



*featured museum:*

# The Suncor Energy Fluvarium

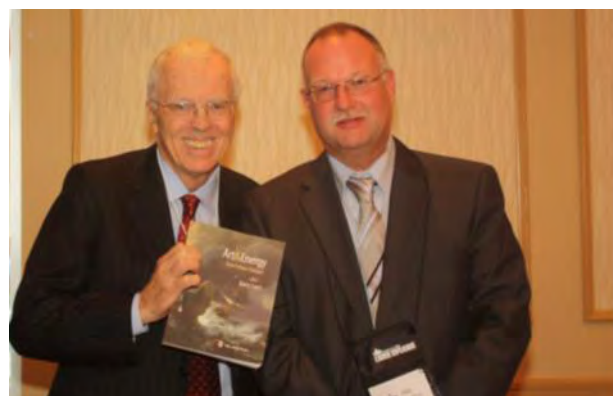
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 10 & 11!



**Winter  
2015**  
Vol.33, No.2

# NEWSLETTER

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



The 2014 AGM & Conference was held at the Ramada Hotel in St. John's! Read all about it on pages 6-7!

**Challenging Year for  
Professional  
Development**

**9**

**Tradition and  
Transition among the  
Labrador Inuit**

**13**

**Care of Arsenic-  
Contaminated Taxidermy  
and Ethnographic  
Collections**

**14**

## Board of Directors 2014—2015

### Executive Officers:

**President:** John Griffin, Member at Large (jgriffin@nlpl.ca)

**Vice President:** Teresa Greene, Logger's Life Provincial Museum (greenezenith02@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Beverley King, Wooden Boat Museum of NL (bkingheritage@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Diane Curtis, Jackson's Arm Heritage Society (jacksonsarmheritagesociety@live.ca)

**Past President:** Teresita McCarthy, Bell Island Community Museum (teresita\_mccarthy@hotmail.com)

### Regional Directors:

**Labrador:** Jamie Brake, Nunatsiavut Government (jamie\_brake@nunatsiavut.com)

**Western:** Glenda Reid Bavis, Dr. Henry N. Payne Community Museum (reidbavis@bellaliant.net)

**Central:** Alexander Crawford, Town of Fogo Island (recreation@townoffogoisland.ca)

**Eastern:** Joan Kane, Trinity Historical Society (joan.kane@nf.sympatico.ca)

**Avalon:** Patti Broughton, Colony of Avalon (patti@colonyofavalon.ca)

**St. John's:** Position Vacant.

### Staff:

**Executive Director:** Ken Flynn (kflynn@nf.aibn.com)

**Professional Development Coordinator/Preservation Advisor:** Danielle Rundquist (drundquist@nf.aibn.com)

**Outreach Officer:** Sarah Wade (manl@nf.aibn.com)

### Articles can be submitted to:

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR  
P.O. Box 5785  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 5X3

PH: (709) 722-9034  
FX: (709) 722-9035  
E-mail: manl@nf.aibn.com  
Web: http://www.manl.nf.ca

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

Our Conference and Annual General Meeting took place at the Ramada St. John's and once again was a great success. In keeping with our theme "Climate change and Museums" there were sessions on interpreting climate change in your museum, making your museum green as well as examining the consequences of climate change relating to archaeological sites and artifacts. The Bell Island Community Museum and #2 Mine Tour hosted the Opening Reception on Friday evening. The ferry was on time and food and entertainment was second to none. I would like to thank the Bell Island Community Museum and #2 Mine Tour and the many volunteers on the island for making the evening such a success.

This year we presented two Awards of Merit. Melvin Green of Winterton was nominated by the Wooden Boat Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. An Award of Merit was also presented to the Trinity Historical Society recognizing its role in the preservation of the cultural landscape of the Trinity Bight area.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution to MANL of Mr. Peter Latta. Peter served on the Board as Vice-President, President and Past-President. His knowledge of not-for-profit governance was drawn upon many times during his tenure. We wish him all the best. I would also like to thank Angela Noseworthy for her service on the Board. Angela served as our treasurer until she stepped down in August. Her keen eye for numbers will be missed. Lastly, I would like to thank our Past-President Teresita McCarthy. Teresita kept a steady hand on the tiller for the last four years and will be a hard act to follow.

Looking back on 2014 one of the biggest disappointments for MANL has certainly been the rejection of our Museum Assistance Program application. MAP is one of the major funding instruments used to bring training opportunities to MANL members across the province. A 2015-06 MAP application has been submitted and we will keep you informed as it winds its way through the system.

Work continues on the CEDP minimum standards committee. An application has been submitted for funding to deliver workshops as well as site visits by staff. If the application is successful expect it to roll out soon after the New Year.

In closing, I would like to thank all our members and volunteers for your efforts over the last year.

