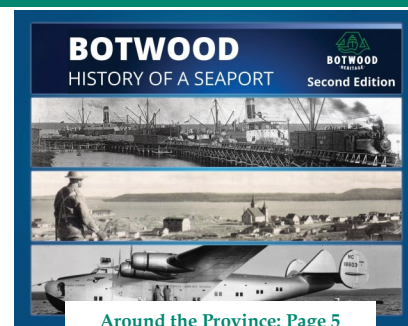




The Newfoundland Pony: An Endangered Piece of Newfoundland & Labrador History

Pages 10 & 11



Winter
2021

NEWSLETTER

Vol.39, No.1

A Publication of the Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador

40th Anniversary Project: Newfoundland Pony Heritage Park



The Blackhead "Star
of the Sea" Church

6

Pandemic Project:
Clarenville Heritage
Society

8

Virtual Mummers
Festival a Success!

12

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Cover Artwork Credit: Painting by Clifford George

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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.

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President's Report

"The modern museum has multiple purposes - to curate and preserve, to research, and to reach out to the public. They challenge us and ask us to question our assumptions about the past or the world around us." Kate Williams

As we move back to Level 2 of our COVID-19 emergency measures, there is renewed hope and excitement. MANL's focus has been on advocacy and outreach while working in tandem with our provincial and federal governments, Canadian Heritage, Hospitality NL and the Canadian Museum Association. Our Executive Director, Ken Flynn and I spoke with Canadian Heritage while they were establishing initial guidelines for the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) for the sector throughout the country. It was through these initial meetings that small museums with expenditures as low as \$5000.00 were included in the eligibility guidelines. Ken has been in constant communication with Canadian Heritage and our Outreach Officer Anne Madden worked with our members to encourage them to apply for the MAP fund. We are pleased to report that 90 of our members applied for MAP and much needed dollars were secured in the bank accounts of these sites throughout the province.

Our Outreach Officer, Anne Madden and Executive Director, Ken Flynn have been keeping the sector abreast of current information through the List Serve and MANL's Facebook page. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the staff. In this time of great upheaval, Ken and Anne have shown true dedication and commitment to the board and the membership.

During the 40th Annual Conference and AGM that was held virtually, we welcomed our 2020-21 new, volunteer board. This incredible group of individuals continue to give freely of their time, expertise and talent. They are in no small part the driving force behind our association. The membership is well represented by this Pan Provincial board. A sincere and huge thank you to Linda Hickey, John Griffin, Joan Kane, Donna Norvey, Bonnie Ryan, Edna Penney, Margaret Scott, and Nadine Osmond for their dedication and advice.

I wish our members sincere good luck as we approach the 2021 summer. May we come back to using our gifts of being natural storytellers. Our innate ability to spin a yarn is basically a part of our DNA. The desire to proudly share who we are with the world is ingrained in our personality. We have that knack! We have the how! My wish for you is that your story, which has been told in ages past, will still be told for generations to come. May we always be true guardians of our story though our dedication to one of the most important components of tourism in our province, our museums and heritage sites. In the meantime, stay safe, get your vaccine shot and remember masks do save lives.

Respectfully yours,

Teresita E. McCarthy (Teddy)
President
MANL

Executive Director's Report

It has been just over a year since the Covid19 pandemic took the world by storm. Sadly the pandemic has caused devastating effects with great loss of life and socio-economic impacts. Cautiously, Newfoundland and Labrador has returned to Alert Level 2 after experiencing our second wave of Covid19 with the B117 variant. Last year museums were permitted to open with restrictions at Alert Level 3. In March the level was revised to Alert Level 4. Opening procedure for museums are located on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's website. We estimate 33 percent of our museums and heritage sites opened in 2020. It is important to note that the decision to open is up to each museum committee.

There are many factors to consider when opening your site. The safety of visitors, staff and volunteers is paramount. You should not open your site if you feel it is not safe to do so. There are economic factors to consider when opening. Many of our medium to large sites depend on the money generated from a variety of sources. Without tourists from Central Canada and the United States, significant revenue losses have and will occur. Museums may not have sufficient funding to operate for the season. Furthermore, proceeds from previous years are often required to start the next season. Losses in 2020 may complicate financial matters depleting cash reserves. In my conversations with the Provincial and Territorial Museum Associations and the Canadian Museum Association there have been talks of a second round of Covid19 relief funding for this year.

On the brighter side, many of our medium to small museums with less overhead costs should be able to open this year. With vaccinations underway in the province we have hope that life will return to normal. Museums not only provide tourism experiences, they offer valuable employment and student jobs during the summer season. Last year many of our museums did not open to the public but hired students to work on a variety of tasks in the museums and from home. When making decisions to open consider ways you can continue to provide employment in your communities. Remember, if the Alert Level permits, the decision to open still remains with each individual board.

During the pandemic museums direct link to tourism has never been demonstrated so prominently. The symbiotic relationship directly affects our codependence as heritage entities and tourism service providers. One cannot survive without the other. As tourists return to the province, our funding mix will come back to normal. In April MANL will be holding a virtual town hall meeting to discuss concerns in our industry. I hope everyone has a safe successful season. Please feel free to call us with your questions or concerns.

