

Heritage Update

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

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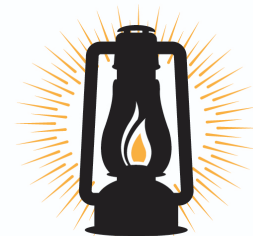
Celebrating Newfoundland and Labrador's Living Heritage!

By Dale Jarvis

Welcome to the new and improved Heritage Update newsletter! As you can see from the name change, we are attempting to present a bit more of a holistic view of the work of the Heritage Foundation. We will continue to give you information about our ongoing work to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of the province, but we will also be including information and sharing stories about the foundation's work to conserve built heritage and historic places.

It has been a busy couple weeks. Terra Barrett and I have just returned from an intangible cultural heritage conference in Quebec City, where there were intense and passionate discussions about Canada's role in the field of ICH, and much talk about the fact that while provinces like NL and Quebec have been working on ICH projects for years, Canada has not yet ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention on ICH. The conference culminated with the unanimous adoption of the "Canadian Declaration for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage" -- a document intended to encourage the Canadian government to ratify this important convention. The Declaration is reprinted in its entirety in this newsletter.

In other ICH news, we will soon be launching our exciting new "Collective Memories" project. The Collective Memories Project is an initiative which will invite seniors to record their stories and memories for archiving and sharing. The project is about creating a venue for community members and seniors to come together to share their ideas, experiences, memories, and traditional knowledge. The Collective Memories Project will promote and support activities to engage seniors through oral history. Stay tuned for an official launch of that project! We will be looking for community partners interested in local oral history projects, so if you want more information, you can contact me directly at ich@heritagefoundation.ca and we will include you on the official project announcement media release.



**Collective
MEMORIES**

Heritage Discovery: Peeling Back the Layers with HFNL

By Michael Philpott

Starting this year, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) is introducing a process of “heritage discovery” to its designation and restoration funding programs. We will be working more closely with property owners and communities to assess the architectural significance, structural characteristics, and oral histories of their heritage buildings.

HFNL’s designation application already asks for the history of a structure, its current condition, and photos both recent and historical, but not all applicants have the time, resources, or experience needed to fully document a structure. Through heritage discovery, HFNL will work with owners to photograph, measure, and draw their building, to read its structural “layers,” to gather oral histories and documents related to its construction and use, and to build a body of knowledge with which to plan its future. This work will come together in a package that can be used and shared so that more people can learn from our province’s built heritage.

There are many ways a detailed understanding of a heritage building can benefit both owners and the public. For instance, heritage discovery can:

1. Form the basis for restoration projects, answering questions such as: How did the structure look when it was built? Has it been altered? How was it used? What is its local significance? And, what is the most relevant period to restore to?
2. Provide value to individuals and groups using a structure to run a business, tourism establishment, or educational program by uncovering new angles for interpretation and marketing.
3. Create a permanent record of a structure useful for study and preservation – documentation can persist even when a structure is lost.

This improved approach will build on successful components of our existing programs: the restoration projects HFNL has already contributed to, and the rich oral histories already gathered on a number of structures and landscapes. A report published last year on [Jenkins House](#) Registered Heritage Structure in Twillingate (Durrell) is a great example of the kind of engaging story a combination of architecture and folklore can tell. HFNL will be piloting the heritage discovery process this June with the newly designated Elliston Salvation Army Citadel Registered Heritage Structure in Elliston, NL, and staff are eager to get into the field. Look forward to the results!



