

# NEWSLETTER

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The Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (MANL) is a 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.

**Registered Charity Number: 10775 6199 RR0001**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your MANL membership! MANL membership year starts on April 1, 2025 and ends on March 31, 2026. To join or renew your membership, please forward your membership form to MANL by email or mail.

### Membership Levels

- **Institutional Membership:** This membership category is suitable for any organization, including museums, heritage societies, galleries etc. interested in the preservation and promotion of our natural and cultural heritage. Institutional memberships are valid from April 1 to March 31 and have an annual fee of \$60.00.
- **Individual Membership:** This membership is suitable for an individual person who is interested in the preservation and promotion of our natural and cultural heritage. Individual memberships are valid from April 1 to March 31 and have an annual fee of \$25.00.

We now have three options for membership payment. Please select one:

- **e-Transfer:** Please forward your payment to [payments@museumsnl.ca](mailto:payments@museumsnl.ca). Please make sure to include your organization's name in the message.
- **Credit card:** You will be emailed an invoice from Square
- **Cheque / Money Order:** Please make your cheque payable to The Museum Association of NL (MANL). **The cheque should be dated April 1, 2025 or later.**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM



Existing MANL members will also receive the form by mail. If you are a new member and wish to receive your form by mail, please let us know at [membership@museumsnl.ca](mailto:membership@museumsnl.ca).

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# President's Message

Dear Members,

As we approach the close of another remarkable year, I take this opportunity to reflect on the successes and growth that we, as a community, have achieved throughout 2024. From innovative digital sessions to inspiring in-person gatherings, we have once again demonstrated the power of collaboration and resilience within the museum sector.

A major highlight of the year was our conference, "What Binds Us." The event was a resounding success, filled with learning, sharing, and networking. The energy and enthusiasm from participants was profound, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making the conference a memorable experience.

In addition to the conference, we introduced Midday Museums, a series of 12 informative sessions that engaged over 200 heritage professionals, volunteers and enthusiasts in the province and beyond. These sessions created a space for knowledge exchange and professional development, covering a wide range of relevant topics. We are incredibly grateful to our subject matter experts and facilitators, and a special thank you to Anne Madden and Kseniia Trubachova for their exceptional work in organizing these sessions.

One of our standout initiatives this year was the launch of the #ExploreMoreIn24 social media campaign. In just 11 weeks, we saw an incredible engagement, with over 5,000 shares and responses. The campaign shone a spotlight on the diverse and compelling stories of our museums and heritage sites, amplifying their impact and reach.

We extend our sincere thanks to the provincial government for their continued funding and support, which has been essential in helping us achieve our goals. As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to aligning our work with the Tourism Vision Strategy for NL - Vision 2026. This guiding framework helps us ensure that we continue to evolve and innovate, driving positive change for museums across the province.



As we bid farewell to some incredible members of our Board of Directors in 2024, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and hard work. We are thrilled to welcome our newest board members, whose fresh perspectives will be invaluable in the year ahead.

We would like to thank our community partners, members, volunteers, and everyone who shares our vision. Your support has been vital to our success. Together, we continue to inspire and uplift the museum sector.

It has been an honor to serve alongside so many passionate individuals this year, and I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for all of us. Wishing you all a wonderful season, and I look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and success for our museum community.

With gratitude,  
Linda Hickey  
President, MANL

# Premier Furey Presents Inaugural Premier's Medals for Arts, Heritage, Sport and Recreation



*Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey presents the Inaugural Premier's Medal for Heritage to MANL. Photo Credit: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador*

On Monday, December 9, 2024, the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador was honored to accept the Inaugural Premier's Medal for Heritage, presented by the Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey at the Colonial Building in St. John's.

The recipients of the medals represent the disciplines of arts and heritage. The most prestigious honour in the province for these disciplines, the medals recognize the fundamental role the arts and heritage sectors play in the culture of Newfoundland and Labrador. Artists and heritage practitioners positively impact quality of life, sense of cultural belonging and

the vitality and economic prosperity of our communities and province.