Take Care,

Ken Flynn

ATTENTION MANL MEMBERS



April 27
7 pm

Join us for a
Virtual Town Hall

Register Today

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Museum Day NL 2021 July 10, 2021

Planning to celebrate Museums Day NL 2021? Please let us know! MANL will be posting our list of museums in Newfoundland & Labrador which are open &/or offering programs on-line this summer. Please help us help you get the word out! We encourage everyone to use the hashtag #MuseumsDayNL2021 in all your social media posts.

Museum Day NL is held annually on the second Saturday in July. In celebration of Museum Day, MANL encourages all Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans to visit a museum at home and discover our museums, galleries, nature centers, gardens and historic sites across our province.

MANL Facebook @MuseumsNL

MANL has a new Facebook username @MuseumsNL and we would love you to tag us in your posts! That way, we will be sure to see your post, share and promote your news, events and stories!

MANL
2020 Virtual Annual
General Meeting

2020 Annual Report
is available from the MANL office.

Email: manl@nf.aibn.com

AROUND THE PROVINCE

LABRADOR REGION

Exciting News From the Labrador Institute: Northern-led Education for Labrador

On July 24, 2020, Memorial University made an historic announcement about the future of the Labrador Institute, creating the School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies, the first academic unit in Labrador.

Located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, the Labrador Institute is currently working with key partners in Labrador, Memorial University, and throughout the North to lead the development of the School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies, oversee the creation of undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate programming, and work towards the establishment of the Labrador campus of Memorial University, including infrastructure design and curriculum development.

This is exciting news for the university and Labrador, creating opportunities for North-to-North learning, co-production of knowledge, ideas sharing and exchange opportunities, as well as expanded research and educational resources. In addition, the new School and the developing Labrador campus will provide opportunities for students to be educated in place and access education that is reflective of their cultures and histories, languages and custom. The new campus will host a variety of educational opportunities, including an interdisciplinary Northern-focused and Northern-led undergraduate program (to be developed), allowing people to earn full degrees, diplomas, and certificates entirely in Labrador.

Interested in learning more about the Labrador Institute of Memorial University? Please contact Ashlee Cunsolo, Interim Dean, School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies.



MANL Would Like to Hear From You!

Is your museum, gallery or heritage society hosting a special event, honoring your volunteers or have you recently received funding for a new project? MANL would love to share your news. Please drop us a line at manl@nf.aibn.com and we will be sure to include it in our next newsletter.

WESTERN REGION

Virtual Music – Live Concerts from the Southwest Coast Historical Society



Followers of the Railway Heritage Museum Facebook page were recently treated to a series of live, virtual concerts featuring musicians from western Newfoundland. Hosted by the Southwest Coast Historical Society, two concert series were offered in November 2020 and again in February 2021.

Thanks to funding provided by Canadian Heritage, the Southwest Coast Historical Society was able to employ many musicians and bands to perform. While hosting a live concert series via their Facebook page was a new experience for the historical society, the popularity of this musical event came as no surprise to the organizers. Bringing musicians together with people throughout the province, in the middle of a global pandemic seemed like a good idea.

The success of these events was due in large part not only to the many local musicians who performed during the musical specials, but also to Roger Spencer, who assisted the bands with the technical setup. While the learning curve was steep, and technical difficulties were encountered, every concert was a success and enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

The musical line-up for the music series included:

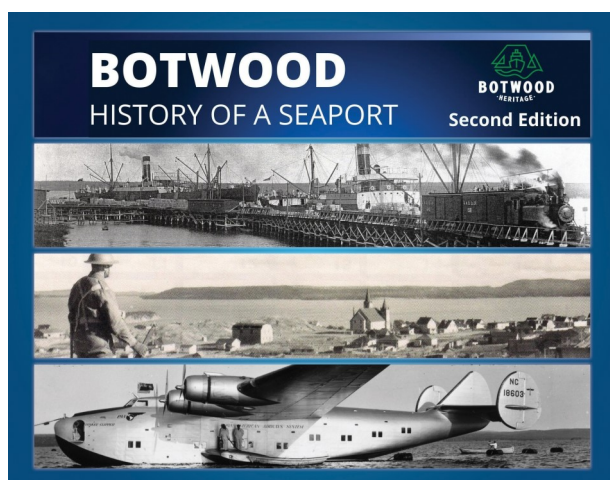
- Rose Blanche Show Band
- Ray Bowne and Guest
- Bernie and the Boys
- The Gateway Group
- Jack Daniel's Band
- Saltwater Sounds
- Good Time Band
- Shots Fired



CENTRAL REGION

Botwood—History of a Seaport Second Edition

Twenty- nine years after the release the first edition of the Botwood Heritage Society's book, *Botwood History of a Seaport*, we now have a second edition. Over these last 29 years we have discovered lost history, made history of our own and added on to what we knew in the first edition. The second edition is an accumulation of the first edition with the addition of 166 pages of new history and pictures. Without a doubt this second edition proves that Botwood's history is anything but typical and is some of the richest and most unique in the NL, Canada and the world.



We would not have been able to complete this project without grants for both research and publishing from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreational under the Cultural Economic Development Program—Heritage Component. Also, the absolute dedication to preserve our history and tell our story would not have been possible without the excellent work of the writers, researchers and the board of directors of the Botwood Heritage Society.

