WOODEN BOAT MUSEUM NL

Annual Report of Activities 2016-2017





Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jim Dempsey



I feel very privileged to be the Chair of the Board of Directors in this, the twentieth anniversary of presenting wooden boat heritage in Winterton and throughout the province. As we look back, we have every reason to be proud of our achievements and every reason to be optimistic about our future. We have continued to develop partnerships and implement programs which increase our ability to achieve our objectives and have also increased our profile within the province.

Ongoing funding from our Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (TCII) partners ensured that we are able to concentrate on our project work until the end of 2017. At the same time, we were fortunate to receive funding that allowed us to host **Wooden Boat Heritage 2016** in October. This workshop and conference allowed participants to celebrate boat building as a hands-on experience. This can enhance the appreciation of intangible cultural heritage, add a practical element to education, and create a new dimension to tourism. The Wooden Boat Heritage theme was best expressed during our second Heritage Skills Challenge in Petty Harbour, which provided attendees with an opportunity to learn something about the traditional fishing industry and the boats that served it.

In May, 2016, Maderra Engineering unveiled a half-scale punt which is now the centrepiece for their office. The punt is not only a symbol of the developments in marine technology for a Newfoundland offshore design firm, but is also significant for the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador (WBMNL) as the boat was designed using the three-piece mould depicted in our logo.

One of the developments to emerge from **Wooden Boat Heritage 2016** was a partnership with the Education Faculty at Memorial University. In February and March, Jerome

Canning coordinated a dory building workshop as part of the Technology Education program's workshop at the St. John's campus. As well as creating a direct link between boat building and education, the workshop demonstrated an encouraging interest in our boat building program in the St. John's area.

The spirit of partnership is one of our fundamental objectives, and we were able to continue commercial arrangements with both the Trinity Historical Society and the Long Point Lighthouse in Twillingate through the provision of exhibition materials. We have also entered into an agreement to work with the Twillingate Historic Fishing Vessels Association in their development of exhibits and activities in the area, presenting the history of local boat building. Activities have already begun under our MOU with Parks Canada to support the interpretation of the historical small boats of the province.

Our Documentation and Interpretation Program has been ongoing. In October, two teams of Folklorists and Boat Builders travelled to the Northern Peninsula, Notre Dame Bay, Placentia Bay, and Fogo and Change Islands to interview builders and lift the lines of local boats to add to our growing database and archive of boats and builders. This information will also be used in the implementation of an interpretation plan for the museum in Winterton. Over the next two years, we plan to enhance the exhibits in a renovated museum space. The result will be a refreshed presentation which will appeal to an increased demographic market and provided more opportunities for visitors to learn-by-doing.

We have also increased our profile over the past year by attending trade shows such as the Downhomer and North Atlantic Fish and Workboat Show, as well as receiving occasional coverage by the media. We also represented ourselves at the annual Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference and at the Legendary Coasts workshops for both the Baccalieu Trail and the Heritage Run.

I am looking forward to the coming year.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER OF THE BOARD

Ray Piercey



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador (WBMNL), it is indeed a pleasure to report on the financial activities of the organization for the Fiscal Year of 2016-17.

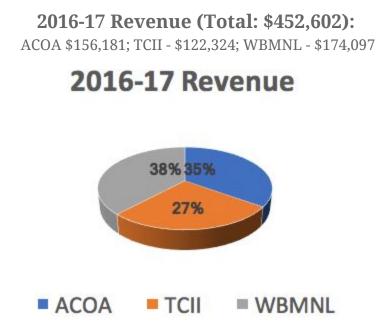
Funding provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA); the Provincial Government through the department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (TCII) and other provincial programs (such as CEPD Operational Support,; Provincial Summer Jobs Funding, etc.) as well as Museum activities has allowed the WBMNL to accomplish the following in the past year:

