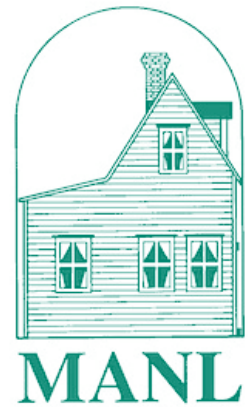




*featured museum:*

## Torngâsok Cultural Centre

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 8 & 9!



Summer  
2014

Vol.33, No.2

# NEWSLETTER

*A Publication of the Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador*



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Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm  
(closed on provincial government holidays)

The deadline for article submissions is one month prior  
to the publication:

March 1st for No. 1 (April), June 1st for No. 2 (July), September 1st for  
No. 3 (October), December 1st for No. 4 (January).

The Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (MANL) is a nonprofit, charitable organization that seeks to promote the interests of community-based museums, groups, individuals and government organizations involved in the preservation and presentation of the province's cultural and natural heritage.

MANL gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Department of Canadian Heritage, Museums Assistance Program.

Registered Charity Number. 10775 6199 RR0001

## President's Report

As we languish in the blistering temperatures and beautiful summer days, I trust that your visitor stats have risen with the same fervour as the thermometer. This is the time of year when your story takes on a life of its own as you delight people, from all over the world, in a way that only we Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can. We are certainly on our game when it comes to sharing our history and culture! We provide the "Wow" effect!

Our board and staff continue the work of MANL, on your behalf, with dedication and commitment. We are currently preparing for our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Meeting which will be held on October 17&18'14. The location has been changed to St. John's and the venue is the Ramada. During this annual event organizations and individuals are honoured for the work they do to preserve, protect and present our rich tangible and intangible culture and heritage. I would like to encourage the membership to consider submitting a site or individual for the Award of Merit. The **Award of Merit** recognizes an organization, agency or individual who has made significant contributions to the practice of museum and heritage work in Newfoundland and Labrador. Another award that is presented during our conference is **Honorary Life Membership**. The Life Membership recognizes any outstanding contribution to the heritage preservation in the province by an individual. Our final award, **Heritage Champion** is brand new. The designation of Heritage Champion is intended to recognize an individual, group, or organization, who, in the opinion of the nominating museum organization, has demonstrated an exceptional level of support to that museum. The deadline for these nominations is Friday, September 12'14. You will find further information, criteria and nomination forms on our website, [www.manl.nf.ca](http://www.manl.nf.ca).

I have been serving MANL in the capacity of President since 2010. As this will be the final message of my tenure, I wish to sincerely thank the membership for the honour of serving you. Also, thank you to the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and staff of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation for allowing me to work closely with you as we strive to assist the membership in the vital role they play to protect our precious culture and heritage. I want to genuinely thank the volunteer board members who have worked hand and hand with me to support the tremendous efforts being made throughout the province. I would like to extend a thank you to our sister organizations for the good relationship that I have enjoyed with you. Last but by no means least, a **BIG THANK YOU** to the staff at MANL, past and present. These dedicated employees work hard behind the scenes and in their travels throughout the province. The membership is their raison d'être and their commitment to you has been an inspiration to me.

Respectfully,  
Teresita E. McCarthy (Teddy)

## Executive Director's Report

Summer is here and the tourism season is in full swing! I hope that the abundance of sun as well as a bumper crop of ice bergs have helped increase visitors to all regions. Each community has its story to tell and it's thanks to volunteer boards and committees that make these stories come alive. A sincere thanks for all you do.

Communications is key to our association and we have strived to offer as many ways to connect with you and to connect you to each other. One of our key ways to connect has changed recently. Since its inception the MANL Listserv provided in partnership with the Canadian Heritage Information Network has been a valuable tool enabling us to communicate with our members. We send information on our training programs, membership activities, funding opportunities and other important news. Over the past several months the federal government's new anti-spam legislation came into effect. MANL sent several messages over our listserv asking for your consent to continue sending emails. If we did not hear from you we removed your contact information in accordance to the new legislation from our email service. If you would like to reinstate your connection to the emails please contact the office and we will add you.

The Association has partnered with the Department of Tourism Culture and Recreation (TCR) to raise minimum standards in our museum community. We hope to offer a series of workshops designed to help organizations develop standards and meet the requirements set forward by the department. If you require assistance meeting these standards please contact the MANL office and we will do our best to help you. Remember that museums and heritage organizations who do not meet these standards will not receive funding under the Cultural Economic Development Program (CEDP) in the future.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual conference in October. We have a great program prepared on climate change, an important topic in Newfoundland and Labrador. Be sure to keep connected for details on our conference program. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Regards,  
Ken Flynn

## Professional Development Report

The staff of MANL is busy planning for our annual Conference and AGM which will be happening this October in St. John's. This year we are exploring the theme of "Climate Change and Museums." In recent years, MANL has had an increasing number of calls from the membership with issues that are likely related to our changing climate. Several members have asked for help dealing with new mold and pest issues that have arisen in their collection and within their building structure. The changing coastline of Newfoundland and Labrador is affecting archaeological sites and heritage structures located near the shore. As a result of these issues, we hope to explore the topic of climate change and how it is affecting cultural heritage in our province. During this event we also want to discuss how the heritage community can work together to try and reduce their carbon footprint in order to help slow the phenomenon of climate change.