The book is available for sale for \$25 CASH/CHEQUE ONLY. You can also check out our

Botwood Heritage Society's Facebook page for information regarding mailing rates or contact us at:

- In person: Botwood Town Hall
- Email: botwoodheritage@hotmail.com
- Telephone: Lisa Hemeon- 709-257-2839 extension 224

Lisa Hemeon
Tourism, Heritage and Special Events
Town of Botwood

AVALON REGION

Landfall Trust & Kent Cottage Launch New Newsletter

After several years' hiatus, Landfall Trust has re-launched its newsletter. Along with the latest news, the fresh format will include information about their artists', writers' and, new this year, songwriters' residencies. The most current goings-on at Landfall will also be covered, as well as articles about the history of Kent Cottage and of the artists who, over the last century, have saved the cottage from the ravages of time. To subscribe to the newsletter, email Landfall Trust at admin@landfalltrust.org. Landfall Trust is a registered charity which oversees the 200 year-old Kent Cottage and provides seasonal artist, writer and musician-in-residence programs.



ST. JOHN'S REGION

Mummers School Program



The 12th Annual Mummers Festival went ahead in 2020 despite Covid-19 in virtual format. From November 28 to December 19, 15 different events were hosted, including a very popular "Mini Mummers School Program" delivered virtually by Ryan Davis (pictured above).

For more information and photos on the "The Art of Mummery" 2020 Festival, please visit page 12 of this newsletter for a fabulous article submitted by Lynn McShane, Executive Director of the Mummers Festival.

The Blackhead “Star of the Sea” Church

When I was a child my mother would point to the rocky area near the wooden schoolhouse in Blackhead, “that’s where the stone church was,” she would say. Other than the location, we knew little about the church. We understood that the stone cross from the church was in the cemetery and that the church had fallen down about 50 years after construction. After that, Mass was moved to the schoolhouse.

In the 1990s, the Heritage Foundation found an article in the *Newfoundlander* in 1861 about the dedication of a handsome stone church at Blackhead by Archbishop John Thomas Mullock. It was a huge affair attended by most of the clergy of St. John’s and crowds were ferried from St. John’s by the tug *Blue Jacket*. The church was named “Star of the Sea” invoking the Blessed Virgin. From that point, we knew our stone church was one of five constructed by Bishop Mullock between 1859 and 1865: the others were located in Kilbride, Torbay, St. Kyran’s and Ferryland.

Last fall our Museum made contact with Jamie Brake of the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) asking for advice on how to determine the footprint of the stone church. In October staff from the PAO dug five test pits. They found some cut stone with mortar, ceramics and coal, but they did not find the amount or type of debris they expected from such a significant structure. This prompted the PAO to wonder whether they were digging in the right place. The 1861 article had stated that the building “was conspicuous to the mariner from every quarter.” Would the spot they were digging be visible from every angle? Only a mariner would know.



That prompted our museum to contact Oceanex asking if someone on the container vessel could take some pictures as the vessel sailed past Blackhead.

Archaeologists from the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) digging test pits in Blackhead, October 2020. Photo Credit: Bonnie Ryan

Stephen Hull of the PAO also posted an article in his blog explaining our puzzle. Dr. Amanda Crompton from Memorial University Archaeology took up the challenge. Amanda’s research confirmed that the stone church was indeed located in the area of the schoolhouse. She also uncovered an article in the 1909 *Evening Telegram* about a wind storm that had damaged the stone church at Blackhead. “The tower and the cross which surmounted it were blown down, the three doors in it were taken off their hinge” according to the article. We finally had a partial description of our building!

In addition, Tyler Stapleton, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, and working on the *Oceanex Sanderling*, got back to us with 42 pictures! If the church tower was high with a white cross on the top it would be prominent. However, because the church was at the head of the bay, a mariner would not be able to see it from every quarter as they approach. When leaving St. John’s, there is a headland that blocks most of the view of the building until you are able to look straight up Blackhead Bay. Maybe the news reporter in 1861 got carried away in their description.

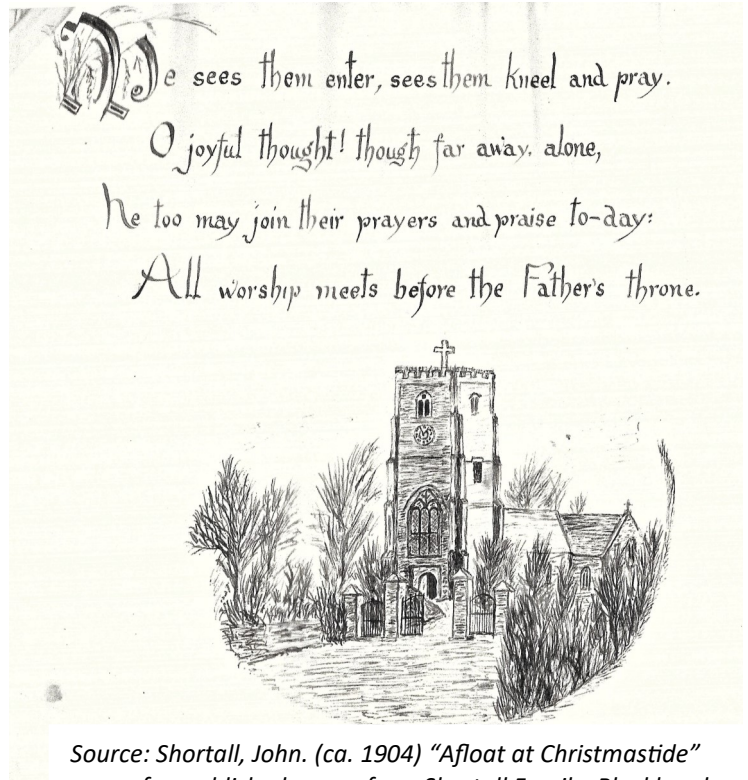
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The Blackhead “Star of the Sea” Church *Continued*

