

Register now for our Summer Boat Building Workshops



Wooden Boat News

Volume 3, Issue No. 2, 2012

Look Aft and Learn

Before Fibreglass...

Wooden Boats of NL

A four oared punt from Trinity Bay, a make-and-break engine, boat models and display cases, fishing nets and boatbuilding tools, 26 story boards and 5 technical units are all packaged and ready to go!

The tale of our Province's traditional wooden boats reflects the historical growth, spirit and culture of coastal communities all around Newfoundland and Labrador. It is a story of gradual change and subtle adaptation punctuated by leaps of faith and technical innovation.

The Exhibit begins with the Kayak and Umiak – the oldest craft built in Newfoundland and Labrador, dated back to the Thule people who arrived in northern Labrador between 1250 and 1450 AD, and ends with today's wooden boats that are primarily used for recreational purposes. Technical panels detail how our Province's wooden boats were built, the materials used to build them and how the power available in motors, both inboard and outboard, presented design challenges for the traditional wooden boat builder.

From the 16th century onward, boats were built for the cod fishery. They were built, mistakes made, lessons learned and then more boats built

The Exhibit is intended to stir memories and provoke discussion. As we travel around the province, our professional staff accompanying the exhibit will interview, listen and record the local maritime lore shared by people of each visited community. Alone or in partnership with local Museums and Heritage Societies, the Exhibit will welcome visitors to learn from us and allow us to learn from them.

In This Issue...

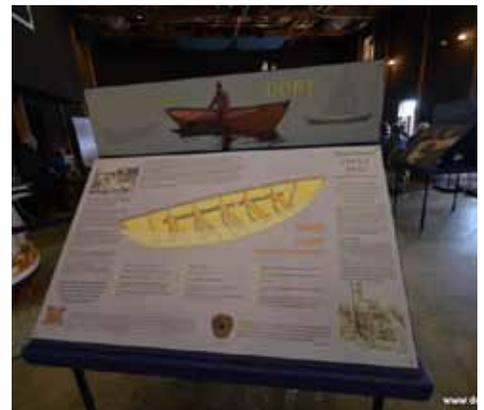
WBMNL Seeking Community Involvement.....	2
Who's Building?.....	2
"Skilled Hands" Ray Boone of Summerford	3
Out and About.....	4



Title Panel
- photo by Dennis Flynn



Story Boards
- photo by Dennis Flynn



Technical Units
- photo by Dennis Flynn



a publication of
Wooden Boat Museum
of Newfoundland and Labrador



Wooden Boat
Museum
of Newfoundland
and Labrador

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

Board of Directors:

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Department of Innovation Trade and Rural Development
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Website:

www.woodenboatnl.com

Membership:

Individual membership is \$30 and includes unlimited free admission to the Wooden Boat Museum in Winterton for one year (and 10 per cent discount on guest admissions); 10 per cent 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. Phone 709-583-2070 or email bkingheritage@gmail.com.

Newsletter:

Wooden Boat News is published four times a year. Members contribute most of the information and photos for this publication.

Chief Editor:

Chris Osmond

Inquiries and Mailing:

Beverley King, Secretary

WBMNL Seeking Community Involvement

Are there boatbuilders in your community? If so, the WBMNL's Boat Documentation Committee would like to hear from you! We encourage your help to identify 6 to 8 communities around the Province to participate in our Boat Documentation Program.

Key people within each community are needed to participate in local research and help us develop a profile of the community and its boatbuilders. These people will work with us in telling their stories.

In each community, we want to persuade at least one builder to allow us to do technical design documentation of his current work.

This technical design documentation, along with community profiles and their boatbuilders' stories will become part of our published Field Guide.

For more information, please contact Beverley at (709) 583-2070 (email bkingheritage@gmail.com) or Jennifer at (709) 583-2065 (email jenn.woodenboatmuseum@gmail.com).



Who's Building?

As part of our documentation program, the Wooden Boat Museum is collecting information on active boatbuilders – if you, or someone in your community has a boat under construction we'd like to hear from you! This section of our Wooden Boat News will feature these builders!

