



Labrador Military Museum Gets A New Home

Around The Province: Pages 6 - 7



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NEWSLETTER

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Cover Photo: Heritage Landing Project in New Perlican

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The Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (MANL) is a nonprofit, charitable organization that seeks to promote the interests of community-based museums, groups, individuals and government organizations involved in the preservation and presentation of the province's cultural and natural heritage.

MANL gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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President's Report

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture are like a tree without roots." -Marcus Garvey

As your newly elected president, I would like to wish our members a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2019. At MANL's October 2018 Conference & A.G.M., we elected a new board of directors. Let me begin by thanking the outgoing board members; Teresa Greene-Red Indian Lake Heritage Society, Edith Samson-Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation Inc., and Jamie Brake-Nunatsiavut Government. These fine volunteers have worked hard for the benefit of our members and our province. I sincerely thank you!

I also would like to congratulate our new and returning board members; John Griffin - Past President, Linda Hickey -Vice President, Julie Pomeroy -Treasurer, Donna Norvey -St. John's Representative, Beverley King-Avalon Representative, Edna Penney - Eastern Representative, Margaret Scott-Central Representative, Nadine Osmond -Western Representative, Ryan Crotty -Labrador Representative. We look forward to working together on your behalf.

At the Conference & A.G.M., Lucy Alway indicated that she was leaving her current position as Heritage Officer. While she will continue to be working with the Department of TCII, we will most certainly miss her work with the membership in her former role. We want to wish Lucy much success in her new position and thank her for her years of dedication and collaboration with MANL and our member sites.

As we move forward, we will continue our ongoing work on the Museum Excellence program. This is being done in tandem with the Department of TCII. We wish to thank Minister Christopher Mitchelmore for taking the time to join us at our Conference & A.G.M. We truly appreciate his ever-present support of our organization and sites.

On a personal note, I am delighted to be working with Ken, Anne, the board, the department and you again as President of MANL. I look forward to my tenure as we strive to bring excellence to our sector.

Respectfully,

Teresita E. McCarthy (Teddy)
President

Executive Director's Report

A New Year is here and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy 2019. The Museum Association has been working diligently to prepare programs for the last quarter of this fiscal year. Our professional development continues with four offerings in the last quarter of 2018-2019. We plan to offer Collections Management and Public Programming for Museums. The workshops will be offered in our St. John's offices. Also John Griffin will continue with our night classes in phase box making and document encapsulation. These sessions are a partnership between the Public Library and MANL. We hope to offer more of these opportunities in the coming year and we need your help. If you are a museum worker and have a particular talent you would like to share with others, please contact us at the MANL offices. We will work with you to offer these skills development sessions.

MANL has been invited by Canadian Heritage to attend Provincial and Territorial Museum Association meeting in Ottawa this February. The meetings take place over two days with presentations and discussion from the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and representatives of Canadian Heritage. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for MANL to meet with our sister associations from across the country and keep informed on the latest in museum activities.

MANL plans to continue with museum site visits this winter. We will visit museums in the central and Bonavista regions of the province. Site visits provide an excellent opportunity for our members to discuss their museums with our staff. We can provide onsite advisory services and recommend a course of action if that is necessary. It is great to go to museum communities and meet with the people keeping our history alive. We are working to improve our website, moving it to a secure server and updating it with security software to minimize hacking attempts. We will migrate our museum database and content to a new host. Our website provides valuable information to our members and the public. Updating the site is an essential piece of our communications.

Our 39th annual conference will be held on October 25th and 26th, 2019 and I look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Ken Flynn



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

1. Introduction to Collections Management

Museum Studies Certificate Program Core Course

2. Public Programming for Museums—An Introduction

Museum Studies Certificate Program Elective Course

3. Phase Boxes For Book Storage & Preservation

Mini-Workshop with A.C. Hunter Library

4. Encapsulation For Document Preservation

Mini-Workshop with A.C. Hunter Library

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Heritage Landing Project in New Perlican

By Joan Butler

Heritage New Perlican recently celebrated the completion of its most ambitious project to date which recognizes the community's rich fishing heritage.

A Heritage Landing which replicates fishing stages that dot the town's harbor, was officially opened August 6, 2018 in an afternoon ceremony attended by The Honourable Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor of NL, and His Honour Howard Foote, local and provincial politicians and many residents and visitors to the Trinity Bay town.

