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A.G.M. 2018

Achieving Museum Excellence

Summer
2018
Vol.36,
No.1

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador



The Honourable Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, met with the Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove Heritage Committee at their museum on Saturday, July 7, 2018 to proclaim Museum Day in Newfoundland and Labrador. Approximately 150 museums throughout the province celebrated Museum Day with special programs and events. Pictured L-R: MANL President John Griffin, Committee member Heather Cox, MANL Executive Director Ken Flynn, Committee Chair Ron Doyle, Committee members Mike Hearn and Jim Kieley, Secretary Ann Payne, Vice-Chair David Green, Minister Mitchelmore, and Treasurer Billy Lee.

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(closed on provincial government holidays)

Please contact MANL for deadline details

The Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (MANL) is a non-profit, 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.

Registered Charity Number. 10775 6199 RR0001

President's Report

In my day job at the Museum of the Printed Word or, as it is also known, the A.C. Hunter Public Library we collect printed material about Newfoundland and Labrador. Printed material can mean books, magazines, newspapers, maps, pamphlets. One such item in our collection is the MANL Newsletter of which we have a nearly complete run.

"The Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador is a provincial organization which promotes the interest of the museum and heritage community of Newfoundland and Labrador and works for its advancement." These words were written in the very first MANL Newsletter dated November 1981 and still ring true almost 37 years later. There have been many advances since this first appeared in print.

Newfoundland and Labrador culture and history is now an integral part of our school curriculum. There are museums dedicated to wooden boats, fisheries, transportation, healthcare, geology, indigenous peoples and numerous communities. None of this would have been possible without dedicated volunteers and employees and their enthusiasm for preserving and interpreting our past. Governments, Provincial, Municipal and Federal also deserve credit for their ongoing financial support as well as believing that heritage is an important part of who we are.

On Saturday, July 7th, the Honorable Christopher Mitchelmore, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation signed a proclamation making that day Newfoundland and Labrador Museum Day. We hope that this will grow in the coming years to highlight our members work to both residents and visitors.

With the summer season now behind us, I hope everyone had a very successful season and I look forward to hearing about it at our annual conference and AGM in October.

Regards,
John Griffin

Executive Director's Report

Another tourist season is winding down and from all accounts our museums have had another successful season. A recently released Canadian Heritage survey noted that 1,200,000 people visited museums and historic sites in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015. This combined with an 84% satisfaction rate in the provincial exit survey demonstrates the great work being done by our sector. Congratulations to all who volunteer and work to make these great numbers possible.

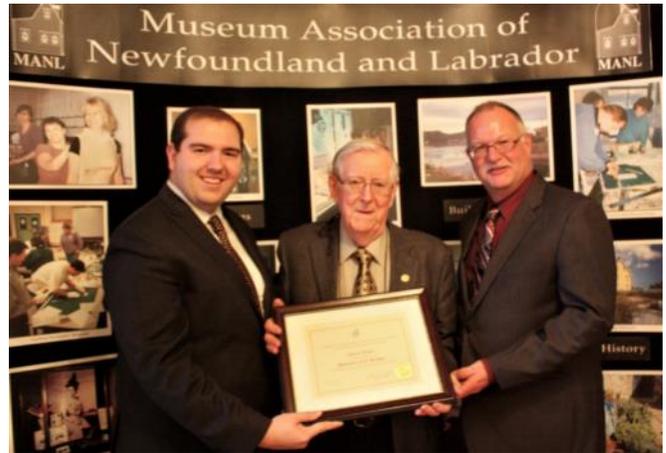
Earlier this year Anne Madden our Outreach Officer and I traveled to museums in Central and the Burin Peninsula. We conducted site visits to museums providing advisory services and touring exhibits. These visits were made possible through funding from the department of TCII. Site visits help build on best practices work recently completed over the past several years. We hope to offer more visits in the coming year. If you would like to participate in this project and feel you would benefit from a site visit let us know.

Due to recent funding cuts MANL is currently re-vamping our training programs. We continue to offer a variety of training and our certificate in museum studies. We have offered two courses, two training sessions and plan to offer four courses and two sessions this fall and winter of this fiscal year. Check our website and social media feeds for the latest training opportunities. Two courses will be offered at the Ramada on October 19th. Contact us if you would like to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at our conference and annual general meeting in October. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at the office.

Regards,
Ken Flynn

Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Awards Program



Pictured (L-R) Mark Browne, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, Mr. Albert Dober, Award Winner,

Congratulations Mr. Albert Dober!

Congratulations to Mr. Albert Dober, the 2017 recipient of MANL's Honorary Life Membership. The announcement of this award occurred during MANL's 2017 Annual General Meeting and Conference.

The Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador initiated an Awards Program to honor individuals or institutions that have made significant contributions to the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage and to the development of museums. The Awards program is intended not only to acknowledge but also to raise public awareness of museums and museum people.

Nominations of individuals or institutions that deserve recognition for their contributions to the museum field are invited for the following categories: Awards of Merit and Honorary Life Membership. The successful recipients of awards receive a certificate acknowledging their contributions. A maximum of two awards are given for each category in a given year.

