



NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
Fall 2023 - Volume 41, Number 1



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The deadline for submissions is one month prior to the publication.

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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New Faces at MANL!

MANL is pleased to welcome two new staff members!



Kseniia Trubachova is our new Digital Project Coordinator, thanks to funding from the United Way. She has started to refresh MANL's website and will apply her tech skills and artistic eye to our digital projects.



And many of you will know Lara Maynard, who has long worked and volunteered in our local heritage sector, now as our Professional Development Coordinator in a position funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation under CEDP. Lara looks forward to meeting more of you through MANL training planning and events.

President's Report

Dear Museum Members

There were some very exciting happenings in museums around our province during the past summer season. Our cultural institutions thrived, and there was something for everyone to enjoy. From captivating exhibits to dedicated summer students and exceptional tours, our museums offered a rich tapestry of experiences.

Museums throughout the province showcased an array of innovative exhibits that transported visitors to different worlds and times. Whether you were interested in history, music or art, there was something for every curiosity. Our history was explored, art was admired, and the mysteries of the universe were delved into. Our museums brought stories to life.

Last summer, we were proud to have so many talented and dedicated summer students who were eager to share their knowledge and passion with visitors. They were the heart and soul of our museums, guiding visitors through the exhibits and providing valuable insights. Their enthusiasm was infectious and undoubtedly enhanced the museum experience.

Museum tours were more engaging than ever. Expert guides took visitors on enlightening journeys through history, art, and culture. From interactive experiences to behind-the-scenes tours, there was a wide range of options to choose from. These tours were not only educational but also a fun way to spend the summer days.

In addition to the regular museum offerings, many institutions hosted special events and workshops last summer. Whether you were interested in hands-on art activities, lectures by renowned experts, or community events, there was a diverse selection of events to make your visit even more memorable.

In conclusion, the past summer season was an exciting time to explore our province's museums. Thank you to our museums for creating these opportunities that enrich our understanding of our cultural heritage, art, history, and science. Let us celebrate the dedication of museum staff, the creativity of exhibit curators, and the enthusiasm of our summer students. Together, we made the past summer a time of discovery, inspiration, and cultural enrichment.

Thank you for supporting our museums, and I hope you all had a wonderful summer of exploration and learning.

Sincerely,

Linda

Linda Hickey, President,
Museum Association of NL



AROUND THE PROVINCE

St. John's Region

#2 Mine Tour & Museum: Harry Hibbs Exhibit

Celebrating Bell Island's Own Accordion Legend: The #2 Mine Tour and Museum's 2023 Exhibit "Harry Hibbs"



On July 30, 2023, the #2 Mine Tour and Museum on Bell Island, unveiled its much anticipated Harry Hibbs Exhibit. This event, which celebrated the life and legacy of the

island's beloved accordion legend, Harry Hibbs, proved to be a memorable and heartwarming occasion for both locals and visitors alike.

The exhibit, meticulously curated and thoughtfully designed, offered an intimate look into the life and career of Harry Hibbs, a cultural icon who left an indelible mark on the music scene of Newfoundland and beyond. Featuring rare photographs, personal memorabilia, and audiovisual displays, it painted a vivid picture of Harry's journey from Bell Island to international recognition.

To add an extra layer of depth to the exhibit's opening, the #2 Mine Tour and Museum partnered with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Recreation (TCAR) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). This collaboration allowed the museum to ensure that the exhibit was comprehensive, informative, and engaging for all visitors.

One of the highlights of the event was the live music performance by the talented music group Hamilton Sound, who graced the stage with their show, "A Tribute to His Nibs Harry Hibbs." Hamilton Sound, known for their remarkable ability to capture the spirit and energy of Newfoundland's music scene, paid homage to Harry's legacy by playing some of his most famous tunes. The crowd of over 300 swayed and tapped their feet to the lively melodies, transporting them back to an era when Harry Hibbs was a household name.

Bell Island No. 2 Mine and Museum Tour is located 13 Compressor Hill, Bell Island and is open on a seasonal basis. For more information, please visit: <https://bellislandminetour.com/>

Avalon Region

Sparks of Curiosity at Manuels River

Manuels River was recently awarded \$25,000 from the Canada Post Community Foundation to support *Sparks of Curiosity* in Conception Bay South, NL.

