

Wooden Boat Museum

Only a Boat...
Fundraising
Dinner & Auction

June 10, 2017
Holiday Inn, St. John's

Individual Tickets and
Corporate Tables Available!

Individual - \$120
Table of 8 - \$960
Table of 10 - \$1200

Tickets can be purchased at
woodenboatmuseum.com
or by calling (709)583-2878

BUY TICKETS NOW!

Volume 7, Issue No. 2, 2017

Wooden Boat News
Look Aft and Learn

**Twenty Years
and Counting!**

This year at the Wooden Boat Museum, we are reflecting on our roots as we celebrate 20 years dedicated to safeguarding our wooden boat heritage. The Winterton Boat Building and Community Museum (predecessor to WBMNL) first started as a heritage display in 1997, but its roots can be traced back even further.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, a time when wooden boats filled the harbours and the fishery was in full swing, David Taylor, a graduate student from the folklore department at Memorial University, dedicated his thesis work to documenting Winterton boat builders and their boats.

“I went there because I was interested in doing field research about wooden boat building, and I’d been told that Winterton would be a good place to do it. It was a place where many men knew how to build inshore fishing boats, and built them well.” said David.



Then & Now Museum in Winterton 1997 - 2017

While he didn’t know it at the time, David was documenting a tradition that would soon be threatened by a number of colliding factors. Most notable is the 1992 Moratorium

on the North Atlantic cod fishery, which altered the cultural landscape and contributed to a steady decline of wooden boats and those who built them.



Then & Now Exhibits 1997 - 2017

Moving ahead to the mid-nineties, the recently formed Winterton Heritage Advisory Board began to plan a heritage display for the upcoming “Come Home Year” celebrations. As part of this display, the work collected by David Taylor was exhibited amongst artifacts collected from the community at the Parish Hall, which had been rented for the occasion.



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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Funding Partners:

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
(Government of Canada)

Department of Innovation Trade and Rural Development
(Government of Newfoundland and Labrador)

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:

Rhonda McMeekin

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Beverley King, Secretary

Originally scheduled to be shown for ten days in July, the heritage display was so well received by the community that it was decided it should be turned into a permanent exhibit. Two community members, Walter and Betty Tucker, purchased the old schoolhouse from the Parish and donated it to Town to use as a community museum.

“We wanted to focus on something in particular, so that we would be different from all the other community museums,” said Melvin Green. With David Taylor’s work, they recognized the value of the town’s wooden boat heritage and decided to use his research as the basis for the exhibits. David was contacted and enthusiastically agreed to share his photos, interviews and boat documentation with the Museum. “Sharing this information with others is a big reason why folklorists like me do the work we do,” he said, “It would be a way for me to thank the community that had been so generous.”

“Sharing this information with others is a big reason why folklorists like me do the work we do,” - David Taylor

Since opening their doors as a community museum twenty years ago, the Winterton Boat Building and Community Museum has grown to become a provincial entity dedicated to safeguarding wooden boat heritage throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. From the very beginning, those behind the museum recognized the skills and knowledge of building and using wooden boats was disappearing and dedicated themselves to fostering the transmission of these skills to younger generations.

“With David’s work, we realize the importance of it; the importance of it to Winterton boat builders; the importance of it for the province. It wasn’t long before we got thinking that this was a provincial story,” said Melvin.

As WBMNL continues to grow, we remain dedicated to safeguarding the skills and knowledge of Newfoundland and Labrador’s wooden boat building traditions through our documentation program, boat building workshops, museum exhibits, annual conferences and various other endeavours. As we reflect on how far we’ve come, we look forward to the many exciting plans and new opportunities on the horizon.