The heritage project was first discussed more than three years ago when the town donated to the Committee, a small piece of land overlooking the town's historic harbor. The Town hoped that the volunteer group could erect something to celebrate the town's history and culture. Heritage New Perlican took on the challenge and after consultation with Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador and the community, decided to build a replica of a fishing stage.

New Perlican's harbour is the most photographed place in the town primarily because of about 20 fishing stages that have been rebuilt or built in recent years since the establishment of the recreational cod fishery. The new Heritage Landing overlooks the harbour, which was a centre for the community's fishery for hundreds of years. It is now a special place for locals as well as visitors who can learn more about the town of just over 200 people.

The heritage landing structure was designed by Linda Pelley, a member of the Heritage Committee and a graphic designer by profession. Pelley and the Committee members collected everything from cod jiggers hooks and nets to pieces of tongue and groove wood to add to the Landing. A storyboard contains the history of the town and how the Landing is a celebration of our heritage. A door on the structure opens to the Fishery Display of the various items and a list of them and their donors.



The Honourable Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador and His Honour Howard Foote, with long-time New Perlican resident Ches Peddle.



Linda Pelley of Heritage New Perlican (standing) with The Honourable Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, Susie Smith and Ches Peddle, two of the town's older residents, who participated in the official opening of the Heritage Landing.

One of the items at the Landing is a splitting table similar to those seen in many of the stages today and in the past. The table was built by Ches Peddle, one of the town's older residents who was also on hand for the official opening and ribbon cutting.

While many of the items on display were donated, the Committee also needed funds to purchase much of the material to build and finish the display. Through various fundraising projects the more than \$6,000 cost was realized for materials and volunteers took the Committee's design to reality.

During the opening ceremony, Committee Chair Eileen Matthews recognized many of those involved in the project, with special mention of Pelley for the designing of the landing and curating all the display items. She noted that the main builders were Max Warren, Bob O'Rielly and Peter BurrIDGE, followed closely by Tom Prim and Lorraine Warren. All the volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to the construction and display project.

In addition the list of all the fishing and related contributions to the project is a donation plaque which lists of all those who also financially contributed to the project. Matthews noted donations are still being accepted and a final plaque will be completed in the summer of 2019.

The official opening was held as part of the Town's 40th anniversary and Come Home Year celebrations so was well attended by more than 100 people.

In addition to Ches Peddle, another of New Perlican's older residents – Susie Smith – was also part of the opening ceremony and ribbon cutting. Transportation and Works Minister Steve Crocker, who is the area's MHA; Barbara Crann, assistant to MP Churence Rogers; and New Perlican Mayor Eric Hiscock also joined Their Honours on the stage for the ceremony, which was emceed by Pelley.

Following the opening, a reception was held at the Veteran's Memorial Community Centre where the 2018 Municipal Heritage Designations were announced. The designation program which recognizes buildings and places in the town, is one of the many initiatives of the Heritage Committee which was formed by Council in 2007.

Other projects include an annual Heritage Day, memorial benches throughout the town (there are 34 of them in the town), a Heritage Facebook page which has more than 800 members and perhaps as many or more photos of people and places in the town. An annual photo contest is part of the heritage day and it has an old and new category so many old photos are being submitted and now preserved.



The Honourable Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland & Labrador with long-time New Perlican resident Susie Smith.



Heritage New Perlican Committee at the Heritage Landing official opening, pictured left to right: Betty Simmons, Lorraine Warren, Eileen Matthews, Tom Prim, Bob O'Reilly, Linda Pelley, Ruth Burridge, Cyril Sturgeon and Max Warren.

Find out more by visiting our Facebook page or by contacting Chair Eileen Matthews by email at heritagenewperlican. Joan Butler is a volunteer with Heritage New Perlican. She can be reached by email at joanmariebutler@gmail.com.

Photo credits pages 4-5: Karen Smith, Sherry Lee Burrage, Jill Balsom and Steve Crocker. Cover Photo: Reprinted with the kind permission of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.



New Museum Toolkit Available

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) is pleased to announce that a toolkit called **RE-ORG: A Method to Reorganize Museum Storage** is now available online. In addition to the English and French versions, Spanish and Portuguese versions have also been published, thanks to our partners in the Ibermuseos Program.