Regards,  
John Griffin

## Executive Director's Report

This year has been a challenging year for the Association. The loss of Canadian Heritage Museum Assistance Program (MAP) funding has created a deep gap in our training programs. Training has been limited to the St. John's region of the province and our annual conference had to be held in St. John's as funding was limited. We realize the difficulty that this creates for our membership and have been working diligently to provide pan-provincial training. We have submitted an application to the 2015-2016 call for MAP and we hope that this will be approved so that our museums can have access to this funding program from the Association.

In November, I traveled to Ottawa to attend "Canadian Museums Day" on Parliament Hill. During the meetings I had the opportunity to speak with officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage and I voiced concerns on the loss of funding to the Association. I participated in meetings concerning the future of the Canadian Heritage Information Network which has faced cuts to programs and the transfer of the Virtual Museums program to the Canadian Museum of History. We also met with the Canadian Conservation Institute and discussed their programs. Most of the federal organizations that we are associated with are undergoing reviews. Hopefully this will improve services to our members and make these agencies relevant to the people they serve.

Meetings were held with Members of Parliament from Newfoundland and Labrador and we gained support for our current application while also voicing concerns over our loss in this fiscal year. Furthermore, I met with our sister organizations that make up the Provincial and Territorial Museums Associations to discuss many topics important to museums across the country. These meetings are of great importance to MANL as we learn that the concerns of our membership are similar to those in other provinces. There is much we can learn from each other and our shared experiences.

We continue to work with our partners to provide programming for our members and hope to offer new opportunities in the coming months.

Regards,  
Ken Flynn

## Professional Development Report

MANL has had another successful AGM and Conference in St. John's this October. The theme for this year's conference was "Climate Change and Museums." During the conference we had many interesting information sessions covering a wide range of topics. One of the highlights of the conference was our plenary speaker, Mr. Barry Lord. MANL was pleased to be able to bring Mr. Lord to the province to share his expertise with our membership. This opportunity was made possible with the support of the Association of Heritage Industries. We certainly hope that participants left the conference with more information about climate change in Newfoundland and Labrador, how to make their museums greener, and what the heritage sector can do to slow the effects of climate change.

Prior to the conference, MANL was pleased to offer two pre-conference sessions. The first was a two day session entitled "Environmental Guidelines." This session was facilitated by Jean Tétreault, manager of the Preventive Conservation Services Division of the Canadian Conservation Institute. Our other pre-conference workshop was a one day session entitled, "Leadership and Motivation." This session was offered by Community Capacity Building Program facilitator, Ken Kavanaugh. I would like to thank the Rooms Provincial Museum for hosting this event. Overall, participant's feedback was very positive for both sessions.

As many of you are aware, MANL has lost funding support from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museum Assistance Program. (MAP) This loss has been devastating to MANL's training activities. MAP was our main form of financial support to travel across this vast province of Newfoundland and Labrador to offer workshops. The loss of MAP has crippled MANL's ability to offer training. However, MANL has not given up its mandate to offer professional development opportunities to our members. MANL is currently working with the staff of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development to develop training and support services for museums in the province that are working towards meeting minimum standards. We hope to offer several workshops over the winter months to help museums meet the new CEDP minimum standards. Please check MANL website for updates on these training sessions. In conclusion, I would like to thank the membership for your support and patience during this challenging time.

Kind Regards,  
Danielle Rundquist



## Highlights from the White Elephant Museum

The museum made arrangements to have heritage carpenter, Mike Samson, come to Makkovik in September to do some work on the White Elephant building interior. We would like him to assess the foundation also, so that we can submit an application at a later date for a Maintenance Grant from the Heritage Foundation, along with funding from some other source to make major renovations to the 100 year old building.

We plan to have a few things to mark the 100th anniversary of our building (2015), like collect at least 100 stories about it; reprint the community cookbook; get an updated brochure printed.

In other news, we did not have a student working at the museum this summer. Even though we got FNIYES funding, no one applied to our job ad. However, there was a lot on the go for students this summer. What with Junior Ranger camp and the North American Indigenous Games. Luckily, we did receive a CEDP grant from the province which enabled us to hire Myrtle Groves to do some archival work for our museum. (This was for a part-time position. We turned it into a full time position with funding received from our local Trust fund.) She did an index for three Moravian mission diaries; catalogued letters and annual reports; scanned photos to make a digital inventory of our museum's collection; put together a binder of information that we have collected on Ailik, a former fishing station; and she acted as tour guide for visitors.



*Ailik which is a former summer fishing station, near Makkovik, where Joe Chard and later his son Sam Chard of Bay Roberts had a store and fishing operation in the early 1900's to about 1955.*



## New Projects at Roy Whalen Museum/ Humber Valley Heritage Society

Funded through Job Creation Partnerships, with the support of the Grand Lake Centre Of Economic Development, the Humber Valley Heritage Society and the Roy Whalen Museum has hired a Heritage Coordinator for 52 weeks. This project aims to professionally catalogue, inventory and display the current collection of artefacts and historical information at the Roy Whalen Regional Heritage Centre and Archives, thus assuring that the museum is equal to the standards set for community museums. Museum best practices will be applied to display and labelling in museum, and a collection database of artefacts and information will be created, following professional guidelines for community museums.