In special recognition of Year of the Arts and the 75th anniversary of Newfoundland and Labrador's Confederation with Canada, 10 medals were presented to both arts and heritage recipients.

The award recipients were:

## Arts

- Deantha Edmunds
- Flanker Press
- Cheryl Hickman
- Labrador Creative Arts Festival
- Fergus O'Byrne and Jim Payne
- Beni Malone
- Roger Maunder
- Placentia Theatre Festival
- St. John's International Women's Film Festival
- John Thompson

## Heritage

- Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation
- Jerome Canning
- Grand Falls-Windsor Heritage Society
- Eric Jerrett
- Mummer's Festival
- Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Newfoundland and Labrador Historical Society
- Them Days
- Trinity Historical Society
- Douglas Wells

# New Exhibit for 2025

## Our Lady of Mercy Museum, Port au Port West

Our Lady of Mercy Museum embarked on a journey through history this fall to recreate a lady's parlor from the 1950s. With the support from our Heritage Coordinator, Sarah Mercer, we sought out some interviews with local people to chat about what a parlor room looked like and was used for! Sarah also coordinated a review of some of the artifacts we had on hand as well as some new donated items.

The process was to research the 1950s era through interviews, photos and contributions of the local community to design a replica parlour room or front room of a traditional Newfoundland house.



*Photo Credit: Our Lady of Mercy Museum*



*Photo Credit: Our Lady of Mercy Museum*

We also set an objective to facilitate a process for visitors to engage in traditional craft skills through experiential learning and to have a takeaway for the visitor.

There is a circa 1950 pieced quilt made by a lady from Black Duck Brook, set up for hand embroidery. As often displayed, it has a treasured family rug, brought home during family travels set on the wall and an old-fashioned clock and radio.

This replicated the parlour room activities identified by our focus interviews where the family gathered to listen to the radio, women gathered to do quilting or embroidery or an extra place for a visitor to sleep should it be necessary. Many traditional homes did not have central heat or electricity at that time and so the room features the pot-bellied stove and both an ornate oil lamp and a table kerosene lamp.

What has been prepared is a room in the museum approximately 150 square feet. It is set up with an old fashioned settee or daybed, a pot-bellied stove, paired Queen Anne style chairs with a table and oil lamp. It has a period appropriate dresser covered with a hand crocheted doily.

# Heritage Status for Port au Port Museum

Heritage NL



*Photo Credit: Heritage NL*

A window-filled historic museum on the Port au Port Peninsula has been given heritage status by Heritage NL as a Registered Heritage Structure.

The Our Lady of Mercy Museum was constructed in 1952 as the rectory for the parish priest of the Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church (also a Registered Heritage Structure) located next door. Over the years, the building served as a priest's rectory, office, and family home.

Still recognized by some as "Father Green's House," the building now serves as a popular museum, gift shop, and tea room.

Its most distinct architectural feature is the sun porch with diamond-shape window panes, which wraps around two sides of the structure. Local students would visit the building in the 1950s and '60s to see their exam marks posted in the sunroom windows.

"Heritage NL is proud to showcase the special architecture and history of Western Newfoundland," says Dr. Lisa Daly, chair of Heritage NL. "The designation of the Rectory celebrates its continued heritage as a community-centred space, and is timely given that this year is the centennial anniversary of the church."

In addition to the designation, Heritage NL will be working with the Our Lady of Mercy Committee to provide training around the conservation of historic wooden sashes, an important skill to have for a structure with so many windows.

Heritage NL was established in 1984 to preserve one of the most visible dimensions of Newfoundland

and Labrador culture - its architectural heritage. Heritage NL designates buildings and other structures as Registered Heritage Structures and may provide grants for the purpose of preservation and restoration of such structures.



