

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and updates
on Newfoundland and
Labrador's Intangible Cultural
Heritage Program

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Fieldwork Ethics in Ethnomusicology and Folklore

The Music, Media and Culture Lecture Series presents distinguished scholars from the academic community in a series of presentations regarding historical and contemporary musical practices. The series continues this January with a panel discussion on fieldwork ethics, conducted by four graduate students in Ethnomusicology and Folklore: **Graham Blair** researches grassroots aspects of bluegrass music in Canada; **Carol Diamond** is studying Takudh hymnody of the Gwich'in, an Athapaskan First Nation; **Andrea Kitta's** research interests include medical distrust and the anti-vaccination movement; while **Contessa Small** is currently working on literary fandom surrounding the Harry Potter phenomenon.

Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 7:30 pm.

Music, Media and Place Gallery, Arts and Culture Centre, St. John's.

For information email bdiamond@mun.ca or call: 709.737.3701

www.fisheriesheritage.ca

For the past seven years the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has administered the Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program, helping communities conserve fishing stages, stores and net lofts. In addition to safeguarding traditional buildings, the program helps maintain and transmit skills, techniques and traditional knowledge, such as these women workers shown here in Jackson's Arm rinding (peeling) logs.

The Town of Placentia Cultural Information Gathering Project

By Anita O'Keefe



In 2006, The Town of Placentia began a fascinating project called the Cultural Information Gathering Project under the direction of Margie Hatfield, the town's Heritage and Tourism Director.

Agnes Walsh was hired as Cultural Consultant to conduct and tape record interviews in order to collect information from the residents who are under the town's jurisdiction.

The communities include Dunville, Freshwater, Jersey side, Ferndale, Placentia, Southeast, and Point Verde.

While there were original family names belonging to each of those communities, it was evident that others had moved in to the area.

People came from all over; however, the majority of them came from the islands in Placentia Bay as a result of the resettlement program.

They brought with them their talents and traditions, songs and stories which so heavily impacted the region.



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The town thought it very important to include this cluster under its project so that their story, along with its own, could be told and preserved collectively. The compilation of these communities

would define its boundary.

The work began, the interviews conducted and the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the area began to unfold.

As the taped interview collection grew, the town hired Anita O'Keefe as Cultural Assistant in 2007 to transcribe the collected works and to research other topics of interest that were identified from those dialogues.

Her work continues as the Town moves forwards with plans to utilize the information gathered to promote its intangible heritage by celebrating its cultural practices, honouring its seniors, educating its students and to provide locals and tourists alike, with an experience of a lifetime!

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For more information on the Town of Placentia Cultural Information Gathering Project, email Anita at [culturaloffice@persona.ca](mailto:culturaloffice@persona.ca)



## Innu Place Names Website a Worldwide First

New website explores the traditional Innu place names of Labrador through photos, audio, video and Google mapping.

On November 21, 2008, Labrador Innu made history by putting online the first comprehensive cultural website dedicated entirely to Aboriginal place names. Called *Pepamuteiati nitassinat* ('As We Walk Across Our Land'), the website gives access to over 500 Innu place names in Labrador, as well as stories, photos, and video clips associated with the names. The website can be explored at [www.innuplaces.ca](http://www.innuplaces.ca)

Innu Nation Grand Chief, Mark Nui, said, "Place names are very important to our people because they are a gateway to our history on the land. Many younger Innu who have gone through the provincial educational system have never learned these names. We hope that the website will help them learn about their culture and history."

Many place names in Labrador come from the Innu (e.g. Minipi-Lake from Minai-nipi, meaning

'burbot lake'), but others were given by pilots, mining companies, settlers and outfitters and were imposed on places that already had Innu names. The website will enable the Innu and members of the general public to start using the Innu place names, to learn about the meaning of the names and how to pronounce them.

Other Aboriginal groups have been doing place name research over the years, and some are in the process

**"Place names... are a gateway to our history"**

of publishing their own websites (e.g. James Bay Cree and Norwegian Sámi). However, *Pepamuteiati nitassinat* is the first, comprehensive one put online to date.

Grand Chief Nui pointed out that "Over thirty years of research with our Elders went in to this website.

It's a gift from our Elders to younger Innu people. It's part of our Elders' legacy. It's also an important part of our intangible cultural heritage that will help educate people about the richness of our history and traditions."

The website was made possible by contributions from multimedia company Idéecléc, Environment



Canada, Parks Canada, Memorial University Linguistics, Canadian Boreal Trust, and the Department of Canadian Heritage through Canadian Culture Online. (Photos taken from [innuplaces.ca](http://innuplaces.ca), of Emish, the Innu name for Voisey's Bay)



Sharing Our Cultures-À la découverte de nos cultures

**Are you between the ages of 18 and 30 years?**

**Do you enjoy working with young people?**

**ASSISTANT PROJECT COORDINATOR**

The committee is seeking a youth to fill the position of Assistant Project Coordinator. The successful candidate will work closely with the project coordinator and an advisory committee in an educational setting with children and youth from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Knowledge of the ethnocultural community, as well as proficiency in English and French, will be an asset. Applicants must possess strong communication, and

interpersonal and computer skills. Some travelling, evening and weekend work will be expected. This is a three-month contract. Remuneration will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please mail your resume post-marked by Thursday, January 15, 2009 to:

Assistant Project Coordinator, Sharing Our Cultures-À la découverte de nos cultures  
48 Kenmount Road, Box 28107, St. John's, NL A1B 4J8

Please note that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## kaviguak drumdancers, Makkovik, Labrador



The kaviguak drumdancers in partnership with the Makkovik Inuit Community Government and J.C. Erhardt Memorial School received a total of \$ 7860 from the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Program and the Makkovimiut Trust. Funding was used to host a drum-making workshop and to create outfits for the group.

Traditional drum making was a skill that up until August 2008 had been lost in Makkovik. The workshop had a total of 10 participants, ranging in age from 15-38 years. The instructor was David Serkoak, a world-renowned artist who has recently had one of his drums showcased at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Serkoak has also been approached to perform at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010. Previous to the workshop and new outfits, the kaviguak drumdancers were a group of 16 Inuit youth between the ages of 12-19. The group now has a total of

28 drummers between the ages of 5-20 years old. This includes 12 students from Kindergarten to grade 4 (half of the students in the school at this age level), plus 14 students from grades 5-12, and 2 out-of-school youth.

“These children will be the leaders of tomorrow and carry on our Inuit traditions and stories,” says Amalia Tuglavina, Community Development Officer. “By involving them, this will increase their desire to learn more about their Inuit culture and continue to pass on the traditional knowledge that they have gained.”

The kaviguak drumdancers have started a Facebook group at: <http://tinyurl.com/84a5c9>

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