



Wooden Boat News

Volume 4, Issue No. 3, 2013

Look Aft and Learn

6th Annual Wooden Boat Conference

The 6th Annual Wooden Boat Conference was held in Glovertown on September 13-14. The conference kicked off on Friday morning with a workshop on Make and Break engines, hosted by Museum member Charlie Donnelly. The Boats in the Harbour event took place on Friday afternoon. The sound of “putt-putt-putt” as several motorboats made their way around the Glovertown harbour delighted those in attendance. Many in attendance took advantage of the opportunity to take a spin around the harbour in a traditional wooden motorboat. The event’s high point was the launch of a tiny wooden flat bottomed rowboat – built by 13 year old Jonathan Collett of St. John’s.



Boats in the Harbour Event

Saturday’s sessions began with a presentation by Dave Saunders on the history of boat building in the Glovertown area – through his research for the presentation he discovered that 197 schooners had been built in his region. Many of these were built in Glovertown because it is located alongside some of the finest timber in the province. Crystal Braye, WBMNL’s folklorist, then gave a presentation on the Museum’s documentation project that took place in Glovertown in 2012.

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Eugene Saunders demonstrates Strip Planking



Kitchen Party





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.

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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:
Cle Newhook

Inquiries and Mailing:
Beverley King, Secretary

Jim Dempsey, Chair, Workshop Committee reported on our Boat Building Workshops that took place during the past year – both in Winterton and Bay Roberts. Boat Building demonstrations by Museum members were well received. Many thanks to our members Alf Manual (Twillingate), Eugene Saunders (Eastport), Alex Howse (Mount Pearl), Jerome Canning (St. John's) and Chris Sullivan (Calvert).

The afternoon began with a presentation by Cindy Gibbons, Site Supervisor at Parks Canada in Red Bay, which focused on the discovery of the San Juan shipwreck and the research that was done by Parks Canada. Xabier Agote, President of the Museum of Albaola Basque Maritime Heritage Society, then captivated the audience with his presentation on plans to build an authentic replica of the Basques whaling ship San Juan that sank nearly 450 years ago.

The conference concluded with a home cooked turkey dinner and Kitchen Party. Many thanks to the Janes House Museum Committee, Glovertown Lions Club and Kevin Blackmore & friends for all their help in making this conference such a success.

We are now looking for a host community for next year! If you're interested in having us come to your community please contact **Beverley** at **709-583-2070** or email bkingheritage@gmail.com.

The First of Many WBMNL's Youngest Member Launches His First Boat

By Crystal Braye

Jonathan Collett unveiled his first wooden boat on September 13 at WBMNL's 6th Annual Wooden Boat Conference in Glovertown. The 13-year-old builder took centre stage during our Boats in the Harbour event as his 8'1" flat-bottom plywood skiff was launched to the tune of Johnny Poker, sung by Melvin Green. "I was very excited to be launching my boat in the presence of traditional Newfoundland boat builders," says Johnathan.

Jonathan first became interested in boat building while visiting with his father and grandfather in Maine two years ago. His grandfather Max Collett, originally from Harbour Buffett, Placentia Bay, peaked Jonathan's interest when telling him stories about growing up that would always come back to boats. "Throughout the summer my Grandfather would draw me sketches explaining how to cut a stem or how to make a boat by mould," Jonathan says. "Later that summer I bought a catalogue from a local marine store and started working out the specifics about just how I would start building a boat." Jonathan spent the next two summers in Maine building a plywood skiff under the guidance of his grandfather.

Upon returning from his first summer in Maine, Jonathan attended WBMNL's 4th Annual Wooden Boat Conference in Trinity where he met and mingled with other builders and enthusiasts. "When the conference was over he was more determined than ever," says Jonathan's mom Kim Furlong.



Jonathan's boat under construction

"We drove home on Sunday with him discussing his plans for the 'one sheet skiff' he was now ready to build in the garage."

Jonathan finished the boat in Maine this past summer and launched her with his grandfather at the end of July. He returned to Newfoundland and finished his own plywood skiff in time to be launched at Boats in the Harbour in Glovertown. "It was a lot of fun listening to the 'Jonny Poker Song' during the launching," Jonathan says. "It is a day I will never forget. My little sisters keep singing the song so I am sure never to forget it."

For Jonathan's next boat building venture he is planning to build a 10'5" sailboat with clinker planking. "I think sailing would be fun to give a try."



8'1" Flat launched at 6th Annual Wooden Boat Conference

Out and About

Henry Vokey Receives Honorary Doctor Of Law Degree

Because of his significant contribution to the cultural traditions of our province, Henry Vokey received an honorary doctor of laws degree during the Corner Brook session of convocation on Friday, Oct. 4.

Congratulations Henry!



From left are Chancellor Susan Dyer Knight, Dr. Henry Vokey and President Gary Kachanoski at Grenfell Campus's convocation ceremony Oct. 4. *Event Photographic Services photo.*



Crystal with her Glovertown Boat Builders.
Left to right Tom Abbott, Sam Feltham, Curtis Abbott, Crystal Braye, Gerald Perry & Bill Feltham

WBMNL Top Quality Award

Crystal Braye – WBMNL's Folklorist – was presented with the WBMNL Top Quality Award at the 6th Annual Wooden Boat Conference in Glovertown. This award was presented to Crystal for her outstanding work on the Glovertown Documentation Project. Her work can be found on our website www.woodenboatnl.com under the Boats and Builders tab.

Museum Gift Ideas

Purchase a Museum Membership for that special someone this Christmas.

We also have gift certificates for our Boat Building Workshops.

For more information contact Beverley at 709-583-2070 or email bkingheritage@gmail.com.

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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P.O. Box 59, Winterton NL, A0B 3M0
Phone (709) 583-2070
www.woodenboatnl.com