



Corner Brook Port Corporation
P.O. Box 1165, Suite 206 – 10 Main St.
Corner Brook, NL Canada A2H 6T2

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Corner Brook Port Corporation announces name of new building

CORNER BROOK – The Board of Directors of the Corner Brook Port Corporation (CBPC) announced today that it will name its building at 61 Riverside Drive after its first Chairperson, Raymond A. Pollett. Pollett, who has served as Chairperson of the CBPC for the last eight years, was instrumental in the divestiture process which saw the management and operation of the port change hands from Transport Canada to the community based corporation.

“Ray’s vision, determination and work ethic have been major factors in the Port’s successes to date,” said Jackie Chow, Corner Brook Port Corporation Manager and CEO. “He has dedicated countless hours of his time to establishing the port as a viable entity and laying the groundwork to ensure that it will be a vibrant part of our community for years to come.”

“This commitment to the port combined with years of dedication to the community make it very fitting that we name the port’s newest asset the R. A. Pollett Building,” continued Chow. Pollett’s community involvement extends far beyond his service as Chair of the Port Corporation. He served 16 years on City Council, including 12 as Mayor, and served on the Public Utilities Board. The Lions Club, 1999 Canada Winter Games Committee, Royal Canadian Legion and Victorian Order of Nurses are among the long list of community and service groups Pollett has been involved with through the years.

Ken Hynes, Secretary-Treasurer on the CBPC Board said that the decision to name the building in Pollett’s honour was an easy one. “The vision of a community-run port making a positive contribution to the local economy dates back to the time when the board was actually a working committee of the Corner Brook Chamber of Commerce. We felt that Ray’s unwavering focus on this vision, coupled with his eight years as Chair of the CBPC, should be recognized publicly in this way.”

The building being named is located at 61 Riverside Drive and is scheduled to be completed in June 2009. In addition to housing the new offices of the Corner Brook Port Corporation the building will also feature several rental spaces of various sizes which are available for lease. The refurbishment of the building is part of the corporation’s plan to revitalize Corner Brook’s waterfront which includes beautification and improved public access. Future plans also include the development of walking trails in the waterfront area and possibly a floating dock facility.

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Biography

Raymond A. Pollett

Raymond A. Pollett was born in Buchans, but soon moved to Corner Brook where he completed his schooling in the Corner Brook Public School system. Following high school graduation, Ray began his professional career with Bowater's in the Electrical Department. After nine years with Bowater's Ray spent the next five years as a sales supervisor with a major oil company. In 1965, Ray opened and managed a Royal Trust Real Estate Office in Corner Brook and five years later decided to open his own real estate firm, Pollett Realty, which he ran for 20 years.

Well known in Corner Brook and throughout Western Newfoundland, Ray spent 16 years in municipal politics. He was first elected to council for a four year term in 1974 and served as deputy mayor from 1976-77. In 1985, Ray became Mayor of Corner Brook and served as mayor for three consecutive four year terms, elected by acclamation in 1993. As Mayor, Ray was one of the driving forces behind the organizing committee for the 1999 Canada Winter Games and was Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Host Society. Ray was confident that the people of Corner Brook and the surrounding area could rise to the challenge of being the smallest community to host the Canada Games, and was able to convince government officials, council and many others that this undertaking would be a success. Ray helped to cultivate the "Yes, We Can!" attitude that created a human chain through Corner Brook and the Humber Valley to demonstrate the spirit and determination of the community. Along with the civic centre and other assets, this positive mind-set has become part of the legacy of the Games.

Over the years, Ray has been involved in a long list of community and service groups. A sample of these include: Corner Brook Hockey Association, Winter Carnival Committee, the Westmount Club, Victorian Order of Nurses (both locally and provincially), Royal Canadian Legion and the Lions Club. Ray also served as an official of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities for the Government of NL. He has been awarded two Queen's Medals for his many years of public service, once in 1977 and again in 2003. On top of all that, Ray has always been a dedicated family man. Together with his late wife Margaret, he has two children, Troy and Nicole.

Ray's contribution to the community is simply remarkable, as is his contribution to the Corner Brook Port Corporation. The Corporation as it is today grew out of a working committee of the Corner Brook Chamber of Commerce, or the Greater Corner Brook Board of Trade as it is now known. This committee was struck to evaluate the concept of the port becoming a community- based non-profit entity. Ray was one of the committee's key members and devoted countless hours to not only pursuing the divestiture of the port but also to ensuring the process followed was fair and transparent. When the Corner Brook Port Corporation was established in 2001, Ray became the organization's first chairperson. He has served in this capacity for nearly eight years and has guided the corporation through many milestones including divestiture from Transport Canada in November 2004. Ray has always led the Corporation with his dedication, professionalism and vision.

Announcing the R.A. Pollett Building



R.A. Pollett Building Facts:

- Located at 61 Riverside Drive, Corner Brook.
- The building was originally designed and constructed in 1973 for use as offices and a freight receiving/distribution building where freight arriving on rail cars was broken down to trucks for distribution to its final destination. This use became redundant in 1988 when the provincial railway was phased out.
- The building was acquired by Corner Brook Port Corporation from Transport Canada in March 2006.
- The Corner Brook Corporation began a \$4 Million refurbishment project on the building in 2008, including the addition of a second floor. This project is being financed from a combination of current operations and bank financing, and will not draw on contribution/divestiture funds provided by Transport Canada.
- Features of the building include high-end office space, including the new head office of the Corner Brook Port Corporation, and space for a possible waterfront restaurant. The renovated building will be approximately 29,000 square feet.
- Future plans for the site include walking trails and potentially a floating dock facility.
- Real estate is one of three main revenue streams for the port along with industrial shipping and cruise tourism.
- The building refurbishment is part of Corner Brook Port Corporation's overall plan to develop the waterfront area to increase tonnage, create economic spinoffs for the region and improve community access to the waterfront outside the secure and restricted zones.
- Officially named the R.A. Pollett building on December 16, 2008 in honour of R.A. (Ray) Pollett, Chairman of Corner Brook Port Corporation 2001-2009.



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