

Heritage Update



News and Notes on Heritage NL's Built Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Programs
ISSN 2371-218X -- ich@heritagenl.ca -- Heritage NL

Heritage NL Recipient of Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Community Programming

The Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Community Programming recognizes innovative programs or initiatives that encourage public engagement in Canadian history. Heritage NL is receiving national recognition for its [Craft At Risk project](#) – an ambitious initiative to research, assess, and address the loss of traditional knowledge and craft in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Craft at Risk engaged more than 1,000 participants in fifty communities with the rich, cultural traditions of Newfoundland and Labrador. In total, the initiative has helped preserve more than twenty crafts, from bark tanning to komatik (sled) making to letterpress printing, revitalizing a wide range of traditions and skills. The award was presented by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, to Executive Director Dale Jarvis and Program Planner Tera Barrett at a special ceremony at Rideau Hall.



Telling Her Story - Updating Heritage NL Property Plaques

By Andrea O'Brien

Heritage NL is currently updating property plaques for some of our Registered Heritage Structures. As part of that process, we are reviewing the information contained in the original Statements of Significance for the properties. Some of these statements were written almost 20 years ago, and since that time, the access to archival sources has greatly improved. We are also making every attempt to make our listings more inclusive.

In the case of what had been called "Martin Greene House and Outbuildings" in Tilting (designated a Registered Heritage Structure in 2003), our review highlighted that the house had actually been built by Martin's father Lambert - with help from his sons. Lambert's wife Johanna wasn't mentioned, and as it was their family home, we felt it only proper to include Johanna in the title. Many of our properties were named after the men who built and lived in them, totally omitting the female side of the story. Therefore, the title of the designation has been changed to "Lambert and Johanna Greene House and Outbuildings."

The original statement for the property referenced that Lambert Greene had moved from Greene's Point to Mathias' Point, on the other side of the Tilting Harbour, following a storm in the 1920s. Reportedly, this storm had destroyed Lambert's fishing premises on Greene's Point. Lambert dismantled his house on Greene's Point, bought another owned by Tom Greene, and moved the pieces of his first house and the bought house to Mathias' Point. The family lived in the house that Lambert bought and moved while he built the new house. Large sections of the new Greene house were recycled from pieces of the older Greene house that had been on Greene's Point. His son Martin remembered the family living in the moved or "launched" house for a few years while the new house was being built.



Our dive into online archives resulted in many hits from the Evening Advocate, a newspaper published by the Fishermen's Protective Union. During the summer of 1923, many advertisements were placed in the paper by fishermen asking others to keep an eye out for lost fishing gear. A report in the Evening Telegram of June 25, 1923 entitled "Summer Solstice Brings Winter Weather" detailed a huge storm which raged from June 22 - 24, 1923 along the east and northeast coasts. Reports of property destruction were widespread. It is quite possible that this was the storm that destroyed Lambert Greene's fishing premises. It might also have been the impetus for the family literally uprooting their house and building a new one out of its pieces on the other side of the harbour. One hundred years later, the house is still owned and maintained by Lambert and Johanna's descendants. To read more about Lambert and Johanna's house, follow this link:

<https://heritagenl.ca/heritage-property/greene-house-and-outbuildings-registered-heritage-structure>.

Eastport Peninsula's Old Photo Sharing Sessions

By Sarah Mary Roberts

Last November, the staff at Heritage NL visited the Eastport Peninsula to host scanning parties in Salvage and Eastport, to document, preserve and share old photographs for the communities.



***A house being pulled into Salvage after being launched from the Islands.
Photo courtesy of Joyce Penney.***

Many community members came out to share images with us taken throughout the twentieth century of their families, friends, and other members of the community, along with the many places and buildings that played an important role in growing up on the Peninsula. The public events we held provided locals with the opportunity to meet with each other and share their own memories that were evoked by seeing each other's images.

We also had the opportunity to speak with locals who told us many of their fond memories growing up on the Peninsula, the fishery, family holiday traditions and stories, and even some stories of resettlement from the nearby Islands.

Opening Doors with Wooden Windows: Looking Back at Heritage NL's Skills Training and Mentor-Apprentice Program

By Terra M. Barrett

In 2021-2022 Heritage NL offered four workshops in different communities on wooden window restoration. Three of these workshops were requested and focused around restoration work by contractors while the last was an open two day workshop that ranged from the history of window making to epoxy consolidation of rotted wood. Wooden window making was also the focus of one of the thirty mentor-apprentice pairs. Neil Hammond worked with mentor Rex Passion and ended up creating his own business, Hammond's

Woodworking, as part of the apprenticeship. After six months, he began operating a full-scale business doing repair, restoration and replication of wood windows and doors along with new work.

The pair also took on an additional apprentice who trained in the craft of window repair, and restoration, who has since been hired by a local company to do window restoration work. Neil notes,

I have accomplished more than originally expected. The original plan was to learn more about restoration of wooden windows and some of the historical aspects and different styles of windows, and to gain some knowledge into the running of a window making operation.

During the program I have modified my woodworking shop to allow efficient repair, restoration, and fabrication of new replica wooden windows. I have also completed two significant projects; restoration of 5 windows for Kent Cottage and restoration of all 22 windows in the Conception Bay Museum in Harbor Grace. My plans are to continue with my newly formed full time window making/restoration and door making business.

In a [2018 report](#) by Ontario Heritage Trust it was noted that, “[r]estoring these window systems can achieve similar energy savings to modern window replacements with a much shorter payback period and much less waste.”

Restoring wooden windows as opposed to replacing them with new materials is not only good economics but is better for the environment. The same restoration report stated that “[i]f windows are properly cared for it is unlikely that they will need to be replaced. In terms of maintenance, historic wood windows still need to be painted and puttied and while this approach is more labour intensive, it is more cost effective than window replacement when considering a life-cycle approach.”





Storyboard Unveiling at the Bowring Park Cantilever Bridge

By Juliet Lanphear

On November 9th, Heritage NL and our board chair, Dr. Lisa Daly, attended a ribbon cutting and storyboard unveiling at the Bowring Park Cantilever Bridge. During the summer of 2023, the City of St. John's completed some bridge restorations, including concrete rehabilitation, graffiti removal, replacing the handrailing, waterproofing and paving the bridge deck.

In 1958, the City of St. John's commissioned the Montreal architect firm van Ginkel Associates to develop a plan to expand Bowring Park from 20 to over 80 hectares. Sandy van Ginkel, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, and engineer Ove Arup designed and constructed the cantilever bridge and other projects in Bowring Park. The van Ginkels were later involved with the heritage rehabilitation of Old Montreal, while Ove Arup helped design the iconic Sydney Opera House in Australia. A storyboard about the history of the Cantilever Bridge was also unveiled, describing the story of Sandy van Ginkel, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, and Ove Arup.

The Bowring Park Cantilever Bridge was designated a Registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage NL in 2020.



Heritage Update – [Subscribe here!](#)

Editor: Dale Jarvis, Executive Director, Heritage NL
PO Box 5171, St. John's, NL Canada A1C 5V5 dale@heritagenl.ca