To meet the eligibility criteria, the nominator must be a MANL member, individual or institutional. The nominee may be volunteers (unpaid persons involved in the heritage field), professionals (any persons employed by a heritage organization), organizations (non-profit societies) or corporation involved in heritage preservation. The seconder has to be a member of good standing in the community.

All submissions will be assessed by the Awards Committee. Judgments by the committee will be based solely on the strength of the information submitted with the nomination package. If the committee is unable to identify suitable recipients in any given category, no award will be given in that category.

AROUND THE PROVINCE



St. John's & Area

Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador Gets New Home



On Museum Day, July 7, 2018, the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, with a little help from friends, volunteers and special dignitaries, officially opened its new home with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, expressions of gratitude to everyone who helped, and of course, cake.

For almost three decades, the Craft Council operated out of Devon House, a brick building next to Devon Row. This heritage structure needed some work and was not accessible, so a new space was required. They are now located in another Duckworth Street property, west of Prescott Street. The building at 275 Duckworth St. was used for decades as the home of the Telegram newspaper. The council already has about 5,000 square feet completed to house its shop, gallery and administrative offices and by January, hopes to have an additional 3,000 square feet renovated to house its clay studio. The Craft Council, a long-time member of MANL, sells goods made by 175 different producers in the province and also represents the interests of 254 members. The Craft Council is open daily. Drop by or visit their website: <https://craftcouncil.nl.ca>.

Central Region

New Great Auk Exhibit at Durrell Museum



The Durrell Museum in Twillingate features a new display this summer of the Great Auk. On April 26 the museum unveiled the display for the first time to a full house. The concrete replicas were made by the acclaimed artist Paul Summerskill and donated to the museum by his wife Tina after Paul's

passing last spring. The picture in the background features the home of the Great Auk, the Funk Island, which was painted by local artist Sarah S. Stockley Fine Art. The Durrell Museum is opening daily during the summer. For more information, please call: (709) 884-2780.

Eastern Region

St. Lawrence Miners' Museum

The province has announced St. Lawrence will receive \$166,275 to construct a 30 by 35 foot extension to the St. Lawrence Miners' Museum. The added footage will allow for additional seating at the museum, as well as the development of a demonstration space where visitors can participate in the cutting, shaping and polishing of fluorspar jewelry. The funding will also help with increased marketing efforts such as signage, brochures, web and other media.

In a news release, St. Lawrence Mayor Paul Pike said he was pleased with the announcement. "This is indeed a great announcement for our community and for tourism on the Burin Peninsula. This addition to the miners' museum will enable us to not only to expand the tourism potential of this area but also provide our visitors with a true experiential product. We would like to thank all our partners for making this dream a reality," Pike said.

The drive to expand the museum involved Three L Training and Employment, Island Rock Jewelry and Crafts and the St. Lawrence Historical Advisory Committee.

Reprinted with kind permission from The Southern Gazette, September 30, 2017



The St. Lawrence Miner's Museum is located on Route 220 in St. Lawrence. For more information, please call (709)-873-2222 or visit the Town of St. Lawrence website: www.townofstlawrence.com

Avalon Region

Recycling Rewards for Heritage!



The “Bag Ladies of Hant’s Harbour”, a.k.a. Gertie Pelley, Delilah Bown, Alma Critch, Audrey Janes and Fran Pelley, are a recycling team and members of the Hant’s Harbour Willow Tree Heritage Society. Their ages range from 79 to 87! In December 2017, the Bag Ladies entered a Community Counts Contest sponsored by MMSB. The purpose of the contest was to highlight recycling in our province and offer the chance to win a monetary prize for those who entered. We were required to submit a ninety-second video and people could go online and vote for their favorite entry.

In our video, we told of our recycling fund-raising for the Willow Tree Society. We explained how we have been involved in this venture for almost twenty-two years – shortly after recycling really came on stream – and have raised over \$26,000 for the cause and kept over half a million recyclable items out of the landfill. We are very pleased to report that we received a cheque for \$1,181.32 for which we are very thankful. This money will be used to purchase and install badly needed windows for the 100+ year old Willow Tree Museum.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the many people who voted for the “Bag Ladies” video and made such positive comments. It was all overwhelming and certainly encourages us to continue in our efforts to preserve the history and heritage, not only in our community of Hant’s Harbour, but our province as well.

Article submitted by Hant’s Harbour Willow Tree Heritage Society. (Editor’s Note: Be sure to check out their fabulous video: <http://communitycountscontest.hscampaigns.com>)

Western Region

International Grenfell Association

The International Grenfell Association (IGA) is working with The Rooms in St. John’s to preserve more of the original records of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell and make them more accessible. About a year and a half ago, the IGA asked The Rooms Archives Division team to work with the local Grenfell Historical Society (GHS) board to preserve the Grenfell Historic Society’s records in St. Anthony.

