



Heritage NL



SAVING TRADITIONAL SKILLS

IN THE TRI TOWN AREA AND SURROUNDING
COMMUNITIES, GREAT NORTHERN PENINSULA

Edited by Dale Gilbert Jarvis and Destiny Penney



Saving Traditional Skills in the Tri Town Area and surrounding communities, Great Northern Peninsula

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Heritage NL

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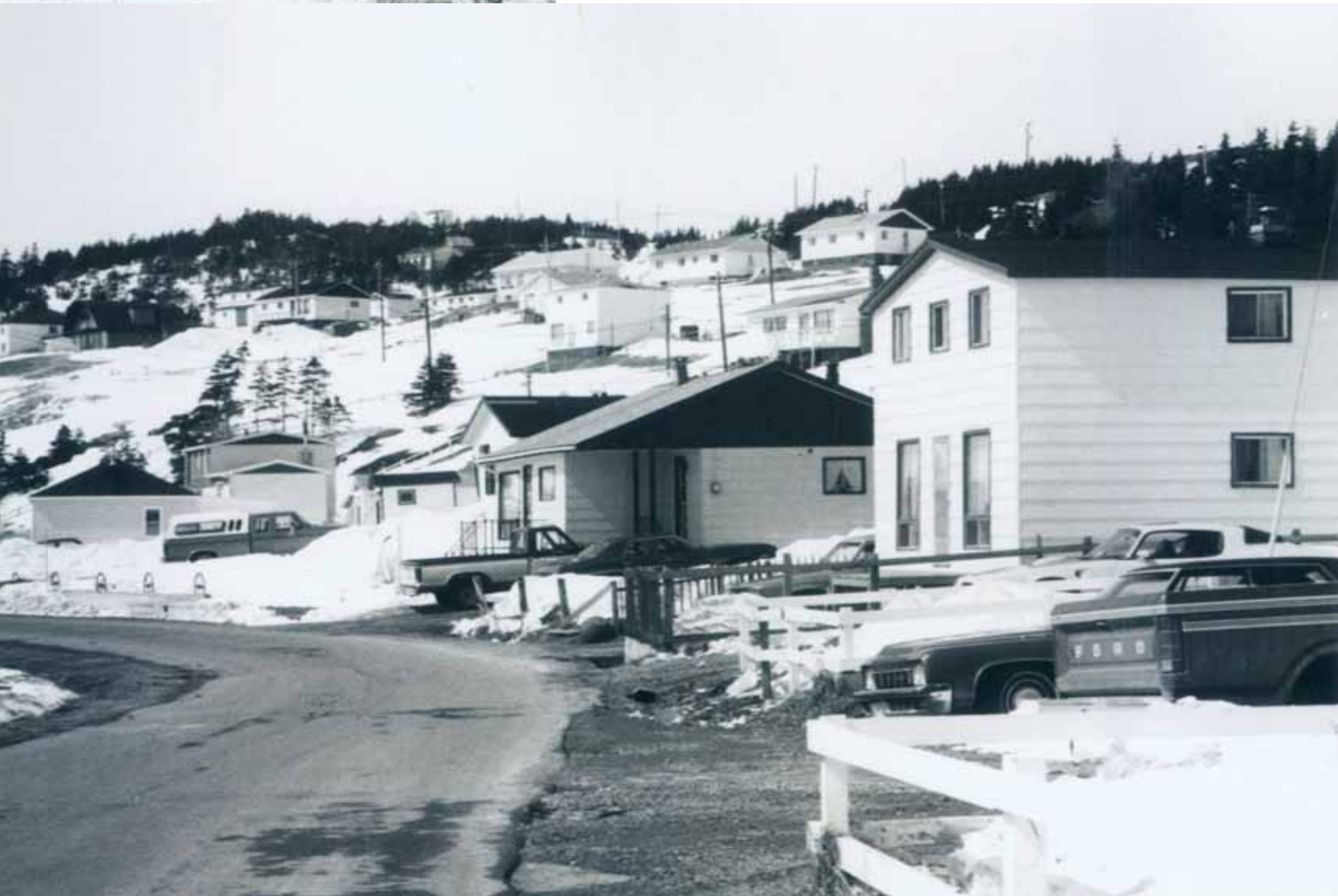
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(LEFT) JIM BURKE OF PORT AU CHOIX CUTTING WOOD IN APRIL 1985. DECKS AWASH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, CENTRE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND STUDIES.