The four-part, downloadable toolkit was developed in partnership with ICCROM and is designed to guide heritage institutions through the process of transforming their storage areas so that they can improve preventive conservation conditions as well as access to collections within their facilities. The RE-ORG method has been used by the RE-ORG: Canada participating institutions since 2014 and has been applied in over 100 institutions worldwide.

Use this resource to reorganize your storage, to offer advice or to train others. Get started by watching "RE-ORG Fundamentals: Intro to the RE-ORG Method," a short tutorial video developed by CCI.

For more information: URL: <https://www.iccrom.org/publication/re-org-method-reorganize-museum-storage>

AROUND THE PROVINCE

LABRADOR REGION

A Springboard to the Stars

The Labrador Military Museum has undertaken a transformation over the past 16 months with the design and build at a new location at 5 Wing Goose Bay, located in Happy Valley – Goose Bay, Labrador. The old museum located within the operational perimeter of the Wing didn't allow visitors easy access to the museum's rich history.

A new location was sought out and the Canex building at 381 Banshee Boulevard was selected. It provides easy access with a ramp and elevator for handicap visitors. The front entrance to the building provides an introduction to the exhibit and leads the visitor through the Canex retail store to a set of stairs and into the main displays.

The display, titled, "A Springboard to the Stars", tells the story of 5 Wing Goose Bay from its inception in 1941 to today's mission through photo, artifacts and visual displays. The story leans heavy on the military history, through the thousands of military men and women who worked on the base, and the hundreds of civilians, who came from many outlying communities, to build the runways, hangers and infrastructure.

The self-guided tour should take about an hour, admission is free and the hours are: Monday to Friday, 8 am- 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am—5 pm. Closed on holidays.

The official opening was held on January 24, 2019 by Lieutenant Colonel Stephane Racle, Wing Commander, 5 Wing Goose Bay and other invited dignitaries.

Written by WO Jerry Kean

Photo credits: WO Jerry Kean



WESTERN REGION

Corner Brook Museum and Archives Awarded \$46,786 Through Canadian Heritage's Cultural Spaces Program

Changes will be coming to the Corner Brook Museum and Archives in the near future and they will be, of course, changes for the better. The society behind the museum and archives announced via press release earlier this week it was awarded nearly \$50,000 in funding by Canadian Heritage's Cultural Spaces program. "We were obviously very pleased we were accepted," museum archivist and manager George French told The Western Star.

The application was filed last summer and the group found out about a week and a half ago it was successful. "We applied with the idea we would get accepted," French said. "You kind of wouldn't if you didn't think you'd get it." The federal government will now fund 40 per cent of planned upcoming works, with the museum itself paying the remaining cost. French said the actual total of the grant is \$46,786.

The press release stated visitors to the museum would notice some of the impact of the funding when it opens after the Victoria Day long weekend. French said a few of the areas being looked at would be upgrades to the bathroom facilities, switching the lighting to LED to help cut down on both power costs and energy use, and specialized equipment like a smart board for the courtroom, which is frequently used for a variety of presentations and programming.

As for exhibit areas, a new exhibit hanging system and Artex sliding panels, allowing new ways to display artifacts, could be in the cards. Mp3 players may also be purchased, with the idea the museum could upload guided tours in various languages for people who don't speak English.

Written by Chris Quigley. Reprinted with the kind permission of Chris Quigley, The Western Star. Published March 23, 2018. URL: <https://www.thewesternstar.com/news/local/corner-brook-museum-and-archives-awarded-46786-through-canadian-heritages-cultural-spaces-program-195927/>

AVALON REGION

Wooden Boat Museum Receives a Boost

The Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador in Winterton will develop new exhibits, programs, demonstrations, and workshops that offer more to visitors, thanks to financial contributions from both levels of government.

In August 2018, Bonavista-Burin-Trinity MP Churence Rogers announced that over \$337,000 from ACOA's Innovative Communities Fund will help the site develop tourism assets and create jobs. In addition, Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation Minister Christopher Mitchelmore also announced that the province will contribute \$150,000.

