

Get your lottery tickets today for a 16-foot wooden punt. The draw is December 18th!



Wooden Boat News

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Look Aft and Learn

Old ways, new ideas offered at the 2nd annual conference

“Lookaftandlearn”, themuseum'smotto, wastheclear themeatthewoodenboatconferenceheldOct.25.Fromthe openingssession,whenRobertHallidayunveiledhismodel of thehistoricvessel *Indeavor*,theenthusiasmintheroom madeitclearthepastisaliveandwellintoday'swooden boatcircles.

Over60heritageandboatbuildingenthusiaststookpartin theWintertonevent.Themorningsessionsfocusedon technique,withpresentationsbyJoeGoudieonhisLabrador canoes(seeinsideformore)andGeraldCrewsonthe province'sdories.

DeanBrinton,chiefexecutiveofficeroftheRooms,spoke overthelunchbreakonwhatittakestoestablishamuseum.

“AttheRooms,itwasajourneyfrombigideatoreality, ” he said,notingthemanystobstaclesheprojectfacedalongthe way.Hesaidthewoodenboatmuseumwillneedto perseveretoseeitsvisionthrough.

FollowingpresentationsabouttheupcomingCupids400 celebrationsandtheromanceofwoodenboats,delegates tookBrinton'sadvicetoheartandmovedintogroupsto discussthemuseum'sfuture.

Theyagreedourwoodenboatheritagestronglyinfluences moderncultureandlifestyle,fromthecareerswechooseto theinstinctwestillhavetoinnovatewiththetoolsand materialsonhand.Groupssuggestedwaystopreservethe province'swoodenboatheritageandcontinuelearningfrom it.Ideasincludedatravelingexhibit,communityandschool boatbuilds,boatbuildingprojectsfortourists,andawooden boatexchangeprogram.

Themuseum'sboardwilltakethefeedback,alongwithother insightsfromtheconference,andshapeitsplansforthe comingyears.

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Robert Halliday (centre, directly behind the vessel's main sail) unveils his model of the *Indeavor* and shares his interpretation of the boat's form and construction. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)

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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Wooden Boat Museum
of Newfoundland and Labrador



Wooden Boat
Museum
of Newfoundland
and Labrador

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

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Individual membership is \$20 and includes unlimited free admission to the Wooden Boat Museum in Winterton for one year (and 10 percent discount on guest admissions); 10 percent 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.

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Who's building boats?

Our museum researcher, Howard Cooper, spent the past year playing wooden boat detective, poking his nose into Newfoundland and Labrador's nooks and crannies to find the province's boatbuilders. At the October conference, he shared the results of his work: An up-to-date list of over 200 builders.

Cooper started the project in Trinity Bay and continues to work his way around the coast. He's found builders of trap boats, dories, punts, schooners, speedboats, model boats, Ganderriver boats, and more.

"Every boat style has significance to the community where it was built," Cooper said. "From the colour, hull style, side and keel, to stem construction designed to handle different sea conditions, you can tell the characteristics that belong to each builder and community."

Cooper's work also involves creating a profile of the province's boatbuilders. He discovered that a full 56 percent of builders last year were over the age of 60.

The log of builders, their communities and style of boats is continually being updated. Jennifer Gushue at the museum is helping by putting much of the anecdotal data gathered by Cooper into a database. To see the list, check the museum's website.



Howard Cooper has prepared a comprehensive list of boat builders in the province. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)

Boat building dictionary What's a...?

Half model: A carved scale model of a boat defining the hull form, usually the starboard side. Traditionally the model was used as a design tool, allowing the builder to shape the wooden form until it reflected the boat in the builder's eye. From the half model he would then lift the frame or mould shapes and scale up to full size. Today, half models are often made from the designer's computer-generated lines plan and presented as a work of art.

Kiln dried: Freshly cut green lumber may be sold green or first dried in a kiln to accelerate removal of the moisture in the wood. Drying wood in a kiln is an art where experience is required to ensure the wood dries evenly to retain its strength and aesthetic properties. Different species dry at different rates. Kiln dried lumber commands a higher price than green or air dried lumber.

Kiln: In lumber drying, a kiln is a room or building where temperature, moisture and the amount of air circulating are controlled to dry season wood.

Do you have a boat building term to share? E-mail Beverley King at bkingheritage@gmail.com with your word and its meaning. It may show up in our newsletter or on our web site.