*Photo Credit: Heritage NL*

# The Water Witch: A Century and a Half

By Mr. Vern Whalen, Cupids and Dr. Katherine Morton Richards, Pouch Cove

A century and a half ago, the towns of Cupids and Pouch Cove were inextricably linked through the shared experience of the sinking of the Water Witch. In a terrible storm, the Water Witch was lost in Horrid Gulch, an aptly named and treacherous part of Pouch Cove's coastline.

The Cupids schooner Water Witch, owned by Captain Samuel Spracklin, had fished the Labrador Sea in the summer and returned to Cupids to prepare her catch for sale. The custom back then for people who owned schooners was to bring their fish to St. John's to sell it to the merchants. Often the captain and crew would take their family and friends to the city where they would purchase their winter supplies. This is why the Water Witch with 25 souls onboard, including four women and one young boy was in St. Johns. They had finished their business and at 4:30 pm Monday Nov. 29, 1875 departed to return to Cupids.

By 8 PM the Water Witch was off Pouch Cove when they encountered a blinding snowstorm with zero visibility, The Captain thought he was far enough north to round Cape St. Francis, but the schooner ran into the sheer face of a Cliff at Horrid Gulch, a crevice with a ledge of land on one side. From a survivor story 'the schooner hit the rocks and at least eight men jumped on the rocks at the bottom of the cliff and four others jumped on the ledge on the other side of the crevice. The schooner was smashed up and they heard no noises from the others. The captain and three other men were on the ledge and could talk with those on the rocks and it was decided that the captain and two other men should attempt to scale the 200 meter cliff and seek help'.

About 11 PM the Captain and the two men, wet and

exhausted, came to the house of Eli Langmead who immediately had his wife care for the three men and he organized a party of men, who, laden with ropes, arrived at the top of Horrid Gulch by 1 AM. They could hear the calling and screaming of the people 600 feet on the rocks below and they devised a rescue plan. They had two coils of rope, each about 95 fathoms long which they tied to a tree and ran down over the Cliff. They tied men evenly spaced apart to about 100 feet from the water's edge. It was still about 100 ft of insurmountable bare Cliff to reach the survivors. Alfred Moores volunteered to be swung over the edge of the cliff and pass the rope down to those clinging to the rocks, they swung him three times before he got the rope to the survivors who tied themselves to the ropes and by daylight all were pulled safely to the top of Cliff.

Friday morning December 3rd 11 victims had been recovered (1 never recovered) and 13 survivors were on the steamer Cabot leaving St. John's for Cupids and at 4:30 PM arrived at the wharf in Cupids where the whole community was waiting to help bring the survivors and victims to their respective homes. Horses were waiting to carry the coffins that were neatly lined up on the deck of the Cabot. The community was saddened and in shock.

The interment service took place in the newly constructed Methodist Church which was to open in a few weeks, they opened the new church for the funeral and the first service held was for the burial of the Water Witch Victims. There were 2000 people attending but less than half could get in the church so the Minister preached from the open doorway. 9 bodies were buried in a mass grave 15 yards behind the church, 2 bodies were buried elsewhere and one never recovered. Onboard the Water Witch were 14



## AROUND THE PROVINCE

immediate family members of the Spracklin family. The sad event was life changing for many families.

Since that night, a shared history has developed between Cupids and Pouch Cove. A bond that exists to this very day was created between the 2 communities which will commemorate the 150th anniversary this year with special events and telling stories of the heroic rescue in Pouch Cove and the consequences of the greatest tragedy to ever befall the historic community of Cupids.

In 2011, the heroism that night in Pouch Cove was acknowledged by the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program under the category of, "Rescue at Sea and the Heroism associated with such Events." As 2025 marks the 150th anniversary, heritage enthusiasts in both Cupids and Pouch Cove are committed to introducing the story of the Water Witch to new generations and to safeguard

this important piece of shared cultural heritage.