The project also aims to develop and implement a marketing strategy for the Roy Whalen Regional Heritage Centre and Archives and the attached Valley Crafts Shop, and to situate new signage. This will enhance the visibility and awareness of both the museum and associated local craft shop, in both local and regional areas. This will also enhance community, and regional, heritage and tourism. The project further aims to provide a growing heritage presence in the Humber Valley, as well as aiding in greater interpretation in local and regional heritage and history, as well as networking and cooperating with other heritage sites and organizations in the Humber Valley Region.

The project will run 52 weeks, with the first six months with the heritage coordinator, and the last six months with the heritage coordinator and a coordinator assistant.



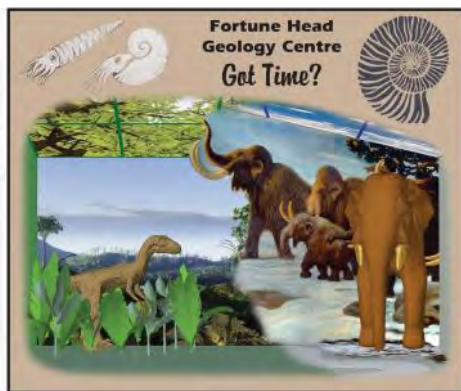
## At the Movies

In Lakeview Hall in Millertown up in the rafters the Projection Room lies untouched in years. Red Indian Lake Heritage Society had a very inquisitive worker, who with a friend, climbed along the rafters to look at the room. Although the movie projectors are still there she did bring some of the film reels and other movie paraphernalia down to put on display. She took pictures of the film projectors and the room so we could add this to our exhibit.

In an interview Mr. Graham King tells us that one of his jobs was running the movie machines for what they referred to as "the shows". A Matinee was 10 cents and a movie at night would cost 25 cents.

In Grand Falls – Windsor there is an independent Movie Theatre, the Classic Theatre, run by Mr. Feener and he has a collection of movie artifacts. When and if we can get the projectors down he will advise us on the care for these items. There are plans to drop the ceiling in Lakeview Hall and maybe when this work is underway we will be able to remove the items at that time. Red Indian Lake Heritage Society will keep you posted.





### Exciting things are happening in Fortune!

The Fortune Head Interpretation Centre is now the Fortune Head Geology Centre. We will reopen our doors in June with a new look and it only took a few million years to get there!

The Fortune Head Ecological Reserve holds the Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) marking the geologic time boundary between the Precambrian era and the Cambrian period. These globally significant, 541 million year old rocks are celebrated at the Fortune Head Geology Centre and mark the beginning of increasing biological diversity of life on earth.

But our exhibit is not all about shells and snails. We will feature creatures throughout geologic time through our various themed exhibit galleries. Come face to face with a dinosaur and woolly mammoth but keep your eyes open, there are prehistoric predators lurking in the exhibits. Want to learn about the geology of the Burin Peninsula? We have that too! Curious about minerals and rocks? We have amassed a large collection from Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada and around the world! There's an exhibit on the 1929 Grand Banks Tsunami plus hands on activities for the kids. We even have a small theatre area.

Thanks to the generous donations from Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and our Province's Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Recreation, our museum has a whole new look.

**The Fortune Head Geology Centre: Got time? We do. 4.54 billion years of geologic time to be exact!**



### Fisheries Heritage in Cupids

Cupids Legacy, Inc. has received funding through the Fisheries Intangible Cultural Heritage Grant, an initiative of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. Their project will focus on the documentation of traditional fishing grounds, and on changes wrought by technology to traditional navigation techniques. Currently, fishers use a variety of modern technological devices, such as fish finders, depth sounders, and GPS devices. The use of this technology has resulted in a significant decrease in local fish-finding lore related to the finding and utilization of underwater shoals. Historically, fishermen on the water would line up a series of local landmarks (a church steeple or a cairn of rocks, as examples) to triangulate and position their boat over a certain good fishing spot. Many of these marine locations had names, such as "Offa Rock" or "The Patch." The project will generate photographs and textual information about these traditional locations, landmarks, and names, and generate a map or maps of the local fishing grounds.



*Photo credit: Top photo is from the Newfoundland Historical Society archival collection.*

*Bottom photo was taken by Dennis Minty.*

### *Haootia quadriformis*: An Exciting New Fossil on Display at The Rooms

The Rooms Provincial Museum Division received an important fossil via transfer earlier this fall from the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO). *Haootia quadriformis* is an extraordinary half-billion year old specimen found on the Bonavista Peninsula. Discovered by paleontologists in 2008 it is, to date, the oldest complex animal fossil ever found in the world, providing some of the earliest evidence of muscle tissue in the biological record. Its discovery has sparked excitement all around the world.

The fossil was at risk of being damaged so the PAO arranged for salvage and transfer of the specimen to The Rooms.