Another professional development event that we are excited to offer is our pre-conference workshop leading up to the AGM. MANL is pleased to offer a 2-day workshop from the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) entitled: "Environmental Guidelines." This workshop is being taught by Jean Tétreault. This workshop is an introduction to the strategic preservation of a collection against agents of deterioration, especially those environmental ones, such as light, relative humidity and atmospheric pollutants. Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to: understand preservation principles; understand the effects of relative humidity, temperature, light and pollutants on objects; quantify the degree of preservation of objects in a given environment; and implement a preservation strategy based on an analysis of priorities, costs and benefits. This workshop will be very useful for groups who are working on establishing or maintaining safe environmental conditions for their collections. Spaces are filling up very quickly so be sure to register soon.

The events surrounding MANL's upcoming AGM and conference are going to be very beneficial and informative for members of the heritage community in our province. If you would like to participate or volunteer your time during the AGM please contact our office. I hope to see you there!

Kind Regards,  
Danielle Rundquist





### A Walk Through Time

In recent summers, something has been descending like flies on the Big Land. And no, that buzzing noise isn't our infamous mosquitoes! When the weather warms up, Happy Valley-Goose Bay has been attracting more and more road-trippers and RVers as the Trans-Labrador Highway becomes more developed and amenable to tourists.

North West River, with its museums, walking trails and sandy beach, has always been a popular destination for these adventurous sight-seers, but Happy Valley-Goose Bay has little in the way of quick and easy activities for visitors, especially for those who are just passing through on a larger tour of Labrador. That's where **Them Days**, a local magazine-and-archives, has decided to fill in the gap. Generally, visitors come to the office to learn more about the region, but oftentimes, they're looking for something more hands-on, something that they can *do* instead of just read about. So starting this summer, Them Days will be offering **scheduled walking tours** from their location at 3 Courte Manche Street. The tours will include a walk in the original downtown district along the banks of the Churchill River, and a visit to Birch Island, a relocated community once connected by a footbridge to Happy Valley. Along the way, the tour group will meet local storytellers who will treat the visitors to stories of days gone by.

The tours, coupled with back issues of *Them Days* relating to the sights along the route, will go a long way in educating visitors about the history of Happy Valley and Goose Bay, while hopefully making a visit to central Labrador a more enriching and enjoyable experience—as long as the bug spray is handy, of course!

For the **Gros Morne Fall Festival & Craft Fair** the Cow Head Conservation and Heritage Committee Inc and our partners wanted our annual craft fair to become a festival that would not only showcase our Heritage Committee, our Museum, and local craft but also to become an economic generator extending our tourism to the shoulder season, supporting community development and forging partnerships.

Denise Dolliver organized the Lumberjack Craft at the Long Range Academy. This went amazingly well with 60 participants and teachers. A few visitors showed up as well to learn how to make cushion tops the way they were made in the Lumber woods in days gone by.

We were astounded at the numbers at each event. A quilting exhibit by Nancy Pinsent and friends from Port Saunders with help from Denise White from Innovation, Business and Rural Development left folks with opened jaw as they entered the Town building to find it had been transformed into a masterpiece of quilts, wall hangings, vintage sewing machines and ironing boards. An amazing display to say the least. They expected between 20-30 people. 84 viewed the exhibit.

It was incredible that the Moose Tufting and Basket Weaving Workshops created so much interest to visitors. The moose tufting saw about 70 people passing through just to "see how it was done."

Over four days we saw over 1800 people participate and visit our Fall Fest. I do believe we can call it a success. We could not have accomplished this without our amazing partners and the Shallow Bay Motel and Staff. We look forward to Fall Fest again in 2014. Plan to attend our event October 2-5. See you there!



Sad news from **Central Region**. The **Exploits Valley Heritage Council** is in the process of dissolving and will be no more by **May 31 2014**. It has been a very difficult year as we searched for ways to keep this regional group going. When you look back over the years at our achievements it seems such a shame it has come to this.

For years we were under the umbrella of the Exploits Valley Economic Development Association and through various funding programs for co-ordinators we brought some good initiatives to promote the area. The Heritage Passport that gave each member of the group a page to highlight their site and the visitor a list of sites in the region where they could get their passport stamped and enter to win a prize. Then a FAM Tour set up to take the staff and students in the area around to all the sites so they can promote each site and community with the knowledge gained on the tour. The main thing we have done is meet together giving each other support as we work hard to keep our local volunteer groups going and offer the visitors to the area a view of how diverse our history is, from the Aviation history of Botwood and Norris Arm, the Beothuk along the Exploits and the lumber camps in the interior.

We feel the only way for this group to stay alive is with core funding for a co-ordinator, this has proven impossible to achieve. The Heritage Division of Tourism, Culture and Recreation offered a number of suggestions and some funding but this did not prove feasible for us in this area. We looked at each site paying a share of the cost, Municipalities sharing the cost or fundraising. These are not possible as many of our members are from small rural communities who are volunteering many hours to keep the doors open to their own museums.

Municipalities are assisting their own Heritage groups and we thank them for that, we cannot go looking for more.

