

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

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

February 2009
ISSN 1918-7408

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Dance Heritage Think Tank

On Saturday, Feb 21st, HFNL, MMaP and Neighbourhood Dance Works will host an open session for dance enthusiasts to meet and discuss the future of the tradition of dance. The event will be an introductory platform for members of the dance community to consider our various dance heritages and identify what that means. The session will be guided by a series of questions intended to generate discussion and pinpoint common themes and trends. We will discuss issues of “dance preservation” and what, why, who, and how we think about local dance history and traditions. The outcome would be to consider if this is a topic of interest to community members, and, if so, what future initiatives could be taken to address dance preservation in Newfoundland and Labrador. The event will take place from 1-4 at the MMaP gallery, Arts and Culture Centre, St. John's.

Tune or call in to CBC Radio Noon crosstalk (www.cbc.ca/radionoonnl) on Thursday, Feb 19th at 1pm, with ethnomusicologist Kristin Harris Walsh and dance archivist Colleen Quigley, to discuss traditions of dance, and to warm up for the Dance Heritage Think Tank!

Labrador Metis Nation Workshop

On Tuesday, January 26th, Martha MacDonald, folklorist with the Labrador Institute, and Dale Jarvis, ICH Development Officer for the Province, gave an introductory workshop on intangible cultural heritage, fieldwork ethics and folklore interview techniques at the Labrador Metis Nation offices in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. LMN will be conducting fieldwork on various aspects of community folklore, folklife and place names over the coming months.

ICH in Conception Bay South

by Kathy Foley, Partner
Randforce Associates, Buffalo, New York

CBS Town Council has been a great supporter of heritage projects.



Their own collection of materials about their built landscape is very exciting. Four service clubs of Conception Bay South, Kiwanis, Lions, Kinsmen, and Rotary, have developed the well-known “Kelligrews Soiree” events which are now incorporated into community life during the height of summer. The town’s Heritage Committee recently announced a large slate of buildings that had been acknowledged as heritage properties.

Local secondary and post-secondary students have already been employees of the Town Council, an important transition in the development of civic-minded programs.

The Conception Bay South Town Council is now gearing up for an in-

depth look at its local traditions. I met Anthony Janes, the town’s Director of Economic Development in June 2008. He has been an enthusiastic sounding board for my ideas about the creation of cultural tourism products. Over at the



Conception Bay South Town Parks Commission is Karen Spencer, also a writer for the Telegram, who has recently given me the thumbs up to prepare a project proposal for the Cupids 400 celebrations.

We’re excited about the partnership we’ve created, and even more so, we look forward to sharing our

history and traditions with a larger audience.

Initially we will focus on the most famous comic folksong of Newfoundland heritage: “The Kelligrews Soiree.” We’ll be digging into Johnny Burke a bit, as you can imagine, but we’ll incorporate information of a more modern nature based on original field research, thereby giving us a contemporary slant. We’ll also be looking at its transmission from broadsheet to broadband.



Other topics anticipated for our legacy project are the Battle of Foxtrap; religious history; resource management; soil production; nutrition and medicine; tourism in the 19th and early 20th centuries, women’s work and men’s work and all nature of verbal lore.

Ambitious, yes, but we hope to establish a framework to interpret the town’s intangible cultural heritage for the general public. There are early discussions about establishing a museum as well.



Carbonear Trap Berth Names

By Duncan Howell. Photos from Centre for Newfoundland Studies, The Geography Collection

Back in the early days of the cod moratorium, when it was still being looked on as a temporary measure, many knowledgeable people were looking to the future when the moratorium would end and the fishing industry would be rejuvenated.

There were many calls for a return to more traditional, and presumably less destructive, fishing methods such as hook-and-line and cod trapping.

During that time (in 1993 to be exact) it occurred to me one day to ask, "What if the cod don't come back?" I was obliged to conclude that, in such an eventuality, cod trapping (and all the traditional knowledge and cultural heritage surrounding it) would soon become a lost art.