In November, Beverly Starr, a resident of Blackhead, had a chance conversation with Ms. Paula Shortall concerning the stone church. Paula's family had long ties to Blackhead. Paula indicated that she possessed the Shortall family bible and in it was a poem written by her grandfather John Shortall in 1904 when he was living in Blackhead. John was also an artist and his poem was beautifully illustrated. The poem was about a sailor away from home on Christmas Eve. In the poem was a detailed drawing of a stone church (included here on your right) which Paula's family always assumed was the stone church in Blackhead! While we cannot be certain if this is a drawing of the Blackhead church until we find corroborating evidence, the style of the church is similar to the other stone churches built by Mullock, and the church in the drawing has a tower with a cross on top!

The Blackhead Museum would welcome any further information that anyone might have on the stone church. Sometimes the answers to key research questions can be found in family bibles and photo albums!

Bonnie Ryan, Blackhead Museum



Source: Shortall, John. (ca. 1904) "Afloat at Christmastide" copy of unpublished poem from Shortall Family, Blackhead One Room School and Church Museum.

Congratulations Manning Award Recipients

The Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador's Manning Awards have honoured people and groups who are part of preserving and presenting the province's history and heritage for over 25 years. Named for the late Bill Manning, a former Parks Canada Superintendent of Newfoundland and Labrador's National Historic Sites, the Manning Awards of Excellence in the Public Presentation of Historic Places was created in 1993 to recognize and celebrate the work of individuals, communities, and organizations in preserving and presenting this province's history and heritage.

These awards are presented biannually and nominations are now being accepted for the 2022 award program. For more information, please contact the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador or visit their website: <https://www.historicsites.ca/>

2020 Manning Award Recipients:

- **Outstanding Heritage Supporter:** Tshaukuesh Elizabeth Penashue
- **National Category:** O'Brien Farm Foundation
- **Provincial Category:** Port de Grave Peninsula Heritage Society Inc.
- **Provincial Category:** Labrador Straits Historical Development Corporation
- **Community Category:** Bethany United Church
- **Community Category:** Fishers' Loft Inn



A very special congratulations to all our MANL members!

Pandemic Project: Clarenville Heritage Society

Railway Pump Car Pandemic Project 2020

By Stephen Bonnell, President, Clarenville Heritage Society Inc.

What is a railway pump car? Most people often think about the old Western Movies in that period of steam engines, pioneers and gunslingers. The pump car or hand car as it is called in the USA is a work rail car that railway sectionmen used for track maintenance mainly travelling to work each day to repair a section of track along the subdivision. This was their main mode of transport before the arrival of gas powered speeders or rail carts equipped with a gas motor hence the name speeder. Pictured right is a photo of what a pump car would have looked like in Newfoundland at the turn of the 20th century.



The Clarenville Heritage Society Inc., which operates a community museum in Clarenville, former CNR Railway station, purchased a set of pump car plans back in 2013 from a Bruce Carpenter of Ohio. These plans were based on standard gauge rail dimensions between the wheels and axels which would be 56 ½" the normal width between the rails for railways and railroads in Canada and the USA. Newfoundland had a narrow gauge railway of 42" gauge. So therefore our plans would have to factor that in when the day came to build the car. It was a project that was put on the back burner over the years mainly due to time and finding the gears and wheels. It was a project the Society always wanted to do given the unique design of a pump car but more so not many remain on the island anymore except for one or two in private collections.

In 2020 when the Pandemic hit and with the museum not being opened, the opportunity arose and what better time to do something good and fun. What got the wheels rolling, pardon the pun in June of 2020 was a donation from Mr. Aiden O'Brien arranged by a friend of mine Doug Pelley of Paradise, NL. Aiden's father Terrence O'Brien of Topsail Pond Road had a set of railway wheels and axels. Doug mentioned to me one day if Clarenville Heritage would be interested. These railway wheels were repurposed for a sawmill back in the 1929 which was not uncommon for many Newfoundland men to make use of old railway equipment.



Photo (Left): This is what we received from Aiden. It was all that was left of what appeared to be a railway pump car at one time. The pinion gear on the axle was the dead giveaway. The Society already owned some axels and wheels from an old speeder that was donated to us but without the pinion gear. Once I showed the picture to Mike Korpel, one of our Society members, who also had the plans, the decision was made to revisit this project now that we had some time. Once we got the wheels we had to get them sandblasted and epoxy primed at Canadian Maritime Engineering Dockyard here in Clarenville.



Photo (Right): By late June Mike had a spruce frame mock-up constructed. The actual car frame is made from white oak and the decking is from pine.

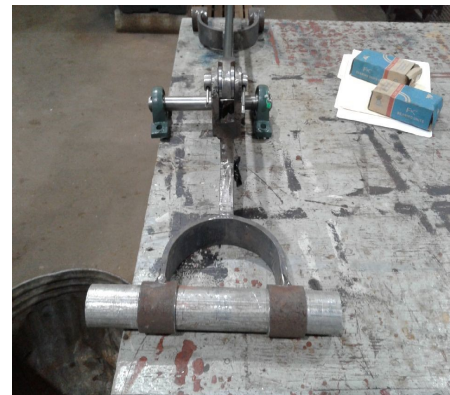


Photo (Above): Oak frames and handles. Cut and primed. Woodworking was a major part of the project in addition to the mechanical parts.