(ABOVE) PORT SAUNDERS MARINE CENTRE. DECKS AWASH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, CENTRE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND STUDIES.

(BELOW) A VIEW OF PORT SAUNDERS FROM THE SHORE. DECKS AWASH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, CENTRE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND STUDIES.



Introduction

The Great Northern Peninsula Community Place Corporation and Heritage NL have been working together to make a list of people with traditional skills and know-how in the Tri-Town (Hawkes Bay, Port Saunders, and Port au Choix) area.

One of our greatest resources in the Tri Town region is the knowledge and skills of the people who live here. This survey of tradition bearers has been compiled to serve as a local resource, to showcase people who have valuable skills and knowledge. From knitters and quilt-makers to net makers and woodworkers, the region is full of people who know their stuff and who want to share!

“Every year, there seems to be fewer people who know how to make traditional crafts,” says folklorist Dale Jarvis, Heritage NL’s Executive Director. “This is an exciting local project that we are happy to support, to see who is still in the area with the knowledge of how to make the tools, objects, and crafts of yesteryear.”

The project is the idea of the new GNP Community Place, a community centre located on the main street of Port au Choix NL, set up to help build on community strengths and assets. Overlooking the harbour, this community heritage building will offer a safe, accessible place for people from all over the Great Northern Peninsula to gather to participate in inter-generational health and wellness initiatives.

Local researcher Destiny Penney was hired to interview local crafters and seniors, and to compile a list of people in the region willing to share their skills.

For more information, or to nominate someone with local knowledge, email jcranston@nf.sympatico.ca



What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) or what some call “Living Heritage” encompasses many traditions, practices and customs. These include the stories we tell, the family events we celebrate, our community gatherings, the languages we speak, the songs we sing, knowledge of our natural spaces, our healing traditions, the foods we eat, our holidays, beliefs and cultural practices. Specific examples of our intangible traditions include – among many other customs, skills and practices – the Christmas mummering or janneying traditions, and local boat building skills. ICH can also include Indigenous languages and cultural knowledge, our various regional dialects, and the expressive culture, values and beliefs of the diverse cultural groups of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Many of us play music or tell stories; some of us know about fishing grounds or berrypicking spots; others know about curing illnesses; some of us play cards or make snowshoes. Our communities value these everyday traditions, which are learned by doing. They are passed along not only over time from generation to generation, but also shared between groups across space.

The GNP Community Place Project Description

The GNP Community Place is a community centre located on the main street of Port au Choix NL. Overlooking the harbour, this community heritage building will offer a safe, accessible place for people from all over the Great Northern Peninsula to gather to participate in inter-generational health and wellness initiatives. It is run by a volunteer not-for-profit community corporation and operates as a social enterprise, offering space for programs to benefit the community while generating revenues to offset operating expenses. It will include the following:

- a community kitchen to increase access to healthy food through education, cooking classes, and food security initiatives;
- a community café/meeting room which will provide a flexible space for meetings and workshops; and serve as a “place” for the community to gather to engage in health and wellness activities, share knowledge of crafts and skills, and participate in programs that enhance community well-being and social inclusion;
- a fitness centre for development of individualized and group exercise programs;
- flexible office spaces/treatment rooms available for rent to researchers, visiting professionals and health practitioners.
- The Community Place will also have a small apartment for visiting professionals and researchers.

This project has been incubated with the support and expertise of the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Corporation (BBCHHC) which has operated as a social enterprise for over 20 years in Norris Point. The GNP Community Place project offers a strategic investment opportunity to help strengthen the economies of communities in the region by providing services to help maintain a healthy population and a healthy workforce. It has already attracted investment and support from the Town of Port au Choix and the community itself, as well as federal and provincial government support for research

and development. It will provide practical supports to help people maintain their health status and age in place in their communities on the GNP.

Through the provision of flexible multi-use spaces, this project offers a Social Enterprise solution to improve access to programs and services for communities on the rugged coast of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. The GNP Community Place will help to support a strong workforce, enable seniors to age in place, create sustainable employment opportunities, enhance our community capacity to overcome economic development challenges in the post-Covid recovery period, and build on our strengths and assets.