Unless there is a miracle before the end of the month this is a sad goodbye from all of us at Exploits Heritage Council. Thank you to everyone who has shown us support over the years.



## Trinity Historical Society Events 2014

### **Trinity Historical Society Auction & Garden Party - Friday, August 15 @ 3 pm**

Come along to our 14th Annual Auction and Garden Party which will be held at the Trinity Museum Garden on Friday, August 15 starting at 3 pm.

A selection of antiques, accommodation and restaurant packages, books, furniture, handcrafted items from the Cooperage and Green Family Forge, hooked mats from the Trinity Museum Hookers and much, much more.

Should anyone have anything that they would like to donate to the Auction please contact Jim Miller at in-fo@trinityhistoricalsociety.com or (709) 464-3599 or (709) 464-2582 to make arrangements for possible pick-up.

### **Boat Building Workshops with Glen Vokey in Trinity**

Join Glen every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Court House Boat Shed as he unravels the mysteries of traditional Newfoundland boatbuilding. Each three hour session focuses on one phase of construction. 1) setting up the backbone 2) defining the shape with moulds and battens 3) fashioning the timbers or frames and finally 4) planking. Sessions are \$25.00 each per person.

Email - [ttci@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:ttci@nf.sympatico.ca) or call us at 709-464-3599

### ***Celebrating 50 Years of Golden History in 2014 - Embrace and Experience the Past***



Eastern Region



Avalon Region

A group of volunteers organized by the **Heritage New Perlican** committee and St. Augustine's Church Vestry worked on the oldest "known" Anglian cemetery called St. Mark's on Scott's Hill, New Perlican. They came with their whipper snippers, chain saws and rakes to clean up and then search for headstones, which have been grown over for many years. Unfortunately this has happened to the cemetery due to the lack of funds and a declining Anglican congregation. It was a surprising day for all 12 people who showed up as we uncovered 14 headstones. This cemetery was designated a Municipal Heritage site in July, 2013 by the Heritage Committee and the town in agreement with St. Augustine's Church Vestry. Heritage New Perlican plans to erect a Post/Chain fence around 2 or 3 sides of the cemetery once the headstone project is finished and eventually when funds allow, they will erect a sign there with the name of those buried there.

The group of volunteers were Lorraine LaFitte, Felix St. George, David MacDonald, Ruth Walker, Lorraine and Max Warren, Paul Stockham, Melanie & Randy Tucker, Sheila Piercey, Gail Snook and Eileen Matthews. We were fortunate to have Lisa Wilson with us from Heritage Foundation N & L and Melanie Tucker who works with The Rooms and has a summer place here and her roots are based in this community. Lisa Wilson is heavily involved with this type of work with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and had been out on a previous occasion giving us advice on how to handle the old headstones in that cemetery.

The group went back in the fall and continued clean up and hopes to start again this spring.

A well-attended gathering was held at All Saints Anglican Church in Pouch Cove on Sunday, May 4th to celebrate the publication of a new book published by the **Pouch Cove Heritage Committee**. The 186-page, spiral bound book was assembled by a local team composed of three livyers and three recent arrivals who collaborated to research, write, assemble and edit the book.

They collected more than 700 photographs and documents, of which 230 were included in the richly illustrated book. More than 50,000 words of text were also written, telling about all aspects of the history of the communities of Pouch Cove, Shoe Cove and Biscayan Cove.

At the launch, MP Jack Harris, MHA Kevin Parsons, Dr. Edgar Williams, Pouch Cove Mayor Joedy Wall and Lucy Alway, representing the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Culture (which funded the project), spoke of the importance of this publication for those who have lived in the town for many years, as well as for young people in the town and those who recently moved here. The significance for people living in other parts of Canada, the United States and elsewhere was also mentioned. They all agreed that the book is a major accomplishment for local heritage preservation.

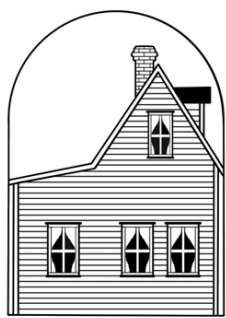
Copies of the book have been selling well; the first printing of 400 books was gone in about three weeks, and another run has just been printed. The book is expected to collect growing interest as more people hear about it. Proceeds will fund future activities of the Pouch Cove Heritage Committee. Anyone interested in the book can find details and a link to an order form. at:

[www.pouchcoveheritage.org](http://www.pouchcoveheritage.org).



St. John's & Area Region

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MANL

OCTOBER 16-18

save the date

MANL AGM &  
CONFERENCE

The Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador is excited to announce that our Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held from **October 16-October 18, 2014 at the RAMADA HOTEL, ST. JOHN'S**, Newfoundland and Labrador. This year's theme for the conference is "Climate Change and Museums" featuring guest speaker Barry Lord. At the Annual Conference we will discuss the implications of a changing climate and appropriate approaches to ensure the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

MANL's conference brings together museum professionals, volunteers, staff, students, and supporters with diverse backgrounds and interests from across Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Canada. The conference provides a comfortable environment for delegates to meet, share, and express ideas and topics of concern with one another.

Be sure to register early for the AGM in order to avail of the training that most interests you - spaces will fill up fast!