- 1. The conference **Wooden Boat Heritage 2016** was held in October of last year. This event included a variety of international guest speakers, and attendees from many different fields with a shared interest in the history and construction of wooden boats.
- 2. An increase in Museum admissions, participation in Trade Shows, Boat Building Workshops, and in Capital Improvements to the Museum site in Winterton.
- 3. Partnership arrangements have commenced with Parks Canada Western for the expansion of exhibits at Red Bay, L'Anse Aux Meadows, Gros Morne and Winterton, as well as demonstrations at various heritage sites. Our partnership arrangements have also continued in Trinity and Twillingate. Additionally, stronger relationships have developed with neighbouring communities to Winterton, such as New Perlican and Heart's Content.
- 4. Documentation and interpretation activities have continued with interviews and collections being added to our *'Boats and Builders'* series. This past year also saw our Folklorist, Crystal Braye, present at the Jeju Conference in South Korea.

Project contracts with ACOA and TCII will expire in December of 2017. New project

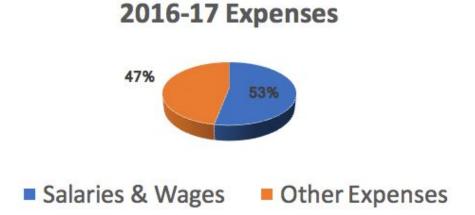
contracts from January 2018 and beyond are being negotiated with both parties. It is incumbent of the WBMNL Board and Friends of the Museum to focus on Revenue Development to meet future financial commitments. These efforts will allow the Museum to continue its current growth and deliver on its Mission and Objectives.

Audited Financial Statements for the WBMNL for Fiscal Year 2016-17 are included in below.



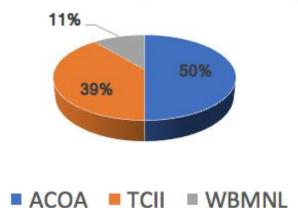
2016-17 Expenses (Total: \$423,128):

Salaries & Wages - \$226,063; Other - \$197,065



2016-17 Project Funding (Total: \$312,548): ACOA - \$156,181; TCII - \$122,324; WBMNL - \$34,043

2016-17 Project Funding



THE MUSEUM IN WINTERTON

Jeremy Harnum, Manager



On behalf of the staff of the Wooden Boat Museum, it is my pleasure to provide the museum report for the 2016 season.

We officially opened the Museum on June 6, 2016. Our grand total of visitors for the season was 2,645, with most visitors coming from Newfoundland. Next to this, visitation from Ontario was our greatest draw, which has been a noted trend for a few years. The final tally saw an increase in our visitation from 2015, which finished at 2,203 visitors. The Museum was opened for 18 weeks and we averaged 146 people per week for the duration of our season.

Ten summer students were hired to provide guided tours for visitors. The student's responsibilities included personal guided tours, cleaning, helping with special events, and scanning photographs and documents for our collection. The personal tours provide visitors with a unique experience that would be impossible without our guides. The guides enjoyed this work and finished the year with improved public speaking and leadership skills. We were also granted a boat building assistant position under the Young Canada Works program, which allowed us to hire one student for the boatshed, working with Jerome full-time.

During the summer, we hosted our successful Creative Hands sessions. Twenty-one artists joined our regular programming on Saturdays and hosted nine sessions in July and August. These artists showcased their various styles of art, including rug hooking, painting, pastels, wood carving, and traditional music. Feedback from visitors was positive and we wish to thank the artists for volunteering their time with us for another season.

Our most successful event of the summer was the open house session on August 20. This event included music by the Long Drung, free admission, treats and refreshments for guests. One-hundred and ten people attended the event and enjoyed the festivities.

Workshop attendance this year was average, with nearly full classes for two, week-long punt workshops, but low attendance on the week-long dory workshop. This was the first time that the museum offered four, week-long sessions in one season, which may have made a difference to the attendance. The day-long session had a lower attendance from 2015, with 4 of 9 allotted sessions hosting 10 participants. Children's workshops saw 11 children attending 5 sessions throughout July and August.

The museum closed for the season on September 30, 2016 and was winterized until our opening in 2017. Our season was successful, boasting a 20% increase in visitor admissions, but lower attendance rates for workshops at all levels.