Museum staff needed to safely mount and create a display that would show off the specimen in the best possible light. Our conservator and staff from our Natural History and Technical Services Units combined forces to develop a suitable and pleasing mount and display. A plaster of Paris method was developed to lock the five pieces of the fossil in place. The method proved successful though time-consuming and tricky due to the dampness associated with fresh plaster.

Finally, "raking" light was installed to highlight the subtle micro-thin form of the creature on the surface of the rock. The paleontologists who inspected the newly lit fossil were excited to see new features never noticed before.

The fossil is now on permanent display in The Rooms Level 3 Connections Gallery. We hope you can come soon to view this remarkably important, world-class fossil.



*Haootia quadriformis* (Digitized Image) 2014

Artwork courtesy Martin Brasier

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND MUSEUMS

*Submitted by: Sarah Wade, Outreach Officer. Photo credit: Desmond McCarthy.*

Wow. It was another great year for our AGM and Conference this past October in St. John's as over 60 museum professionals came together to focus on the presentation and preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's natural and cultural heritage. We had a terrific lineup of presenters who created a comfortable environment for delegates to meet, share, and express ideas and topics of concern with one another. Below are the highlights from the conference.

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

There were two pre-conference workshop opportunities available to participants. The first was Canadian Conservation Institute's **"Environmental Guideline" Workshop with Jean Tétreault**. This 2-day session was held at St. Thomas' Anglican Church. The workshop focused on the strategic preservation of collections against agents of deterioration, especially environmental ones, such as light, relative humidity and atmospheric pollutants. Participants were also treated to an inside look at The Commissariat to help make a connection with the information provided during the in-class portion.

The second pre-conference workshop option was **"Leadership and Motivation" at The Rooms led by Ken Kavanagh**, with the Community Capacity Building Program. This session primarily dealt with the type of communication that occurs in and around organizations; between employees/volunteers, directors, public bodies, etc. and the communication barriers these groups face. Participants had the opportunity to engage in lively group discussions throughout the day. Participants questioned the desirable qualities of a leader and discussed issues that resonated with their peers across the province.

## OVERSEAS RECEPTION

On Friday everyone boarded the ferry and set off for Bell Island where we were welcomed by volunteers who transported us to the **Bell Island Community Museum #2 Mine**. Upon arriving at the museum we were greeted with smiling faces, food and music. Once people had a chance to socialize with their museum peers and view the exhibit space, it was time for the members update to begin. It was during this time that people had a chance to hear about all the exciting work being undertaken to accommodate approximately **650,000 museum visitors a year**. Once everyone was up to date, Bell Island Community Museum #2 Mine Volunteer, Bonnie Spracklin, provided a tour of the mine to delegates. It was there, below ground, where people had the pleasure of hearing Bonita sing; an exciting and emotional experience for all!





*Continued...*

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

At our Conference, we were able to provide a variety of conference sessions. Throughout the day the sessions revolved around the major theme of climate change and its relation to museums. Sessions focused on how museums are disseminating climate change information to their audiences, what museums in the province are doing to lessen their global footprint, and the consequences of our changing climate on archaeological sites and artifacts. Climate change is such an international issue a lot of participants didn't quite know where their "itty bitty" museum fit in. After various discussions with delegates, it became clear, and most people agreed, that the issue is relevant and the changes that need to be made to be more energy efficient aren't as daunting as initially assumed.

In the afternoon we were very fortunate to partner with the Association of Heritage Industries to have world renowned museum planner, **Barry Lord**, talk about his new book "**Art and Energy**." During this session, Mr. Lord made the connection between creativity and the exploitation of the earth's resources. For the presentation, Mr. Lord stepped back in time and traced his way to present day, exploring the changes in art and how they were provoked by its ever changing surroundings.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After an informative morning, everyone settled in for the AGM and luncheon. During the AGM, the Annual Reports were presented to the delegates. If you would like to read more about these reports, please contact the office and we will send you a copy. Elections to the Board of Directors also took place during the AGM. Stepping into new positions: John Griffin, President; Teresa Green, Vice President; Teresita McCarthy, Past President; Beverley King, Treasurer; Patti Broughton, Avalon Regional Director; Alexander Crawford, Central Regional Director. For a full list of Board Members and their contact information, please visit [www.manl.nf.ca](http://www.manl.nf.ca).

At the Luncheon, we had the pleasure of recognizing and awarding both individual museums and MANL members. This year, **Trinity Historical Society** and **Melvin Green with the Wooden Boat Museum of NL** were awarded the Award of Merit. The Award of Merit recognizes their significant contributions to the practice of museum and heritage work in Newfoundland and Labrador and their outstanding achievement in the development of the province's cultural heritage, including research, collection, documentation, exhibition, public programming and management. **Peter Latta** was awarded the Honorary Lifetime Membership for his years of dedicated volunteer service to the Association and for his work in the heritage sector. MANL would also like to congratulate the latest graduates of the **Museum Studies Certificate Program: Linda Collier, Corrina Lush, Teresita McCarthy and Bonita Spracklin!** Last, but certainly not least, Peter Latta and Angela Noseworthy were also recognized for their time spent on the Board. Thank you, again!

