

## Heritage group seeks permanent spot to showcase wares

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Published Monday February 18th, 2008 (Appeared on page A4)

The Fredericton North Heritage Association and the Fredericton Heritage Trust helped transport people back to the good old days at Saturday's Celebration of Our Heritage and Music event.

The event, which was held in concert with New Brunswick's Heritage Week, attracted dozens of residents to Nashwaaksis Middle School.

Participants listened to music from the past, looked through antique photographs, cheered on a group of square dancers and discussed the benefits of celebrating the community's rich heritage.

Ernest MacFadzen, a volunteer with the Fredericton North Heritage Association, said he was happy with the number of people who showed up to take part in the event. "I'd rather see it filled," he said. "But there are a lot of things going on. You're going against Winterfest and a number of other events happening in the area." MacFadzen said the city needs to help the association celebrate Fredericton's heritage. "What the Fredericton North Heritage Association would like to have is a place to put all of this stuff," he said. "If (the city is) going to build a building, they could give us some space there so we can have something. Now we're lugging it all back home and then we have to lug it out again ... We're not saying you have to build a first-class museum, but they could set aside an area. Maybe with the election coming up, they'll talk about it at least."

Rick Myles, Liberal MLA for Fredericton-Silverwood, and deputy mayor Norah Davidson-Wright accepted heritage plaques from the heritage organizations for work the two levels of government did to save the city's historic York House.

Davidson-Wright said she was happy to take part in the heritage event because she understands the importance of examining a region's past. She said she'd like to find a permanent location for the heritage organizations. "Each time there are more people who get involved and there are more stories to tell that are brought forward," she said. "I'm hoping that down the road, we'll be able to find a place for a permanent location for people to come in and share that history and heritage."

Liz Burge, president of the Fredericton Heritage Trust, said she'd like to see the city take a more active role in educating people about its heritage. "There are tonnes of things we could be doing," she said. "We haven't yet gotten to that stage of 24-7, 365 (days a year) easy access to Fredericton's history."

"The Heritage Trust is also interested in hearing from people with skills related to iPods or DVDs, because we have tonnes of ideas about what we could do to educate people and showing off what we have, but we're volunteers and we don't have a big bank account. So hopefully some new volunteers might be able to help us out."