This project is based on best practice evidence and is supported by the involvement of the Great Northern Peninsula Research Collective, which will help us to gather data to show the economic, health and social benefits. It addresses issues identified in Dame Moya Greene's "The Big Reset" report as well as the interim report of the NL Health Accord. It addresses issues related to recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

For more information contact: Joan Cranston; 709-458-8032; jcranston@nf.sympatico.ca

PHOTO BY DAVID W. ENSTROM.



PORT AU CHOIX

Edmund Alyward
CAPLIN NET MAKING
709 861-3149

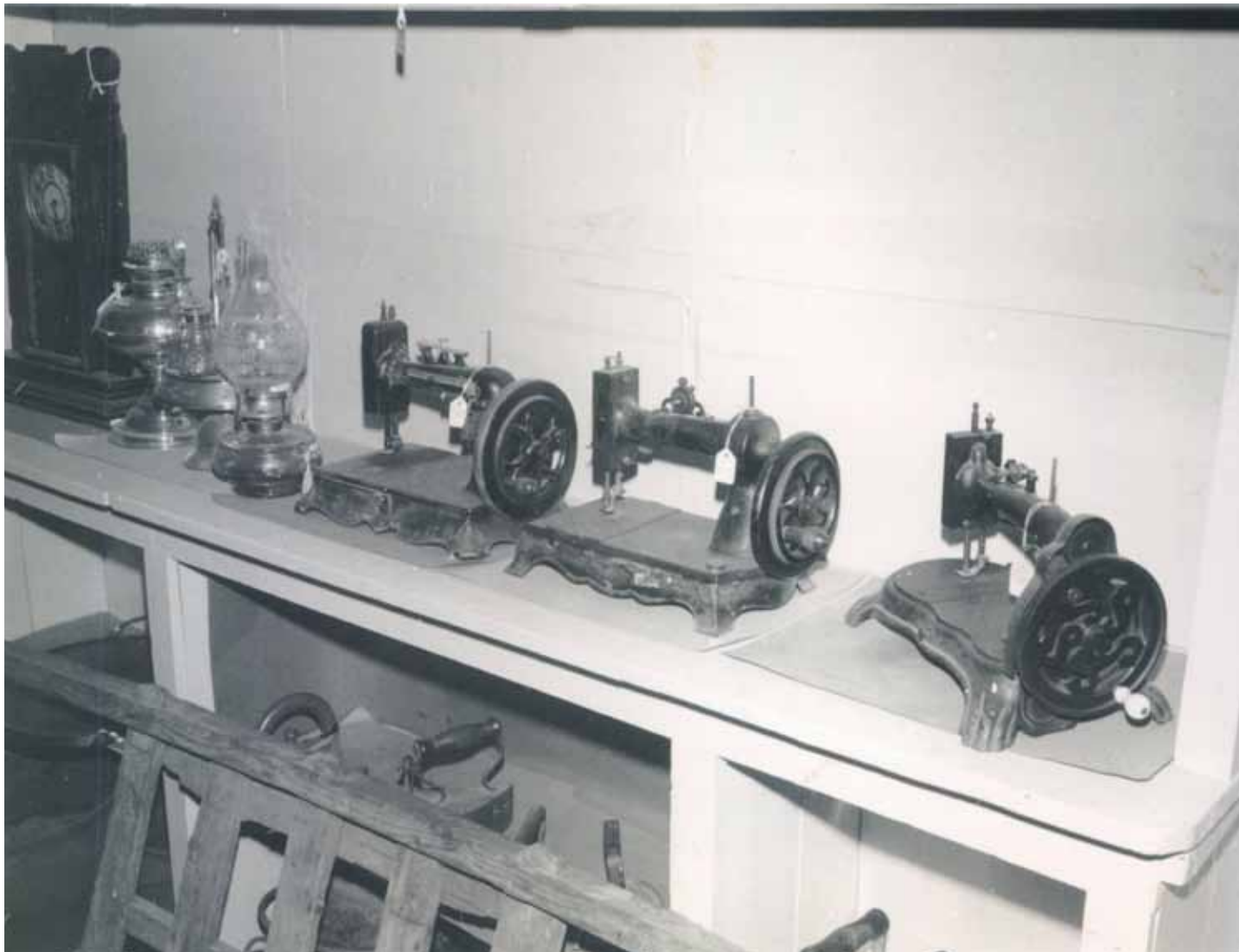
Edmund is 85 years old and resides in Port Au Choix. One day he realized he needed some new caplin nets, but didn't know how to make them. So he looked at the old ones his father had passed on to him. He traced the meshes and after working on one for awhile he knew how to make his own. He has been making caplin nets for 16 years now.