## MANY THANKS

Thanks to everyone for your support and contributions to our Association. MANL would like to thank our sponsors: Association of Heritage Industries, Bell Island Heritage Society, Inc., Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Trinity Historical Society. We would also like to extend our most sincere thanks to everyone that donated to our silent auction. MANL was very fortunate this year to have quite the spread of local art and crafts from all across the province up for bid. And we would like to send out a big heartfelt thank you to the presenters for taking time out of their busy schedules to pass along their knowledge to museum professionals from across the country. To get a glimpse of the AGM and past MANL events please visit: [www.flickr.com/photos/manl/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/manl/).

# Thank you to our major sponsors!



ASSOCIATION  
OF HERITAGE  
INDUSTRIES  
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR



Bell Island Heritage Society Inc.

## Bronze Sponsor



Trinity Historical Society Inc. Trinity, NL



# Challenging Year for Professional Development



This has been a challenging year for MANL's Professional Development Program. The loss of funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museum Assistance Program (MAP) has been devastating to MANL's education program. Support to travel across this vast province of Newfoundland and Labrador has been greatly diminished, which has crippled our ability to offer workshops. MANL's certificate program is one of only a few recognized training programs that are available in this province. In recent years the program has seen its highest enrollment numbers with over 75 people taking part in the certificate program. In 2013/2014, MANL offered 13 workshops with the support of MAP and 130 individuals took part in this training. With the withdrawal of MAP support, all of these training opportunities will no longer be offered. As you can imagine, this loss of education will greatly limit the ability of local heritage groups to meet recognized museums standards, and to train new and existing staff.

With this devastating turn of events, MANL has not given up its mandate to offer training to our members. MANL has been promoting our "on-demand" programs, where museums can pool resources to cover the travel costs for professionals to offer training at their sites. This program has allowed MANL to offer one core course on Bell Island in May 2014. We have also begun working with our sister organization, Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA), to offer two on-line training sessions. This format does allow us to offer training but has limitations. Due to the expense, sessions can only be 60 minutes in length, very much restricting the detail of information that can be provided. This is a stark contrast to the level of knowledge shared in a two day workshop (with hands on exercises) provided under the MAP program.

As bleak as the future training program of MANL appears, it is not a hopeless situation. The Cultural Economic Development Program (CEDP) continues to support the activities of MANL. MANL is currently working with the staff of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development to develop training and support services to museums in the province that are working towards meeting minimum standards.

In lieu of this, MANL urges its members to sign the letter to Minister Shelly Glover, which is included in your copy of the newsletter. If you are a *current or former member of MANL* and agree with our concerns, please sign the letter and fill in the necessary information. Once you have signed the letter it can be sent by mail, postage-free, directly to Minister Shelly Glover at the following address:

Minister Shelly Glover  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

If you require additional information, please contact the office. Thank you for your assistance on this important issue.

# FEATURED MUSEUM: The Suncor Energy Fluvarium

*Submitted by:* Bethany Barrett, Environmental Interpreter. *Photo credit:* The Suncor Energy Fluvarium.



The Suncor Energy Fluvarium is a public environmental education center located on the shores of Long Pond, in St. John's, Newfoundland. Our focus is centered on freshwater ecology, and our goal is to "create awareness and inspire all to protect and conserve water resources." The word 'Fluvarium' is a derivative of the Latin word *fluv*, which means flowing water! Fluvarium therefore means "windows on a stream," and aptly describes the nine viewing windows that allow the public to glimpse into the natural habitat of Nagles Hill Brook, as it flows past our building.

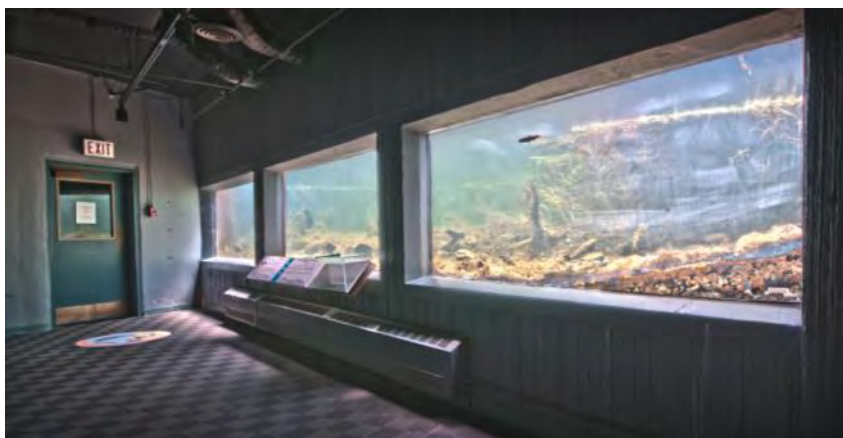
Owned and operated by the Quidi Vidi Rennies River Development Foundation, the Fluvarium was opened in November of 1990, and have been educating the public for close to a quarter of a century. School programs that adhere to the provinces science curriculum, as well as hold fast to the centers mandate, have attracted over a quarter of a million students, from Kindergarten to Level Three, since the buildings opening. Our educational offerings go beyond the formal school system though. Families can take part in our weekend Family Fun programs, and return monthly for new themes. Our Birthday Party program has become known as one of the best in the city, and teaches young audiences the importance of freshwater systems in a fun filled outing. Nature camps are offered during vacation time, where our small child to teacher ratio makes the experience up close and personal. We also work with youth organizations, such as Guides and Scouts, allowing them to work towards badges, while learning about the importance of protecting freshwater, and its inhabitants.