Sparks of Curiosity is a unique and engaging educational experience that promotes environmental awareness, encourages stewardship, and prepares participants for the technological and STEAM-driven world of the future.

This project will create a safe space for children to gather in the community while they discover the connections between Science, Technology, and Environmental Awareness, which in turn leads to a deeper understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship of the natural world in our community.

This 6 week program will run 3 times over the 2023 - 2024 school year. Registration now open to students in grades 4-6.

"Canada Post is proud to help organizations and projects that make a difference in the lives of Canadian children and youth. Through the generosity of our customers and employees, the Canada Post Foundation is able to fund important programs in communities across the country every year," says Doug Ettinger, President and CEO of Canada Post

Manuels River is a community-based not-for-profit supporting environmental sustainability, growing minds through community programs, and promoting wellness through connectedness with nature.

Manuels River



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We Want to Hear From You!

Is your museum, gallery or heritage society hosting a special event, honoring your volunteers or have you recently received funding for a new project? MANL would love to share your news. Please drop us a line at manl@nf.aibn.com and we will be sure to include your news in our next newsletter.

Eastern Region

The Matthew Turn 25!



On Saturday, June 24th, 2023, Matthew Legacy celebrated the 25th anniversary of a very beautiful wooden vessel, The Matthew. The highlights of the celebration included Breakfast at the Legacy, a free Music on the Wharf concert, a big community birthday cake and much more!

The Bonavista Matthew is a full-scale replica of Caboto's 1497 vessel, a 15th-century Caravel. It was built in 1997-98 by a team of seven shipwrights and four carpenters from the local area, under the direction of a Master Builder. Its construction marked the 500th Anniversary of Giovanni Caboto's voyage celebrated in 1997.

Today, the vessel serves as a lasting reminder of the voyage and discovery that changed the course of history. The Matthew Legacy is located at 15 Roper Street, in Bonavista. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.matthewlegacy.ca/>

New Logo For Cape Freels Heritage Trust



Cape Freels Heritage Trust has a new logo. The design combines the silhouettes of the Benjamin Barbour House, the Neptune II Schooner, the rising and setting sun, as well as seagulls lifted by the winds.

The Trust manages the Barbour Living Heritage Village, an anchor tourist attraction on the Kittiwake Coast, located in a picturesque corner of Newtown, right on the Tickle. For more information, please visit <https://barbour-site.com/>

Central Region

Grand Falls-Windsor Architectural Inventory

The Grand Falls-Windsor Heritage Society recently created a new publication - *Architectural Inventory* Volume 1. The Architectural Inventory project was launched in 2018 to document older homes and properties within the community.

The publishing of this 126-page book is the culmination of five years of work by staff and volunteers of the Society. It includes a basic overview of architectural features, as well as the history and stories associated with the properties, including many photographs. *Architectural Inventory* is available for purchase from the Society. For more information: <https://gfwheritagesociety.ca>

Western Region

New Murals for French Rooms Cultural Centre




This summer saw some new additions to the French Rooms Cultural Center Community Museum & Bread Oven. The bread oven building received a facelift, in the form of two beautiful murals painted by Jesse Swift.

The murals depict the stories of the Port au Choix French fishing history and trading with the indigenous people on Bernie Island. Special thanks to Rick Plowman who installed the murals on the bread oven building.


The Bread Oven is a popular attraction at the French Rooms Cultural Center Community Museum when the site is open to visitors. Several times a week (weather permitting), the oven is "fired up" and visitors get to sample freshly baked bread from the oven, topped with local jams and served with tea. The French Rooms Cultural Center Community Museum is located at 83 Fisher St in Port au Choix and is open on a seasonal basis. For more information, please email: pacheritage@gmail.com

MANL NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



VIRTUAL
**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 21
7 PM**



**DIGITAL NEEDS
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Announcements!**

Outside Your Museum: The Flowing Waters of Manuels River

Written by Robyn Hutchings

Cultural Heritage & Collections Associate, Manuels River

The flowing waters of Manuels River, carry many memories. From the earliest settlers to those of today, precious moments continue to be made along its rocky river beds. Many of these stories have been recorded, while others continue to be explored and observed. Notions of Treasure was a popular idea that captured the minds of many. From Pirates to buried treasure there was a lure of mystery and intrigue that surrounded the shores and rivers of Conception Bay's Southshore.