Historic photo of Elliston Salvation Army Citadel, Elliston, circa 1960. Source: virtualmuseum.ca

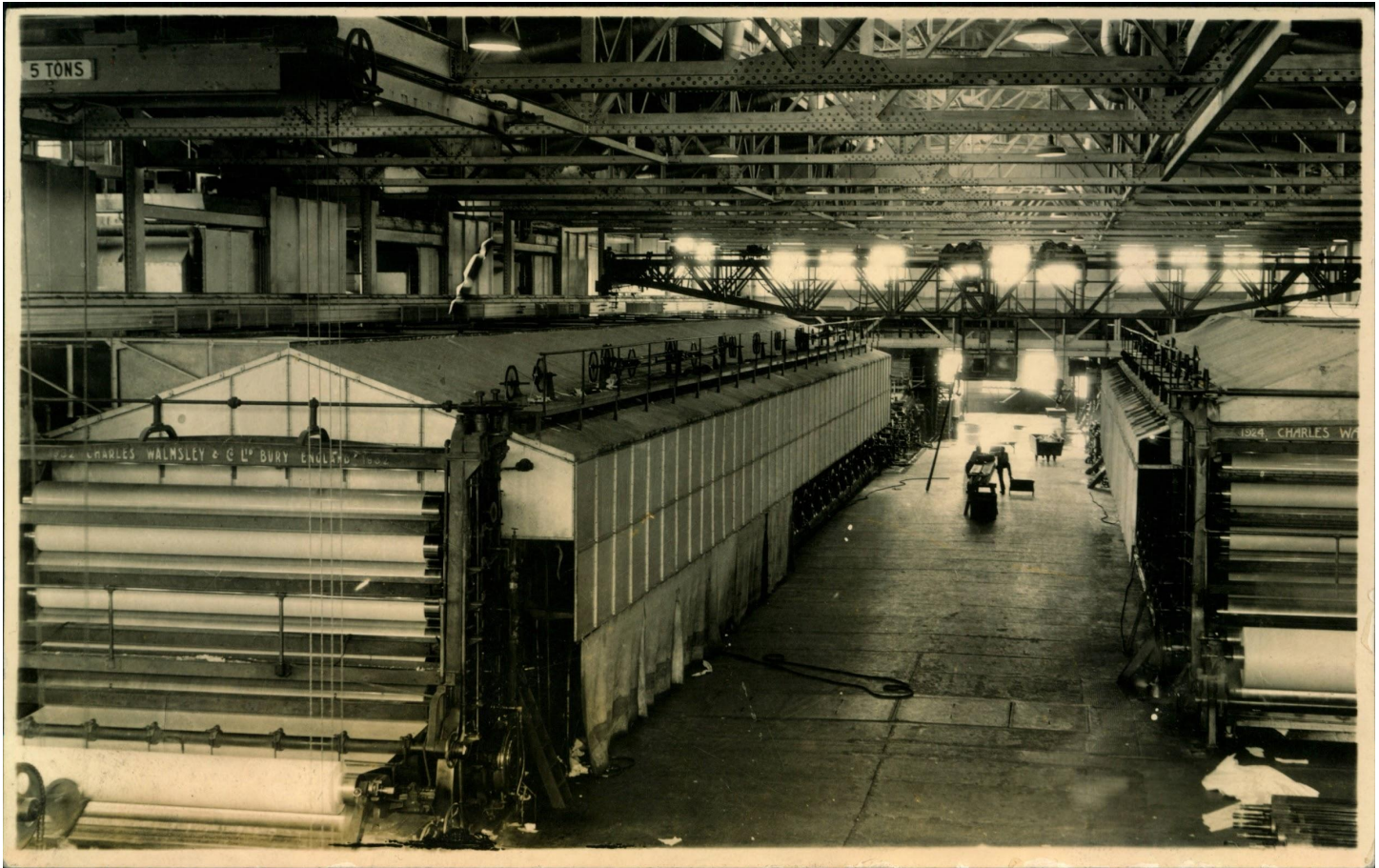


Photo: Grand Falls Mill Interior - Number 7 Paper Machine. Photo by Herven Maxwell Dawe. Original held in the United Church of Canada, Newfoundland Conference Archives, number WY500_009