#### Accommodations

For our members that will be attending our AGM & Conference from afar, we have block-booked rooms at the Ramada Hotel, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. If you require a room please contact the hotel and request a blocked room under "Museum Assoc on NL."

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(709) 722-9330  
<http://www.ramadastjohns.com/>  
Room rate: \$129.00

\*Participants are responsible for the payment of their accommodations.

#### Awards Nominations

We are looking for nominations of individuals or institutions that deserve recognition for their contributions in the heritage field.

**Award of Merit:** The Award of Merit recognizes significant contributions to the practice of museum and heritage work in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is awarded to an organization, agency, or individual for an outstanding, innovative or creative achievement in the museum, gallery or heritage field, or in any area related to the preservation and development of the provinces cultural heritage, including research, collection, documentation, exhibition, public programming and management.

**Honorary Life Membership:** The Life Membership recognizes any outstanding contribution in heritage by an individual who has exemplified dedication to and promotion of museums in the province.

To make a nomination please call the MANL office for an application form. The deadline for submission is Friday, September 12th, 2014.



# World-Renowned Museum Planner Coming to Province



Association of Heritage Industries and Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador are excited to announce that Barry Lord will be a guest speaker at this years AGM & Conference on "Climate Change and Museums."

Barry Lord, author of *Art & Energy*, is Co-President (with his wife, Gail) of Lord Cultural Resources, which has become the world's leading firm specialized in cultural planning and management. After graduation from the Canadian McMaster University and graduate work in philosophy at Harvard, he took the National Gallery of Canada Museum Training Program and began his museum career there and at the Vancouver Art Gallery and the New Brunswick Museum. Initially best known as the editor of *Canadian Art* who transformed the magazine into *artscanada* in 1967, he wrote *Toward a People's Art: The History of Painting in Canada* (NC Press, 1974). Following five years at the Museum Assistance Programs of the National Museums of Canada, he and Gail established Lord Cultural Resources in 1981. The company has subsequently

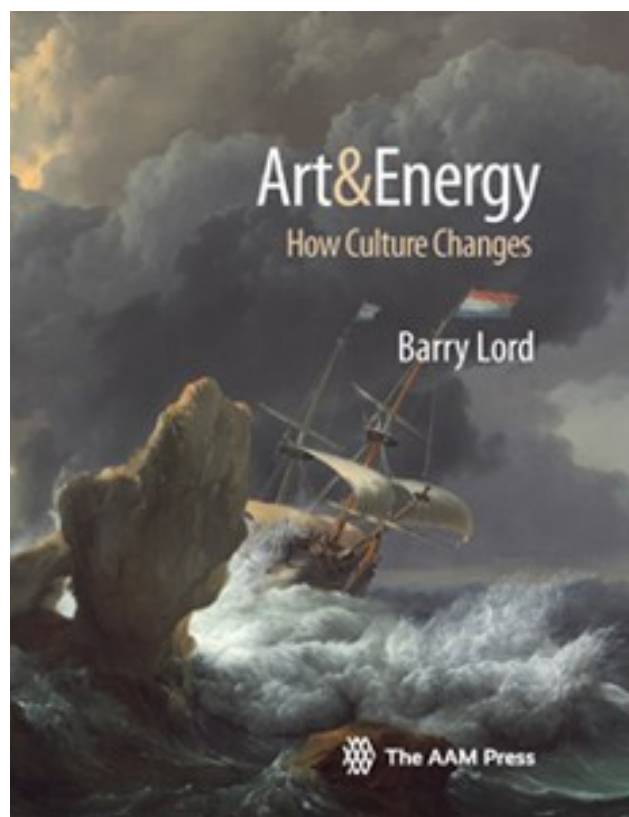
completed over 2,000 museum planning, design or management assignments in 53 countries around the world, and currently has offices in New York, Paris, Mumbai and Beijing as well as Toronto.

Barry and Gail have written or edited five books in their Manuals series, published by AltaMira Press, and are co-authors of *Artists, Patrons and the Public: Why Culture Changes* (AltaMira, 2010). *Art & Energy* takes Barry's study of cultural change farther, showing how "energy transition is an engine of cultural change". Beginning with the mastery of fire and continuing through to renewable energy, it shows how each source of energy brings certain cultural values with it that artists take up initially as controversial 'cutting edge' ideas but which become universally accepted as the energy source becomes dominant: so for instance the culture of stewardship associated with renewable energy is currently cutting edge, even though the culture of consumption that came to us with oil and natural gas remains the mostly unconsciously accepted culture that engulfs us. *Art & Energy*, published by The AAM (American Alliance of Museums) Press in April, 2014, is distributed internationally by the University of Chicago Press.

## Art & Energy

In *Art & Energy*, Barry Lord argues that human creativity is deeply linked to the resources available on earth for our survival. From our ancient mastery of fire through our exploitation of coal, oil, and gas, to the development of today's renewable energy sources, each new source of energy fundamentally transforms our art and culture—how we interact with the world, organize our communities, communicate, and conceive of and assign value to art. By analyzing art, artists, and museums across eras and continents, Lord demonstrates how our cultural values and artistic expression are formed by our efforts to access and control the energy sources that make these cultures possible. Ultimately, *Art & Energy* reveals how, in Lord's words, "energy transition is a powerful engine of cultural change."