Written by Dana March, Wooden Boat Museum Manager

ST. JOHN'S REGION

Field to Flight: Mount Pearl and the Trans-Atlantic Air Race

In 1913, London's Daily Mail newspaper instituted a prize for the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight. With the outbreak of the Great War, the contest was put on an indefinite hold. But out of the jubilation of Armistice came the renewed call for the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight. Likewise, with the completion of our Armistice 100 exhibit, Admiralty House Communications Museum now begins work to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this competition. The exhibit *Field to Flight: Mount Pearl and the Trans-Atlantic Air Race* is funded in part by the Cultural Economic Development Program through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation.

Our team includes museum manager Sarah Wade, graphic designer Melanie Lethbridge, editor Sandy Newton, editor for historical accuracy Dr. Lisa Daly, Colleen Quigley with Memorial University's Archives and Special Collections, Terra Barrett, folklorist with Heritage NL and me, Katie Crane, a master's student in Public Folklore at Memorial University have been brought on to help with the research. I am relatively new to the museum world, but I have become caught up in the fascinating lives of these pilots and the race to be the first to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. It's hard not to be. It was a time of adventure and of anticipation with the world on the edge of its seat.

John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown left a field near Mundy Pond owned by the Lester family on June 14, 1919 and arrived in Clifden, Ireland the next day becoming the first men being able to say that yesterday, they were in North America. An auger used to anchor their Vickers Vimy plane, rescued by a bystander after their departure, currently on display at Admiralty House and will be incorporated into this exhibit (pictured right).

We are still looking for the voice of Field to Flight, the lens through which the exhibit will be presented. There are many different players in events as momentous as these, and we are confident one of these will paint the picture of the trans-Atlantic race. Undertaking oral history interviews, we anticipate that these personal stories will give another layer to the trans-Atlantic race.

It is an exciting time putting together the pieces and delving into history. We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting the Ace Academy Flight Experience from the Canada's Museum of Science and Innovation for this exhibit and are working on other interactives and public programs that will bring these stories to life.

Continued



ST. JOHN'S REGION - Continued

We are looking forward to sharing with you the interesting stories we have discovered from the fields of Newfoundland to the fields of Ireland and the whole Atlantic Ocean in between.

Written by Katie Crane. Photo Credit: Katie Crane

CENTRAL REGION

Isles Wooden Boat Museum Keeps Tradition Alive

The Isles Wooden Boat Museum in Twillingate is doing its part to help preserve the age-old tradition of building wooden boats. Tony Roberts, the museum's in-resident boat-builder, is working on a traditional boat and guiding visitors through the process in the old school behind historic St. Peter's Anglican Church in Twillingate.

Roberts calls wooden boat building a "lost art". He says Twillingate has three remaining master boat builders, the youngest of whom is turning 80. They realized that if they didn't capture the art of building wooden boats, the entire tradition would be gone. Roberts says the boat he's building is a "boyhood dream" of his.

The museum, which opened last year, partners with the Winterton Wooden Boat Museum, and has already seen over 1800 visitors this season. Roberts says they're hoping to expand the program they offer to help keep the tradition alive. Their goal is to start teaching classes and even get into the schools in Twillingate and New World Island to pass skills on to a younger generation.

The Isles Wooden Boat Builders Museum is a not-for-profit organization operating in the historic community of Twillingate, NL. In partnership with the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Isles Wooden Boat Builders Museum tells the story of traditional wooden boat construction, paying specific attention to the people and their stories.

Written by Linda Swain. Reprinted with the kind permission of Linda Swain, VOCM. Originally posted July 27, 2018.

EASTERN REGION

Jerome Walsh Museum To Be Demolished

The Jerome Walsh Museum in Little Bay, Marystown has been slated for demolition, despite efforts to secure funding to repair or replace the museum. Mr. Walsh, a local fisherman, collected antiques as a hobby, eventually opening his old fishing shed as a museum. He left the property to the town when he passed away in 2012. The artifacts have been removed from the building, which was deemed a safety hazard and are safely stored until a more suitable home can be found for them.