"Pirates, treachery, buried treasures ... sounds like something out of a Peter Pan movie. But Conception Bay may have once been the scene for such fantasy. According to some of the other members of our community, it was common to hear about pirates digging for gold on Bell Island and Kelly's Island. They were also spotted digging on Manuels Head at the mouth of Manuels River where they dug up more bones than gold." (Told by Mr. William Chisholm, Manuels, from the Manuels River Natural Heritage Society* Heritage Survey.) This possibility of treasure captivated nearby and local communities, influencing independent treasure hunters to seek their wealth and fortune. But as was popular in Newfoundland weaves, the treasure wasn't always silver and gold. In one tale, reiterated by Sandra Smith of Manuels, the sought-out treasure was of a more mental and spiritual nature:

"In my grandfather's time, there was an immensely sized rock in the clearing of the woods on Manuels Head. It was "Flat as flat as a pancake" on one end, a big bump like the "Rear end of a pig" on the other, and it was as white as the driven snow. If you go out there all alone at midnight around St. Georges day, sit on the hump of the rock with your feet on the flat part and concentrate real hard on the treasure as the same time looking out to where the sea and sky meet, you walk away a richer and wiser man." (MUN Folklore Archives, Survey 71,81,03)

While these two stories appear more of a fantastical exaggeration, gold in the form of mineral deposits has been rumored to exist somewhere along the river. With various geological and architectural surveys being done over the course of the town's development, speculations of gold deposits are believed to lie right under the foundations of the local ice cream hotspot called "Bergs."

But whether these stories of stolen treasure and gold prove true or false, the mystery and majesty of the river add to the grand views found along its highest peak. Bringing magic and richness to the many memories that continue to take place there.

*Editors Note: * In 2022, the legal name for the "Manuels River Natural Heritage Society Inc." was changed to "Manuels River Community Inc."*

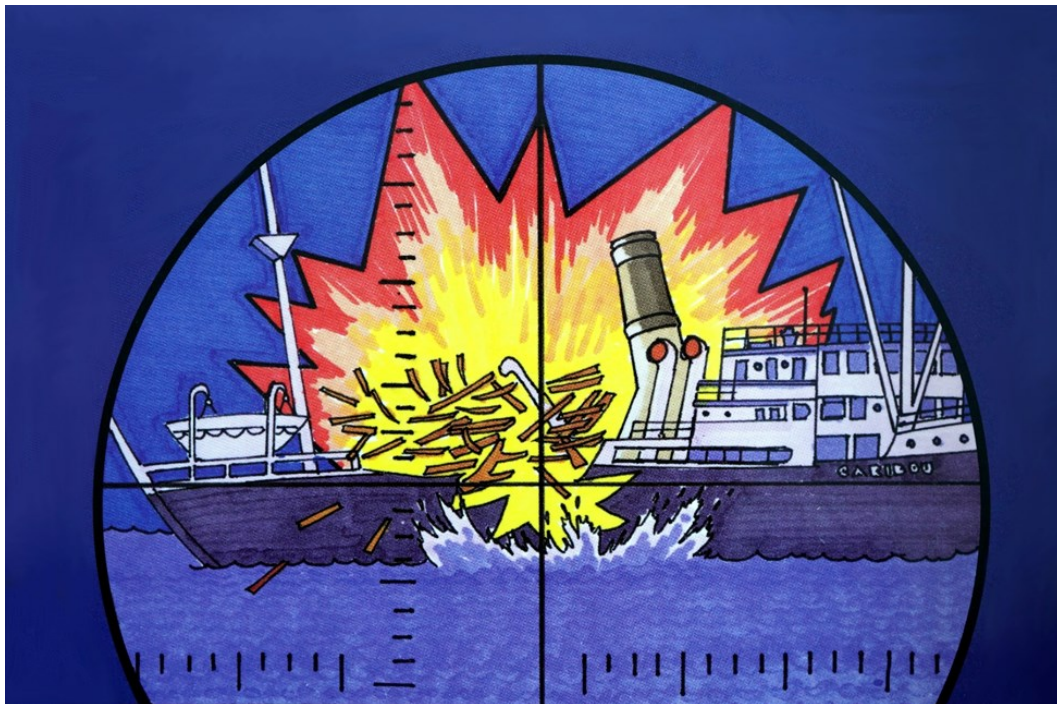


Do you have old photographs of Manuels River and its surrounding communities? Manuels River staff member Robyn Hutchings would love to hear from you.