Continued on page 9



Photo (Left): One of the main components that we had to out-source was the main 72 teeth drive gear weighing in at 86lbs. This is the S472 Martin Gear from original pump cars based on the plans we have. The gear was ordered from Martin Gear in Canada but came from a plant in Texas.



Many of the rods, shafts and levers had to be made up at the local machine shop Canadian Maritime Engineering. Those were fabricated based on the plan drawings. Above right is a photo of the top handle for the car taken back in October of 2020.

As mentioned before, the plans were based on a standard gauge track car however Mike had to do some re-calculations by working from the centre to factor in width of car, frame and proper clearance spacing for the drive gear and bearings. The mechanics are the same for both standard and narrow gauge but the dimensions had to be designed for 42" rail. The photo on the right shows what the car started to look like in August. The pump car itself was completed on our end by September but we were waiting on machinists work for the top components for about a month



Photo (Left): Nearly complete and some more painting required.



Photo (Right): Mike Korpel standing by the new pump car. Very proud builder. The Society has about ¼ mile of track it will operate the car on during summer events. In this picture taken in late September, all but complete except for the top operating handle and drive rod. In all Mike spent close to 400 hours of his time all volunteered. Expenses were just over \$7,000 and this was for materials such as lumber, hardware, drive gear, paint and machinists professional fees to fabricate all other gear driven components.



Photo (Left): November 7th, 2020. The big day when we finally saw the pump car in action. Mike Korpel of Clarendville going for the first ride.

In conclusion this has been a very rewarding project for our small society and museum here in Clarendville. We started in late June and finished in early November. We plan to make some more adjustments to the car in the spring for main drive connecting rod. The car takes a lot of work to pump and operate given its weight around 500lbs. It was a pleasure to see history come alive again. Many thanks to the Town of Clarendville for their support, Dave Ingram at the Canadian Maritime Engineering dockyard and his staff, Doug Pelley and Aiden O'Brien. Best of all, a big thanks to Mike Korpel for all his long hours over the summer and fall 2020.



COVER STORY:

The Newfoundland Pony: An Endangered Piece of Newfoundland & Labrador History

It would be hard to find a more culturally and historically rich place than Newfoundland and Labrador. According to UNESCO: Heritage is our legacy from the past, and what we pass on to future generations. Our heritage and history anchor us and shape our future identity.

As we collect books and maps and other relics that link us to our past, there is a living, breathing piece of Newfoundland history in danger of disappearing: the Newfoundland Pony. Once in the thousands, it's estimated that there are approximately 500 animals left in the world. Of that, a smaller number is suitable for breeding. The Newfoundland Pony is listed as critically endangered by Rare Breeds Canada and the Equus Survival Trust and if more people don't help preserve the unique history that this animal has, it will be lost and become a memory.

The history of the Newfoundland Pony has its beginnings with the fishery. When the early settlers arrived, they brought with them all they needed to survive in a harsh and untamed land, including the hardworking ponies of Great Britain and Ireland. They brought Dartmoor, Exmoor and New Forest Ponies from England; Highland and Fell ponies from Scotland; the Connemara pony from Ireland; and Welsh Mountain Ponies from Wales. These breeds can be traced back to Celtic days and are the ancestors of today's Newfoundland Pony.

Records show that in 1611, John Guy brought over Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies. When Lord Falkland arrived in Newfoundland he ordered a further supply of horses to be shipped from Bristol.

Isolated from the world, the ponies intermingled for hundreds of years, breeding in the seclusion of Newfoundland's bays and coves to produce a sturdy, hardy pony uniquely our own. Most families in rural Newfoundland had a Pony. Known for its gentle, yet hardworking nature, the Pony worked alongside Newfoundlanders building and sustaining communities across the province.



The ponies hauled kelp from the beaches for gardens. When the fishing season ended, they pulled boats onto the shore to rest through the winter. They hauled logs from the forest that were used to build houses, stages and churches. They were a dependable means of transportation for people, including midwives and doctors who travelled to and from coastal communities.

The Newfoundland pony is recognized internationally as a distinct landrace breed: landrace referring to a species that has evolved to suit its environment because of its environment, and is the last remaining landrace pony on this continent that has not had its genes tampered with. They have unique physical survival traits; they have hard hooves (they don't need shoes!), thick hairy winter coats, and long manes and tails. Their height ranges between 11 to 14 hands high and they weigh between 400 and 800 pounds. They can pull twice their weight!