Barry's illustrated lecture links the science and technology of energy to the arts, and shows how the "energy debate" is really a conflict of cultures.



# FEATURED MUSEUM: Torngâsok Cultural Centre



The history of the Torngâsok Cultural Centre (TCC) goes back nearly 40 years and is interwoven with the story of the Labrador Inuit Association. The signing of *the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* in 2005 defined a land claims area now known as “Nunatsiavut”, which means “Our Beautiful Land”, and resulted in self-government for the Inuit of Labrador. Today the TCC is the cultural branch of the Nunatsiavut Government.

The goals of the TCC always related to culture and language and originally included the development of a regional museum to house collections and to tell the Inuit story in the context of northern Labrador. The TCC’s current mandate to “Preserve, Protect and Promote Inuit Language and Culture” remains true to its roots.

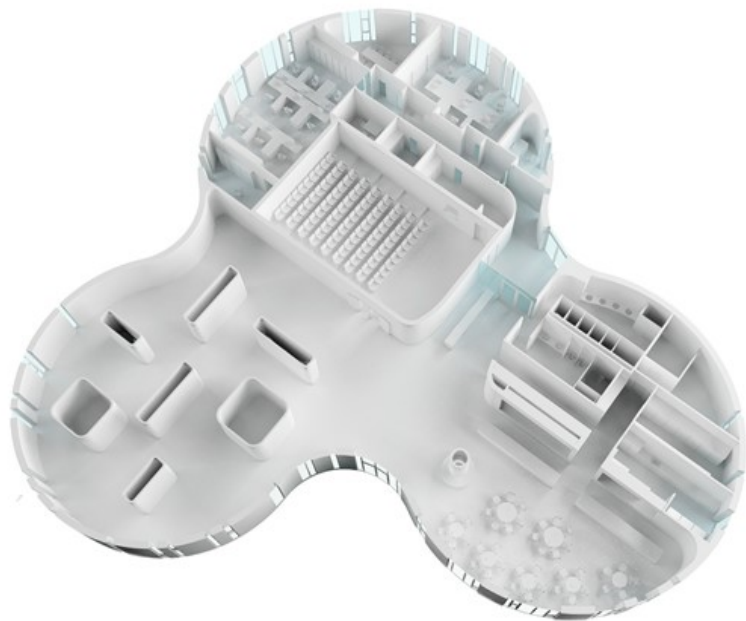
Although the long term Inuit dream of dedicated museum space has not yet been realized, it is now closer than ever to a reality. The TCC currently operates out of a wing of the Nunatsiavut Government main administration building in Nain, but detailed plans for a physical building called *Illusuak*, which means ‘sod house’, are well under way. The structure was designed by renowned architect Todd Saunders and it is based on the traditional Inuit sod house (Figure 1). The building will include space for permanent and travelling exhibits, a theatre, a café, as well as some office space. Ground work began in 2012, and is set to continue during the 2014 construction season. Plans are being developed for place to house materials which the Nunatsiavut Government is responsible for. Exhibit development is now underway with the following themes: *Faces of Nunatsiavut*, *Living with the Land*, *Roots and Identity*, and *Living Through Change*. The building is expected to be completed by the fall of 2016.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING AT YOUR MUSEUM?

Contact MANL with the details of your upcoming events!  
Call (709) 722-9034 or E-mail: [manl@nf.aibn.com](mailto:manl@nf.aibn.com)




Continued...



Over the years a great deal of archaeological and ethnographic material has been taken away from northern Labrador. One of the ideas behind having a museum in what is now Nunatsiavut was to stop this from happening, and to see some of the material that was removed brought back so that people here can learn from it. As a result of the lands claims agreement the Nunatsiavut Government now has title to archaeological material that is found in Labrador Inuit Lands after the effective date of the Agreement, which is quite significant. It also has the power to make laws relating to “the protection, retention, preservation and maintenance of Archaeological materials found in Labrador Inuit Lands and the Inuit Communities” (Section 15.3.1 c), and “the retention, preservation and maintenance of Inuit Cultural Materials in Labrador Inuit Lands and the Inuit Communities” (15.3.3 c i). The Agreement therefore

gives Labrador Inuit control over historic resources that will be kept and displayed in a museum context. Some of this material will be used in the permanent and temporary exhibits in the new cultural centre (Figure 2).



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Newfoundland  
& Labrador

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**For more information contact our  
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# 50 Years