Photo Left: Submitted by Manuels River

Topsail—showing Kelly's Island and Bell Island

New Online Exhibit on the Tragic Sinking of the S.S. Caribou Ferry in 1942



Sinking of the S.S. *Caribou* by Jennifer Morgan

Written by Neil Burgess

President, Shipwreck Preservation Society of Newfoundland & Labrador

During the Second World War, dozens of merchant ships and Canadian warships were torpedoed and sunk by German U-boats off the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland and Canada. The sinking with the greatest loss of life was the ferry S.S. Caribou, which connected Port aux Basques, Newfoundland and North Sydney, Nova Scotia. Last April, the Shipwreck Preservation Society of Newfoundland & Labrador (SPSNL) and the South West Coast Historical Society were excited to launch a new virtual museum exhibit entitled The Tragic Sinking of S.S. Caribou. The exhibit tells the story of how a German U-boat attacked the ferry in the middle of the night, killing 137 passengers and crew.

To create the exhibit, we gathered documents, maps, photographs and audio tapes from archives and museums in Newfoundland, Canada, Britain, and Germany. They revealed new details about the U-boat attack and the subsequent rescue of survivors. We used audio interviews to share the experiences of crewmen and passengers aboard the Caribou as the ship was hit by the torpedo. We shot video interviews to tell family stories of how residents in Channel-Port aux Basques were affected by the tragedy. We included photographs of artifacts from the ship that are now displayed in museums and homes in Channel-Port aux Basques and St. John's. We highlighted the commemorative ceremonies held at the Caribou Memorial in Channel-Port aux Basques to remember the fallen.

The exhibit tells the stories of how the sinking on October 14, 1942 impacted the Caribou's crew, as well as the servicemen, women and civilian passengers aboard the doomed ferry. The communities affected by the loss of loved ones stretched right across Newfoundland, Canada and the United States. The sinking of the S.S. Caribou had a profound impact on the governments and people of Newfoundland and Canada by bringing the war right to their doorsteps. We hope the exhibit lets more people appreciate the wartime service and sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the sinking.

This virtual museum exhibit was made possible with generous support from Digital Museums Canada with additional funding from the CEDP-Heritage program of the NL Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation.

Links to the virtual exhibit:

https://www.communitystories.ca/v2/tragic-sinking-ss-caribou_naufrage-tragique/

https://www.histoiresdecheznous.ca/v2/tragic-sinking-ss-caribou_naufrage-tragique/

The Conception Bay Museum Launches Its First Virtual Exhibit

The Conception Bay Museum has launched its first virtual exhibit with the support of the Digital Museums Canada investment program. Titled “Alone Among the Stars: Aviation in Harbour Grace, NL (1919 - Present),” this virtual exhibit details the community’s long, exciting history of aviation through archival records, oral histories, and artifacts.

The story begins in 1919, when the town played host to the Handley Page “Atlantic,” a former World War I bomber whose pilot, Admiral Sir Mark Kerr, sought to compete in the Great Atlantic Air Race.

In 1927, local labourers constructed Newfoundland’s first permanent airstrip at Harbour Grace to facilitate the around-the-world flight attempt of the *Pride of Detroit*. This site subsequently hosted twenty transatlantic flight attempts over a nine-year period. Famously, Amelia Earhart utilized the airstrip on her solo transatlantic flight from Harbour Grace to Londonderry, Northern Ireland, on May 20, 1932.