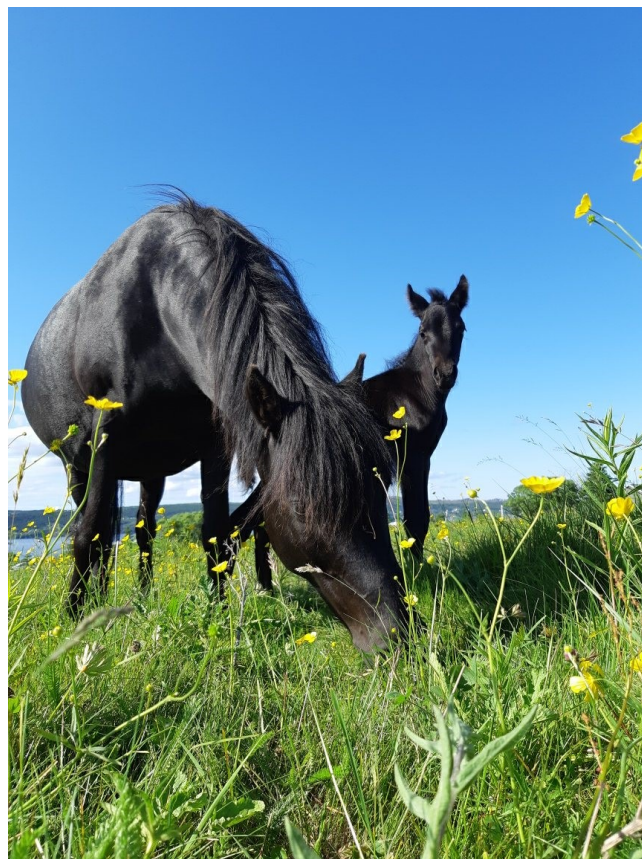
In the 1970s and for the following 20 years, most were sold for meat to an established ring of horse traders who combed the island. Ponies were replaced with ATVs and Newfoundlanders embraced new, shiny equipment. After all, you don't need to buy hay for an ATV or pay for farrier or vet services! In 1980, records from the Grenville Horse Slaughter Plant near Hawkesbury, Quebec showed that approximately 700 Ponies from Newfoundland had been "processed" there that year alone. The following years showed similar grim figures. By 1992, there were only 125 ponies left in the world.

We almost lost the Newfoundland Pony forever and with it, the rich history and traditions that link this pony to us. It is of this land, evolved from this harsh environment, who worked alongside the people to build this place. And that is worth saving.

The question becomes then, how can we help the pony knowing that many of us live in towns without stables in our back yards? **In order for the Newfoundland Pony to thrive and prosper in the land where it evolved, there needs to be far greater access to land.** The Provincial Department of Fisheries and Land Resources has over 40 million hectares of land under management. More of that land needs to be given to the pony for grazing and breeding.

The Newfoundland Pony Society (NPS), the volunteer-run charity that protects the Newfoundland Pony, recently launched an ambitious project to create a permanent home for the Pony known as the **Newfoundland Pony Heritage Park**. The Park will provide grazing and breeding land, plus a place for the public, school groups and tourists to see and to learn about them. Currently there is no mention of Newfoundland Ponies in the Rooms exhibits and no official public place on the Avalon for people to see them.

The seasonal Park will be located near Hopeall, Trinity Bay on 25 acres of land that NPS acquired from the Provincial Government on an agricultural lease. They kicked off a \$250,000 fundraising campaign to finance the project in two phases. **Phase 1** focuses on rehabilitating the pasture so that ponies can be turned out on it this summer. The fencing needs to be replaced, the well needs to be tested and the entrance needs to be made accessible for the public. **Phase 2** focuses on renovating the existing outbuildings to create a small visitor centre with information panels about the pony. A demonstration area is being considered so that people can see how ponies were used traditionally in harness.



Dr. Andrew Fraser, the Scottish veterinarian who moved to the Province in the 1970s described the connection of the pony to the land and the importance of giving it habitat in its homeland:

“All the outports have been breeding grounds for their own ponies. They provided one protective homeland. The blend of people and stock here gave a high note to an ecological state which was always fragile, yet enduring. The essence of that life can not come back, but the places and ponies can be preserved somewhere in the future scheme of green, restorative and protective plans. In Newfoundland, the native pony must be respectfully preserved where it belongs, where it has a right to be born and raised and have a future.”¹

If you want to help save the Newfoundland pony, here's what you can do:

- Donate to the Park fundraising campaign at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/explore/charities/?q=Newfoundland+Pony+Society>
- Become a member of NPS for \$20 (single) or \$30 family
- Enjoy fencing? Volunteer at a fencing day in the spring coordinated by NPS
- Have architectural skills? Help with the design concepts for the Park.
- Have land and a barn? They have a re-homing committee that is always seeking homes for Ponies that come into their care.

¹ Fraser, Dr. Andrew. *The Newfoundland Pony*. St. John's: Creative Publishers, 1992. Page 198.

For more information please contact:

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Volunteer
Newfoundland Pony Heritage Park
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Virtual Mummers Festival a Success!

Covid-19 couldn't keep a bunch of determined mummers down! Despite all the challenges of 2020, the 12th Annual Mummers Festival went ahead – full steam and in virtual format. We chose the theme “The Art of Mumming” so that we could work with even more local artists than usual. From November 28 to December 19, we hosted 15 different events, including ugly stick, hobby horse, and printmaking workshops. Each of these were delivered virtually; participants in the St. John's area were able to pick-up pre-packaged material kits, and we also posted material lists on our website. These were very well received by people participating via Zoom and Facebook Live, and we were excited to have people from all over Newfoundland and Labrador as well as the rest of Canada and beyond join in.



The energetic Pouch Cove Happy Hour Friends submitted a wonderful clip to the Virtual Mummers Parade (Submitted Photo).

We also offered numerous presentations by local artists that were streamed online, including a terrific event we called “What a Great Shot!” that featured the professional photographers who captured the magic of our traditional Mummers Parade; other sessions included a local artist's panel where the artists discussed incorporating the mummering tradition in their work, and a presentation by two Inuit artists, Jennie Williams and Jessica Winters, who talked about the Nalajuit tradition that is celebrated in some Inuit communities in Labrador. We even involved chainsaw artist Bill Guiney who created a beautiful piece we called “Maggie the Mummer” that we raffled off as our main fundraiser. Again, we were delighted by the online response.