The Suncor Energy Fluvarium, housed in a unique octagonal shaped building in the tranquility of Pippy Park, consists of three floors, accessible by wheelchair through ramps, and a central lift. The main level of the building consists of our offices, a catering area, and a spacious, 'vaulted ceiling' room, where business meetings, weddings and private parties are held.

## 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...*



Our catering manager can prepare anything from a light lunch, to a full three course meal. The second level houses our main exhibits, all of which focus on water and freshwater ecology, where over a dozen exhibits look at the past, present and future of water. The third floor, which is the lowest level, is the 'gem' of the building, where nine large viewing windows allow visitors to look into Nagles Hill Brook, a living stream that was diverted to run adjacent to the building. As well, in-house tanks and terrariums hold other fish species as well as amphibians.

The center is open all year, seven days a week, although hours change seasonally. For an updated listing, one can call 754-FISH! The adult rate is \$7.00, while students, seniors and children between the ages of 5 to 14 are \$5.00. A family rate of \$20.00 is also available (2 adults and 2 children) with an annual family pass at \$35.00 yearly. Everyday at four o'clock, feeding time is held, when visitors are delighted by the antics of the fish and frogs, as they enjoy their daily meal! At the Fluvarium, there's always fun to be had!



Museum Association  
of  
Newfoundland  
& Labrador

**Certificate in  
Museum  
Studies**

---

**Focus Areas:**

**Museum Governance, Collections Management,  
Preventive Conservation and Exhibit Design**

This program is designed to provides museum workers with a general introduction into current theories, standards, and best practices for museums.

---

**For more information contact our  
Professional Development Coordinator/ Preservation  
Advisor, Danielle Rundquist**

**Tel: (709) 722-9034**

**E-mail: [drundquist@nf.aibn.com](mailto:drundquist@nf.aibn.com)**



**Archival  
CARR McLEAN**  
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION SUPPLIES

- Display Cases
- Environmental Monitoring
- Microform Cabinets
- Polyester Enclosures
- Dress and Suit Forms
- Textile Storage
- Document Storage
- ... and much more!



Call Today For Your  
Free Archival 2014 Catalogue!

or Visit Us Online at  
[www.carrmclean.ca](http://www.carrmclean.ca)



Call 1.800.268.2123 • Fax 1.800.871.2397 • Shop Online: [www.carrmclean.ca](http://www.carrmclean.ca)



## Update from the Cultural Economic Development Program Heritage Advisory

*Submitted by:* Lucy Alway, CEDP Heritage Officer.

The CEDP Heritage Advisory Committee is composed of representatives from MANL, the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA), the Association of Heritage Industries (AHI), and the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (BTCRD). The role of the committee is to make recommendations to the Department on program objectives, standards and project funding.

By April 2016, all heritage organizations will need to meet three minimum standards in order to receive CEDP Operational Support. These standards are:

- Current mission statement
- Compliance with the Tourism Assurance Plan
- Written collections policy and procedures

Representatives from MANL and ANLA have spent the past year reviewing the standards of groups currently receiving Operational Support and providing feedback on areas that are in need of developing or strengthening.

The majority of organizations reviewed (around 75%) are compliant with the Tourism Assurance Plan. To maintain compliance, organizations are reminded to keep their information up-to-date online and on MANL's directory and ensure that they have all the necessary insurance, permits, etc.

As of this fall, the below table indicates the status regarding mission statements and collections policies and procedures:

	#
<b>Organizations lacking mission statements and collections policies and procedures</b>	26
<b>Organizations lacking collections policies (may or may not have procedures)</b>	33
<b>Organizations with incomplete collections policies</b>	20
<b>Organizations that meet the standards</b>	36

MANL provides excellent tools and templates on their website and their staff is available to answer any questions. Many organizations are following the right procedures; they just need some help developing policies in writing. For example, the Bay de Verde Heritage Committee has been following procedures for years, but did not have a collections management document. They found the MANL CD of Best Practices extremely useful in developing a cohesive document. They now meet all the minimum standards.

As your organization develops or updates policies, please submit to me and I'll pass along to the committee for review.

---

## Members Only Login

Have you logged in to the Members Only section of MANL's website yet? There's lots of tool kits on exhibits, collection management, conservation, human resources and much more! If you are a member and would like to access this information, please contact Sarah by phone (709) 722-9034 or by email [manl@nf.aibn.com](mailto:manl@nf.aibn.com). Please note that the login information can only be created in the MANL Office. Once you have been provided with your username and password it can be shared with fellow members of your museum (staff, volunteers and board members) to access online content.