When the cod trap came into common use in the latter part of the nineteenth century, it became necessary for fishermen to locate suitable places along the shore for trap berths. Not every site was useful, due to incorrect depth, bad bottom shape, or strong tides. Scarcity of good berths in the Carbonear area became more and more serious as the number of fishing crews increased, and not a few confrontations resulted from competing crews coveting the same few good berths.

Somewhere along the way, the trap berths in this area acquired names.

I'm sure this probably happened elsewhere, too. The following is a list of the more popular trap berths of the Carbonear area. We shall proceed from Carbonear Island northward to Salmon Cove Head.

On the south side of Carbonear Island:

Black Rock.
Derricks.
Salmon Rock South Side.
High Lands. (Early berth.)
Flat Rocks. (Early berth.)
Mousehole. (Early, late, and rough.)

On the north side of Carbonear Island:

Easter Rock. (Early, late, and rough.)
Butt-of-the Rock.
Golden Cup.
Black Gulch.
Salmon Rock North Side.
Soper's Point.

Between Crocker's Cove and Clown's Cove:

Butcher East. (Late berth.)
Butcher West. (Late berth.)
Tuckermills. (Not much used before 1970s.)
Maidenhair Island.

White Rock.
Bradley's Rock.
Mad Rock.
Sunkers.

Between Clown's Cove and Salmon Cove Head:

Blow-me-down Bank #1. (Late berth, Well off land.)
Blow-me-down Bank #2. (Late berth, Well off land.)
Tinkers #1-4. (Rough bottom.)
Jimmy's Rocks.
Long Point.
The Hoof.
Salmon Cove Head

No doubt, these wonderful, picturesque berth names have their counterparts all over Newfoundland. If the cod moratorium had lasted only a few years, these names might have survived in common usage. Now, however, they are probably quickly vanishing. The Carbonear berths have been recorded. Some local fishermen's unions may have some old lists formerly used for draws. For other places, time is running out.

*Duncan's full article available at
<http://tinyurl.com/bx66ev>*



Archival Support for Oral History Programs

The cultural heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador includes many areas that are documented only in the oral tradition. To assist with this, the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA) is in the process of preparing a simple introductory guide to best practice in preserving and documenting oral history material. ANLA will also compile best practices on the collection not just of the information itself but of the metadata required to preserve, access and preserve the context of the information collected.

Funded by the National Archival Development Program (NADP) administered by the Canadian Council of Archives for Library and

Archives Canada, the project will also include the development of a workshop template that can be offered on demand as requested by ANLA members and community groups. This project will provide a tool for ANLA member institutions and others to create, describe, preserve and access documentation of their intangible cultural heritage. Provincial funding agencies, as well as many institutions, have requested such a tool: ANLA expects the impact to be immediate upon its release.

The primary targets for this project are ANLA member institutions, community museums and other community groups. Secondary audiences might include K-12 students, teachers and genealogists. For more information on ANLA and its programs, visit <http://www.anla.nf.ca>



Living RICH – February 18th and 19th

The Living RICH (Rural Intangible Cultural Heritage) group will be hosting two days of events, including a cultural open house in Placentia, a Singing Kitchen in Branch, and a day-long symposium on ICH in St. Brides.

Freeman Upshaw (shown left with part of a fyke net) will talk about his knowledge of eel trapping, and other local tradition bearers will be on site.

For more information, contact culturaloffice@persona.ca, or telephone 709-227-2105.

Love and Lore – February 14th

The Cupers Cove Soiree Committee and Cupids 400 Inc. are sponsoring a full day of events in honour of St. Valentine's Day in Newfoundland's most romantically named community, Cupids. The events include a family fun day and an evening dance, as well as an evening concert from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the former United Church Hall. The concert will feature traditional music, storytelling and recitations. Admission \$5.00 at the door, includes tea/coffee/dessert. www.cupids400.com