Music as always played a big role in our virtual festival and we were thrilled to hold a virtual concert featuring local musicians Paul Hamilton, Nate Hammond and the iconic and beloved Bud Davidge. This was a huge success – over 50,000 people from all over the world joined! So many told us that we had made their Christmas; the opportunity to share stories about mummering and reminisce about the tradition from ex-pat Newfoundlanders was quite moving.

Our popular Mini Mummers School Program was also adapted and delivered virtually to 15 classrooms by the talented Ryan Davis and was hugely successful. The kids loved the chance to engage and learn all about mummering.

The highlight of every festival is always our Mummers Parade; because we were unable to hold a real parade, we created a virtual one! Participants submitted video clips of themselves and their bubbles, and we created a Virtual Mummers Parade that we streamed on December 12. The clips were creative, hilarious, and energetic, and it was so inspiring to see how many kids were involved. We couldn't believe the response to this - people loved it and immediately asked us to repeat it in 2021, regardless of where we are Covid-wise.

The learning curve was steep, and there were lots of challenges in making a virtual festival happen; we encountered quite a few technical glitches as we got used to delivering virtual sessions, and of course nothing can replace the “people factor” of a festival. But we were also incredibly pleased with the opportunity to introduce the mummering tradition to an entirely new audience. We even inspired a small library in Alberta to create their own mummering week, and a Newfoundlander teaching in France adapted some of our content into her curriculum.

While we are hopeful that things will return to normal by our 13th Mummers Festival, we learned that technology allows us to still engage with audiences, provides for great teaching opportunities, and allows us to preserve our heritage and culture. To check out our Virtual Mummers Parade, visit our website: <https://www.mummersfestival.ca/>

Submitted by Lynn McShane, Executive Director, Mummers Festival



2020 Mummers Festival Team delivering a “Virtual Rig Up” on December 12 prior to the Virtual Mummers Parade. L-R, back row: Lynn McShane, Executive Director; Wyatt Hirschfeld-Shibley, Director; Patti Hamilton, Treasurer; Delores Burton, Director; Krista Thorne, Director; Beth Saunders, Vice-Chair. Front row: Maria Lear, Secretary; Terra Barrett, Chair. Missing from photo: Andrea O'Brien, Director. (Submitted Photo)

Minnie White's Home Becomes a Museum

TOMPKINS - Not far after the turn towards St. Andrews from the Trans Canada Highway, a two storey white house sits quietly surrounded by hostas and trees. This was once the home of Minnie White, a legendary West Coast musician and accordion player who received numerous accolades, including the Order of Canada. She appeared on several television programs and performed regularly at The Starlight. Celebrities adored her, and Rick Mercer once visited her here.

Now Minnie's house is being transformed into a museum that will honour not only her musical legacy, but the heritage and culture of the Codroy Valley where she made her home. The visionaries behind this private museum project are Russell and Helen White, her son and daughter-in-law. "The house was built in 1937," says Russell. "The floors are original. The ceilings are all original." The two started with the idea of a museum, but they weren't sure at first what condition the house was in once all of Minnie's modern renovations were removed. "Russell gutted the house out from top to bottom," says Helen. The pair peeled back flowery wallpaper for months, eventually uncovering the solid wood underneath. The wide, brown painted planks on the floors and the rougher, clear-coated walls and ceilings are a testament to the carpentry skills of the original builders. Now they lend a classic, inviting charm to the museum and complement the treasures that will be put on display. Helen is a former schoolteacher with a talent for history and antiques, particularly when it comes to Newfoundland and the Codroy area.

"I have a passion for this kind of thing," says Helen, who has helped out with the heritage displays of past Come Home Year celebrations. "I had a vision for this. I could really see this happening." The vision the couple has is to pay tribute to Minnie and her musical legacy, and preserve the region's heritage and way of life that has all but disappeared. Now two and a half years after the Whites started, the My Dear Minnie Museum of Heritage and Culture is finally ready to receive its displays. The front entry room will be devoted to Minnie. Displays will include photos, numerous awards, personal letters and her instruments. "There was a lot of music played in this room," says Russell. "Well in the summertime, every Sunday afternoon there would be a crowd here – fiddlers, singers, you name it." "I think Minnie would love this," says Helen.

The adjacent room will display the farming heritage of the Codroy Valley. The White homestead has been recognized as a century farm, meaning their family has farmed that land continuously for over a hundred years. Their land is still a functioning farm, just leased to another farmer. Another room will feature displays centered around the rich commercial and sport fishing heritage of Codroy. "Codroy is the only ocean going fishing community in the valley," notes Helen. "So we have space reserved for anything to do with the fishery."

Another upstairs room has already been transformed into a one-room schoolhouse, much like the one Helen first taught in. In fact, it's her old teacher's desk nestled beneath the window between the wood stove and the chalkboard that Russell built and she painted. And there are plans in the works for the remaining rooms. Preserving their family legacy and the region's heritage has a practical side too. Aside from offering a glimpse into the region's past, it reduces waste. "We saw the need," says Helen. "There's more and more of these artifacts ending up in the landfills because people don't know what to do with them."