With a shared vision for marking the century and a half since the sinking of the Water Witch, The Cupids Legacy Centre and Pouch Cove Heritage Society have partnered to plan events and recognize the significant cultural heritage related to this event. Although a single night's tragic event, in the 150 years since the Water Witch has inspired several musical/ song traditions, recitations, written accounts, and other tangible and intangible cultural heritage components. The persistence of the connection between Pouch Cove and Cupids to this very day remains perhaps the most profound legacy of this event.

To stay up to date on the events planned for 2025 to mark "Water Witch: A Century and a Half" please visit: <https://www.pouchcoveheritage.com/> and <https://cupidslegacycentre.ca/>



*Pouch Cove. Photo Credit: Kseniia Trubachova*

# Telling the Story of Confederation with Puppets

By Bonnie Ryan, Chair – Blackhead Museum

There were many projects throughout the province in 2024 to mark the 75th Anniversary of Confederation with Canada. This was due, in no small way, to the wonderful programming offered through CelebrateNL to support communities, heritage organizations and Indigenous groups wishing to commemorate this historic anniversary.



*Joey and the Confederation cupcakes. Photo Credit: Jake Thompson*

In the Blackhead Museum we wanted to offer a project that would educate young children about the Confederation vote in a fun and entertaining way. We reached out to puppeteer Jake Thompson of the NL Now puppet-hosted talk and variety show that airs on NTV Saturday mornings with our concept and Jake came on board immediately.

The Museum provided Jake with a storyboard of some basic learning goals and possible scenes for the show. Jake produced a wonderfully educational and funny script! We hoped that students would learn that:

- Newfoundland joined Canada 75 years ago;
- Newfoundland had to vote to join Canada;
- There were diverse opinions and the vote was close;
- Years later we have seen many benefits from Confederation.

It included eight beautiful puppets and several musical numbers. It was called, “The Road to Confederation Through Puppets.”



*Jake answering questions at St. John Bosco. Photo Credit: Toni Ryan*

Initially, Jake produced a 30 minute video of the show for our approval. On September 29th we premiered the show in the museum. It was a big hit! Even the Confederation cupcakes were delicious.

Our proposal also included taking the show into classrooms during the fall of 2024. In total, there were four performances in three schools: Mary Queen of Peace, Bishop Field and St. John Bosco. Almost 400 students in total attended the performances. The students were intrigued by the puppets and had many questions. “The Road to Confederation Through Puppets” also aired on NTV as an episode of NL Now. This was a fun project and we are grateful for the support from Celebrate NL, and the incredible talent of Jake Thompson.

# Youth Heritage Forum NL 2025



*Photo Credit: MANL*

On Saturday, March 22, 2025, MANL was delighted to partner with ANLA and the Admiralty House Communications Museum on Heritage NL's 4th Youth Heritage Forum, held at The Lantern in St. John's.

The forum is designed as an entry point for youth to become involved with the cultural sector, to introduce them to members of local boards of directors and historical committees, and to introduce them to possible paid and volunteer opportunities.

"Youth are a critical part of the heritage industry, and Heritage NL is excited to bring back this event that

celebrates and supports young people in heritage," said Dr. Lisa Daly, Chair of the Board of Directors of Heritage NL. "With panels on entrepreneurship, a mentorship lunch, and workshops led by community partners, there's a lot of great opportunities for students and emerging professionals. I went to the first events as a youth, and the community contacts and information about opportunities I gained at these events has helped me get to where I want to be in the heritage industry."



*Photo Credit: MANL*



*Photo Credit: MANL*

The event featured three sections: a morning panel with heritage entrepreneurs, a mentorship luncheon partnering youth with experts in their chosen fields or areas of interest, and a series of afternoon practical, professional development workshops on museums, archives, archaeology, folklore, youth empowerment and employment opportunities. The Youth Heritage Forum NL 2025 was an excellent opportunity for students and emerging professionals to network, attend professional development seminars and workshops, and share their thoughts on being a youth in heritage.

# Larry Dohey Award

Nominations are now open for the Larry Dohey Award! The award is administered by the Association of Canadian Archivists and may be awarded annually to any individual or organization who is a member of the Association in good standing.

