



# Wooden Boat News

Volume 2, Issue No. 1, 2010

Look Aft and Learn

## Indeavour Saga Exhibit Opening

By Stephanie Piercey

On a bright, sunny June morning over 150 people crowded into a 30x50ft wooden boat shed in Scilly Cove (now known as Winterton) to watch as history came to life before their eyes. June 14th not only marked the official launch of the 2010 Summer season at the Wooden Boat Museum, but also the Official unveiling of the new “Indeavour Saga” exhibit and “Keel Laying” ceremony of the life-sized replica of the first decked wooden boat built in Canada!

Hosted by Alan Doyle of Great Big Sea, the event drew special guests from all levels of Government - Federal, Provincial and Municipal; tourism operators; our own Museum members; wooden boat enthusiasts and, of course, John Guy himself (aka Clarence Barnes).

As Alan Doyle called the rolls special guests representing each of Guy's crew members took their places at the keel - donated by Honorary Life Member, Henry Vokey and his family. As Melvin Green, chairperson of the Winterton Heritage Advisory Board, sang the “Johnny Poker”, the 24ft piece of locally harvested timber was lifted and laid in place



Indeavour Saga Exhibit - Photo by Rona Reid

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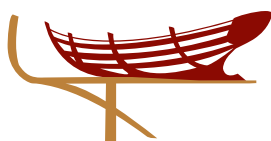
as instructed by exhibit builder Jerome Canning. A proud moment indeed for all those involved in the many months of planning this Cupids 400 Inc. co-operative venture.

The festivities then moved across the street to the SUF Lodge #2 where refreshments were served and entertainment was offered by your gracious host who was joined by Fergus O'Byrne and, briefly, by Alan's 4 four year old son Henry.

Check back to our website often for photo and video updates on the progress of the exhibit as Jerome re-enacts the building of the Indeavour. Would you like to be a part of the excitement? Contact us about our Experiential Learning packages - work alongside Jerome for a day or two as the stem, keel, counter & main frames come to life. (Opportunities will run from now until Labour Day.)



John Guy (aka Clarence Barnes) and Alan Doyle - Photo by Rona Reid





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](http://www.woodenboatnl.com)

#### Membership:

Individual membership is \$20 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:

Bruce Whitelaw, Chair/President

##### Inquiries and Mailing:

Beverley King, Secretary

# WBMNL Volunteer Program

By Frank French

In order to carry out its mission and objectives, the WBMNL will have to rely on the help of volunteers throughout the Province. Already quite a number of individuals have donated countless hours of work to establish a solid foundation on which to grow. Without further volunteer help, it will be next to impossible to be as successful and vibrant an organization, responding in a timely manner to safeguard the fading knowledge and skills involved in wooden boat building.

Since the Museum formed in 2008, a number of members have offered their services, but by not having established an official Volunteer Program, these offers have not been properly utilized as much as they should have; in addition, a lot of initial Board effort has been directed toward organizational rather than operational tasks.

As an official beginning for this Program, we will establish a database of volunteers, including their skills, interests and availability, to be matched with needs of the Museum as determined by the Board of Directors. Although our administration office is in Winterton, and some volunteer time will be needed there, the majority of work and activities will be able to be carried out from various locations throughout the Province, including the volunteer's home. Committee sizes will vary from as few as 1, to 4, 5 or more, depending on the task. Initial efforts will be directed toward the establishment of the following committees: Conference, Honorary Life Time Members, Newsletter, Fundraising, and, Experiential Learning.

Please consider the time and talent you have to offer, and contact Beverley King at the Museum office, 709-583-2070, email [bkingheritage@gmail.com](mailto:bkingheritage@gmail.com); As a first step you will be forwarded an information package on the Museum's current initiatives and the direction in which it is moving as well as a potential list of areas where we will require volunteer help and a short questionnaire to be filled out and returned. Remember no effort is too big or too small; it is the collective result of all energies that will determine the success of our organization. Once on board, I am confident that you will find the time donated a very rewarding experience.

## Donation

The Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador thanks Lloyd Wick of Port Hope Simpson for the donation of a Birch Bark Canoe. The Canoe is currently on display at the WBMNL in Winterton.



Photo Right: Birch Bark Canoe  
Photo by Susan Jackson

# Model Citizen: Replica Builder David Arscott of St. John's, NL, Turns a Lifetime Hobby into a Legacy of Donations

By Dennis Flynn

The most famous vessels in the province's history are resurfacing in small museums for the public to enjoy due to a remarkable series of generous donations by one model citizen.