Congratulations 2018 Heritage Fair Winners

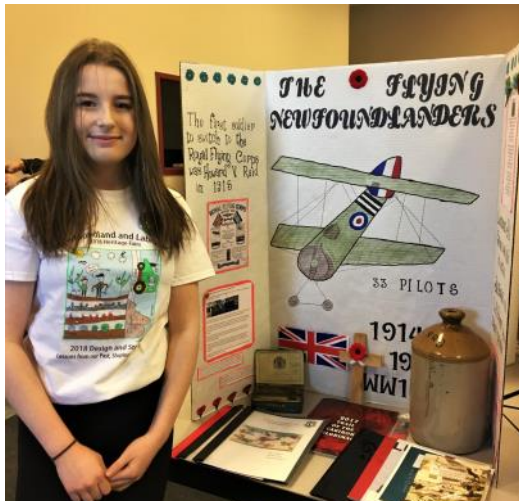
The Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador has been pleased to partner with the Department of Education and School Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador to manage the annual Heritage Fairs program since 1997.

Each year, the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador sponsors the **Museum Resources Award** as part of the Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Fairs Program.

The award criteria is based on the project demonstrating use of museum resources for research. One prize is awarded per region, with six regions in total. Each prize includes a one-year MANL membership, an award certificate and a cheque for \$50.00.



Western Region Winner: Brandi Flynn, Grade 7,
"Ernest Harmon Air Force Base"
Lourdes Elementary, Lourdes, NL, Submitted Photo



Central Region Winner: Brooklyn Bixby, Grade 8,
"Flying Newfoundlanders"
Smallwood Academy, Gambo, NL
Submitted Photo



Avalon Region Winner: Brooklyn Harris, Grade 8, "Harris's Barber Shop"
Beaconsfield Junior High School, St. John's, NL, Submitted Photo

Newfoundland and Labrador students in grades 4 to 12 may be eligible to take part in the Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Fairs Program.

For more information about the NL Heritage Fair Program
Please Contact:
Andrea MacDonald, Provincial Coordinator, NL Heritage Fairs
Email: director@historicsites.ca
Telephone: 709-753-2566
Website: <http://www.historicsites.ca>



Museum Resources Award Winners Sponsored by MANL

Labrador Region:

Ashley Pike, Grade 8, "St. Lawrence, The Miner's Dream"
Menihek High School, Labrador City, NL

Western Region:

Brandi Flynn, Grade 7, "Ernest Harmon Air Force Base"
Lourdes Elementary, Lourdes, NL

Central Region:

Brooklyn Bixby, Grade 8, "Flying Newfoundlanders"
Smallwood Academy, Gambo, NL

Vista Region:

Blayre Hannah, Grade 5, "Elizabeth Swan"
Riverside Elementary, Clarenville, NL

Burin Region:

Tristan Synard, Grade 5, "Death by Water: 1929 Tsunami"
Fortune Bay Academy, St. Bernard's, NL

Avalon Region:

Brooklyn Harris, Grade 8, "Harris's Barber Shop"
Beaconsfield Junior High School, St. John's, NL



Labrador Region Winner: Ashley Pike, Grade 8,
"St. Lawrence, The Miner's Dream"
Menihek High School, Labrador City, NL
Submitted Photo

The Heritage Fairs Program started in 1997 as part of a national initiative to bring history to life for students. Directly linked to school curricula, Heritage Fairs allow students to showcase their history and heritage projects, using a variety of media. Once students present their projects at school fairs, outstanding projects are advanced to a regional fair. Regional or provincial fairs are held in every Canadian province and territory each spring. Six regional fairs are held each year throughout the province.



Vista Region Winner:
Blayre Hannah,
Grade 5,
"Elizabeth Swan"
Riverside Elementary,
Clarenville, NL
Submitted Photo



Burin Region Winner: Tristan Synard, Grade 5, "Death by Water: 1929 Tsunami"
Fortune Bay Academy, St. Bernard's, NL, Submitted Photo



A.G.M. 2018



Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
38th Annual General Meeting & Conference
Achieving Museum Excellence

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A proud Sponsor of the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

MANL's 38th Annual General Meeting & Conference took place in St. John's on October 19-20, 2018. Participants from across the province attended pre-conference workshops on Friday including *Entrepreneurial Thinking—Future Thinking in Museums* by AHI's Jane Severs and *Communications Planning*, funded by TCII and presented by CEDP Course Instructor Jeff Pittman.

The Royal Newfoundland Regimental Museum kindly hosted the conference kick-off and members' reception on Friday evening. As always, the highlight of the evening was the presentations made by MANL members from across the province on their organizations' news and events.

