

# Heritage Update



Heritage NL

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

## Young Professionals Seeking to Grow NL's Heritage Sector

Young people in Newfoundland and Labrador are seeking greater professional-level employment opportunities in the heritage and cultural industries, according to a newly-released [report](#).

The study, co-authored by Heritage NL, the Association of NL Archives, and the Museum Association of NL, is based on a series of surveys, a youth-centred forum held in March of 2025, and suggestions from the province's new Youth Heritage Committee.

"Emerging professionals are seeking year-round opportunities outside the summer and longer contracts," says Dr. Lisa Daly, Chair of Heritage NL. "This is particularly true for people over 30, and others ineligible under current summer funding programs."

The province's community museum and archives sector has historically been volunteer run, with limited opportunities for long term employment.

"68% of employers in the heritage and culture sector in Newfoundland and Labrador list lack of funding as a major barrier to hiring emerging professionals," adds Daly.

In addition to a call for increased funding, the report makes a series of recommendations to help build a professional heritage sector, broken down into action items for funding agencies, employers, and fellow heritage organizations. These include suggestions like building specialized training and job shadowing into paid positions, fostering mentorships, and creating more professional networking opportunities for young workers.

The full report can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/YouthHeritageReport>



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## Throwback Thursday

By Victoria Ryan-Whiffen



This summer Heritage NL has introduced a new social media series, Throwback Thursday, which showcases historic photos of different Registered Heritage Structures across the province. Previous posts from the season include the Fishermen's Protective Union Retail Store in Port Union and Drake House in Arnold's Cove, amongst others.

If you have an interest in historic photos, buildings, or just enjoy learning about the province and its communities you can check out our past and upcoming posts on Instagram, LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Google. (Port Union, 1935.)

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## Save the Date - *Unheard Voices: Diversifying Heritage*

By Victoria Mathews

The second joint conference between MANL, ANLA, and Heritage NL is right around the corner! This year's conference, *Unheard Voices: Diversifying Heritage*, focuses on those who have been overlooked in the past and discusses what organizations and individuals can do to uplift communities so that everyone feels seen in the history we share.

We will be hosting a variety of presentations, panel discussions, and programs, as well as our annual awards presentations, members' evening, and social events. Building on the success of last year's peer share panel, we will bring it back so that organizations and individuals can share their exciting new projects and successes. There will also be pre-conference workshops on a variety of topics.

For more information check out the new conference website at [Unheard Voices: Diversifying Heritage – Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador](#) or reach out to Victoria Mathews, Heritage NL's conference intern, at [Victoria@heritagenl.ca](mailto:Victoria@heritagenl.ca).

**Save the date for October 17th-18th at The Rooms!**

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## Report on the Benefits of Wooden Window Conservation & Restoration

**By Tayler Janes and Emma Gautier**

As part of our mission to preserve heritage and culture in Newfoundland, Heritage NL is working to conserve heritage wooden windows. In order to help people get the information they need, we have been doing extensive research on the benefits of heritage window conservation. We are compiling all of this research into a full report, which will soon be available to the public!

One of the selling points on wooden window conservation is the environmental benefits. Vinyl windows are the most common replacement units for wooden windows due to their accessibility. However, PVC, the type of vinyl used for these replacement units, has terrible impacts on the environment. Not only does it release toxic byproducts during synthesis and disposal, but also degrades into microplastics which sink to the ocean floor.



Some of the concerns with wooden heritage-style windows are the ideas that they waste heat due to thermal inefficiency, and that they are more expensive. However, our results showed us that a well-maintained traditional wooden window can be just as energy and financially-efficient– or even moreso –than the PVC alternative. Additionally, they last much longer– while a good vinyl window might last 25-35 years, a traditional wooden window can last indefinitely, as long as it is maintained. According to numerous studies, wooden windows use significantly less embodied energy than those made of PVC, because more energy goes into the synthesis of materials, production, and disposal of vinyl windows.