Award-winning model builder David Arscott of St. John's is incredibly modest despite over 100 beautifully detailed replica ships to his credit. Arscott was in grade seven or eight when he began building ships out of balsawood. He gave it up when he got in high school, but started again when his youngest child was in kindergarten. In the last ten years or so he started to earn a stafter retiring from DFO.

Each high caliber model requires 4 to 6 months to complete totally "from scratch" based on available ship plans and historical research.

Recently Arscott quietly donated large portions of his extensive collection to museums in towns where the original vessels were built or served. Beneficiaries include facilities in Conception Harbour, the Colony of Avalon at Ferryland, the Clarenville Heritage Society, South Dildo, Trinity, the Road to Yesterday Museum at Bay Roberts, Collier's Town Council, the new Cupids Legacy Centre, and the Stone Barn Museum at Brigus to name a few.

According to Howard Cooper the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador also has some of Arscott's collection on hand. Cooper notes, "There's the Bessie Marie - a re-modeled schooner made into a coastal freighter. Mr. Arscott built that one in 2010. He also gave us the Augustus - this boat is a brig. - He built that one for the museum in 2009. He is a very nice gentleman and has made some wonderful donations."

Chatting with the pleasant Arscott I am taken by the deliberately understated manner in which he describes his work and the passing on of his collection. People who are not model makers may not appreciate the significance of the donations at first blush. Aside from the effort and expense to make, each vessel is "one of a kind". Arscott never makes the same replica twice. Additionally all the vessels depicted have a historical connection to Newfoundland and Labrador. If small towns and museums had to buy the replicas or commissions someone to make them many facilities on modest budgets simply could not afford to get replicas of that quality.

**“Aside from the effort and expense to make, each vessel is “one of a kind”. Arscott never makes the same replica twice.”**

Arscott dismisses any praise and says with a smile, "Oh no, it's not that much, really. I'm just glad to see the ships go where people have an appreciation for and enjoy them." Optimistically he adds, "They've been down here so long now it gives me room to make some more". If you'd like to know more contact the Model Dockyard or visit a local museum around the province. You just may be lucky enough to see some of "Arscott's Armada" sailing into history.



David Arscott - Photo by Dennis Flynn



Bessie Marie - Donated to WBMNL by David Arscott

## Out and about

### Honest Endeavours

The Opening Reception of *Honest Endeavours*, an exhibition of original art work by Winterton artist Florence Maud Pinhorn, will be held at the Wooden Boat Museum in Winterton on Saturday, July 31, 2010 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. The exhibition will continue until September 7, 2010. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Wooden Boat Museum.

### Woodcarving by Kevin Coates

The WBMNL is pleased to have a well known wood carver Kevin Coates at the Museum this season demonstrating his art of woodcarving. All of Kevin's carvings are carved from balsam fir. Kevin was commissioned by the WBMNL to carve a 17th century boat builder which is part of its *Indeavour Saga Exhibit*.

### Build Your Own Dory Workshop

Would you like to build and own your own **Banking Dory**? The WBMNL is offering you the opportunity to do just that! Find a buddy and register today! We will be offering 6 five day workshops beginning on July 20th. Workshops will run from Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information on all workshops being offered this year, visit our website or contact Beverley at [bkingheritage@gmail.com](mailto:bkingheritage@gmail.com) or 709-583-2070.

## Members!



### 3rd Annual Wooden Boat Conference

The 3rd annual Wooden Boat Conference and AGM will be held in Twillingate on October 29-30, 2010. If you have any suggestions on possible topics or speakers for the Conference, please contact our Conference Chair, **Chris Osmond**, at [cwkaosmond@hotmail.com](mailto:cwkaosmond@hotmail.com) or **Beverley** at [bkingheritage@gmail.com](mailto:bkingheritage@gmail.com). Conference Registration Packages will be available the end of July and will be posted on our website [woodenboatnl.com](http://woodenboatnl.com).

### Membership Renewals

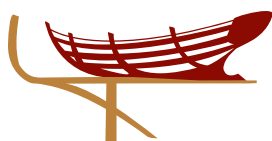
Reminder that Membership Renewals were due on April 1st, 2010. If you haven't already done so, please forward your renewal ASAP. Your investment helps safeguard the legacy of our wooden boat building traditions.

### Honorary Life Member Award

Do you know someone who should receive this award with the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador? If so, we would like to hear from you. A committee has been formed to select this year's Honorary Life Member. Details on the nomination process will be available on our website shortly or contact Beverley at [bkingheritage@gmail.com](mailto: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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**Wooden Boat Museum**  
of Newfoundland and Labrador

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