



Wooden Boat News

Volume 3, Issue No. 3, 2012

Look Aft and Learn

Summer Boat Building Workshops

By Jim Dempsey

During the summer of 2012, the Wooden Boat Museum will offer two workshop programs where wooden boat enthusiasts will actively learn the skills and traditions associated with building traditional Newfoundland small craft.

Weekend and week-long workshops will provide an opportunity for participants to work through the fundamentals of small boat building. The weekend program will be spread over eight Saturdays between July 7 and August 25. Week-long workshops are scheduled for August 7-11 and August 21-25. The week-long workshops will overlap with the weekend workshop program to provide maximum opportunity for participation.

The instructor for each program will be the Museum's Master Boat Builder, Jerome Canning. Museum members and staff will assist Jerome as required.

The theme of both workshop programs is to provide an opportunity for participants to experience all phases of the construction of a traditional Newfoundland punt. It will not be possible to build a finished punt during any of the scheduled workshops. Activities will, however, involve boats in more than one level of construction.

Participants will actively take part in the construction and will be expected to work with wood and tools under the guidance of the Master Boat Builder. The agenda presents the evolution of a small boat from laying the stem and keel of the backbone to installing timbers, planking, and finishing. The pace will be dynamic and hands-on work will be balanced with instruction and interpretation by the workshop staff.

The areas covered by both programs will be similar and will overlap in the Saturday sessions for each week-long workshop. Those attending all eight Saturday workshops will spend more time on each stage of construction and will assist in providing the semi-completed hulls that will be used in the week-long workshops.

Workshops will take place in the main boat building shed at the Museum in Winterton. Activities will take advantage of the museum displays and traditional small craft collection. Workshops are scheduled for morning and afternoon sessions. The schedule also allows participants time after the day's work to enjoy summer evenings in coastal Newfoundland.

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2009 Boat Building Workshop - Winterton





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.

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Boats on the Harbour

By Jim Dempsey

Messing around in boats is more than just the satisfaction of creating a beautiful thing with your own hands. There has to be a time when we can actually enjoy being on the water. Nothing will promote the preservation of traditional small craft more than seeing them in use on a fine summer's day.

The Museum encourages members and friends to get together in small groups to enjoy their own boats on the harbour. Arranging a picnic with your friends doesn't require a lot of organization. There are, however, a couple of dates this summer when we can all get together to share our interests in small boats. The first opportunity will be on July 7th in Trinity to honour the launching of Henry Vokey's new schooner. The 5th Annual Wooden Boat Conference will be held in Winterton on



Two Rodneys - Photo by Jim Dempsey

September 7-8 and a flotilla of wooden boats is being planned to meet Henry's schooner as she sails into Winterton for the Conference weekend. The weather in Trinity Bay is usually fine on those weekends and we expect a good turn out for each occasion. Why not bring your dory, punt, or Rodney and share the wooden boat experience with others?

Provincial Exhibit Unveiling

The Museum's Provincial Exhibit was unveiled during a reception at Memorial University, Queen's College on April 17th, 2012. Representatives from government, funding agencies, local businesses and interested groups were in attendance at the Opening Reception to celebrate this very visual and informative work. The Exhibit was on display for the general public from April 18th – 22nd.



Exhibit Unveiling Reception
- photo by Dennis Flynn

The Museum extends its sincere thanks to the sponsors of this event.

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The exhibit will be on display at the Museum in Winterton from June 18th – September 28th, 2012.

Boat Building on the Labrador Coast

By Chris Osmond



The coast of Labrador, like the rest of the province, has a vast expanse of coastline, including bays, inlets and fiords. Wooden boats for various purposes have been prevalent starting with natives and continuing with the arrival of the first Europeans. The aboriginal canoe, kayak and umiak were of course the first means of water travel. Hunting and fishing, living near the water, and dependent on the waters for travel and work, the European/Newfoundland settlers developed its share of boat builders.

Malcolm Pye of Lodge Bay is one of those builders. Malcolm says his grandfather came from England via Conception Bay and the Pye family has been in the Lodge Bay area for 3 generations. Now in his late sixties Malcolm began building with his father 40 to 50 years ago when they built 2 boats together.

He then began building dories which were based on the dories built around the Bay St. George area on the west coast of the province. Malcolm's dories have 40 inch bottom width and a bottom length of 14 feet. He also uses dowels on the bottom and a 30 to 32 degree angle on his dory plank. The sides are usually 22 inches high.

Malcolm has also built two 24 foot motor boats in the last 4 years.



Malcolm's motor boat - owned by Ralph Bradley

For his motor boats Malcolm uses three self-made template moulds and steamed juniper lathes with 2 inch battens. Of course like most local builders spruce was used for the planking. His motor boat can be seen in the following picture and can also be viewed on YouTube under "Ralph's motor boat" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfRuQgFtO24. This motor boat is fitted with a 6 Acadia engine.

With builders like Malcolm the Labrador coast is well represented and we will be covering more of their builders in upcoming issues.

If anyone has other pictures or details of Malcolm's work we would greatly appreciate a copy to update our files.

5th Annual Wooden Boat Conference

The 5th Annual Wooden Boat Conference and AGM will be held in Winterton on September 7th – 8th, 2012. Be part of the celebrations as Henry Vokey sails into Winterton aboard his 44' Wooden Schooner. Bring your wooden boats and join in our flotilla as we welcome Henry into Winterton Harbour.

We are currently developing the agenda for this year's conference and would invite you to play a part – send us your suggestions on topics that interest you. Agenda and Registration forms will be available on our website by late June.



Out and About

Boat Launch – Trinity, NL – July 7, 2012 (Time - tide dependent)

(plan to arrive by 11:00 AM)

Be a part of the celebrations as Master Boat Builder Henry Vokey, recipient of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, launches his 2 masted 44' traditional Newfoundland Wooden Schooner.

In the fall of 2008 at the age of 80, Henry announced that he was going to build a schooner – the idea came to him in a dream! Now his dream has come true – the 44' foot schooner will be launched on Saturday, July 7th, 2012. The Wooden Boat Museum of NL and the Trinity Historical Society is currently planning a Garden Party to honor Henry and to celebrate with his family on this historic day. All wooden boat owners are encouraged to bring their boats to Trinity. Details as they become available will be posted on our websites – woodenboatnl.com and trinityhistoricalsociety.com.



Henry and his 44' schooner - photo by Dennis Flynn

Make and Breaks

Do you, or someone you know, have a make and break engine? If so, we would love to hear from you! The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is looking for running engines and stories from their owners. If you have an engine or a memory to share, please email joelle@heritagefoundation.ca or call, toll free, 1-888-739-1892 ext. 5.



Boat Documentation

Our Boat Documentation this summer will be focused on the Glovertown area. We would like to hear from boatbuilders in the area who are interested in having their boats documented. We will also be collecting stories and recording the history of the Glovertown area - if you have a story to tell, we'd like to hear from you! Contact Crystal at 709-583-2065 or 709-583-2044 or email folklore.coop@gmail.com.



Lifting lines from Allen Brothers boat in Coley's Point

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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