation wrote tourism operators; invited them to a tour and reception at the Basilica, and then explained to them the costs of the stained glass restoration and asked them to pre-notify us of their visits, with numbers, and to make per-visitor donations.

RIGHT: Newly-restored window by Louis Lichtenheldt-Koch, *The Annunciation*, (Beauvais, France, 1892).



JUNE-JULY 2019

Installation and programming of Bell Gigabit FiberOptic internet. The Foundation had Cat5E and 6E wiring infrastructure extended through the attics of the Basilica ambulatories. Three wireless networks were created (one free to Basilica Visitors), and the acquisition; connection and programming of the security system was completed.

MAY-JULY 2019

Drafted, prepared, had printed and installed a series of eight information banners in the Basilica's west ambulatory explaining the restoration program of the Basilica's stained glass to visitors. The Foundation also funded the completion of an additional eight information banners/storyboards interpreting the history of the complex for installation at the Basilica Museum. Writing, editing and preparation were done by Board members; graphic design was done by Todd Manning.

JULY 2019

The Foundation sponsored a week of performances by the actor Paul Rowe in his "Fleming" walking tour-play throughout Cathedral Square.

AUGUST 2019

The Foundation facilitated world renowned cellist Ofra Harnoy's recording of cello music featuring the Basilica in her YouTube Video, available online at www.thebasilica.net/gallery/. In future she has agreed to do a concert along the lines of "Ofra and Friends" for the Foundation.

1 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Foundation hosted a piano recital of classical music in the Basilica by pianist and parishioner Kong Sun Nicholas Lim; admission was by voluntary free-will donation. 120 persons attended.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Restoration of the Papal Umbraculum in time for the Pallium ceremony of Archbishop Hundt. Provision of a guided tour around Cathedral Square and in downtown St. John's to Papal Nuncio Archbishop Bonazzi.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Hosted Doors Open in the Basilica. 600 people showed up to visit the Episcopal Library and Basilica, and for a walking tour of Cathedral Square and the Ecclesiastical District National Historic Site. Visitors were joined by special guests Mark Critch and Melissa Royle Critch.



SEPTEMBER 2019

Dr. Anne Walsh, Shannie Duff and the Executive Director met the group Friends of the Ecclesiastical District National Historic Site of Canada and began organizing the downtown churches to secure federal funding for restoration of the churches in the National Historic District.

OCTOBER 2019

The Foundation created and printed information brochures explaining stained glass restoration. These were made available in the Basilica and also were prepared to be posted on a new Basilica Heritage Foundation website.

FALL 2019

The Foundation proactively consulted legal counsel, reviewed its legal obligations to protect donations, and revised its bylaws to comply with modern legislation.

FALL 2019

The Foundation's Executive Director compiled and reviewed seasonal tourism statistics for Summer season 2019. The Basilica had over 30,000 visitors, with visitors from over 30 cruise ships, and in the vicinity of \$10K in donations & revenues from souvenirs.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

Foundation operated Visitors Desk at Advent Carol Service, Atlantic Boy Choir concert, and 2 nights of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra's Handel's Messiah, welcoming over 5000 visitors to the Basilica on these nights.

FALL 2019

The Foundation received a donation from Morgan Macdonald, sculptor, of restoration of the 1914 Bronze Altar Rail Gates of the Basilica of the Scanziani Foundry in Milan which had a connection to Beaumont Hamel.

DECEMBER 2019

The Foundation received the generous donation of a remote controlled robotic pan-tilt-zoom television camera, as well as a donation of programming and installation and the design and customization of a new Foundation website, and the donation of ongoing programming, addition, and modification of contents.

BACK PANEL: Newly-restored window by Louis Lichtenheldt-Koch, *St. Joseph with the Child Jesus*, (Beauvais, France, 1891).