

Heritage Update

News and Notes on the Heritage Foundation of NL's Built Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Programs

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Pilot Window Restoration Project Completed at the Basilica Jerry Dick, jerry@heritagenl.ca

A pilot project, the first stage of a huge window restoration project at the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, has been completed with great results. This involved restoring two of the massive clerestory windows and 3 of the lower ambulatory windows. All windows include a stained glass interior window and an exterior protective sash, each of which presented their particular issues and challenges. A combination of time, and the fierce weather



conditions of St. John's had contributed to serious deterioration. The leadwork that holds all of the stained glass pieces in place had virtually melted in places due to the build-up of heat between the two windows. The decorative glass itself was coated with layers of smoke from incense candles deposited over decades, darkening the church interior. The exterior wooden windows were seriously deteriorated in places subjected as they were, to nearly a century of the elements.

An initial assessment by local consultants called for the manufacture of reproduction exterior windows. A second look by heritage conservation specialists indicated that the old windows could be repaired. This approach followed conservation standards and guidelines which call for repair over replacement whenever possible. As well, it was suggested that the old, hard wood used on the earlier windows was likely more durable than modern woods that are typically softer.

After restoration and cleaning the interior stained glass windows display their original brilliance and clarity and allow additional light into the historic church and should be conserved for decades to come. The project was undertaken with assistance from a Heritage NL Restoration Grant.

A Heritage Staycation

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As social distancing restrictions are easing in the province - and more businesses are reopening - Heritage NL is encouraging residents of the province to support local heritage places. Heritage NL has designated over 330 buildings and many of these are open to the public. We are beginning our "support local" focus by highlighting designated buildings used as guest accommodations. You can check out featured properties on our Facebook page @hfnlca. From hotels, to B&Bs, to self-contained rental



properties, there are loads of heritage buildings that offer staycationers the chance to experience local destinations in historic settings. Check out the options and consider a getaway in a Registered Heritage Structure. While supporting local business you'll also be ensuring the viability of heritage buildings. We think that's a staycation win-win.

Baccalieu Trail Traditional Skills Inventory

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Do you know someone who can run a birch broom? The best local net mender or sheep shearer? Is there someone in your community who is an expert storyteller, berry picker, or mat maker? Heritage NL wants to know!

The Baccalieu Trail Traditional Skills Inventory project is looking for those people who are the "hidden gems" of Newfoundland tradition. We're curious about a variety of traditional skills and crafts. We are looking for people who are storytellers, musicians, berry-pickers, hooked mat makers, carvers, knitters, guides, craft producers, and people who know traditional recipes, dances, or other local knowledge.

The goal of the project is to build a publicly accessible inventory of tradition bearers working in communities on the Baccalieu Trail which will serve as a local resource to match people who have valuable traditional skills with tourism operators in the region. The inventory project is part of

Memorial University's Thriving Regions Partnership Process, which supports research partnerships that help promote thriving social and economic regions.

How can you get involved? We've created a survey to help find those in your community who are one of these hidden gems! The survey will help us identify those people who are practicing traditional skills and crafts along the Baccalieu Trail who would like to be connected with tourism operators in their area. Even if you don't practice a traditional skill, we encourage you to fill out the survey and let us know if someone you know does.



You can find the survey here:

<https://tinyurl.com/baccalieustrail>

Photo: Terrence Howell teaching a print making course at his studio in Grates Cove. Photo by Kathi Penney-Stacey

Engaging Seniors in Heritage Projects

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As a guiding principle, Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage strategy recognises that incorporating multiple voices, including those of seniors, is important in all work relating to ICH. ICH is kept alive and is relevant to a culture when it is regularly practised and learned within communities and between generations. In many instances, elders in our communities are the bearers of many of our traditions and customs and have an important role in setting priorities for community-based research and being valuable information sources for documenting traditional knowledge. We strive to celebrate the voices of seniors by keeping them involved in the various levels and types of work we do and by documenting their knowledge in the process.



In 2016, Heritage NL launched its Collective Memories Project - an initiative which invites seniors to record their stories and memories for archiving and sharing. It was established as a joint project of Heritage NL, the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors, the Interdepartmental Working Group on Aging and Seniors, and the Department of Seniors Wellness and Social Development. The Collective Memories Project is an umbrella for a number of initiatives