The Grand Falls-Windsor Oral History Collection

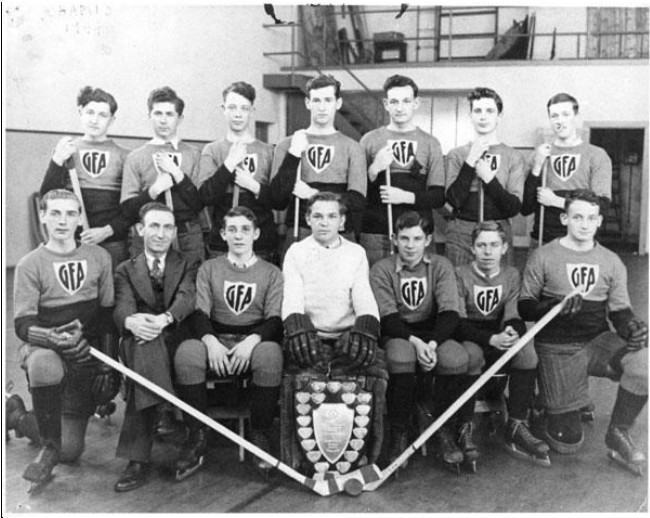
By Terra Barrett

For the past week, I have been doing metadata for a set of interviews completed in Grand Falls-Windsor from the mid 1990s until the early 2000s. These interviews are one of the projects of the Grand Falls-Windsor Heritage Society. The society is a registered charity which is run by a board of directors and was founded in 1997. The Society sent the ICH Office a box of cassette tapes, cds and tape logs in order to create a Grand Falls-Windsor inventory on Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative (DAI). I am reviewing the tape logs in order to create searchable descriptions for the DAI. This means the public will be able to access the material and use the files for research and historical data on Grand Falls-Windsor.

Reading through the files has been quite interesting and I have learned a lot more about the origins of the town of Grand Falls-Windsor, the Anglo Newfoundland Development Company which ran the paper mill, and the entertainment of the town. There was a lot of discussion about the similarities and differences between Grand Falls and Windsor and the amalgamation of the two towns. As Owen Grimes remembers there was a lot of excitement about heading to Grand Falls from Windsor when he was growing up:

Just you were going to another town, I guess that's all and you were exploring. Adventure! Grand Falls too used to have a swimming pool that we didn't have in Windsor and they had the baseball field which Windsor didn't have. So if you wanted to play any of the organized sports you came into Grand Falls when you got old enough to participate and of course when they built the stadium over in Grand Falls back in the late '40s, or early '50s we all took off to the stadium and that was it.

Hockey and other organized sports played a big role in the community and several people mention playing sports growing up. These sports were often planned either by an organization or groups of children themselves. George N. Carter describes his memory of recreation when he was a child:



Well our recreation was away from the school actually. I recall quite an active life in the recreation and sports but it was associated with the small area we lived in downtown. We worked pretty hard at developing this ourselves. When I say ourselves I mean the kids themselves, the young people. There was no, I can't recall any great organization by adults in organizing sports for us. For instance in the small area I lived, each winter for many years we developed our rink, we worked like Trojans clearing the rink and flooding it.

(photo credit: The Rooms Provincial Archives Division, Grand Falls Academy Series , Item 1.26.01.279, 1944)

Movies were known to be a big thing for the community. On Saturday afternoons children and adults would gather at The Nickel in the Town Hall on High Street to watch a movie for ten cents a show. The collection includes an interview with Charlie Edwards who along with his father owned a local theatre.

Politics are another interesting aspect of the collection and there are a number of interviews with current and past town councilors, and mayors discussing how the town changed from a company town to an incorporated town to the amalgamated town of Grand Falls-Windsor.

Dermot Griffin recalls the start of Grand Falls town council stating, "the big thing was you had a say in the town. You elected the council". Several former mayors discuss the issues surrounding the amalgamation of the two towns and how they were able to bring the two communities together.

If you are interested in learning more about the town of Grand Falls-Windsor's politics, recreation, working history, local stores, and much more keep your eye on the DAI for the Grand Falls-Windsor collection.

