

Come to our Wooden Boat Conference in Winterton October 23-25, 2009!



Wooden Boat News

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Look Aft and Learn

From 1612 to 2009: Much to learn at the 2nd annual wooden boat conference

It's shaping up to be a mix of the very old, the somewhat old, and the brand new at the second annual wooden boat conference, being held in Winterton, October 23-25, 2009.

Conferencegoers will reach far back in history – to the year 1612 – and join Robert Halliday in his journey to re-create the *Indeavor*, John Guy's 34-foot vessel used on his voyage from Cupid's to Trinity Bay. Mr. Halliday, who has been commissioned to build a model of this historic vessel, will unveil the model at the conference.

The *Indeavor* plays an important role in the province's history, transporting early European settlers and helping them make contact with the Beothuks. Mr. Halliday will share the story as well as the project's plans. This includes boat builder



Boat builder Jerome Canning shows participants how to "get out timbers from the template" during this summer's workshop series: Building a Rodney. Looking on are Bill Best (Chamberlains) and Tony Flynn (Conception Bay South).

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Jerome Canning building and erecting the boat's main frame in Winterton as part of next year's Cupid's 400 celebrations.

Also on the conference agenda are presentations on three traditional wooden boat types – the Ganderriver boat, the canoe and the dory – and pre-conference workshops with boat builders from around the province.

As for brand new things, Derrick Burry will talk about the role of wooden boats in today's society, Howard Cooper will review his research over the past year, and Bruce Whitelaw will lead a discussion on what's next in preserving and protecting our province's wooden boat heritage.

All this plus home-cooked meals and a kitchen party for just \$100. Call Beverley King at 583-2070 for more information or to register.

Look Aft and Learn is our motto.

Seafarers commonly say "look aft" to mean look behind, to the rear and the wake of the vessel. As a wooden boat museum, we feel it is a fitting expression that shows our commitment to looking to our history and heritage as a means of learning for the future.



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Wooden Boat Museum
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Wooden Boat
Museum
of Newfoundland
and Labrador

The Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador archives, conserves, and exhibits: our wooden boat history and its contribution to the province's economy and way of life.

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For more information, visit our website:
www.woodenboatnl.com

Membership:

Individual membership is \$20 and includes unlimited free admission to the Wooden Boat Museum in Winterton for one year (and 10 percent discount on guest admissions); 10 percent discount at the museum store in Winterton; and free subscription to Wooden Boat News.

For information on other membership categories and benefits, contact Beverley King.
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Learn about strip planking

Everett Saunders offers a satwiston traditional planking

Carvel planking on traditional wooden boats relies on the wood and caulking between the planks swelling to seal the hull against leaks. Since the 1950s numerous marine sealing compounds and adhesives have been developed, allowing progressive boatbuilders to modify this traditional construction method to take advantage of these new products.

Everett Saunders of Eastport typically builds small boats ranging from 14- to 17-feet that require only a small motor and can be easily rowed or sculled. Mr. Saunders writes that this "method of construction is quite different from the traditional Newfoundland style of boat building." In the mid 1970s he adopted the strip planking method and hasn't looked back since. His largest boat, a 35-foot fishing boat operating off the southern shore built in the mid 1980s, is still going strong to this day.

Everett says "the method is quite simple." Each plank can be taken from wood found at any lumber yard - new wood or harvested locally! and is ripped to the desired thickness for the particular length of boat: 1 inch for the 35-footer, 3/4 inch for a 15-footer.

Spiling has to be considered, of course, because the distance from the garboard to the stemhead, the girth amidships and the girth at the counter are each quite different. Some beveling is required as you advance around the chine.

The stem is laminated 1/2 inch birch or juniper that can be easily scarfed to the keel. Planks, wrapped around temporary frames defined by a three piece mould, are edged nailed and glued (920 marine sealant is excellent). The first, or garboard plank, is nailed to the keel. Juniper ribs, steamed and walked in after the planking is complete, are fastened from the inside with stainless steel screws. The temporary frames are then removed and the inside of the hull is sealed. The inside is usually completed before the outside is sanded and coated with paint or sheathed in fibreglass reinforced glass.

Boat building dictionary What's a...?

Carvel (or caravel) planking: Planks of the hull are laid edge to edge to form a smooth surface and are typically fastened to sawn frames with nails or screws.

Spiling: The width of a typical boat plank will taper towards the ends of the boat and be shaped such that when it is bent around the frames to fit tightly to the previous plank, it will lie flat to the frame with no edge-setting. Determining this shape is called spiling a plank.

Do you have a boat building term to share? E-mail Beverley King at bkingheritage@gmail.com with your word and its meaning. It may show up in our newsletter or on our web site.



Everett Saunders (Eastport) uses the strip planking method for building boats in the 14- to 35-foot range.