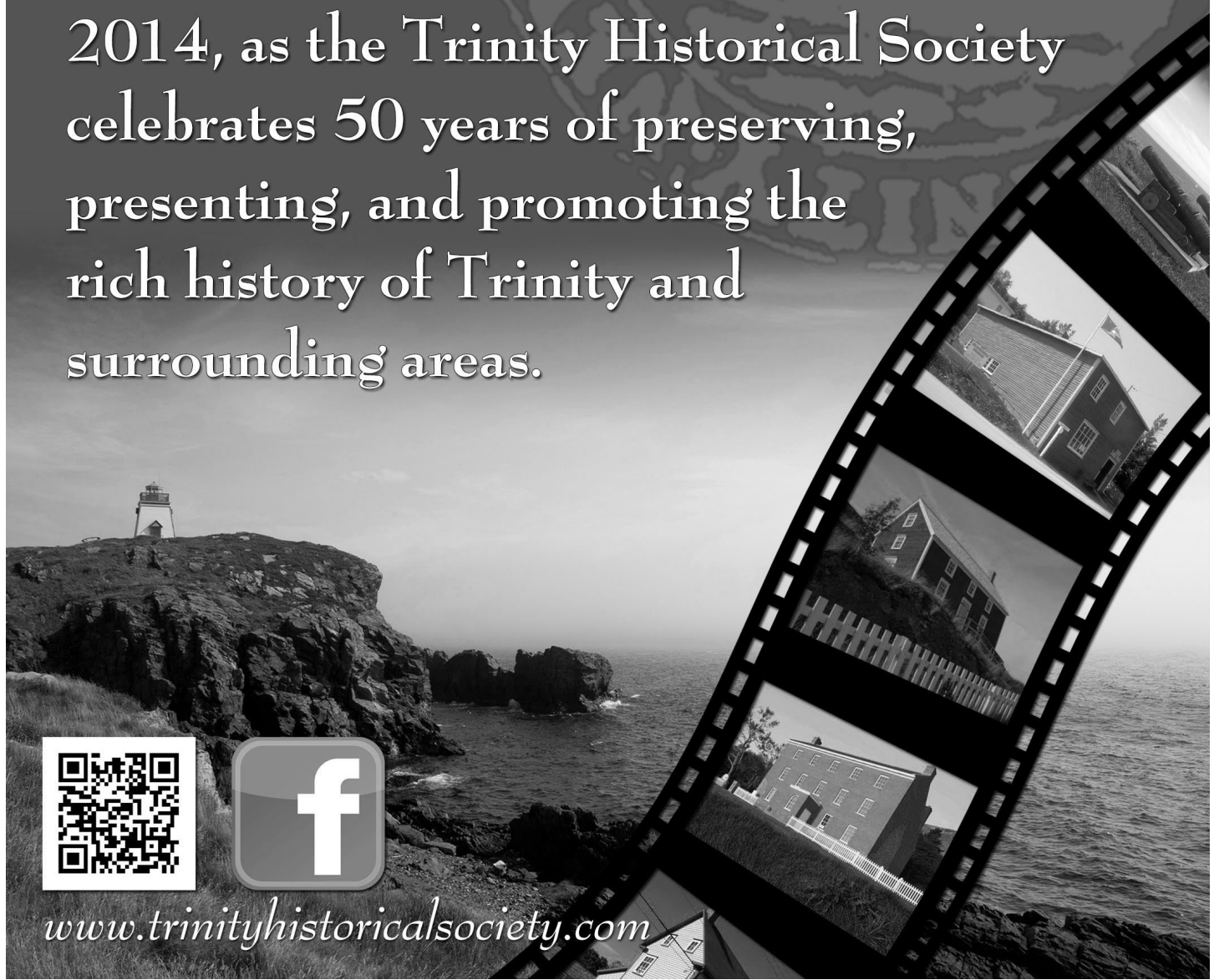
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# The Grey Sock Project

Submitted by: Dale Jarvis, Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer



“Not only at Government House were busy fingers at work; the grey socks were inevitable wherever one went, they were found on table or work basket in every house, both in parlour and kitchen. They were found at bridge tables; dummy knitted while her partner played the hand. They accompanied the worker to committee meetings and social calls. Knitting parties became the fashion, and they have even been seen in the theatre, and now some knit them even on Sundays.”

- Tryphena Duley, A Pair of Grey Socks, 1916

The Intangible Cultural Heritage office of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is looking at creating the "Grey Sock Project" as part of the upcoming commemorations of the First World War. As currently envisioned, the Grey Sock Project has three components:

1. To conduct archival and historical research on the First World War knitting of socks for soldiers at the Front, and the work of the Women's Patriotic Association, and to make that information available to the public through online collections and public presentations.
2. To create opportunities to teach traditional skills in knitting, by establishing a regular Grey Sock Knitting League, where experienced knitters can gather to provide guidance to new knitters, and to provide opportunities for sharing of traditional skills and knowledge.
3. To oversee the knitting of socks which will then be collected centrally and distributed to a worthwhile cause, such as a charity dealing with low-income families, homelessness, or new Canadians.

The project is still in the planning stages, but if you would like to get involved with HFNL's Grey Sock Project as it develops, email [nicole@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:nicole@heritagefoundation.ca) and we'll add you to our Grey Sock mailing list.



# Interpreting the First World War

*Submitted by:* Jane Severs, Interpretive Planner

In May, the provincial government finally announced details of its Honour 100 Grant Program - a funding pot for arts, heritage and community projects that commemorate Newfoundland and Labrador's First World War experience. Although the program was officially launched last spring, important details like eligibility, funding caps, and minimum contributions have only recently been made available. But that hasn't stopped some of us from getting a jump start on community projects to interpret WWI.

