

Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador

Spring 2007 Newsletter



Minister Announces Funding For Fisheries Heritage



Efforts to preserve and protect the fisheries heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador were assisted with an announcement on May 11, 2007 of \$60,000 in grants for the Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program (FHPP). The Honourable Tom Hedderson, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, was joined by George Chalker, Executive Director of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL), to announce the funding that is part of a multiyear commitment by the Provincial Government.

As part of the announcement, HFNL also launched a new website www.fisheriesheritage.ca and a new brochure entitled *Conserving Our Fisheries Heritage*. The website is devoted to the promotion and preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's fisheries buildings and structures. The brochure details the importance of conserving the province's fisheries buildings, how to begin a conservation project, and the recommended standards and guidelines for conservation work.

"These new tools will contribute to conserving the fisheries buildings in Newfoundland and Labrador, and provide practical, easy-to-apply advice for projects," said Minister Hedderson. "The fishery is an essential part of our cultural heritage and this government is pleased to provide this funding from Budget 2007 to assist in the important work to preserve this vital piece of our history, which is a key component of our cultural plan. The ingenuity and craftsmanship of these pieces say a lot about the character of the men and women who built and used these items. These fisheries structures – stages, stores, rooms and the like – help define our cultural identity."

HFNL developed the FHPP in order to preserve the unique buildings on the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador. In recent years, the existence of these once common structures has been threatened. As the economics and demographics of communities change, so does the demand for these fisheries structures, which were most often built to be temporary in nature.

"The transformations happening through the work of the program are indeed impressive and enhance the shorelines of communities across this province," says George Chalker, Executive Director, HFNL.

The goal of FHPP is to provide funding to individuals, municipalities, community and/or non-profit groups to restore stages, stores, flakes, lofts and other buildings associated with the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery. These structures are being lost to weather, waves, sea ice, and time and the loss is changing the landscape of our coasts. Under this program, assistance will be provided for restoration of heritage features using original materials. Funding will be approved to a maximum of \$2,000 per structure, and to a maximum of \$10,000 for community-based projects on multiple structures.

The deadline to submit an application for FHPP is Friday, June 8, 2007. Download guidelines and an application form at www.fisheriesheritage.ca or phone 1-888-739-1892 ext 2.

HERITAGE SUCCESS?

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL), is collecting community heritage success stories from across Newfoundland and Labrador! These success stories could appear in upcoming publications, and is your chance to show off everything your community has accomplished to the rest of the province!

To tell us about your success story, visit www.heritagefoundation.ca to download the questions to answer. Be creative, and remember, a heritage success story could be about the preservation or reuse of significant local buildings, interpretive projects, creative partnerships, innovative museum exhibits or anything else – as long as it impacts preserving a historic place in a community in our province.

For more information, or to receive a nomination form, contact Dale Jarvis:

Telephone: 1-888-739-1892 ext. 2
Mail: 1 Springdale St., P.O. Box 5171
St. John's, NL A1C 5V5
Email: info@heritagefoundation.ca

Send your project information to HFNL by **June 1, 2007!**

SURVEYING HISTORIC CHURCHES

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) is conducting a survey of churches and church related buildings in the province. The inventory focuses on buildings more than forty years old and will also include newer buildings of architectural interest. The inventory is for archival purposes and will serve as a physical record of the built heritage of all religious groups in the province. The survey will be completed through fieldwork conducted by HFNL and through information submitted by interested individuals. If you know of a church fitting the criteria you can visit online at www.heritagefoundation.ca to get a submission form or you can call Andrea at 1-888-739-1892 ext 4. Please include any pictures of the building you are willing to share (preferably 300 dpi if in digital format).

The Biggest Search for the Smallest House

Do you think you live in the smallest house in NL? The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland & Labrador, with the help of *Downhome* magazine, is hosting The Biggest Search for the Smallest House.

To qualify, the house must be currently occupied year-round as a primary residence. First prize will be awarded in two categories: a home 40 years old or older, and a contemporary home built in the last 40 years. For full contest and prize details, visit www.heritagefoundation.ca or call 1-888-739-1892 ext. 2.

Contest closes July 31, 2007.



Downhome

Contact:

Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador
1 Springdale Street, P.O. Box 5171, St. John's, NL, A1C 5V5
1-888-739-1892 info@heritagefoundation.ca www.heritagefoundation.ca



Canada's
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux
du Canada

Town of Buchans Designates Deckhead Frame

- Lara Maynard

*The wind blows gently through the old deckhead frame.
To the day when this town had its mining fame.
When men worked down in the depths of the earth,
To dig up the minerals for what it was worth.*

-From "Good Men Have Passed By This Way" by Wilson Burke

When we think of the built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador our first thoughts may be of fishing stages, saltboxes or Southcott style homes. So if ever there was a great example of the actual breadth of structures that may be valued as part of a community's built heritage, Lucky Strike Deckhead is it. This March the Town of Buchans designated the deckhead, its foremost landmark, as a Municipal Heritage Structure. The steel frame structure stands about 30.5 metres tall on Buchans' western edge in the area of the former ASARCO mill, and is featured on the town's emblem.