While Earhart’s flight remains the airstrip’s most famous, the virtual exhibit shines a light on lesser-known aviators and their aspirations to “challenge the Atlantic.” According to chairperson Patrick J. Collins, the desire to further highlight these lesser-known stories came from the Museum’s revamping of its physical Aviation Room exhibit in 2022:

“Our physical exhibit space offers visitors a wonderful chance to learn about Harbour Grace’s most famous aviators,” says Collins. “But the whole story couldn’t possibly be contained in that room. We started chatting about avenues to tell a fuller picture of our aviation history, and we decided that a virtual exhibit would be ideal. Also, the virtual platform would allow us to showcase both the Museum and community to a national and international audience. The two exhibits pair nicely and hopefully spark visitors’ curiosity.”

To craft this virtual exhibit, the Museum received funding from the Digital Museums Canada investment program. Digital Museums Canada helps build digital capacity in Canadian museums, heritage, cultural, and indigenous organizations, and gives Canadians unique access to diverse stories and experiences. Digital Museums Canada is managed by the Canadian Museum of History, with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

The virtual exhibit also relates the contributions of locals to the airstrip’s enduring legacy, such as the Archibald and Parsons families. Notably, the Archibalds were highly involved in the maintenance and administration of the site during the heyday of transatlantic endeavour. Local Bill Parsons catalogued activities at the airstrip during his time as a stringer for the Associated Press. He later coauthored a book on the airstrip, *The Challenge of the Atlantic* (1983), with journalist Bill Bowman. Today, the historic airstrip remains in use, with the local branch of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA), Flight 97, organizing regular maintenance.

“Alone Among the Stars: Aviation in Harbour Grace, NL (1919 - Present)” can now be viewed online on the Digital Museums Canada website: www.communitystories.ca/v2/aviation-harbour-grace



Want to Learn More About Digital Museums Canada (DMC)

Managed by the Canadian Museum of History (CMH), Digital Museums Canada (formerly the Virtual Museum of Canada) is a federally funded investment program that helps build digital capacity in Canadian museums and heritage organizations and gives Canadians unique access to diverse stories and experiences.

Funding is available for modest to ambitious bilingual online products with interpreted content and an engaging user experience. DMC offers several initiatives to support the application process, including information sessions and mentorship chats. For more information, please visit <https://www.digitalmuseums.ca>

Reciprocity at its Finest...

Written by Ben Watkins

Museum Manager, Isles Wooden Boat Builders, Twillingate, NL

I believe the various museums and other heritage centers throughout Newfoundland and Labrador are great emporiums and ambassadors for our forefathers.... a great showcase which merits rich celebration.

As manager, committee, or President, how does one even begin to determine the value or benefit of their local community museum? Evaluate the business plan one may suggest or assess the mandate. Valid points indeed. Although the administrators of these institutions may primarily use metrics of economics for feasibility or success of operations, there is so much more that could be said on this subject.

As a first-time manager of a wooden boat museum and boat-building workshop, I have made some very positive and encouraging observations. No doubt committee members and administrators are thrilled to see increased visitor numbers, positive guestbook feedback and upward sales trends. Although this is great news for an operation, I have experienced something equally rewarding, although it may be considered intangible and immeasurable. As someone new in this type of public-relations-role, as manager of our local wooden boat museum, my initial focus or impressions were on what we have to offer to our visiting guests. Unexpectedly, I was flabbergasted to experience such overwhelming reciprocity from our guests, in so many ways. It seemed that in all the areas I tried to share and educate with our guests, they gave back in equal or greater portions. The whole experience was enriching beyond measure, as I shared about our museum exhibits, wooden boat building history and the people who gave us this great legacy. There are so many fond stories I could share. However, time and space prevent me at this time. It has been an amazing learning experience for me, and I am specifically referring to the learning experience I have gained from our guests.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage and remind the leaders of various capacities within the numerous museums and heritage centers throughout our province, to keep high priority and focus on the visiting guests of these establishments, and you will in all likelihood reap even greater rewards. Kudos to all those who have a deep passion for these great venues, both the public and the operators.

Keep on celebrating!