# Tradition and Transition among the Labrador Inuit

*Submitted by: Tom Gordon, Project Lead. Photo credit: Mark Turner.*



“Tradition and Transition among the Labrador Inuit” is a major research project that seeks to connect traditional knowledge, community expertise and academic research through a multi-year partnership between the Nunatsiavut Government, Memorial University and twenty other partner organizations including MANL. The project’s goal is to examine the recent and distant pasts in Inuit Labrador to help shape a culturally-rooted sustainable future for Nunatsiavut and its people. Developed across a sixteen month consultation process, the project was shaped by cultural and community leaders in Nunatsiavut and a range of researchers, each with a deep history of engagement with Inuit Labrador.

As the southernmost Inuit population in the world, the Labrador Inuit are a community with a unique history of cultural mediation. From the time of contact to achieving self-government in 2005, the Inuit of coastal Labrador lived a history of engagement with other peoples. Though well-documented, this history has been less than fully considered. As Nunatsiavut moves forward from its birth as a political entity to a mature expression of a contemporary Indigenous society, the Labrador Inuit seek to develop a profound understanding of how cultural traditions can guide them into that future. “Tradition & Transition among the Labrador Inuit” focusses on the use of past, current, and future research to understand Labrador Inuit cultural identity and to strengthen Aboriginal self-governance. Through this project, the expressed research needs of the Nunatsiavummiut are addressed through a partnership with university scholars designed to share resources, knowledge, and outcomes.

These exchanges will be grafted onto three themes which define Labrador Inuit culture and identity:

- The Landscape of Culture – an exploration of the symbiotic relationship between the Inuit, the land and the sea, examined from deep history via archaeology, through historic patterns of land use as understood by cultural geography, through genealogy and traditional knowledge of a culture of conservation;
- Leadership – an investigation of the course of social organization and political agency among the Labrador Inuit from pre-contact times, through colonialism to self-governance exploring the distinctive history of cultural mediation, individual leadership and collectivity, and evolving gender roles; and
- Expressing Identity – an understanding of Labrador Inuktitut as a distinct cultural expression in conjunction with a deep legacy of expressive culture in unique practices in story-telling, music, visual arts/craft and contemporary representations in theatre, film and media.

The material to be explored will include vast archival resources, physical records of material and expressive culture, social records, oral records, language and literature and engagement with the tradition-bearers of the Nunatsiavut communities. Anticipated outcomes will include the development of a comprehensive cultural database, a series of publications and cultural productions, Inuit and academic capacity building through mentoring and training, and a comprehensive series of policy backgrounders on Inuit cultural management. The project proposal has been submitted to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for funding. If successful with SSHRC, the five-year project will generate up to \$5M in matching funds from partner organizations.

# Care of Arsenic-Contaminated Taxidermy and Ethnographic Collections

*Submitted by:* Danny Doyle and Rose Smart, The Rooms Provincial Museum.

Arsenic is a significant health risk present in many museum collections. From the 18th century until quite recently, arsenic compounds were commonly applied to biological specimens and ethnographic objects as a preservative to protect them from infestation. While this method is now recognized for its health risks, it must be noted that this was an accepted practice and one which succeeded in preserving many objects that may otherwise not have survived to the present. However, once treated, objects containing arsenic will always pose a health threat. Following its application, arsenic tends to adhere strongly to hair, feathers and skin. Sometimes the compounds may be visible as white powder. In general, the older the specimen, the more likely it is to contain arsenic. Most small museums and archives will not have the ability to test objects for the presence of arsenic, and as such should exercise thorough precautions when handling biological specimens collected and prepared before the 1980s. The assumption an object is contaminated is always preferable to the accidental handling of arsenic. To further understand and describe its own collections, this summer the Rooms Provincial Museum continued testing its taxidermy collections for the presence of arsenic.

## **Health Related Effects**

Arsenic has long been known as a particularly dangerous poison. Potential toxic effects of arsenic exposure include weakness, headache, digestive discomfort, respiratory problems, chest pain, and changes in skin and nail texture or pigmentation. Long term effects include a high risk of liver failure, cancer and birth deformities.

## **Handling, Storage, and Use Precautions**

It is advisable practice to treat all natural history specimens, prepared prior to 1980, as if they are contaminated unless confirmed to be safe. Notes on chemicals used in preparations may be found through a search of accession and catalog records, annual reports, maintenance records, purchasing records, informal records from previous curators, or conservation records.