Joe Goudie: A boat builder with a modern approach for traditional canoes

A few years ago, Joe Goudie and his son were paddling through rapids on the Churchill River. With water levels low and rapids raging, their canoe loaded down with supplies smashed against the rocks and tore apart.

Luckily, Goudie and his son managed to make it safely to shore. Assessing the damage, they discovered the wood in the canoe had cracked to pieces but their supplies were still dry. The surprised paddlers inspected the wreckage.

“I couldn't believe it,” Goudie recalls. “When we took a close look I realized the wood in the canoe was shattered but the canvas still held everything together.”

The canvas here refers to actually canvas that Goudie stretches over his canoes (replacing the traditional birch bark covering) and then coats with a special linseed oil mixture. Goudie knew the technique gave his boats a tough shell but that day on the Churchill proved the method was better than he imagined.

From his experience, you'd expect Goudie - a native Labradorian - to have built boats since he was quite young. Not so. Goudie only started hand-crafting canoes when he retired in 1996.

Born and raised in Mud Lake, Goudie completed his education in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. He's enjoyed a varied and colourful career. He served with the RCMP auxiliary, worked as a broadcaster with CBC, and was town clerk and town manager of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. In 1975, he was elected to Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly and held several ministerial posts.

After leaving politics in 1985, Goudie went to work with the Department of National Defence. Today, he is a consultant



Labrador canoe-builder Joe Goudie shares his techniques at the 2nd annual wooden boat conference in October. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)



Joe Goudie mixes linseed oil and other materials, such as silica flour, and “paints” the canoe's canvas. After several coatings, it becomes smooth and tough. (Photo courtesy of Joe Goudie)

for Parks Canada and a community liaison officer for the potential establishment of Mealy Mountains as a National Park.

Creating the Grand River canoe

Goudie has always maintained a strong connection with the outdoors. As a First Nations person, he wanted to sustain the tradition of canoe building in Labrador.

When he began boat building in 1996, he already had a lot of common sense when it came to canoe design and construction. However, Goudie was eager to find an “expert” to teach him the modern interpretation of the traditional craft. “The only expert I could find was Jerry Stelmok in the United States,” he laughed.

In 1997, Goudie opened his own shop, the Grand River Canoe Company. Grand River was the name formerly used for the Churchill River. Today, he builds 16-foot canoes (for one person) and 18-foot canoes (for two people). The canoes can accommodate a motor.

While at the Wooden Boat Museum conference in October, Goudie described his Grand River boat-building method. Before he starts building a canoe, he carves a half model to make sure his design is just right.

Different types of wood are chosen to build each canoe. Goudie prefers to use cedar because it's lighter than white spruce. He also uses white cedar but he's heard the material is dangerous to work with because it's hard on allergies. He uses a homemade kiln to dry the wood and to manage the moisture content. The steamed ribs are then bent over a solid building form creating the desired canoe shape.

Once the hull is shaped, Goudie covers it with a canvas. He mixes linseed oil and other materials, such as silica flour and “paints” the canvas with the concoction, filling in all the cracks. After several coatings, the canvas becomes smooth and tough.

“The technique is better than paint,” explained Goudie. “It also replaces having to do many, many coats of paint!” If his episode on the Churchill River is any indication, there's no doubt Goudie is right.

Out and about

Limited time left to get lottery tickets!

The draw for a 16-foot traditional wooden punt takes place Dec. 18, 2009! Get your tickets - for just a toonie each - by emailing gbkingheritage@gmail.com.



Looking for a novel Christmas idea?

Consider a "Passing it On" gift from the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. We have ornaments, sun-catchers, matted prints, greeting cards and limited edition Giclee Fine Art prints. To order, email gbkingheritage@gmail.com.



The oil painting by artist Florence Maud Pinhorn entitled *Passing It On*, depicts an era now gone, and illustrates the importance of safeguarding traditional wooden boat building. The Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador gratefully acknowledges Mrs. Pinhorn's donation of this original work.

Members!

We need your help encouraging wooden boat fans to join the club

Thank you for becoming a member of the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. Your contribution will help us preserve the wooden boat culture in our province. Do you know someone else who would like to join? We are offering a **Free Mariner Membership** to the member who signs up the most new members by December 31, 2009. For more information, contact Beverley King, Phone 709-583-2070, or email gbkingheritage@gmail.com.



Participants gather during Jerome Canning's workshop on steam-bending and lamination, held at the wooden boat conference on Oct. 23. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)



Princess and the Punt at the St. John's Christmas Parade on Nov. 29. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)



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