Ben Watkins, Museum Manager, Isles Wooden Boat Builders

The Isles Wooden Boat Builders Museum is a not-for-profit organization operating in partnership with the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. It tells the story of traditional wooden boat construction, paying specific attention to the people and their stories. The museum is open on a seasonal basis and is located at 4 St. Peter's Church Road, next to the Twillingate Museum and the historic Anglican church. For more information: <https://www.isleswoodenboatbuilders.com/>



Happy 50th Anniversary Twillingate Museum



Photo submitted by Daphne Wheeler, Twillingate Museum

Twillingate Museum 50th Anniversary celebrations took place this season, first opening in 1973. We look back and thank all the people that have contributed over the years and made this beautiful building what it is today! We look forward to seeing tourists from all over the world continue to come and enjoy the culture and heritage on display here in our community museum!

Daphne Wheeler
Twillingate Museum & Craft Shop

The Twillingate Museum & Craft Shop is located at 1 St. Peter's Church Road, North Side, Twillingate, next to Isles Wooden Boat Builders Museum. It is housed in the former Anglican Rectory and depicts life in Twillingate at the turn of the century. For more information, please visit their website: <https://tmacs.ca>

Happy 45th Anniversary Durrell Museum

The Durrell Museum Association was formed in 1973, and was incorporated as the Durrell Museum Corporation in 1975.

The former ALB (Arm Lads Brigade) Armory opened its doors to the visiting public as the Durrell Museum in June of 1978, making this season 45 years of operating!

The red ochre building has seen so many visitors, held many functions and still stands as a memorial to all those who served their country during wartime.

Durrell Museum is located just 4 kms from the Twillingate Museum at 17 Museum Road., Durrell, NL. For more information: <https://museumsnl.ca/business/durrell-museum-and-crafts/>



Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, and perched on the top of Old Maid Hill, Durrell Museum & Brigade Artisan Shoppe houses community artifacts depicting the way of life of a typical outport fishing settlement from the late 1800's to the early 1900's, including coopering and fishing history, as well as a unique exhibit of the Arm Lads Brigade and its role in WWI and WWII. The Great Auk and Polar Bear exhibits are a must see!! Photo submitted by Durrell Museum.

News from the White Elephant Museum, Makkovik

Written by Joan Anderson, White Elephant Museum

2023 marks the fiftieth year for the Makkovik Fish Plant. The White Elephant Museum marked this milestone by holding an open house during the town's annual Trout Festival in August. With help from our summer student, Ryden Andersen, a display about the fish plant was created. It consisted of some "fast facts" posted on the walls; a binder of newspaper and other clippings; a slideshow; video (showed workers bringing wooden boxes of iced-in salmon from the longliner to the plant); plus a video of a class visit to the turbot plant about 25 years ago; and a children's matching game.

The Makkovik Fish Plant was opened in 1973, processing salmon (until the commercial fishery ended in 1998), some char, and cod (until 1990 when the cod was gone from this area). Turbot began to be processed in the 1980s. A new fish plant was constructed in 1991, a year before the cod moratorium was declared. Turbot was processed in the new plant. A crab plant was built beside it in 1998. This summer the plant processed crab first and after that fishery ended, the plant workers took in turbot.

When the plant first opened it took three shifts to handle the catch. Former plant manager, Junior Andersen, said, "We only had two small blast freezers, so it was slow getting it frozen." And that was the reason for having workers tending to the fish round the clock.

2023 was a far cry from the opening years. There's only one day shift. Workers are hard to find due to an aging workforce; greater opportunities for other employment for young people; plus, lack of accommodation to bring in people from out-of-town. Therefore, the fish plant had a shorter season of work for its employees.

But plant workers have fond memories of their days working together. Especially memorable are the years in the 1980s when there would be sometimes forty long liners from Newfoundland fishing out of Makkovik. It not only meant good hours of work, but new friendships were formed which have lasted ever since. You often hear Captain Wilf Bartlett, formerly of Triton, reminiscing about the fine summers he spent in Makkovik.

Constructed in 1915, the White Elephant Museum was once part of the Moravian Mission station which was established in Makkovik in 1896. Interestingly, the museum's unusual name is derived from the fact that at one point in its history, the building required regular maintenance but had no real function. It became referred to as the "White Elephant" and the name has stuck to this day.