Saturday's sessions, which took place at the Holiday Inn & Suites, included: an Official Launch of MANL's Centre for Museum Excellence; keynote speaker Mike Clair's presentation entitled 'Museums at the Front Lines of the Culture Wars'; a presentation by Lucy Alway, CEDP Heritage Officer with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation; a review of Canadian heritage statistics, by MANL's Executive Director Ken Flynn; and a plenary session moderated by Tere-sita McCarthy on the Importance of Museum Training.

A highlight of the day was the AGM Luncheon and Awards. The Honorable Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation brought greetings and kindly presented awards on behalf of MANL.

A special thank you to everyone who donated to the Silent Auction Fundraiser and who purchased our 50/50 tickets. Congratulations to Nadine Osmond, lucky winner of the 50/50 draw.

2018 AWARD OF MERIT



The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum received MANL's Award of Merit at the 38th AGM & Conference for their work researching, preserving and sharing the 223-year history of the Regiment. The award was presented by Honourable Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation on behalf of the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Pictured L-R: RNRM's Curator Frank Gogos, Minister Mitchelmore, Chris Butt and John MacDonald, Museum Committee members.



The Award of Merit recognizes significant contributions to the practice of museum and heritage work in the province. It is awarded to an organization, agency, or individual for an outstanding, innovative or creative achievement in the museum, gallery or heritage field, or in any area related to the preservation and development of the provinces cultural heritage, including research, collection, documentation, exhibition, public programming and management.

Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
39th Annual General Meeting
& Conference

HERITAGE TOURISM:
Experience Museums

Save The Date
OCTOBER 25 - 26, 2019



Heartfelt appreciation and congratulations were extended to volunteer extraordinaire Teresa Greene who, after more than a decade of service, retired from MANL's Board of Directors. Minister Mitchelmore (pictured right) was on hand to present Teresa with a Certificate of Appreciation from MANL during the 38th AGM.

Canada Needs New Museum Policy and Funding: Report

The Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage calls on the federal government to respond to urgent needs in the museum sector

Written by Leah Sandals, Canadian Art

More sustainable museum funding systems. Simpler funding applications. A review and modernization of the National Museum Policy, last updated in 1990. And a study of the impact of admission fees on museum attendance.

These are just some of the recommendations a House of Commons committee has put to Canada's federal government in a new report. Titled "Moving Forward – Towards A Stronger Canadian Museum Sector," the report was extensively researched over the course of two years by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. And during those years, the committee heard from dozens of museum leaders and experts, from Haida Gwaii to Halifax.

"Much of our work has shifted away from our mission as a museum to focus instead on finding new sources of funding," said Pierre Wilson, director of the Musée des maîtres et artisans du Québec, in front of the committee. His colleague Joanne Watkins of the Fashion Museum echoed this experience, stating, "As long as we are struggling to find funding to fulfill our mandates, certain work won't get done, and often, it's the collections that suffer."

Much of the feedback the committee heard, and detailed in this 47-page report, had to do with the fact that the bulk of federal government museum assistance in Canada focuses on projects rather than operations funding. Henry Kim, director and CEO of the Aga Khan Museum, told the committee that this type of project funding "do[es] not help with the planning of a museum in the long-term...It's not growing a museum in its capacity or helping it fund itself in a long-term horizon."

Current federal programs are out of date, seriously underfunded and do not meet the needs of today's museums and galleries, say museum leaders.

What's more, the federal funding is difficult to apply for, especially for smaller museums. "A lot of the museums just don't bother applying [for federal grants] because it's turned into a bureaucratic nightmare," Bruce Bolton, president of the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums, told the committee. As a result, the report's first two recommendations urge the Department of Canadian Heritage to simplify the funding application process for museums, and suggest that the department "review funding streams for museums with the goal of establishing a more sustainable funding system."

The committee also recommended that the Department of Canadian Heritage undertake a study on admission fees and their impacts on museum attendance after Gail Lord, co-founder and president of Lord Cultural Resources, stated that "the most inefficient way of raising money is through admission charges. Admission charges are costly to administer. They bring in only 10% to 12% of revenue, and they keep so many people away...the whole question of how we charge, and why we charge, and what we charge needs to be looked at."

