

A Measure of Success

The Story of Elliston

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Neal K. Tucker

Revised Second Edition

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Cover: Photograph of the Upstairs/Downstairs Root Cellars at Maberly (Cow Calf Hill).

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Finally, I would like to thank my family for their support of this publication and the efforts of my sister Bernice in preserving the poetry of our grandfather, Aubrey Pearce, from which selections are quoted in this book.

Introduction

2006 is a milestone for the Town of Elliston because this is the year we celebrate our bicentennial by holding a Second Come Home Year, the first being 1999. With this in mind, I decided to ask if Tourism Elliston, a community group that I have been a member of since 2000, if they would be interested in a reprint of this book to observe the special occasion and they agreed. Shortly thereafter, I decided to take the opportunity to update this second edition to include material from 2004-2006 so it would encompass a full two hundred years and correct a few minor errors. So off and on, I spent the fall of 2005 and winter of 2006 revising it. The first edition of this book was limited to one hundred copies and sold out much faster than I ever expected. The number of inquires from libraries and interested people were surprising considering the subject is a community of only a few hundred people. If you are familiar with the first edition you will notice several new photographs, additions, and a number of minor adjustments.

Elliston has a long and interesting history that had its true beginnings in the early nineteenth century. This publication is a brief chronicle of this community from its earliest recorded history to the date of print. However, this was not the intention of the first edition. The original concept was that this book would exclusively tell the story of Elliston's recent history, from about 1994 onward. Once the research phase began, I realized that there had been little written on the second half of the twentieth century and, understandably, nothing on the early twenty-first century. I expanded my focus to include this time frame. Upon the commencement of writing, it became obvious that to truly tell the story of Elliston it was necessary to start at its roots, when the community was first permanently settled, and to progress from there. So once again, the focus of this publication was adjusted to encompass the whole of the settlement's history.

A great deal of Elliston's recent success can be attributed to tourism related activities. This was accomplished, principally, through the efforts of Tourism Elliston. Mr. Paul Shelley, former

Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation, publically acknowledged the group's contribution to the provincial tourism industry with the presentation of the 2003 Doug Wheeler Tourism Award on February 6th, 2004.

A great deal of the information concerning recent years was obtained from the data accumulated by Tourism Elliston, and my continued maintenance of the www.rootcellars.com website. Additional source material was obtained from the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, Center for Newfoundland Studies at Memorial University, personal knowledge and other sources. Research into my home Town's history revealed several intriguing facts that were previously unknown to me. Most of these and other noteworthy details were incorporated into the Chapter 9 Timeline section for easy reference.

I began writing the first edition under the working title of *Root Cellar Capital of the World: A Retrospective of Elliston*. As time progressed, I came to realize that, although the community has made significant gains because of its root cellars, there was much more than just that aspect. I, therefore, felt it was more appropriate to use a title that referred to all of Elliston's accomplishments. *A Measure of Success: The Story of Elliston* is much more appropriate as well as descriptive.

Neal K. Tucker

Elliston and Area