But May's announcement may require us to rethink those plans - particularly if you're a small, rurally-based, community-focused organization. Here's why. First, most of the grants will be relatively small - up to a **maximum of \$5,000**. A select number of projects may be eligible for additional support, but only if they are able to demonstrate a province-wide impact. Second, all applicants must demonstrate a **minimum 50% contribution from other funding sources**. Ouch! And thirdly, eligible projects must include at least **two partners** (i.e. your organization plus someone else).

Determined to soldier on with your WWI interpretive project? Fantastic! Here are a few tips:

**1. Find your story.** Forget the blow-by-blow battle account with details cribbed from Wikipedia, or the exhibit case displaying a Brodie helmet and a Lee-Enfield rifle with little or no provenience. Somewhere, hidden in your collection and/or your community is a story only you can tell. Start looking. It's out there.

**2. The subject isn't the story.** When it comes to interpretation, subjects are metaphor - a means to explore bigger ideas. The goal of an exhibit or public program about Beaumont Hamel isn't to present a comprehensive account of the battle and it's aftermath, but to use those events as a means to engage audiences in a conversation about something else ... something bigger. Figure out the "something else" and the other details will fall in place.

**3. Simple can be incredible.** Let's face it. Since most grants will be less than \$5,000 AND you'll have to come up with matching funds, planning a 1,000 square foot, multi-media extravaganza just isn't realistic ... and unnecessary. Sometimes, an object or two, a compelling story, and an outlet for audience reaction is all you need.

**4. Cast your Net Widely.** Need a partner? Sure you could approach your local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, but what about other, less obvious choices like seniors' clubs or new Canadians? Take the Filipino workers at your local fish plant. What are their family's memories of WWI? How do they compare with your own? Is there a story worth telling?

**5. Process not product.** Not every heritage project has to result in a polished exhibit or a slick publication. Often, it's the process - whether that's research or engaging people in a meaningful conversation - that's most important. Not sure what I'm talking about? Check out <http://popupmuseum.org/> for an example.



**Compelling Objects.** A soldier's life-saving Bible. Note the lump of shrapnel (from a grenade that killed his comrades while they slept) still embedded in it. Photo: Europeana

# Preservation of Military Medals

*Submitted by:* Danielle Rundquist, Professional Development Coordinator/Preservation Advisor

In Newfoundland and Labrador, many museums have military medals in their collections. Military medals generally include a metal part, often a shiny metal such as silver or brass, and a cloth ribbon. Though medals may look indestructible they can actually be damaged easily and require special care. One of the first ways that you can preserve your medal collection is by controlling the environmental conditions they are housed in.

Medals will be best preserved when kept under **controlled temperature and relative humidity**. Damp conditions can cause the metal of medals to corrode, and the fabric to rot. High temperatures and a very dry environment make fabric brittle and weak. It is important to avoid fluctuating conditions as much as possible. Try to keep a moderate temperature between 18 and 24 °C and a steady relative humidity between 40-50%. Also limit the medals exposure to light levels, by minimizing exposure to sunlight and fluorescent lights. Ultraviolet radiation is particularly harmful to the medallion's finish and will fade colors on ribbons.



Victoria Cross, medal set  
CWM 19710077-001  
Tilston Memorial Collection of Canadian Military Medals  
© Canadian War Museum

It is advisable to **handle medals as little as possible**. But when you are handling medals it is important to protect the metal from the oils that can transfer to the object from your skin. Over time, oils from hands can disfigure and stain metals. To deal with this issue, it is recommended that you wear cotton or nitrile gloves when handling medals. Handle the medals by the edges when working with them and not by the ribbon or anything else attached to the medallion. Also be careful that medals do not bang against one another as this can cause physical damage to the objects.

It is natural that you may want to keep your medal looking as shiny as possible. But **polishes do contain abrasives** which will strip away some of the metal with each polishing. Also, some polishes contain silicones which stay on the surface, making the application of a protective coating difficult and later cleaning more drastic than usual. Some medals, such as the Victory medal, have a gilded layer; while others have an applied patina or contain fine details. With repeated polishing, these layers can quickly be removed. The historic, aesthetic, and monetary value of a medal can be substantially reduced as a result of inappropriate cleaning. It is best to simply remove surface dirt and consult a conservator if more in depth cleaning is required.

When storing a medal, be sure that it is **only in direct contact with inert materials**. Original presentation cases that medals are given in are often made of acidic material (such as cardboard) or contain materials which will release harmful gases as they deteriorate. (such as some types of wood.) Presentation cases were often lined with fabrics such as velvet, which can contain acidic dyes that can cause the metal to corrode. Woolen felts were also commonly used, but the sulphur in the wool can cause metals to tarnish. As a result, it is preferable to keep the medal in an enclosure made of stable materials such as Mylar, polystyrene, acrylic, or polyethylene. However, it is important to keep all associated packaging and presentation boxes as they are an important part of the history of the medal.

Military medals are a significant part of the local and national history of our country. As valuable cultural assets they should be preserved for future generations. If you have any questions about the care and preservation of your military medal collection please contact the MANL office.

**Visit MANL's NEW website**

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# Capturing the First World War's Full Legacy

Submitted by: Leslie Vryenhoek, Communications Strategist for the First World War Road Show & Tell

The Rooms has undertaken a unique project that gives provincial residents direct input into preserving the legacy of the First World War in Newfoundland and Labrador and establishing a permanent exhibition.