Museum honors David Taylor with Lifetime Membership in October, 2016



Alf Manuel: Twillingate Boat Building

Only accessible by boat until 1974, Twillingate Island has been home to skilled boat builders for generations. Born in 1939, Alf can trace his Twillingate roots back seven generations. "This interest in wood, I think it was born into me," he said. While standing in the shed that once belonged to his great-grandfather, Alf recalled his early interest in boats. "Well I started out here, getting the axe when dad wasn't looking and chopping out a boat out of a piece of wood, going down to the beach and floating it, getting my feet wet and going home to get a lecture from mom," he laughed. "If there was anybody building a boat, I was always curious about how they were doing it."

"Mr. Young - across the tickle - Don Young, he just lived over across the way there, he was building boats, and one or two of his brothers built boats. They were the closest ones to me that were in the business of boat building," Alf recalls, "But there were lots of other people around. There was Mr. Watkins, over across there, he built speed boats. Good speed boats. And of course, the Pardys of Little Harbour. They've been building them since... well, I don't think they were involved in the ark but they go back pretty far!"



Harry Pardy - Little Harbour

As Alf entered his teenage years, outboard motors were gaining popularity around the Island. "They were great big motors then," he joked, "7.5 horsepower Evinrude. The old fellas figured all the young crowd were going to be drowned tearing around in these boats!"

"Who built the first speed boat? I don't know. I remember one of the first ones I saw was built by Lloyd Elliott... He used to build speed boats and they're much the same shape as they are today with a wide stern and flat bottom."



Alf Manuel - Twillingate

Today, when asking boat builders in Twillingate what makes a good speed boat, the most common response was, "Have you see Alf's? That's a good speed boat." So we asked Alf, what makes his speed boats so good? "It's not because I had anything to do with it," he said modestly. "The credit goes to the man who designed them [Francis Lane of Lewisporte]. The shape is right... He's got a pretty good eye for what a boat should be."

In Memoriam



Frank Lane at Wooden Boat Conference - Twillingate, 2010

Mr. Frank Lane of Tilting, Fogo Island passed away on February 15, 2017. Mr. Lane was a highly respected boat builder in Newfoundland and Labrador and his passing is a great loss to the wooden boat community. He is remembered by those who knew him as a kind and generous man with a sense of humour, a gift for storytelling and builder of many a fine boat.

Out and About

“Only a Boat” Fundraising Dinner and Auction

Our 4th “Only a Boat” Fundraising Dinner and Auction will take place at the Holiday Inn in St. John’s on June 10th. Join us for a fun filled evening that includes a three course dinner, raffles and live and silent auctions. Get your tickets now by calling **709-583-2070** or on our website at www.woodenboatnl.com.

If you are unable to attend, you can support this event by donating items to our raffles or auctions or making a monetary donation. All proceeds from this event enables the Museum to carry out programs across the province.

Boat Building Workshops

Wooden Boat Building Workshops offer visitors the opportunity to learn the skills required to build a traditional Newfoundland punt or dory. Guided by boat builder Jerome Canning, participants can take part in full-day or weeklong workshops for a unique cultural experience suitable for the whole family (ages 13+).



Children’s Workshops (ages 6-12) take place every Thursday in July and August.

Register online at www.woodenboatnl.com/workshops or call **709-583-2044**.



Creative Hands

Every Saturday in July and August, the Museum invites artists, musicians and craftspeople an opportunity to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and craft. The program features a wide range of demonstrations from wood carving to painting, birch broom making, rug hooking and musical performances. If you’re interested in participating in our Creative Hands program, please call **709-583-2044**.



Trails Tales Tunes Festival

Visit us in Norris Point, Gros Morne National Park from May 19-24th to see a full size row dory being built. To take part in the daily boat building activities, individuals can pre-register with Creative Gros Morne at 709-458-3410 or email info@trailstalestunes.ca.

FOR SALE

14’ Frank Lane designed punt, Galvanize trailer and 6HP Evinrude Motor, laminated juniper frames, spruce plank.

Call **709-583-2432** for more details.



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
Wooden Boat Museum
of Newfoundland and Labrador

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