Philomena Gaslard
SEWING/QUILTING
709 861-7609

Philomena was born on October 17 1957. She works at the Family Resource Centre in Port Saunders. She says she picked up sewing and then quilting many years ago and hasn't stopped since. She also attends a sewing class every Tuesday night with other women in the area.

VINTAGE SEWING MACHINES, DECKS AWASH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION.



Angeline Kelly
SEWING/QUILTING/CROSS
STITCH/CROCHET/CRAFTS
709 660-5180

Angeline was born on July 11 1954. She picked up her many skills when she was still a young girl. She has been at them every since. She says she would love to have the chance to teach the younger generation to cross stitch.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE A. HARVEY/HERITAGE NL



Stella Mailman
SEWING
709 861-7010

Stella was born on November 15 1942. She was born in Port au Choix where she still resides today. She does sewing and crafts as a past time but what she loves to do most is travel and visit historical sites all over the world. Her and her husband visited the Canadian First and Second War Memorial sites in France before he passed three years ago. She also went door to door and interviewed all the seniors of Port au Choix and wrote a book about them and all of their experiences. Stella thrives in researching and learning about history of the world. It was wonderful to meet with her and listen to all of the experiences she has had throughout her life.

PORT AU CHOIX, 2018. PHOTO BY ADAVYD / CC BY-SA 4



Joyce Okeefe
SEWING/KNITTING
709 861-3029

Joyce was born on October 9 1945. She enjoys doing any craft she can, or learning new ones. Her favourite would be knitting wool gloves and socks.



Ben Ploughman
**WOODWORKING/
ARTS AND CRAFTS**

709 861-3280

Ben was born on October 14 1956. He enjoys wood-working to make unique artwork based around Newfoundland culture. He started his own business called Bens Studio in Port Au Choix to build and show off his skill. He has some of the most beautiful and unique wood artwork around.



Swansetta Rumbolt

RUG HOOKING/
QUILTING/KNITTING

709 215-9771

Swansetta was born on September 6 1976. 25 years ago she decided she wanted to make a quilt so she went out and bought all the supplies she needed. She said it never turned out the greatest being her first one, but she kept at it and soon became a self taught quilter. She also picked up knitting around the same time. Around 5 years ago she decided she wanted to start rug hooking, so she went and bought the supplies and soon became a self taught rug hooker as well. She says she enjoys all 3 of her crafts as a nice past time and hobby.



Susan White
**GARDENING/
SEWING/QUILTING**
709 861-7817

Susan was born February 18 1958. She enjoys sewing and quilting in her free time. She attends a sewing class every Tuesday with some of her friends in Port Au Choix. They also do crafts for special occasions in this group. Susan says she also enjoys getting out in the spring and summer time to do some gardening.



HAWKES BAY

Samuel Hoddinott

NET MAKING

709 861-7964

Samuel was born on September 15 1932. He was 11 years old when he first learned how to make nets. Samuel says back when he was growing up fishing and logging was the way of life. He was born in Brig Bay, and later moved to Hawkes Bay where he now resides.



Josie Penney
**SEWING/KNITTING/
CROCHET**
709 248-5149

Josie was born on September 22 1955. Her mother, Viola Payne taught her everything she knows at a young age. She can do it all, but her favourite past time would be quilt making.



Rennie Reid

FLY TYING

709 215-1335

Rennie was born on October 23 1957. He picked up tying salmon flies as a hobby many years ago and have not stopped since. Now today he makes thousands over the winter and sells them the stores for salmon fishing in the summer.





Heritage NL

ABOUT HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The mission of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador's Intangible Cultural Heritage Office is to safeguard and sustain the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador for present and future generations everywhere, as a vital part of the identities of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and as a valuable collection of unique knowledge and customs. This is achieved through initiatives that celebrate, record, disseminate, and promote our living heritage and help to build bridges between diverse cultural groups within and outside Newfoundland and Labrador.

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