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# Wooden Boat News

Volume 3, Issue No. 5, 2012

Look Aft and Learn

## 5th Annual Wooden Boat Conference

# The Newfoundland Schooner – A Workhorse of Beauty, Speed and Grace

With the sound of “putt putt putt” echoing through Winterton Harbour, the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador kicked off its 5th Annual Wooden Boat Conference by launching two traditional wooden boats – a 18’ motorboat built by Master Boat Builder Henry Vokey and a 16’4” rodney, the first boat built by WBMNL’s Chair Frank French. A crowd gathered on the wharf to watch these boats hit the water for the first time. Museum members Charlie Donnelly and Max Clarke, aboard their motorboats, joined with the others to enjoy a spin around the harbour.

The conference theme focused on the Newfoundland Schooner and the Museum was thrilled when Henry Vokey offered to sail his newly launched wooden schooner – *Leah Caroline* – into Winterton. However, Mother Nature had other plans, and Henry had to settle on arriving by car – certainly not his choice of transportation!

Saturday’s sessions gave those in attendance a history lesson in schooners with Cle Newhook’s session on “*The Newhooks of Trinity – A Family of Master Shipbuilders*”; Alan Cass’s “*The Schooner in the Conception Bay Trades*” and Ted Rowe’s “*Ships & Shipwrights of Heart’s Content.*”

The Conference concluded with a home cooked Turkey supper on Saturday evening and the Kitchen Party – we were delighted to have new entertainers added to the lineup this year!

Many thanks to all those who made our conference a huge success – we are already looking forward for next year’s event!

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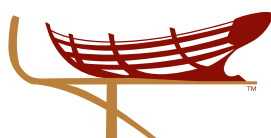
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Boats in the Harbour at 5th Annual Wooden Boat Conference  
- Photos by Jamie Baker



Entertainment provided by Glovertown’s Dave Saunders (AKA Clayton) and brother Jason brought impromptu dancers – Howard Cooper and Sharon Vokey - to their feet during the lunch break - Photo by Jennifer Gushue-Finn



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.

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(Government of Newfoundland and Labrador)

#### Website:

[www.woodenboatnl.com](http://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](mailto: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



The Spouses Program, an integral part of the conference, saw the biggest group yet – 28 spouses attended this year. The spouses enjoyed a hike at Outside Pond Park, toured the Heritage Trail in Winterton and spent the afternoon in Rosanne's Garden for a Wine and Cheese Party.

*Photos by Eileen Green*

## Board of Directors Report

**By Frank French, Chair**

After a Board meeting and several executive committee meetings we have set the course for the coming year; a major focus on revenue generation in order to keep the office door open and ongoing programs in operation. As a start, we have revised our Membership Program – see details of *Be a Friend of the Museum* on our website.

Ongoing projects are proceeding, including follow up on information collected by this past summer's documentation program, establishment of a new and more powerful website, as well as work on sponsorship. Continuing as usual are the newsletter, gala and conference planning, and workshop program. Work on our Boats in the Harbour initiative, which will include a Make N' Break component for next summer, and our Adopt a Boat program is ongoing.

This fall we exhibited at the Provincial Municipalities Conference in Gander and attended the Atlantic Canada Showcase in St. John's, where we presented to over thirty tour operators; the reception was great and while follow up is needed, we are confident that some of these operators will stop at the Museum next summer. Our next public function is the **Fish and Workboat Show at Mile One Stadium, November 30 – December 01, 2012**; drop by and visit us at booth 239. We will have a traditional wooden rodney on display - come see how our wooden boat workshops teach traditional wooden boat building using modern materials.



# Meet Glovertown's Edgar Butt Master Builder of Terra Nova National Park's Shanawdithit

By Crystal Braye, WBMNL Folklorist

I met Edgar, or "Eg" as he is more commonly known, and his wife Patricia on a Saturday morning in July at their house in Glovertown. Expecting my arrival, they had gathered together some photographs of boats that Edgar has built.

"Here's a picture of a dory I built," he says as he hands me the first one in the stack. Joe and Andrew, 1990 is written on the back.

"This one," he says as he hands me another photograph, "this is one I built for the Park." The picture is dated August 1962.

The Shanawdithit, named for the last known Beothuk woman in Newfoundland, was built as a tour boat for Terra Nova National Park where Eg worked as a foreman in the carpentry shop for twenty-six years.

She was forty-two feet long and built from plans that were ordered from Nova Scotia. Her ribs were Nova Scotia grey oak and she was planked with local spruce.

Like most of the boat builders in Glovertown, Eg uses steam to bend the wood to form the ribs of his boats. Unlike some, who may submerge the wood in the boiling water, Edgar uses pure steam. He finds that steaming makes the wood more supple than boiling the laths, saying that, "the steam seems to get right into the wood."

The last boat Edgar built was a speed boat that he built about fifteen years ago. "It was in a shed in Burnside the last I saw it," he says, "I built her with square copper boat nails – clinch nails. I had to order them from England and had to wait four months to get them."

While no longer building Edgar still enjoys recreational boating at his cabin in Goose Cove.



## Wood Harvesting Permits

Over the past year, the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador has been working with the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency regarding wood harvesting permits to assist individuals who are interested in maintaining the heritage of wooden boat building.

We are pleased to report that the Agency has approved guidelines so boat builders will have the flexibility to harvest a limited amount of boat building timbers under permit from an approved operating area, within a Forest Management District (FMD). A copy of the approved Guidelines, along with a WBMNL Registration Application can be found on our website [www.woodenboatnl.com](http://www.woodenboatnl.com) or by calling (709) 583-2070.

## Who's Building?

Are you building a wooden boat? If so, please let us know. We've reserved this section in our newsletter for you! Send us your name, address, and details of your boat and we'll include it in this section. Photos also welcome! Send your information to [bkingheritage@gmail.com](mailto:bkingheritage@gmail.com) or call 709-583-2070.

# Out and About

## Submit your Boat Pictures!

Last year we encouraged our Museum Friends to submit photos that we could use to produce a new line of merchandise featuring wooden boats. We would like to thank all those who submitted their photos. Six photos were selected and we produced wooden tiles, magnets, ornaments & bookmarks – thank you to the following for allowing us to use your photos:



**Top l-r** – Eileen Green, Winterton; Derrick Burry, Portugal Cove-St. Phillips  
**Bottom l-r** – Charlie Donnelly, Heart' Delight; Jennifer Finn, Carbonear;  
Jean Knowles, St. John's; Dennis Flynn, St. John's

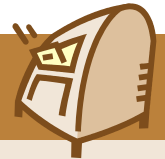
We invite you to submit your photos again this year – 6 new photos will be selected and used for our 2013 merchandise! Email your pictures to [bkingheritage@gmail.com](mailto:bkingheritage@gmail.com).

## Mystery Object

Who can identify the item in this picture? About 20 of these were found hanging on a rope in a shed in Placentia. They appear to be made out of a piece of softwood, and can be separated at the joint. The outside diameter is about 3 – 5/8”.



## Members



### Seasons Greetings

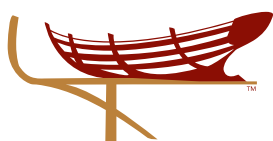
The Board of Directors of the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to your continued support as we work together to preserve the traditional art of wooden boat building in our Province.

### Mark May 4th, 2013 on your calendars!

We will be holding our 2nd Only A Boat Fundraising Gala and Auction at the Holiday Inn, St. John's. Details of the event will be available shortly.

## 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.



a publication of  
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of Newfoundland and Labrador

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