Some museum leaders also suggested another way of stabilizing funding that's already used in the performing arts, but not yet enabled in the museum sector: an endowment-donation-matching program. "Expand the endowment-matching program of the Canada Cultural Investment Fund to include museums, since it currently principally covers performing arts organizations," said Royal Ontario Museum director and CEO Josh Basseches at the committee hearings. "Donors are attracted to matching gift opportunities and will often give, or give more, if their gifts will be matched." This and related feedback led "Moving Forward" to recommend that the Government of Canada include museums as eligible organizations for matching endowment funding.

Several witnesses before the committee expressed concern about current and foreseeable future crises around human resources, retaining talent and lack of job security among Canada's museum staff. Nika Collison, executive director of the Haida Gwaii Museum, said that many positions are "grossly underpaid," while Karen Bachmann, director of the Timmins Museum, confirmed that "most museums have lost or are losing their curators and experts."

Succession issues also came up—with most large-museum directors in Canada now coming from abroad, and lots of younger talent heading overseas being identified as a problem. The Standing Committee also recommended that the Department of Canadian Heritage task the Canadian Conservation Institute with developing more training and mentorship programs, including ones like the UK's Clore Leadership Programme and the United States' Getty Leadership Institute, to retain and grow museum leadership skills in Canada.

Continued on page 13

Canada Needs New Museum Policy and Funding: Report—Continued From Page 12

But beyond “human infrastructure,” bricks-and-mortar physical infrastructure remained an urgent concern. “We know that about 72% of all the museums and galleries in Canada are 40 years old or more,” stated Cynthia White-Thornley, executive director of the Heritage Group at the Department of Canadian Heritage. “Many are starting to experience significant needs for upgrading of their infrastructure or for major repairs.” What’s more, “we don’t have a comprehensive survey of the physical state of all museums, nor of the state of all the artifacts.”

And in terms of digitization, the sector is also lagging severely. According to the report, less than two per cent of Canadian collections are currently digitized. Ottawa Art Gallery director and CEO Alexandra Badzak told the committee that copyright fees are an issue in this respect, and asked whether museums might one day enjoy the same copyright measures libraries do to facilitate digital sharing of collections. (In addition to Badzak, the art museum sector was also represented by comments from Heidi Reitmaier, executive director and CEO of the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto, and Hank Bull, trustee of the Vancouver Art Gallery.)

Though some of the facts in the report are alarming, it was welcomed by the Canadian Museums Association as a way of moving the sector forward. “This Report is the most significant and historic milestone for Canadian museums since the National Museum Policy of 1972,” stated Jack Lohman, CMA Vice-President and Executive Director of the Royal BC Museum, in a release. (Also in recent weeks, the CMA requested a major increase of \$85 million per year in federal programs that support museums. “These programs are out of date, seriously underfunded and do not meet the needs of today’s museums and galleries,” said John McAvity, CMA’s Executive Director.)

In total, the report “Moving Forward” makes 15 recommendations, all of which are summarized on pages one and two of the report. As for what’s next, Julie Dabrusin, chair of the committee, wrote, “Pursuant to Standing Order 109, the Committee requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report.” The government has 120 days to respond.

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URL: <https://canadianart.ca/news/canada-needs-new-museum-policy-and-funding-report/>

MOVING FORWARD – TOWARDS A STRONGER CANADIAN MUSEUM SECTOR report is available on-line:

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/CHPC/report-12/>

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Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador



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Excerpt from CCI Technical Bulletin 33 Silica Gel: Passive Control of Relative Humidity



Written by Jean Tétreault and Paul Bégin, Canadian Conservation Institute

Abstract

The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to explain the need to control the relative humidity (RH) in a museum environment. Fluctuating RH can damage organic materials, while other objects, such as those made of metal, require a low RH set point to ensure optimal preservation. Controlling RH can be done in a passive way by using a moisture sorbent, the most common type being silica gel, in an enclosure, such as a display case. This bulletin provides an equation, based on assessments of the buffering capacity of common commercial products, to help determine the quantity of sorbent required. It also includes examples of how the equation can be used in various scenarios and proposes methods for conditioning moisture sorbents.

