

BOOKS

Doyle's 2022 serves the reader well

JOAN SULLIVAN
 saltwire.com
 @saltwirenetwork

“Doyle’s 2022” presents another array of articles, unified around Newfoundland and Labrador culture.

There are three sections: “Our History and Tradition” includes historical features, artist profiles, wordlore and song; “Our Natural Province” concentrates on flora and fauna; and “Newfoundland and Labrador Climate for 2022” is a detailed, in-depth forecast. The endnote includes some “Newfoundland Recipes,” and the text throughout is illustrated with full colour and archival photos, as well as maps and graphs.

“Fishing For Tourists” explains that “In July 1951, the manager of Bowater Pulp and Paper Mill in Corner Brook was asked by a representative of the Canadian government to recruit two young women from his staff to participate in an advertising campaign to promote tourism in ‘Canada’s newest province.’ Eileen O’Rourke and Rita Kennedy, secretaries at the mill, were happy to oblige.” And they brought the glamour, with their strappy platform sandals, high-waisted shorts, and striped short-sleeved tops.

Another female advertising figure is introduced in “Dulcie Stanley: Doyle’s Cod Liver Oil



Dr. Gus Fanning, science editor of Doyle’s Almanac (left) and Robert Doyle, editor of Doyle’s Almanac. **CONTRIBUTED**

Girl.” Stanley had survived a childhood bout of pneumonia and wrote to Doyle, thanking him for the product she credited with her recovery. “Intrigued by Dulcie’s story, Doyle travelled to Clarenville, stayed at the Balmoral Hotel, owned by Dulcie’s family, and interviewed her.” Her face became representative of the brand.

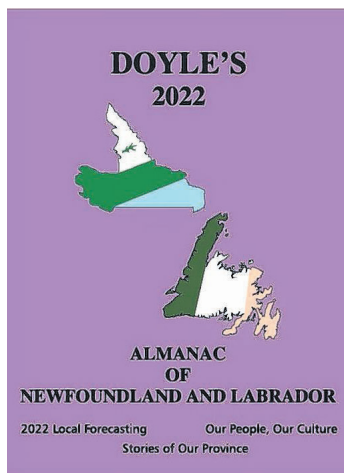
“Weather Station ‘Kurt’: The Secret German Installation in Labrador” gives some insight into one of the most formidable forms of intelligence during the Second World War: the weather. Foreknowledge of winds, fog, or cloud coverage was vital to advances and attacks, among other maneuvers. “On September 18, 1943, U-537 slipped out of Kiel, Germany, to patrol the shipping routes to Britain as part of the ‘Wolf Pack,’ but they were on a top-secret mission. On board was Dr. Kurt Sommermeyer

who carried with him an automated weather station (Wetter-Funkgerät Land-26), code-named Kurt, intended to be installed on the coast of Labrador.”

Other pieces concern the Newfoundland Rangers, the Neoclassical statues at the St. John’s Basilica, and musician Dennis Parker.

For this reader, a special delight in these volumes is being able to take a closer look at something I frequently pass by — in this edition, that would be the Bee Orchis houses on Queen’s Road. I had heard them called “the bee houses” but thought the resemblance to the insects was an eccentricity or accidental. Not so.

These fine houses, built following the massive 1892 fire in the signature downtown Southcott-style were “named after the European Orchid and may also have been a reference to an older home-



Doyle’s 2022: Almanac of Newfoundland and Labrador (7th edition) 2022 Local Forecasting: Our People, Our Culture: Stories of Our Province, Robert Doyle, editor; Augustus Fanning, science editor \$15.95 116 pages. **CONTRIBUTED**

stead in Devonshire, England, or even in Wales, owned by the ancestors of Henry J. Thomas.” Other houses selected for attention are the “Three Sisters” on Gower Street, and the west side of Church Hill.

This first section also includes “Word Lore,” for example “Paddy Keefe: Close. He didn’t lose the boat, but he came Paddy Keefe to it,” and several songs and poems.

The middle section examines orchids, the Labrador George River Caribou herd, and the new UNESCO site on the Bonavista Peninsula. Jackson McLean, of Gaze Seed Co., contributes some gardening tips: “1. Start early, start small. Many seeds can be started indoors as early as February/March.”

About half the publication

focuses on the 2022 climate.

The province is clearly divided into seven sections (three in Labrador, four on the island) and the ranging and thorough information includes: first and last day of frost; number of sun and snow days (and definitions of both); sunrise and sunset times; month-by-month charts of temperatures; dates of astronomical events such as full and new moons; hurricane season and the list of tropical cycle names; wind chill and UV index; and spring and neap tides.

There’s also an intriguing look at “FitzRoy’s Storm Glass.” “Vice Admiral Robert Fitzroy is perhaps best known as the captain of the HMS Beagle during Charles Darwin’s voyage of discovery,” but he “is also credited with popularizing a curious mechanism he advocated for use in weather prediction.” If you’d like to make one yourself, the ingredients and possible sourcing of same are given (“350 ml of a solvent (50/50 ethanol and water, or just vodka)”) as well as interpretations (“If the liquid in the glass is clear, the weather will be bright and clear”).

The half dozen closing recipes include tea buns, has, and “Mussels Cooked Asian Style.”

There’s a nice weight to these soft cover books, with their glossy pages and unpretentious design.

By text and tactility the reader is nicely served.

Joan Sullivan is editor of Newfoundland Quarterly magazine. She reviews both fiction and non-fiction for The Telegram.

GET ACTIVE!

ACTIVE FOR AUTISM



Active for Autism is a province-wide fundraising and awareness event for the Autism Society, Newfoundland and Labrador (ASNL). Complete details are available at

<https://www.autism.nf.net/news/active-for-autism/>
 or stop by your local ASNL office today!

Special thanks to our presenting partners at **pipers** for their continued support!