Named after Larry Dohey, director of programming and public engagement at The Rooms in St. John's, Newfoundland, the purpose of this award is to identify and honour members of the ACA whose work has raised public awareness of archives and recordkeeping, and to recognize, celebrate, and encourage outstanding examples of advocacy and outreach within the archives and records profession.

## Purpose

- To identify and honour members of the Association whose work has raised public awareness of archives and recordkeeping;
- To recognize, celebrate, and encourage outstanding examples of advocacy and outreach within archives and recordkeeping;

## Responsibility

- The Nominations and Awards Committee shall receive and evaluate all nominations.
- The Committee shall decide the recipient(s) of the award for each year or decide that no award shall be given and recommend this decision to the Board for approval.
- The Board of Directors shall approve the recipient(s) of the Larry Dohey Award.

## Eligibility

Current members of the Board of Directors; Governance Committee; Awards Committee; Coordinators and Association employees are not eligible.

The deadline for nominations is Deadline April 14, 2025 - 11:59 PM PT.

For more information, please visit: <https://archivists.ca/Honours-and-Awards/Outreach-and-Advocacy>

# Call For Expressions of Interest: Workshop Facilitators

The Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA) is currently seeking passionate and dedicated facilitators to deliver a series of upcoming professional development online seminars on a volunteer basis.

Workshop facilitation is scheduled to start April 2025. Facilitators will be provided an honorarium for their services.

These sessions will offer valuable training in various aspects of archival management, digital preservation, and community engagement. This is a great opportunity to create meaningful impact, collaborate with fellow archivists, and contribute to the advancement of the archival profession.

You don't need to be an expert to apply! If you have practical experience in any of these areas and are comfortable sharing your insights with others, we'd love to hear from you. The workshop areas include, but are not limited to:

- Improvising Archival Storage
- Community Archives & Oral History Training
- Social Media and Archives
- Digital Preservation 101
- Digital Exhibits and Online Access

If you are interested in facilitating one or more of these workshops, please contact ANLA at [office@anla.nf.ca](mailto:office@anla.nf.ca) with a brief statement of your interest, experience and course outline or fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/66apfA3HqPzpv1JZ8>.

The deadline to express interest is April 15, 2025.

# Heritage Mentorship Program

In February 2025 MANL has launched a brand new Heritage Mentorship program with the aim to connect experienced professionals and volunteers with everyone in the heritage sector who needs help, including emerging professionals, youth, students, and volunteers of all ages.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there is no shortage of passionate, hard-working heritage professionals and volunteers, with many years of experience, knowledge, skill and ingenuity. Our people are our best resource! It makes sense that we build on that expertise by sharing it with our peers in communities throughout the province.

We are calling on all heritage professionals and volunteers, as we develop a mentorship program aimed at assisting and supporting heritage organizations in our province.

If you wish to sign on as a mentor, or/and as a mentee, please fill out our application forms, and we will be in touch! To access the forms, simply visit MANL's website: <https://museumsnl.ca/member-services/heritage-mentorship-program/>

# Heritage Funding Survey

We invite all heritage organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador to fill out our Heritage Funding Survey!

This past fall, members of our province's heritage community initiated a letter-writing campaign, encouraging everyone to contact the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to highlight funding shortfalls experienced by heritage organizations every year. The letter included a request that CEDP funding be increased to reflect increasing demand on the program, as well as an increase in the cost of living. CEDP funding has not increased since 2007 when the minimum wage was \$7.00/hour.

Our next step is to gather data about our heritage organizations so we can prepare to educate various levels of government and municipalities on the importance of the heritage sector and to advocate for a much-needed injection of funds into the CEDP program.

To achieve this we need your help and that of every heritage organization in the province. Please complete this short survey, so our information will accurately reflect the work being performed by our heritage organizations and the value it brings to our province: <https://forms.gle/4jh39UYhC1ERKZiS7>

# Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program

Did you know that MANL has data loggers available for members to borrow for a fixed period in order to monitor relative humidity, temperature and light intensity in your facility?