Buchans stands apart from other mining communities in our province because it was quite literally built around the mining industry, established solely to mine and mill ore. Lucky Strike was its star orebody. The initial construction phase of the mining operations and townsite happened during 1927 and 1928. A steel crew from the U.S. Steel Products Company of Pittsburg erected the steel skeleton of the Lucky Strike Deckhead. The deckhead was an intrinsic part of glory-hole mining at Buchans, involving a haulageway beneath the orebody, with ore being chuted, trammed to a storage pocket, and then hoisted to the surface. The shaft was in continuous production until 1979 to mine Lucky Strike, and then other orebodies until its full closure in 1984.

Buchans existed for decades as a closely managed company owned town, then became an incorporated municipality in 1973. ASARCO has shut down operations, but the rough trail which was blazed to haul mining equipment to Lucky Strike back in the 1920s remains as Buchan's Main Road. It still leads through the centre of town, right in the direction of the Lucky Strike Deckhead.



Clarenville's First Municipal Heritage Designation

-Lara Maynard

Camilla O'Shea, President of the Clarenville Heritage Society, and her fellow volunteers are pleased with their successful in advising their town council to designate the Clarenville Railway Station as the town's first Municipal Heritage Building. "We have our hands in a lot of different projects and have encountered a lot of roadblocks, so this is an accomplishment as far as we are concerned," says her colleague Darlene Feltham.

The five small communities that amalgamated to form Clarenville were initially based around lumbering and farming, but Clarenville grew into a service community upon the construction of a railway station in 1891. This was the first of five service centres in Newfoundland at the time, and the turning point for Clarenville's growth into a regional hub of commercial activity and transportation at the base of the Bonavista Peninsula.

The station was a major employer until its closure in 1988, and other businesses and services developed along with it to serve the larger population and travelers. Major ventures in Clarenville, including the Colas plant and Clarenville Shipyard, relied on it to transport goods.

The existing former CN Railway station building was constructed in 1942 and is one of few buildings directly related to the railway remaining in Clarenville. The verandah-style overhang covering the east end entrance once provided shelter for waiting passengers, and is a telltale sign of the building's original function. The station's single-storey, hip-roofed design is fairly typical of its kind, while the protruding, gable-capped central sections at the front and back are less so.

Clarenville Railway Station also once housed the local telegraph and customs offices. The Clarenville Shrine Club became the building's owners in 1996, undertook a significant amount of exterior restoration work, and currently shares the building with the local Masons, Lodge No. 23. As the Clarenville Shrine-Masonic Centre, the building is purportedly the first headquarters building shared by Shriners and Masons in North America.



Restoration Projects on fisheriesheritage.ca - Andrea O'Brien

Over the past few months, our Fisheries Heritage website was populated with descriptions of Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program projects from across the province. From Square Islands in Labrador to Kingman's Cove on the Southern Shore, traditional inshore fisheries buildings have been given a new lease on life. The "Restoration Projects" section of the new Fisheries Heritage website now provides a means to highlight these places and the property owners who are dedicated to restoration efforts.

On my trips around the province I have met numerous owners of stages and stores - people who take great pride in the work they do to ensure these unique structures continue to dot our coastal landscape. While many of the buildings no longer serve a direct purpose in the fishery, their importance is by no means diminished. Some have been adapted for new uses while others have been maintained for sentimental reasons.

The connection the owners have with these structures is often a very intimate one and once the story of the physical restoration has been told stories of the lives and times associated with the buildings often arise. At Kean's Stage in Pound Cove I heard stories of the Newfoundland Disaster and was shown a Labrador Box that a young sealer brought with him on that fateful trip. In Melrose, Mr. William Donovan asked me to add my name to hundreds of others that cover the interior walls of his stage. While visiting Budgell's Stage in St. Anthony, Mr. Fred Budgell had stories of shipbuilding and resettlement. And on Change Islands I was shown handmade furniture fashioned by Mr. Bert White in a workshop that once housed gear for the fishery.



Mr. Bert White, owner of Jim White's stage, with homemade wood steamer.

The restoration of these fisheries buildings not only ensures the physical structures are protected, it also keeps alive the stories and histories connected to these places - stories that provide us with unique insights into our past while highlighting an ability to adapt in the face of changes to the rural way of life.