The White Elephant Museum was designated a Registered Heritage Structure in 2000, by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. Makkovik is on the north coast of Labrador, accessible by Air Borealis twin otters year round, and by the ferry Kamutik W in summer.



Makkovik Fish Plant, opened 1973

Rev. Victor and Mrs. Sylvia Launder collection

Photo Left: The Makkovik Fish Plant was opened in 1973. This year marked its fiftieth anniversary. Photo Credit: Photo submitted by the White Elephant Museum, from the Reverend Victor and Mrs. Sylvia Launder collection.

Cover Story: Our Lady of Mercy Heritage Church & Complex

Our Lady of Mercy Heritage Church is the largest wooden structure in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, standing 115 feet (35 meters) tall. Although the monumental church is the highlight of Our Lady of Mercy Complex, it is just one of many things to see and do at the site.

At the complex, there are three buildings. The church, the Event Hall (a converted gymnasium), and the museum (a converted rectory). Throughout the season, Our Lady of Mercy Complex Committee hosted several annual events at the Event Hall, including the Grand Ole Port au Port Opry in June and the Quilt Show & Dessert Tea in August. It has also been the home of the Annual Port au Port Agricultural & Craft Fall Fair for the last 48 years.

Our Lady of Mercy Museum houses the museum, Gift Shoppe, and Tea Room. This unique shared space creates a folky atmosphere. This year, the Tea Room menu was expanded to include light lunch items such as sandwiches and soup, in addition to the regular desserts and sweets. Tea Room patrons could enjoy their meal among locally made treasures, in the warmth of the sunroom, or take it out to the benches in the garden.



Photo Above: The Quilt Show & Dessert Tea is a very popular event, held every August at Our Lady of Mercy Complex. Photo Credit: Emili Fraser

There are various experiences to be had in the church. Most days during July and August, talented musicians from the Port au Port Peninsula and surrounding region performed from 2-3pm for Music in the Church. The tall wooden ceilings and unique craftsmanship of the church make for wonderful acoustics. Over 20 local singers and songwriters and a gospel choir performed traditional, folk, country, and other genres of music in 2023.

Another way to experience the church is by joining a Miracles & Mysteries Tour. During this 90-minute tour, hear decades old stories of unexplained phenomena and averted disasters brought to life by a local guide. Discover the power of roses to create miracles and the faith of a rural mining and fishing community. After the tour, enjoy tea and a homemade dessert in the Tea Room.

Our Lady of Mercy Complex Committee revamped OurLadyOfMercyNL.com to include an events calendar and descriptions of the tours and offers available at the complex. Although the complex closed for the season on September 26, there are still a few upcoming events this year, including the Annual Christmas Concert in the Event Hall.

At almost 100 years old, Our Lady of Mercy Heritage Church is due for various upkeep projects, two of which are underway. The first, revitalizing the building with repairs and paint is made possible through a \$102,682 grant from the Department of Immigration, Population Growth, and Skills. Thanks to this grant the committee hired five employees for twenty-four weeks and provided training for those employees to safely complete the work. Materials were also purchased for the restoration. Second, is a \$40,000 project that entails replacing the eaves and trim work supported by a \$20,000 Revitalization Grant from Heritage NL.

Additionally, the complex is a source of community pride and spirit. Decades ago, locals volunteered to construct the church. Today they still give countless hours of volunteer time either through hosting events, fundraisers, donations, and more.

The committee is looking forward to opening mid-May 2024 and welcomes all to visit for Our Lady of Mercy Heritage Church's 99th year. Groups, bus tours, families, and individuals are all welcome.

Please follow us online:

www.ourladyofmercynl.com

www.instagram.com/ourladyofmercynl

www.facebook.com/ourladyofmercynl

Sign up to Participate in the Canadian Museum Crossword!

Do you know one of the names attributed to the famous opera singer, Georgina Ann Stirling? Or which royal castle appears on the Bank of Canada's first series \$25 commemorative note?

These are just two of the clues included in the 2023 Canadian Museum Crossword, hosted by the Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian War Museum. MANL members The Rooms and Twillingate Museum are just two of the many museums from all across the country that have actively participated with clues over the years.