If your town is interested in digitizing oral histories that you have collected and making them accessible to the public contact Dale Jarvis at the Heritage Foundation at 709-739-1892 x2.

Fisheries Heritage Program

By Andrea O'Brien

Does your community have a cluster of fisheries buildings, stages, and stores you would like to see restored?

Since 2002 HFNL has financially aided in the preservation of almost 250 fisheries related buildings through our Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program. Grants have been awarded to repair, preserve, stabilize and protect historic stages, stores, lofts and flakes.

Since the inception of the Fisheries Heritage Preservation Program, our focus has been on the built heritage of fisheries buildings. We now are putting out a call to communities with clusters of fisheries buildings who are interested in not only restoring the buildings, but also recording aspects of the intangible cultural heritage associated with them. Along with the built heritage restoration component, projects could have a focus on the intangible cultural heritage associated with the fishing industry. Possible topics could include the architecture of fishing stages, knowledge associated with marks and berths, making fish, net and pot making and mending, knot-tying, ropework, those who went to sea or oral histories related to the fishery.



These grants will give communities an opportunity to restore and protect fisheries architecture while also recording stories and information about the fishery and its role in communities. Grants are open to town councils, museums, archives or incorporated non-profit cultural and/or heritage organizations.

For more information contact Dale at 1-888-739-1892 extension 2 or Andrea at 1-888-739-1892 extension 4.

New in the Heritage Foundation office

Celeste Billung-Meyer is currently a Folklore student at Memorial University working towards an undergraduate degree. She recently started a summer job at the Heritage Foundation as one of our Historic Places Researchers. Right now, Celeste has been given the task of hunting down the owners of all our registered heritage structures in order to update our contact and property information. When she contacts you, please don't be afraid to respond!

If you are the owner of one of our designated properties, you can reach her at 709-739-1892 ext. 3, toll free: 1-888-739-1892 ext. 3, or celeste@heritagefoundation.com.

Canadian Declaration for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Adopted in Quebec City, Canada, May 20th 2016

Preamble

Some 200 participants met at Laval University in the City of Quebec (Canada), from May 19th to 22nd 2016, at the invitation of the Canada Research Chair in Intangible Cultural Heritage (CRCICH), of the Institute for Cultural Heritage (IPAC), of the Interuniversity Centre for Studies in the Humanities, Arts and Traditions (CELAT), Laval University, of the Quebec Society for Ethnology and of the Canadian Network for Intangible Cultural Heritage (CNICH), for the Annual Meeting of the Folklore Studies Association of Canada (FSAC) and the Canadian Society for Traditional Music (CSTM), two groups which represent the major learned associations in Canada working in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

The meeting aimed to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, now ratified by 168 of the 196 member states of UNESCO. The conference benefited from the financial support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU), Laval University and the Interdisciplinary Observatory for Creation and Research in Music. The keynote address was given by Timothy Curtis, Secretary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Chief of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of UNESCO.

The participants, representing civil society, the federal and the provincial governments, the First Nations, 32 Museums and NGOs in the field of heritage from 7 of the 13 provinces and territories, and 21 Canadian universities, adopt the following Declaration of principles and recommendations intended for the safeguarding, study, development and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) across Canada. According to the Convention, ICH is manifested in oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship. ICH is deemed an innovative and effective means of promoting cultural diversity, human creativity and sustainable development around the world.

This Declaration is part of a long history of safeguarding, of study and of development of Canada's intangible cultural heritage and is also a part of a series of specific measures and actions undertaken in the last few years by the Canadian Network for Intangible Cultural Heritage (CNICH), the Folklore Studies Association of Canada (FSAC), the Canadian Society for Traditional Music (CSTM) and the Canada Research Chair in Intangible Cultural Heritage (CRCICH) for the safeguarding, study and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage. Created in 2013, CNICH, which brings together its members from all parts of the country – several of whom are also active members of FSAC, CSTM and CCU – took part that same year in a symposium in Edmonton, organized by the Alberta Museums Association, on the uses of intangible cultural heritage in museums.