Beyond environmental and economic benefits, wooden windows also have positive social, communal and cultural effects. By choosing to preserve heritage windows and continue this traditional practice, people preserve cultural traditions in a new context, leaving future generations with more knowledge about their heritage. These practices also create opportunities to build community through communal work and shared memory; heritage spaces can become points of growth in a community. These positive social impacts feed into the larger benefits of wooden windows as well; by preserving wooden windows, you not only connect with your heritage, but you also become more aware of positive environmental practices and more.

This research works as part of our mission to preserve heritage in Newfoundland. By keeping ourselves and the public informed about heritage window conservation, we preserve the physical heritage of these windows in order to conserve the wonderful and diverse culture of Newfoundland. If you're interested, keep an eye out for our full report, coming soon!



## Addressing Challenges: Insurance and Older Buildings in Atlantic Canada

Free webinar with Eddy Zhakata,  
Insurance Bureau of Canada

Webinar Date: Monday, November 17th, 7pm NLT

Heritage property owners in Atlantic Canada are struggling with increasing insurance rates and coverage cancellations.

Join us for a discussion on the issues and a presentation from Eddy Zhakata, Consumer and Industry Relations Manager for Atlantic Canada with the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), the national industry association representing Canada's private home, auto, and business insurers. [Webinar](#) topics will include:

- About IBC
- Property Insurance 101
- What Makes Heritage Properties Different
- Strategies to Enhance Coverage and Compare Premiums
- Making a Claim – Cost Factors & What to Expect
- IBC Resources

Hosted by Heritage NL, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, Association Heritage New Brunswick, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust.

Register for free at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xSLiN\\_XLQYiruqKI9qET1q](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xSLiN_XLQYiruqKI9qET1q)

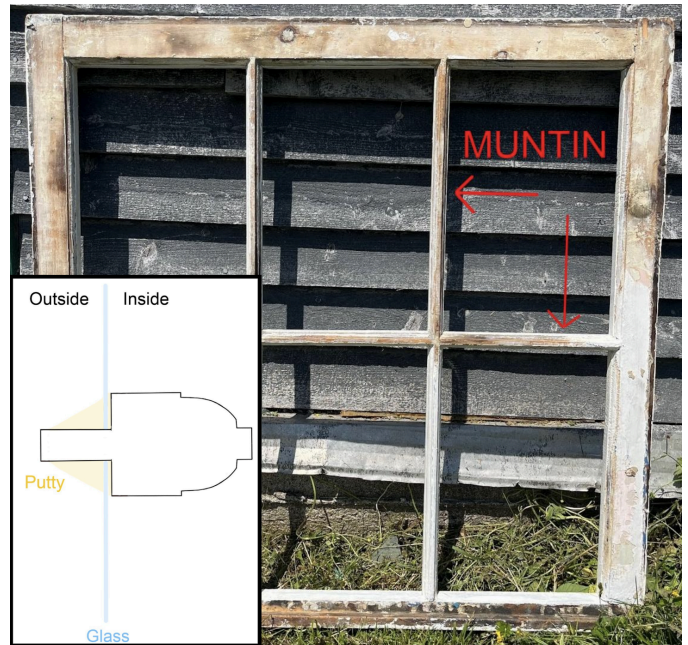
## We're measuring muntins!

By *Tienne Johnson*

Not long ago, muntin bars were in every window, a key feature that was both stylistic and functional, but today they have been removed to accommodate larger, single panes of glass.

So, what are muntin bars? The muntin is the thin bar in traditional wooden windows that hold glass in place. Glass sits against the wooden bar and is secured with putty that hardens to protect against the elements.

The muntin bar comes in many shapes and sizes, typically thicker on older windows, and thinner on newer ones. This is because as woodworking technology advanced, it was possible to make smaller and smaller bars, allowing for more light through a window.



To understand how much these bars differ in historic windows, we are creating an inventory of traditional wooden windows from the Avalon Peninsula.

We're looking to visit properties with windows from before 1900 to expand our current data set, so if you own a property with windows that:

- (1) have muntin bars
- (2) is datable within a decade
- (3) was built before 1900

Contact Tienne at Heritage NL either by email at [tienne@heritagenl.ca](mailto:tienne@heritagenl.ca) or by calling (709) 739-1892 (ex. 5).

If you're interested in learning more about historic wooden windows, check out this [short history!](#)



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