This spring, The Rooms travelled throughout the province in search of stories and artifacts relating to the Great War overseas and the war effort at home. Dubbed *The First World War Road Show & Tell*, the project saw a team of Museum and Archives staff set up in 13 communities between April and June. Locations were selected based on enlistment numbers during the First World War.

In each location, advance publicity helped draw visitors. They brought photographs, uniforms, medals, tools, correspondence and certificates—even a wooden leg. Material was catalogued, photographed and scanned, and the stories behind the objects were recorded. Items were left with their owners, though donations or loans to The Rooms were discussed in some instances.

“A wealth of memories and memorabilia are held by families and communities all around the province,” explains Anne Chafe, Director of The Rooms Provincial Museum Division. “These are crucial pieces of the full story of the war and its immense impact on Newfoundland and Labrador.”

Chafe says that while the military history is well documented, there were specific areas where the record was thin. In particular, The Rooms wanted to find more items to illustrate the experience of women during the war and the activities that happened at home.

“We want to ensure no aspect of the First World War legacy is lost, forgotten or overlooked,” she says.

This kind of outreach is one way The Rooms is meeting its provincial mandate. Chafe adds that the institution’s commitment to engaging the community in exhibition development helped secure its 2014 Award of Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions from the Canadian Museum Association.

The Road Show & Tell is a first step in bringing together a new, permanent exhibition about the First World War, opening on July 1, 2016—the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel. That exhibition is expected to cover the period from 1914-1949, taking in the long aftermath of the Great War on the small country known as Newfoundland. It’s just one part of a commemorative undertaking that will involve site development, archaeology, education and outreach.

The search for memories and memorabilia will continue throughout 2014 as The Rooms is now hosting a special exhibition on Level 2 of its St. John’s facility. There, staff will be available between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays (excluding holidays) to document artifacts and memorabilia and hear stories. Called *Collecting the Great War: Enlisting Your Help*, this exhibition will also feature hands-on activities like knitting socks for the troops and making pansies like children sold during the war.

Visit [www.therooms.ca/firstworldwar](http://www.therooms.ca/firstworldwar) to learn more.

**Have something to share?** The Rooms would like to know about objects and stories from communities and community museums we haven’t reached. Please contact Kerri Button, Curator of History, at [kerributton@therooms.ca](mailto:kerributton@therooms.ca).



In Bay Roberts, members of The Rooms Museum team Heather Elliott (left) and Anne Chafe examine a uniform—part of a full kit found in a Harbour Grace house by its new owner.



# Sailors' Stories

## Remembering The Royal Naval Reserve Division in World War One

Submitted by: Shannon Lewis-Simpson, Cd, PhD. Commanding Officer, HMCS CABOT

The role of Newfoundland and Labrador sailors in World War One is an integral part of our national story, yet our role is exceptional and unique. The Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve (NRNR: 1902-22) was strategically important for the British Empire and for the formation of Canada's navy, yet the stories of these sailors from every bay and community in Newfoundland and Labrador are not well known.

On 2 Aug, 1914, at the declaration of World War One, the NRNR was called up, with 1000 fully trained sailors walking to coastal boats and train stations to reach HMS Calypso in St. John's. They did not know what lay before them, but they all answered the call to service, demonstrating a profound sense of duty and individual leadership.

These sailors, many from Bonavista and Trinity Bays, went to sea in every RN ship, and were particularly respected for their small boat handling skills. In fact, the majority of coxswains for naval boarding parties were Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. HMCS *Niobe*, one of the Royal Canadian Navy's first warships, needed 107 officers and sailors from Newfoundland and Labrador to fill her Ship's Company in order to go to war. She could not fulfill her mission without these trained officers and sailors. They were the first Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to go to war, on 3 September 1914.



Not only were these local sailors exceptionally skilled in seamanship, but they were also skilled engineers and naval communicators. The NRNR sailors used new technologies during their service as naval communicators in the Admiralty Wireless Station, now called Admiralty House Museum, Mount Pearl, and they played a key role in the rescue of the SS *Florizel* survivors in 1917. Five naval reservists were honoured for their bravery during that rescue.

There are many days of remembrance to mark as a result of the numerous ships and lives lost at sea from enemy action (a good website is this one <http://www.naval-history.net/WW1LossesaContents.htm>). The Call-Up anniversary on 2 August 2014 could be marked by an organized community hike, in conjunction with youth groups, to your nearest train station or to St Johns, to recreate the NRNR call-up.

The Royal Canadian Navy appreciates community ventures to commemorate sea service. HMCS CABOT would be delighted to share ideas and knowledge with community groups. Archives about the NRNR Division are in the process of being made available digitally, including attestation papers. But official records and papers only tell part of the story. What would be very helpful is for provincial museums and historians to search existing archives and collections for stories about these 1914 brave men, who served at sea despite the risks. The intention is to try to pool resources and share information in order to honour their service.

Thank you for your assistance to help us honour these brave men and ensure their stories are not forgotten. Should you wish to share or discuss the stories of any of your local WWI sailors, please contact me at: [Shannon.Lewis-Simpson@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Shannon.Lewis-Simpson@forces.gc.ca).

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