Contact us at (709) 583-2070 or 583-2065 or email jenn.woodenboatmuseum@gmail.com



“Skilled Hands” Ray Boone of Summerford

By Chris Osmond

I first heard about Mr. Ray Boone back in 2009 while searching for people who were still building boats. Someone mentioned that a man in Summerford, New World Island was building a set of rodneys. Of course a phone call was made and off we went to investigate.

Mr. Boone is originally from Cottrell’s Cove. He has been living in Summerford for over fifty years where he married and raised a family. He is very young looking at 77 years and from chatting in his workshop it is not hard to tell he likes working with his hands. Over our visits he mentioned that he built his first boat at 15 years of age. He and his brother, Ron, who was a year older, built a rodney for their father who used it for lobstering. Ray worked a few years as a woodsman before going to work building churches, retail buildings and other carpentry and contract work. During this time Ray had little time for boat building but got back at it in the 1970’s.

“Over our visits he mentioned that he built his first boat at 15 years of age.”

Over the years Ray has built 18 speed boats and 3 rodneys. The rodney has lines taken from a boat built by the late Sam Butler of Samson’s Island. Ray used copper tubes filled with sand to get the lines of Sam’s rodney and then used them for the forehook and midship bend. During the build he again used the copper tube to align his battens and from the pictures of the last two he has built, the technique works quite well. Spruce is the choice for both the shaped timbers and plank but Ray will use fir for the upper plank.



Ray Boone in his boat shed
- photo by Chris Osmond

After finishing these last 2 rodneys an order came for a motor boat. He then started work on getting materials for this 28 foot boat.

The lines for the motor boat were taken from moulds belonging to Austin Butler who is a boat builder from Cottle’s Island. The moulds belonged to Austin’s late brother Mac. Austin and Mac are both sons of Sam who built the rodney that Ray used for his design. The afterhook, midship bend and forehook for the motor boat can be seen from the template moulds in the picture.

The keel is white spruce which was cut nearby on a friend’s land. The shoe is birch and planking is spruce. The motor boat has an overall length of 28 ft. 8 in., with a beam of 8 ft. 6 in. including gunwales, and a depth of 43 in. It will be run with a 8 horsepower Acadia engine.

She is looking really good in the boat shed and we are all looking forward to Ray’s completion of his latest project. I’m sure the Province will be again blessed with another example of this builder’s exceptional work. His kind welcome and the sharing of his skill and knowledge is greatly appreciated. We will keep you updated.



Moulds belonging to Mac Butler
- photo by Chris Osmond



Ray Boone’s Rodneys
- photo by Chris Osmond



Traditional Newfoundland Boat Building Workshops



Looking for a great introduction to traditional wooden boat construction. Join us at our upcoming summer workshops! This summer we are offering both Weekend Workshops and 2 - week long Workshops. With the guidance of a seasoned instructor, participants will learn the fundamentals of building a traditional wooden punt.

You will experience working in a rural Newfoundland community and walk away from the Workshop with a sense of pride knowing that you have not only learned a timeless craft but that you have helped the WBMNL carry out its mission.....to safeguard and pass on our Province's wooden boat building traditions.

Curriculum will include:

- Workshop safety & proper use of tools
- An overview of design and lofting
- Keel, stem and transom assembly
- Shaping and installation of timbers
- Planking

Weekend Workshops

Date: Saturdays
July & August, 2012
Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Location: WBMNL – Winterton, NL
Cost: \$60.00 per session

Volunteers Needed

The Board of Directors of the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador (WBMNL) annually appoints Board members as Working Committee Chairs. The Working Committees and Chairs for the 2011/2012 year shall be as follows;

Committee	Chair
Workshops/Boats in the Harbour	Jim Dempsey
Field Guide/ Boat Documentation	Bruce Whitelaw
Sponsorship	Cle Newhook
Fundraising	Jennifer Green Sheppard
Forest Advocacy	Chris Sullivan
Communications	Chris Osmond
Winterton Heritage Advisory Board (WHAB) Liaison	Melvin Green
Financial Strategy	Wallace Pinhorn

We are looking for volunteers to serve on each of these committees. We need the help of volunteers throughout the Province to carry out our Mission and Objectives. Please contact Beverley for further information.

Week Long Workshops

Date: August 7 – 11, 2012
August 21-25, 2012
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily
Location: WBMNL – Winterton, NL
Cost: \$500.00 per week

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.

