

Heritage Update



Heritage NL

News and Notes on Heritage NL's Built Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Programs
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New Bilingual Plaque for St. George's Courthouse

On Sunday, June 4, 2023, Heritage NL and the St. George's Indian Band unveiled a new bilingual English and Mi'kmaq plaque for the St. George's Courthouse, now the K'Taqmkuk Mi'Kmaq Historical Museum and Indian Band council office. The plaque presentation took place during an open house for the K'Taqmkuk Mi'Kmaq Historical Museum.

"Heritage NL is pleased to announce a new heritage plaque for the St. George's

Courthouse, as it represents two themes that are not as strongly represented in the catalogue of Registered Heritage Structures: the West Coast of the island and our Indigenous heritage," says Dr. Lisa Daly, Chair of the Heritage NL board.

"Heritage NL has much work to do to better represent all people of our province, and being able to present the St. George's Courthouse with a plaque in both English and Mi'kmaq is a small step we can take to acknowledge and celebrate the Indigenous history and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador."

The St. George's Courthouse is a strong example of the Second Empire style courthouses constructed in the early 20th century by Public Works, and represents St. George's significance as an early population centre on the West Coast. Throughout the courthouse's 115 year history, it has been used as a community space as a polling station, for dances and public meetings, and now as the K'Taqmkuk Mi'Kmaq Historical Museum. Through the ongoing efforts of the St. George's Band Council, the courthouse is now a place for the protection and celebration of Mi'kmaq history and culture.

"We have been working to focus on underrepresented areas, with staff recently on the West Coast to assess currently registered structures and some that have the potential to be recognized," says Daly.



St. George's Courthouse

Built 1903-1904

Recognizable for its curved roof and central tower, this courthouse shares a similar design with several others built across the island during this period. It also served as a post office, meeting space, and as a spot for community dances. The building is now the Indian Band Council Office and K'taqmkuk Mi'Kmaq Historical Museum.

Kisitasiks 1903-1904

Weji nenmik ta'n teli upmik poqwatikn aqq miawe'k kini'skwik espitek, ula courthouse telik nkutey pukwelkl pilue'l kisitasiksipn kame'k minikuk net tele'kek. E'wasiksip wjit Post Office, EtI mawteskatultimk, aqq wjit i'tli-amalkaltimk. Nekmowey na nika' ewasik wjit L'nueyey Band Council Office aqq K'taqmkuk Mi'Kmaq Historical Museum.

The St. George's Courthouse is a designated Registered Heritage Structure by Heritage NL. Find more at www.heritagenl.ca

“Our recent Heritage Skills Training Program allowed us the opportunity to pair mentors and apprentices across the province, including numerous Indigenous participants who are passing on their traditional skills and intangible cultural heritage to the next generation.”

Memory Mug up in Centreville-Wareham-Trinity

By Terra Barrett

As part of the 2023 Winter Carnival in Centreville-Wareham-Trinity and Indian Bay, Heritage NL was asked to lead several hobby horse workshops in the school, and a Memory Mug Up afternoon at the Wareham church hall. There were over 50 participants who attended the session which included the grade six class from Centreville Academy. There were lots of stories and memories from the above communities as well as places like Fair Island, Paul's Island, Silver Fox Island, Sidney Cove, Round Harbour, and more.

The students asked several questions to the older community members including how they got to school, a description of their house and room growing up, and what clothes were popular when they were teenagers. The answer for the majority of the participants were bell bottom jeans! Just shows you, what goes out of style will always come back.



The question which turned up the most answers was about which games and hobbies were their favourites when they were children. This list included sliding, making snowballs and snowmen, and playing hockey. Ring games were noted such as ring around the rosie, london bridge is falling down, and king william was king george's son. Hide and seek, hopscotch, rounders, and catch were also mentioned. It was discussed how children would catch connors, tom cods, and sculpins from the wharf and copy ice pans.