WOODEN BOAT DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

Heather Elliott, Committee Chair



This year, the Documentation Committee was focused on completing fieldwork in areas of the province that had not been visited by our teams previously., Folklorists Crystal Braye and Jeremy Harnum travelled to Fogo Island, Change Islands, the West Coast and the Northern Peninsula between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Numerous interviews were conducted with boat builders and other members of these communities, and lines were lifted from selected wooden boats by Jerome Canning during follow-up visits. These lines and interviews will be used to develop content for upcoming exhibits, as well as content for the Boats and Builders Website.

Digitization of the collected information has continued, and the Wooden Boat Museum's archival collection on Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative (DAI) continues to grow. This database, which is searchable online, makes the research and interviews completed by the Museum staff available to visitors, researchers, and other individuals from all over the world. To further increase the accessibility of the collections and fieldwork, the Boats and Builders website has been updated with seventeen more articles, profiling specific boats, their builders, and oral histories. With the new format that was implemented last year, this has helped make the published information more available and easy to access.

The work of the Documentation Committee has also continued within the Museum. New exhibits are being developed and designed, with the openings planned for 2018. These exhibits are being developed using even more of the existing documentation work, allowing the Museum to continue to tell, in detail, the story of the wooden boat in Newfoundland and Labrador.

WOODEN BOAT BUILDING WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE

Jim Dempsey, Committee Chair

In addition to our one-day, five-day, and children's workshops offered during the summer season, the 2016-17 WBMNL Boat Building Workshop Program took steps to creating a standard, consistent, and reliable approach to building while also providing

greater interpretation of designs and building techniques for our workshop participants.

In May, 2016, Maderra Engineering unveiled a half-scale punt which is now the centrepiece for their office. This project was taken on as a commission and was designed and built by Jerome Canning. The punt is both an example of the developments in marine technology, and a significant statement for WBMNL as the boat was designed using the three-piece mould depicted in our logo.

During the summer of 2016, Jerome also devised and built a workstation in the Winterton boat shed for our signature 17 ft. dory. The workstation is based on the



production techniques used by the large dory shops during the days of the Grand Banks schooner fishery. It allows for 'plank-first' construction around fixed moulds that are wedged in place between the dory bottom and the ceiling joists. In our open boat shed, Jerome had to construct an overhead beam to simulate the ceiling. Using this method, bevelling and fitting timbers is more accurate as they can be prepared outside of the boat. The compact and sturdy overhead beam also allows for more secure and less intrusive bracing during assembly.

In early 2017, WBMNL signed an MOU with the Education Faculty at Memorial University to partner in the delivery of a traditional Newfoundland boat building workshop. Our host was Mr. David Gill, the faculty member responsible for Technology Education at Memorial and an attendee at **Wooden Boat Heritage 2016.** This project was a breakthrough for two reasons: it was an important partnership with the university and also an opportunity to better understand the interest in boat building workshops held in

the St. John's area.

In February and March, Jerome Canning coordinated a dory building workshop in the Technology Education workshop on Memorial's St. John's campus. The workspace was



ideal for the project and the participants were motivated. By including lofting in the project agenda, we now have an accurate, full-scale rendition of the our signature dory for use by workshop attendees in Winterton.

Plans for 2017-18 include installing a concrete floor in the

Winterton boat shed, a dory building demonstration at the annual **Trails**, **Tales**, **and Tunes** festival in Norris Point, and the adoption of the boat built by Marcus French and featured in David Taylor's 'Wooden Boat Building in Winterton' as the Wooden Boat Museum's signature punt for future boat building workshops.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Everett Fancey, Committee Chair



With its formation in 2016, the Education Committee conducted a governance assessment review, evaluating the role of the Committee on the Board of the Wooden Boat Museum. As a result of this assessment, a new and expanded terms of reference for the committee was developed. The committee also produced a revised set of Professional Development guidelines for the Wooden Boat Museum.

Wooden Boat Heritage 2016, the international conference, had a strong educational focus. Committee members were very active, lobbying for participation by the Department of Education and local community groups. Boat building as an instrument of educational and community development was clearly demonstrated at the conference. As a result, the Anglican parishes of Arnold's Cove and Bay de Verde have initiated their own boat building projects. The Wooden Boat Museum of NL has also begun talks with Thrive Community Youth Network of Newfoundland in St. John's to develop a program to work with youth at risk.