In 2024, the Canadian Museum Crossword will celebrate its fifth anniversary. Will your institution be next on the list for Canadians to discover?



The first crossword, launched during the pandemic summer of 2020, drew its inspiration from a series of museum crosswords organized by the Akron Art Museum in Ohio. The idea was to collaborate with other museums on a Canadian-focused crossword in a time of isolation to introduce crossword fans to the rich culture and history preserved by museums all across Canada.

The inaugural crossword brought together 40 institutions from eight provinces. In 2023, a total of 69 clues were submitted from 47 institutions representing all 10 provinces and one territory. Of those 47 institutions, 19 were first-time participants.

Each year, the crossword reaches some 125,000 people through social media posts from the Museum of History and the War Museum. There are also many more impressions on social media posts shared by the other participating museums. The crossword's web page receives an annual average of 2,500 hits, with an average time spent on the page of about eight minutes.

The Canadian Museum Crossword is a great opportunity for heritage institutions of all sizes to expand their audience and create a nationwide spotlight on new projects being developed.

If your institution is interested in participating in the 2024 edition, please reach out to Avra Gibbs Lamey at avra.gibbs-lamey@warmuseum.ca to be added to the invitation list.

Take the Moved To Action Mini-Survey!

TAKE OUR 10-SECOND MINI-SURVEY NOW!

RÉPONDEZ À NOTRE MINI-SONDAGE DE 10 SECONDES MAINTENANT!

 CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION
 Funded by the Government of Canada

 ASSOCIATION DES MUSÉES CANADIENS
 Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

 Canada

Have you engaged with the Canadian Museum Association's (CMA) Moved to Action report?

The CMA would like to hear from you! They are looking to measure how many people have read the report and which sections were the most engaging. Their mini survey just takes 10 seconds!

To take the survey: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/survey1.aspx?k=RQsRSVUWUsQUsPsP&lang=0>

For more information on the Moved to Action Report: https://museums.ca/uploaded/web/TRC_2022/Report-CMA-MovedToAction.pdf

Government of Canada Survey of Heritage Institutions: 2021



GOVERNMENT
OF CANADA
SURVEY OF HERITAGE
INSTITUTIONS:

**2021
REPORT**

Canada

In July 2023, the Department of Canadian Heritage announced the release of the 2021 report on the Government of Canada Survey of Heritage Institutions (GCSHI), which collected financial and operating information for the 2020 data year on not-for-profit heritage institutions, including museums, art galleries, archives, historic sites, zoos and botanical gardens. The 2021 survey recorded the initial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health measures which forced the temporary closure of heritage organizations across the country.

The survey is conducted to provide aggregate data to all levels of government, heritage stakeholders and the public, in order to gain a better understanding of not-for-profit heritage institutions and to aid in the development of national and provincial/territorial policies and programs. The results from this sample survey are extrapolated to provide national and provincial/territorial estimates for the approximately 2700 not-for-profit heritage institutions across the country.

Highlights from the survey include...

- o 87% of all museums and other heritage institutions in Canada were temporarily forced to close their doors due to COVID-19 public health measures in 2020. On average, heritage institutions reported having to remain closed for approximately 5 months.
- o Temporary closures and social distancing restrictions during 2020 meant that heritage institutions saw fewer visitors come through their doors. There were only 16.9 million visits in 2020, a substantial decrease of nearly 79% from the 79 million visits in 2017.

To read more from the 2021 GCSHI report, please visit this website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/corporate/publications/general-publications/about-survey-heritage-institutions.html>

MANL Professional Development

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

SPONSORED BY CSCNL

INTRODUCTION TO EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT



INSTRUCTOR: JANE SEVERS

NOVEMBER 28-29, 2023 | 9 AM – 4:30 PM
ST. GABRIEL'S HALL, 254 VILLE MARIE DRIVE, MARYSTOWN, NL



MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

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PUBLIC PROGRAMMING FOR MUSEUMS: AN INTRODUCTION



INSTRUCTOR: LARA MAYNARD

NOVEMBER 30, 2023 | 9 AM – 4:30 PM
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CERTIFICATE IN MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

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

For more information, please contact MANL's Professional Development Coordinator, Lara Maynard at manfld.training@gmail.com