One game mentioned that might not be as widely known was tiddly. Heritage NL has done some work documenting tiddly (also known as piddly) throughout the years. It is a simple game where the only equipment is two rocks or bricks, a short stick and a longer stick. The rules vary from community to community, but typically consist of hitting the short stick off of the rocks or bricks with the long stick. If the other team catches the short stick, you are out. If they don't catch it, you are awarded points based on the distance it travelled.

Outside of the questions from the students each participant had the chance to introduce themselves and tell at least one story during the two hour event. One gentleman who grew up on Fair Island told the story of a “road trip” from Fair Island to Trinity on skates over the frozen ocean. He and a friend left Fair Island on Saturday, and skated to Trinity to play hockey. They stayed overnight but when they woke up on Sunday

morning they found that children from Trinity had left and gone to Fair Island to play hockey. They quickly skated back to the island to play hockey that afternoon.

Following the memory portion the chairs were moved, and tables came out as the community brought out a spread of sandwiches, pies, cookies, squares, punch, tea and coffee. The stories continued to flow over the snack and we were told more about life on the resettled islands and how the communities of Centreville-Wareham-Trinity and Indian Bay developed.

If you are interested in hosting a Memory Mug Up in your community and don't know how to get started check out Heritage NL's [How to Guide](#)! All you really need are some interested community members and of course tea/coffee and treats. It wouldn't be a Mug Up without a lunch.

Digital Museums Canada Investment Announcement: The Early Lebanese Community in Newfoundland

Heritage NL's exhibition proposal for The Early Lebanese Community in Newfoundland receives funding as part of Digital Museums Canada's 2022 investments. Stay tuned as we create this digital exhibition over the next year.

The Lebanese community has a long history in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador that is not often commemorated. This virtual exhibit delves deeper into the story behind many well-known local businesses across the province, exploring how one group of immigrants built a unique sense of place while retaining cultural ties to its ancestral homeland.



Heritage NL has produced three online exhibitions funded by DMC:

2019 - [Remembering the Merchants of Main Street, Windsor](#)

2020 - [Carved by the Sea: Heritage Places of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland](#)

2022 - [Heritage Underground - A History of Root Cellars in Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

For more information including a press release from Digital Museums Canada check out our [blog post](#)!

A Herd of Lop Chops and Horsey Chops at Centreville Academy

By Andrea O'Brien

On February 22, 2023, Heritage NL hosted a hobby horse workshop at Centreville Academy as part of the Centreville-Wareham-Trinity & Indian Bay Winter Festival. Archival records show that similar Christmas season creatures were recorded roaming the roads of nearby Trinity, Bonavista Bay a few generations ago. Back then locals called them "lop chops" or "horsey chops."

Whatever the name, students created a whole herd of them (over 3 dozen!) with help from parents, teachers, and community volunteers - who had also rounded up all the needed materials in the weeks leading up to the workshop. That evening some of the students brought their creations to Indian Bay and took part in a mummers parade around the community. Much thanks to students, parents, school staff, and Centreville-Wareham-Trinity & Indian Bay Winter Festival volunteers for participating in and preparing for the workshop.



Maintenance Grants for 2023

All Registered Heritage Structures are eligible to apply for a Maintenance Grant once every three (3) years, dated from the last payment of a grant for that property.

Maintenance grants are awarded on a 50/50 cost-shared basis, to a maximum of \$3,000. There is no fixed deadline for the submission of a Maintenance Grant application.

Elements eligible for a Maintenance Grant include painting, minor repairs to clapboard, trim, windows and/or doors and minor work to chimneys and roofs.

For the 2023 building season, Heritage NL has already approved maintenance grants for: Alphaeus Barbour House and St. Luke's Anglican Church in Newtown, the Crowley Property in Ochre Pit Cove; St. Luke's Church in Old Bonaventure; and the Sexton-Wilansky property in Trinity, TB.



We are also pleased that a maintenance grant for window conservation has been awarded to the Howard House on 7 Garrison Hill, St. John's.

One of our Craft at Risk apprentices, Neil Hammond, will be working on the windows through his new company, Hammond Woodwork!

For more information on how Registered Heritage Structure owners can apply for this fund, visit <https://heritagenl.ca/restoration/grants>



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