Committee members also worked closely with other committees, specifically the Boat Building Workshop and Documentation Committees.

With assistance from the Education Committee, the museum's collection management software, PastPerfect, has been adapted to accommodate the work of the documentation committee.

WOODEN BOAT HERITAGE 2016



In late 2014, the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador (WBMNL) was successful in obtaining funding to carry out a Capacity Building Project aimed at establishing community partnerships, creating culture-based tourism experiences, and looking for ways to engage youth in wooden boat heritage. This project continues on today in our Documentation, Interpretation, and Programming at the Museum. It kicked off in October 2016 with the **Wooden Boat Heritage 2016 Conference** - an international gathering built on the understanding that Intangible Cultural Heritage and wooden boat heritage are important, but there is a wider context in which they can be presented. Wooden boat building and the history of the trade are interesting on their own, but when incorporated into a learning-by-doing environment, those experiences and lessons become much richer.

A three day event was held in St. John's from October 4-6, 2016. Six people from other provinces and countries who have successfully met similar challenges in interpreting wooden boat heritage on a larger scale came to Newfoundland and shared their expertise and worldly perspectives. These individuals were:

- Walt Ansel Mystic Seaport A story of safeguarding maritime trades heritage connecting professionals, volunteers and youth.
- Adam Green Rocking the Boat, South Bronx, NY An inspiring story of boats, on and off the water, and how they are used to change the lives of disadvantaged youth.
- Paul Gartside Boatbuilder, Shelburne, NS Matching boat design to the objectives of the boat building experience.

- David Taylor Washington, DC The challenges of building a boat with amateur hands explored through the experiences of professional boatbuilders.
- Xabier Agote Albaola Sea Factory, Pasaia, Basque Country Basque whaling heritage harnessed for community building and tourism development.
- Alec Jordan Jordan Boats, Somerset, England The St. Ayles Skiff and an ocean rowing movement bringing people and communities together.



In addition to our visitors from outside the province, we also had local experts at the event. They were:

• Pam Hall – St. John's – The wooden boat's importance and intrinsic value to the intangible heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Rob Shea Marine Institute Taking advantage of experiences for education.
- Carol Ann Gilliard Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (now TCII) Taking advantage of experiences for tourism an approach to experiential tourism.

The conference was not just talks and lectures; we practiced what we preached in the benefits of experiential learning, through our second annual Heritage Skills Competition. On a sunny day in Petty Harbour, attendees were able to learn how to gut a fish, cast a net, use a pit saw, and much more. These skills, long used by traditional boat builders and fishermen, gave everyone a peek into how much effort it takes to do what the experts make look easy, all while having a lot of fun. It is one this to talk about the effectiveness of experiential learning; it's another



thing entirely to be able to participate and see the benefits for yourself.

In the aftermath of this great conference, we looked back over the event and were able to create a list of possible outcomes that could be implemented at the Museum and in our

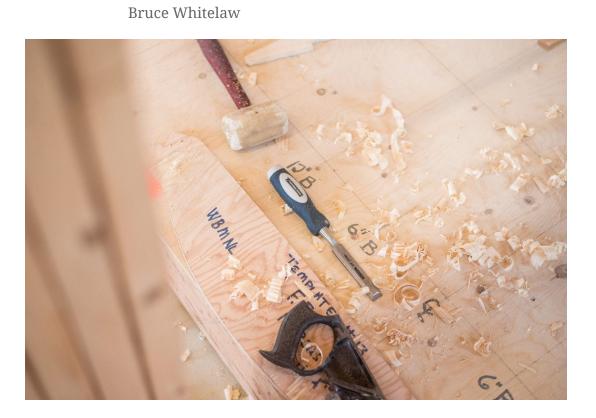
programming. Boat Kits, on the water experiences, collaborations and volunteers, new experiential adult and youth programs, and heritage festivals were just some of the ideas we discussed. As our organization moves forward, we are excited to take these ideas and develop them further, continuing to grow for the next 20 years!.



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