This monitoring equipment can be useful in helping to determine regulatory environmental levels, as well as give the staff more knowledge on the effects the surrounding environment has on artefact collections. For more information, please email MANL at [dpc@museumsnl.ca](mailto:dpc@museumsnl.ca).



# Professional Development

## Curation and Conservation with Memorial's Donna Teasdale and Maria Lear

Date: April 30, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fee: \$20

Instructors: Donna Teasdale & Maria Lear

Location: Queen's College (MUN), 210 Prince Philip Dr, St. John's, NL

Join MANL and MUNL Archaeology Department's Archaeological Curator / Geophysical Technician, Maria Lear, and Archaeological Conservator, Donna Teasdale, in an interactive workshop exploring how artifacts and belongings are cared for after excavation. This workshop includes learning about artifact curation, exhibit design, conservation, and some of the logistics of running an archaeological dig in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Start the morning with a presentation on a broad-stroke overview of running an archaeological dig, including legislation, permitting, and site logistics, along with the post-excavation phase that involves collections and curation. After the presentation, we will move downstairs for a quick tour of Memorial's Collections Room, leading into a practical session on conservation in Memorial's Conservation Lab.

The practical session will involve participants gathering in stations with different types of materials. During the session, participants will be guided through how different agents cause deterioration and corrosion on artifacts. Next, participants will learn the various steps taken to stabilize and preserve each type of artifact from the burial environment through to collections storage. Participants will also be given the opportunity to try their hand at removing corrosion from iron artifacts. Finally, if time allows, participants will be shown how to perform a block lift to safely remove a delicate artifact from the ground.

This workshop is held as part of the Canadian Archaeological Association / Association Canadienne d'Archéologie's 57th Annual Meeting in St. John's. For more information about the conference: <https://canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting>

## Midday Museums: Call for Proposals


Are you a heritage professional or volunteer with expertise in community engagement, collections management, museum governance or other areas? Do you have insights or ideas that you would like to share with your peers and the community? We are currently accepting proposals for Midday Museums!

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Digization
- Conservation and preservation
- Exhibit design and curation
- Sustainability practices in museum operations
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Public programming

This is an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge and spread the word about the work you do at your museum or heritage institution!

To submit your proposal or for more information, please email us at [dpc@museumsnl.ca](mailto:dpc@museumsnl.ca). When submitting your proposal, please use "Midday Museums Proposal" in the subject line and include a brief bio and an outline of your proposed topic.



**MIDDAY  
MUSEUMS**

**Nourishing Knowledge for Heritage  
Professionals and Volunteers**

LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH | 12:00 PM | VIA ZOOM

# Save the Date!

## 2025 HERITAGE CONFERENCE



October 17-18, 2025  
The Rooms, St. John's, NL

Mark your calendars! We are excited to announce that our 2025 Heritage Conference will take place on October 18 and 19 at The Rooms in St. John's. More details will be announced at a later date. We look forward to seeing you there!

## MANL Job Board


Are you looking for a job opportunity in Newfoundland and Labrador's heritage sector? Check out our job board: <https://museumsnl.ca/job-board/>

Is your museum or heritage institution hiring or looking for volunteers? Contact us at [info@museumsnl.ca](mailto:info@museumsnl.ca) and let us help you get the word out!

## Subscribe to Our Museum Announcements!

Want to stay up to date on funding opportunities, MANL workshops and activities, as well as other exciting heritage sector news? Subscribe to our weekly Museum Announcements, mailed out every Thursday: [museumsnl.ca/museum-announcements/](https://museumsnl.ca/museum-announcements/)

Contact us at [membership@museumsnl.ca](mailto:membership@museumsnl.ca) with your upcoming events, programs, announcements, employment opportunities, meetings and news, and we will post it in our Museum Announcements!

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