Meet Sam Feltham, boat builder from Glovertown

By Diana Quinton (www.storiesworthtelling.ca)

Samuel (Sam) Feltham knows a thing or two about boats. He built his first boat in 1942 at the age of 14. Since then he has built over 100 boats including rodneys, trapboats, speed boats, dories, cabin cruisers, and a few models.

Feltham was born on Deer Island in Bonavista Bays where boats were naturally an important element in his life. Boats were used for fishing, getting from community to community, and hauling logs. "Everyone on Deer Island made their own boats," explained Feltham.

There were 17 families on Deer Island when Feltham was born on March 3, 1928. He has fond memories of growing up on the island. "On Deer Island, you fetched for yourself. You raised your own cattle and grew your own vegetables. You bought everything you needed in the fall of the year, after the men returned from their fishing season." Feltham's father fished in Labrador.

When he was a boy, Feltham learned carpentry and boat building from Noah Feltham, a handyman on Deer Island who made everything from boats to leg casts.

Feltham was a quick study; when he was 10 years old, he built furniture for his mother's living room. Pieces of this furniture still exist in the family today. By the time he was 14, he was already building boats from stem to stern. His first was a six-footer built in his mother's kitchen.

"The boat floated, but turned over, so it was put away!" laughed Feltham.

Feltham didn't give up on boat building. A year later, he built a 16-foot fishing rodney. His father caulked it on his 16th birthday.

In his late teens, Feltham spent three seasons on coastal boats in Labrador. In the winter, he continued to build boats. Feltham made 15-foot rodneys that he sold to the Newfoundland government for 50 dollars each. They were used at Labrador posts.

In 1954, Feltham moved to Glovertown and often travelled to Gander and St. John's to work as a carpenter. He helped build Gander's airport in the 1950s and also worked at the air force base in that town. In the early 1980s, he worked at the site of the Arctic Vessel and Marine Research Institute, National Research Council in St. John's. He was shop foreman in the workshop, and he cut the materials used in the construction of the turbulence chambers.

Today, Feltham lives in Glovertown with his wife Bernice. Together, they have raised four boys and have eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Feltham recently completed a 14-foot rodney for his son Paul, who will use it for recreation. He is also passing on a few tips to other boat enthusiasts in the family. "My son Jerry bought a fibreglass boat," said Feltham. "I'm helping him – showing him – to do things like put in a steering wheel." Through Feltham's guidance, a new generation within his family is ready for the water.



Sam Feltham stands next to the 14-foot rodney he built for his son.

Annual Wooden Boat Conference

**Our annual Wooden Boat Conference will
be held in Winterton October 23-25, 2009!**

For more information, e-mail BeverleyKing@bkingheritage@gmail.com.

Out and about

CBC program features Henry Vokey

The program "*Wood or Nothing*" featuring Henry Vokey and the Wooden Boat Museum will air on CBC's Land and Sea, Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 12:30 p.m.

Conference in October

We're holding our annual Wooden Boat Conference in Winterton October 23-25, 2009. To register, e-mail Beverley King at bkingheritage@gmail.com.

Nominations being accepted

Interested in helping direct the future of wooden boats in Newfoundland and Labrador? Consider becoming a board member. We're now accepting nominations for the new board, which will be formed during the annual general meeting on October 26, 2009.

Lottery tickets for sale

For just a toonie, you could get yourself a chance to win a 16-foot traditional wooden punt. For tickets, e-mail Beverley King at bkingheritage@gmail.com.

New website!

Our new website, featuring boat building resources, dates for upcoming events, photos, and more, is up and running at www.woodenboatnl.com



Meet Howard Cooper, research assistant and Beverley King, project administrator. Both are working hard preparing for our annual conference.

Members!

We need your help encouraging wooden boat fans to join the club

Thank you for becoming a member of the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. Your contribution will help us preserve the wooden boat culture in our province. Do you know someone else who would like to join? We are offering a **Free Mariner Membership** to the member who signs up the most new members by December 31, 2009. For more information, contact Beverley King, Phone 709-583-2070, or e-mail bkingheritage@gmail.com.

Culture of the Cod

The Wooden Boat Museum once again played a role in celebrating Newfoundland and Labrador's culture and heritage icons: cod fish and wooden boats. This time, we had ours in coastal Labrador.

Bruce Whitelaw, the museum's chair, spoke at Culture of the Cod, a conference held in Battle Harbour September 15-18, 2009 to reaffirm the role of cod in the province's past and its future.

Organized by the Shorefast Foundation of Fogo Island, the event presented sessions on the many ways cod has shaped the lives of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, from our people, songs and stories to our built heritage and trader routes. Bruce spoke about the evolution of wooden boats and the work being done to preserve our wooden boat heritage.

The conference is intended to build on the work being done in Battle Harbour and Fogo Island, as well as many other communities, to celebrate the province's cod heritage and build plans for the future.