The retired couple have put a lot of sweat equity into the museum, perhaps even more than the financial equity. Russell did most of the work aside from some minor assistance with electricity and plumbing, and of course Helen pitched in too. She's done her fair share of painting. That independence and do it yourself practicality has also extended to the financial side of starting up a museum. They haven't solicited any financial help towards costs from the government, nor from the Codroy Valley communities. Both are grateful to local musician Gordon Cormier, who intends to help out by raising funds for a donation by hosting a virtual jamboree. Going it alone financially was a deliberate choice, so that the two could remain in control of their vision for the museum instead of having to deal with committees or oversight. "It ended up being an expensive hobby," chuckles Russell. "But a very interesting hobby," says Helen. "It's absolutely a labour of love."



Photo credit © Rosalyn Roy
Wreckhouse Press Incorporated

New Website for MANL Members

MANL is creating a new website to promote and serve its membership and we need your help. An important component is the online listing of our institutional members. Updated information and photos are required for each site. We are almost ready to roll but need your updated information and photos.

Please visit MANL's website for more information or get in touch with us. We look forward to hearing from you!

MANL Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again. MANL members will soon receive their membership renewal packages in the mail. This year our members will notice some changes to the package. There are now two different membership forms to reflect two different MANL membership categories. Organizations and societies will receive an *Institutional Membership Form*, while *Individual Membership Forms* will be sent to individuals. Both forms are posted on MANL's website. The MANL membership year is from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The fee for institutions and organizations is \$60 and \$25 for individuals.

Digital Museums Canada is the investment program formerly known as the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMA). It has helped Canadian museums and heritage organizations build digital capacity and share stories and experiences with people everywhere. by providing investments of \$15,000 to \$250,000 for online projects that engage their audiences. The next call for funding opportunities will be coming soon in spring 2021. For more information, please visit: <https://www.digitalmuseums.ca/>



New Toolkit Supports Promotion of GLAM* Benefits

***GLAM = Galleries, Libraries, Archives & Museums!**



The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) unveiled a new toolkit to help members of the GLAM community increase awareness about the tremendous contributions of the sector which were revealed in a recent study. The toolkit was produced on behalf of the Ottawa Declaration Working Group, a consortium of stakeholders co-led by the CMA and Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Library Archives Canada.

The toolkit contains key messages, ready-to-use social media posts and infographics, a fact sheet, a full presentation package including slides and speaking points, and additional references. It contains broader GLAM information, as well as information specific to each of the sub-sectors. The toolkit also includes a top-12 list of practical tips on how the tools in the kit can be used in various ways, for example, in speeches, on social media channels, and in meetings with staff, funders, politicians, boards of directors and donors.

Everyone is encouraged to visit www.museums.ca/site/glam to read the study and for members of the GLAM community to make use of the toolkit to collectively spread the word about the importance of — and contributions by — GLAMS in Canadian society.

MANL Membership Notes

Focus Areas of the Program:

- Museum Governance & Management
- Collections Management
- Preventive Conservation
- Exhibit Planning and Development

This program is designed to provide museum workers with a general introduction into current theories, standards, and best practices for museums. For more information, please visit MANL's website.

Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador Certificate in Museum Studies Program



THE MANY BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

CMA Bursary Program:

The Canadian Museums Association offers three types of bursaries to assist museum professionals in the following areas:

1. Conference Professional Development
2. Emerging Professional Development
3. Mid-Career Professional Development

MANL members can avail of these programs. For more information on the program contact the CMA (www.museums.ca).

MANL Disaster Loan Fund:

MANL offers an emergency loan of up to \$10,000 to member museums experiencing a disaster with their collections. This repayable loan is designed to provide immediate financial assistance to MANL members. The MANL disaster loan can be used by museums affected by disasters of any magnitude however, MANL reserves the right to assess each individual case for eligibility. This loan is intended to provide immediate funds that would be repaid to MANL by the museum.

MANL Membership Discounts:

In addition to receiving discounts on training programs and workshops, MANL members also receive free admission to over 70 museums in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program

This monitoring equipment can be useful in helping to determine regulatory environmental levels, as well as give the museum more knowledge into the effects the surrounding environment has on artefact collections.

THESE DEVICES RECORD:

- RELATIVE HUMIDITY
- TEMPERATURE
- LIGHT INTENSITY

MANL can also provide consultation with museums on how to regulate environmental controls.



MANL members can borrow specialized equipment such as light meters, temperature and relative humidity meters, and data loggers for a fixed period in order to monitor their museum environment.

MANL Membership Form (April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022)



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:

Individual Name/Institutional Name: _____

Name of Museum/Heritage Attraction: _____

Governing Authority: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Physical Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Would you like to provide ONE FREE ADMISSION to any individual with a MANL membership card?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Your institution name will be included in our promotional material

MANL is adhering to Canada's anti-spam legislation. Please provide consent if you wish to receive our emails:
_____ Yes, I provide consent to receive emails from MANL.

I prefer to receive my **MANL NEWSLETTER: (Members can receive both)** ☐ Print / Mail ☐ PDF / Email

All members will continue to receive newsletters in print unless requested otherwise.

DOUBLE DOWN!

Make a Donation to MANL!

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

___ I would like to make a donation (Tax Receipt Available)

_____ \$25.00 _____ \$60.00

\$ _____ (other amount)

(Registered Charitable #10775 6199 RR0001)

Type of Annual Membership:

_____ \$25.00 Individual Membership (Voting)

_____ \$60.00 Institutional Membership (Voting)

Method of Payment:

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

_____ Cash

Total Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Forward your completed form with your payment to:
Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

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