It is also important for any information pertaining to newly collected historic specimens to be obtained. As such, donors should be asked if they the history of the object, or more specifically about its manufacture or any past pesticide use. If this history is not known, objects must be treated them as hazardous. Ideally, enclose the item in a clear polyethylene bag with a label stating 'possible arsenic hazard', and post a Material Safety Data Sheet prominently in the workspace or office: <http://www.espimetals.com/index.php/msds/331-arsenic>

Caution must be used whenever a contaminated object is to be handled. As long as proper safety precautions are followed, arsenic encountered on objects will not pose a health risk to staff. Even so, contaminated objects should be handled as little as possible, and only when necessary. Any specimens or ethnographic objects known or suspected to contain arsenic should NEVER be used in hands-on interpretation. Any exhibited specimens from this period should be enclosed in an exhibit case.





**Continued...**

Label museum storage cabinets housing specimens and objects suspected of, or known to be contaminated with arsenic, with a warning sign that indicates "ARSENIC." Prepare and post a written set of instructions for handling contaminated specimens:

**Procedures to be Used by Staff, Researchers, and Visitors Handling Objects**

Many precautions seek to limit the spread of arsenic to other surfaces. As such, many handling guidelines attempt to sequester items which come into contact with contaminated objects:

1. Nitrile or other approved impermeable gloves should be worn. If using thick, reusable Nitrile or other impermeable gloves, wash the gloves with soap and water before removing. Always remove gloves in a way so that your hands do not touch the outside of the gloves. Thin, disposable Nitrile gloves are used for detail work. Discard by turning inside out and dispose of in hazardous waste containers.
2. Keep hands (gloved or not) away from the face (eyes, mouth, nose).
3. Do not use gloved hands when touching door handles, phones, computer keyboards, vacuums, camera or cataloging equipment (tape measures, scissors, tools, etc.).
4. Do not chew on pencils or glasses.
5. Do not consume food or drink in collection areas.
6. Dispose of shelf liners, acid-free tissue wrappings, and polyethylene bags or covers as hazardous waste.
7. If possible, vacuum contaminated objects with a HEPA filter vacuum in a well-ventilated space (a regular vacuum will *not* suffice as it will spread the arsenic. To minimize contamination of the vacuum exterior and attachments, do not handle the vacuum hoses with gloved hands. Wash the vacuum hose and nozzle following use.
8. If possible, all new accessions should be tested for pesticide residues. It is safer to assume that all mammal and bird specimens collected and prepared before the 1980s may be contaminated with arsenic, and to follow proper handling guidelines.
9. Access to any questionable new accessions should be limited until testing is completed or appropriate handling precautions can be implemented. Access to contaminated objects should be restricted to staff trained or informed in safe handling procedures for the lifetime of the object.
10. If possible, specimens should be handled by their stands or mounts, or better still on a tray (photocopy paper box lids are useful for this purpose).
11. If possible, a fit-tested respirator equipped with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters should be worn, or at least a high efficiency N95 particle mask (bag and discard after use)
12. Protective clothing, preferably disposable, should be worn when working with contaminated objects. Be sure to completely button the coat. If disposable clothing is not used, store the used clothes in polyethylene containers after use, wash separately from other items, and store in a designated place.
13. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling collection materials.
14. Maintain separate, specially marked pencil jar and clipboards in work areas for use near contaminated objects.

Photo credit:

- (1) <https://alaskawhitestuffid.wordpress.com/2011/08/09/taxidermy-and-fur/>
- (2) <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/news/2011/03/>
- (3) <http://museumbulletin.wordpress.com/2011/08/24/alaska-state-museums-bulletin-43/>
- (4) The Rooms Provincial Museum



## MAKE A DONATION

We are a Registered Charitable Organization whose mandate is to support and promote its members through training, communication, advocacy, and standards of excellence.

Cheques can be made payable to:  
**Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador**  
P.O. Box 5785, St. John's, NL A1C 5X3

### DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque Enclosed: ☐

### MANL Membership Form

Is this a New Membership? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Membership Renewal? \_\_\_\_\_

Please ensure that we have your **YEAR-ROUND** contact information!

Please provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Governing Authority: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your e-mail is being collected and used **STRICTLY** for MANL communication with its members*

I would prefer to receive my **MANL NEWSLETTER**:

In Print by mail

In PDF by e-mail

\* All members will continue to receive newsletters in print until further advised

#### Type of Annual Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Individual Membership (Voting)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 Institutional Membership (Voting)

#### Method of Payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ Cheque (Payable To: Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador)

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash

**Total Payment Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### DOUBLE DOWN!

#### **Make a Donation to MANL!**

As a registered charitable organization,  
match your membership fee as a donation!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to make a donation.  
(Tax Receipt Available)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (other desired amount)

(Registered Charitable #10776 6199 RR0001)

#### **Forward your completed form with your payment to:**

Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

PO Box 5785 • St. John's, NL • A1C 5X3

Fax: 709-722-9035 E-mail: [manl@nf.aibn.com](mailto:manl@nf.aibn.com)



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

**Spring and Summer  
Workshops will be  
announced at a later  
date! Please check our website,  
[www.manl.nf.ca](http://www.manl.nf.ca), to get the  
latest schedule!**

**Watch the MANL Listserv  
[n1\_museum-l]  
for updates on Professional  
Development courses!**