On June 3, 2015, CNICH organized a workshop at the Canadian Museum of History with the support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO whose intention was to take stock on the work being done in Canada on

intangible cultural heritage. The 53 participants recommended the organization of a symposium in 2016, and a national survey to identify the organizations involved with heritage to ascertain their interest in intangible heritage, learn of their aspirations in that regard and their desire to have Canada sign the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Conducted by the Canada Research Chair in Intangible Heritage, the national survey made up of a questionnaire was sent to 842 organizations in Canada and received some 307 responses. The vast majority of those who responded showed great interest in ICH and its usefulness, whether the organizations were involved with tangible or intangible heritage. Moreover, 80% of the organizations are in favour of Canada's ratifying the Convention, 19% are undecided and only 1% against. Canadians, therefore, have spoken strongly in favour of developing the use of ICH, capitalizing on its potential and becoming a party to the UNESCO Convention on ICH.

The participants at this symposium address the present Declaration to all governments, intergovernmental organizations, to national and local authorities, as well as to all institutions and specialists qualified to engage through legislation, practices, policies and planning, in addition to management strategies with a view to better safeguarding and promoting intangible cultural heritage.

Recommendations

1. Considering its history as well as the extensive and growing interest in intangible cultural heritage, in all of Canada's heritage actors, as clearly shown in the national survey on ICH conducted by the CRCICH, FSAC, CNICH, and witnessed by the great enthusiasm expressed all across Canada toward this symposium; given that the Convention aims to ensure the viability, recreation and transmission of living traditions, and thus heighten both their recognition and safeguarding; considering that ICH is fragile because dependant on transmission by human beings; considering that Canadians want to fully participate in the Convention and that it is an efficient means of promoting cultural diversity and sustainable development, we ask the Government of Canada to sign the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2017 as its legacy to Canadians in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation.
2. Given that, at present, with the exception of Quebec and Newfoundland, there exist neither in Canada nor its provinces and territories policies and a legal framework to protect the intangible cultural heritage, we strongly encourage the Government of Canada and those in the provinces, territories and municipalities to develop policies and adopt new laws to target the safeguarding, transmission and study of the intangible cultural heritage.
3. Because of the transformations and breakdowns in societies caused by climate change, mass tourism, and urban development, we need to better understand the threats so as to take preventive measures and plan for sustainable remedies, following the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. We recommend that governmental and non-governmental organizations, heritage associations, both local and regional, develop strategic plans in collaboration with scholars in intangible heritage and experts in cultural diversity and sustainable development to better safeguard intangible cultural heritage. In the same way, both residents and local authorities must be made aware of the need for safeguarding so as to develop a sense of belonging to place and deal with threats caused by changes in the world of today.

4. Considering the fact that digital technologies (digital data bases, websites, mobile applications) make it possible to rapidly and efficiently constitute multimedia inventories of intangible cultural heritage online and provide efficient tools for the safeguarding and interpretation of ICH, we strongly recommend using them to better preserve, identify, study and disseminate this heritage. These technologies facilitate the diversity and ongoing renewal of knowledge dealing with the intangible cultural heritage.
5. Because intangible cultural heritage is handed down through persons and that transmission is essential in its safeguarding, we declare that the participation of the communities is essential to all safeguarding measures of intangible cultural heritage.
6. Recognizing that intergenerational and cross-cultural transmission are important aspects in the safeguard, recreation and dissemination of intangible cultural heritage, we recommend including younger generations and various cultural groups as participants in the development of policies and in the management of intangible cultural heritage.
7. Due to the fact that intangible cultural heritage is especially threatened within indigenous groups and to follow the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, we recommend that they be consulted and be given priority consideration in the formulation of policies and safeguarding measures.



(Photo: Learning to knit a fishing net, Youth Heritage Forum 2016. Photo by Jeremy Harnum)



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