



Wooden Boat News

The Winterton Boat Building and Community Museum Newsletter

September 2006

Planning For Our Future



The Winterton Boat Building Museum has been mandated to preserve and exhibit the design, construction and use of small inshore fishing boats that were so much apart of pre-confederation life in Winterton. This work has been possible through the efforts and collaboration of various individuals spanning a period of over 20 years. Today, because of the extensive work of folklorist David A. Taylor, committed community volunteers, and through the donations of artifacts and information from town residents, much of the knowledge of Winterton boats and boat building is being preserved.

Now the WBBCM has set its sights on a larger goal. The museum wishes to develop a Provincial focus and capture the history of wooden boats throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The museum wants to become the center of wooden boat building knowledge and history in the Province. A tale that tells the story of not only the Winterton Rodney, but also of the Gander River Boat, the South Coast Dory, the MicMac Canoe, and of other traditional wooden boats from regions all over the Province. This will be accomplished through a dynamic program, which incorporates boat collection and construction activities, interpretive exhibits, innovative programming, and partnering with like-minded groups and individuals. It is imperative that the knowledge of traditional wooden boats and boat building in Newfoundland and Labrador be preserved for future generations.

The Winterton Heritage Advisory Board, together with the Town of Winterton is poised to become the center for the collection and preservation of this vital piece of our Province's heritage. With the help of ACOA and ITRD we have begun to action the above; Planning Resources Inc. has completed Phase 1 of our Long Term Growth Framework, and we are now half way through Phase 2, which will outline an action plan to go forward, based on the above concepts.

Note: We have repeated this article from our previous newsletter because we have updated our database of contacts and felt this article would be interest to the many new friends of the Museum.

Boat Builders of Newfoundland and Labrador



In Newfoundland and Labrador, where fishing and water-borne transportation have always been of great importance, boats represent an integral part of the culture. Even though boat building and boat use has been widespread in the Province, little information has been collected and preserved about the details of boat building and boat builders. We want to establish a network of contacts to assist in this collection and preservation; if you are a traditional wooden boat builder, (either full size or model) know of someone who is or was, or, if you are just an interested individual, please contact us. (see contact information at the end)

Over the past several years many individuals have expressed sincere interest in what we are doing and offered their assistance and support. If we have not taken advantage of the offers it is not because you have been forgotten or overlooked but because we have been busy with funding and other issues which are needed to move this mammoth project forward. We anticipate by late fall and into 2007, we will be reaching out by various means, including this newsletter, for contributions of time, information, ideas etc; and we are sure we will be able to count on your support.

Boat Building in Winterton

We are pleased to announce the republication of Boat Building in Winterton, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland by David A. Taylor. This book is Dr. Taylor's Master of Arts in Folklore thesis on traditional boat building and the boat builders of Winterton. This book maybe purchased by money order from the museum at a cost of \$30.00 CAN plus shipping and handling. Postage and handling rates are available on our website or by calling our office.

Intangible Heritage Conference



The Winterton Boat Building and Community Museum was invited to take part in the Celebrating Our Living Heritage Conference, which took place from June 7-10, 2006 at Memorial University of Newfoundland. During the conference, Frank French gave a short presentation about how we are preserving traditional boat building skills at the museum and our plans for the future. As well, Fred and Melvin Green demonstrated some traditional boat building skills through the partial completion of a rodney. During this conference we

met many people who are interested in working with us to preserve traditional boat building in our Province.

CBC Crosstalk

The museum will be participating in CBC Radio's Crosstalk. Anne Budgell will be interviewing Fred, Melvin, Frank and Dr. David Taylor on September 15 at 1:30 pm Newfoundland Time. If you would like to phone in and ask a question or make a comment on traditional boat building, the number in St. John's is 722-7111 or 1-800-563-8255 in Canada and the U.S. If you miss the live broadcast you can listen to it on the web at www.cbc.ca/radionoonnl/ by clicking the media button and then clicking listen live.

Inshore Fishing Grounds Research

Patty Wells, a PhD student in the Archaeology Unit at Memorial University, will be conducting research on the inshore fishing grounds in the Winterton area. Through interviews with fishermen she will document the location of markers, fishing grounds, and trap berths. These are important locations that are a part of how Newfoundlanders of European decent understood or made their particular seascape. Wells believes that the seascape is not simply the sum of its physiological characteristics, but that it is constructed or understood in particular ways by members of a culture. This is determined by peoples' traditions and how they use or occupy the sea.

Seascapes have meaning, memory and legend associated with them; they can be experienced in different ways by different groups, and the subtleties of peoples' knowledge of seascapes lend them a particular character. By understanding how modern inshore fishermen create their seascapes, Wells wishes to explore models for how prehistoric peoples in Newfoundland may

have similarly constructed their cultural seascapes. This research will aid in her interpretation of Dorset Palaeoeskimo (*ca* 2000-1200 years ago) material culture in Newfoundland. Furthermore, with the essential end of the inshore fishery, the traditional nature and knowledge of these places in the seascape will disappear as fewer people visit and depend upon them for their livelihood. The recording of principal locations in the seascape will ensure the retention of this important aspect of Newfoundland's intangible heritage.

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