

Jan. 31, 2018

Judith Adler



I am writing to register my concern about the awarding of any building permits that might erode the character of the Outer Battery – an area of distinctively small houses backing upon a half wild terrain of cliff, distinctive rock, stream and waterfall at the entrance to the signal hill National Park.

The walk through the Battery, and view of the Battery, appreciated by St. John's residents and tourists alike, is a walk through a distinctive terrain, already, on the margin of the city, different from its other urban areas. The houses are SMALL in scale, and conform to the traditional Newfoundland vernacular architecture. Built by the fishermen who were their original occupants, they still afford something of the original look of what was once an 'outport' on the very edge of St. John's. Between them and behind them, are rocks and cliff faces, a diversity of trees, a stream and a waterfall, that together make for a distinctively beautiful view from the water, as well as from the road used by pedestrians.

One of St. John's most distinctive features is the possibility of walking directly and quickly from city scape, through a neighborhood that still has the look of a rural village, to the entry of the Signal hill National Park.

I am concerned that any new building, particularly building that would remove rock face, be out of scale with present dwellings, and detract from the wild look of the land in the Outer Battery will spoil one of St. john's most precious and distinctive sites.

As parking in the Outer Battery has also been a perennial problem, any new dwellings added to the area would be sure to magnify that problem as well. Unlike other neighborhoods "in town" the Outer Battery has never had any parking permit system for residents only.

Sincerely,

Judith Adler