Introduction

This Bulletin concerns the use of moisture sorbents, which include silica gels and desiccants, to maintain a stable level of RH or to maintain a specific RH level inside enclosures such as display cases, storage cabinets and containers as well as transportation cases. The specific levels of RH required are generally defined by the organization which owns the heritage object. Different types of moisture sorbents exist on the market, but few are targeted for the heritage preservation field. This Bulletin summarizes an impartial evaluation of the moisture buffering performance of commercially available sorbents. By consulting the performance results, heritage preservation professionals can determine the quantity of sorbents needed to maintain the correct RH for their objects, depending on the enclosure design and environmental conditions present. Different methods for conditioning the moisture sorbents prior to their use in an enclosure are also provided. The more technical aspects of this document, such as the equations and data tables, are included to ensure the correct use of sorbents for optimal RH control.

What is relative humidity?

Relative humidity is a common measure of the humidity in a specified environment (outside, in a room or in a display case). Technically, RH is the ratio of the amount of water vapour in the air to the maximum amount of water which the air can hold at a given temperature, expressed as a percentage. RH can also be defined as the ratio of the actual water vapour pressure to the saturation vapour pressure.

Why control the relative humidity?

The humidity in the ambient environment has an influence on the preservation of many types of objects. If the humidity is too high, the rate of degradation of papers and photographic dyes due to hydrolysis increases, the risk of corrosion of metals is higher and mould growth may occur. On the other hand, if the humidity is too low, metallic objects will be well preserved but many organic objects such as paintings, wooden furniture and leather-covered books can lose some flexibility and can crack due to stress-caused dimensional changes.

In addition to the risks caused by extremely humid or dry environments, there are problems related to large fluctuations in RH. The moisture of organic objects tends to be in equilibrium with the humidity in the surrounding environment. During RH fluctuations, the moisture in organic objects adjusts to the humidity changes in the air by absorbing or desorbing water vapour. These cycles cause small dimensional changes in the objects which can result in crack formation or propagation.

RH fluctuations also affect objects impregnated with salt, such as some archaeological metals and ceramics. Each type of salt has a critical RH level where it changes state between a solid and a liquid. Above the critical RH, one type of salt is liquid and mobile and can react with other substances. Below the critical RH, the same salt returns to its solid form where it has a larger volume than when in its liquid state, and this can cause localized stresses in the object. For all these reasons, it is important to avoid dry, damp and extreme RH fluctuations in the surrounding environment of vulnerable objects. More general information on incorrect RH can be found on the CCI webpage Agent of deterioration: incorrect relative humidity.

The full version of the text is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/technical-bulletins/silica-gel-relative-humidity.html>

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Editor's Note: Interested in measuring the RH of your museum? Check out MANL's Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program information on page 15 of this newsletter.

MANL Membership Notes

Focus Areas of the Program:

- Museum Governance & Management
- Collections Management
- Preventive Conservation
- Exhibit Planning and Development

This program is designed to provide museum workers with a general introduction into current theories, standards, and best practices for museums. For more information, please visit MANL's website.

Museum Association
of
Newfoundland
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Certificate in
Museum
Studies
Program



THE MANY BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

CMA Bursary Program:

The Canadian Museums Association offers three types of bursaries to assist museum professionals in the following areas:

1. Conference Professional Development
2. Emerging Professional Development
3. Mid-Career Professional Development

MANL members can avail of these programs. For more information on the program contact the CMA (www.museums.ca).

MANL Disaster Loan Fund:

MANL offers an emergency loan of up to \$10,000 to member museums experiencing a disaster with their collections. This repayable loan is designed to provide immediate financial assistance to MANL members. The MANL disaster loan can be used by museums affected by disasters of any magnitude however, MANL reserves the right to assess each individual case for eligibility. This loan is intended to provide immediate funds that would be repaid to MANL by the museum.

MANL Membership Discounts:

In addition to receiving discounts on training programs and workshops, MANL members also receive free admission to over 70 museums in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program

This monitoring equipment can be useful in helping to determine regulatory environmental levels, as well as give the museum more knowledge into the effects the surrounding environment has on artefact collections.

THESE DEVICES RECORD:

- RELATIVE HUMIDITY
- TEMPERATURE
- LIGHT INTENSITY

MANL can also provide consultation with museums on how to regulate environmental controls.



MANL members can borrow specialized equipment such as light meters, temperature and relative humidity meters, and data loggers for a fixed period in order to monitor their museum environment.

MANL Membership Form (April 1st 2019—March 31st 2020)



Is this a New Membership? ☐

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Please ensure that we have your **YEAR-ROUND** contact information.

Please provide the following information:

Individual Name/Institutional Name: _____

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