The first part of the project was conducted last year, when division staff took some of the records from the Grenfell Interpretation Centre. This year, they’re taking records from the Grenfell House Museum. Archives director Greg Walsh and technicians Beverly Bennett and Elizabeth Fewer removed items from the site, including photographs, letters, diaries, ledgers, songs and poems. They will copy and digitize the documents back in St. John’s and return the reproductions to the Grenfell House for next year. The originals will remain preserved in The Rooms. All the documents will be accessible in The Rooms’ online archives, available at therooms.ca/archives.

Fewer told the Northern Pen the records they gathered from St. Anthony will be available online gradually over the upcoming year. The Rooms already has the largest collection of Grenfell records in the world. Walsh says they have been criticized by some people who feel they’re taking a region’s history back to St. John’s and hiding it away. But, according to Walsh, they’re doing the opposite. Thanks to the online database, he says, these items can now be available to anyone in the world.

Walsh says they’re also hoping to establish a computer kiosk at the Grenfell Interpretation Centre, so visitors can access the database directly. “We’re hoping to have more of a direct link between St. Anthony and St. John’s,” he said. “The Grenfell collections we have are such an important part of what we do.

Article written by Stephen Roberts/The Northern Pen. Reprinted with kind permission from The Northern Pen, November 16, 2017

Labrador Region

#IDThemDays

Them Days has launched Phase II of our Labrador Image Identification and Dissemination Initiative, more commonly known by its hashtag, #IDThemDays. Xingpei (Pei) Li is the Project Researcher for this project. Pei worked with us while doing a co-op placement for his Master’s of Folklore at Memorial University. Now that he’s graduated, he’s back and we couldn’t be happier. Pei will be combing through the archives, finding photographs that need identifying information added, be it a place, a year, names, etc., and he will be cross-referencing other photos in our archive, posting images to social media, consulting with community members, and travelling around to find the answers. It’s a project that requires a lot of detective work!



Xingpei (Pei) Li is the Project Researcher. Our first #WhereisitWednesday photograph garnered a lot of attention. Not only were we able to get the photograph identified, but it led to us discovering the identities of four additional photographs, and we were able to move them from our “Miscellaneous section” (it holds nearly 8000 images alone!) to their proper location in our system.

Pei will be with us for a year working on this project (we received a grant for it from Library and Archives Canada’s Documentary Heritage Communities Program), so expect to see lots of photos in our social media streams! Follow along with us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram!

Article and photo submitted by Aime Chalk, Editor, Them Days Magazine

Monument Unveiled to Remember The Story of the Truxton and Pollux

*Submitted by: Carl Slaney, Member, St. Lawrence Historical Advisory Committee Inc.
Photo Credit: Lisa Loder*



In 1942 there was a sea tragedy that has shaped the history of the Burin Peninsula. Three American navy vessels ran aground during a typical winter storm in NL waters during February. Two of the stranded vessels were lost and one managed to free itself from the rocks.

February 18, 2017 was the 75th anniversary of the tragedy. The St. Lawrence Heritage Advisory Committee unveiled a new monument to mark the wreck site of the Truxton. The monument was created out of reverence to the rescuers, the survivors and the lost souls.

From the speech given by Laurella Stacey, chairman of the committee, during the unveiling ceremony; “The cross stands tall over the resting place of the USS Truxton. The wings represent the eagle, the emblem of the U.S.A. From the sea, the shape resembles a ship’s anchor, and viewed from afar the wings resemble two people kneeling at the cross.”

Beyond the facts and statistics there is a story of the people of St. Lawrence, Lawn and surrounding communities. The people gave what they had in skill, compassion and material goods to help people in crisis. There are so many stories behind the main event. Men risked their own lives and wellbeing for a stranger they found to be in distress. Women nursed the wounded, fought off hypothermia and cheated death. The people accepted the challenge and demonstrated the true character of Newfoundlanders. The need was great but the cause was noble and regardless of religion, color, nationality... These people needed help. (Continued on page 7)

Their response to people in distress demonstrates the true character of the people of Newfoundland. The response to the Shipwreck of the Truxton and Pollux in 1942 resulted in 186 persons rescued and unfortunately 203 deceased. The annual remembrance ceremony took on a special reverence this year as the 75th anniversary year was recognized with great fanfare. Consideration should also be given to the other 74 remembrances where the locals marked the tragedy that resulted in the largest loss of life in World War II by the US Navy. The rescuers did not have a lot, but gave it all, to assist those in need. They continue to remember the sailors and miners whose fate became intertwined on that day. Their story has become a classic tale of care and compassion overcoming dire circumstances.

The St. Lawrence Miners Museum and its extension, the Trail of Valor, retell the amazing story of heroism and kindness. There are storyboards, pictures, exhibits and tours to the wreck site. You can walk in the footsteps of the people who challenged fate to save and change the lives of many American Navy men. This story demonstrates that care and compassion were core elements in the daily lives of the people of the Burin Peninsula. *(Written by Carl Slaney)*



Museum Association
of
Newfoundland
& Labrador
Certificate in
Museum
Studies
Program

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 turn to pages 8 of this newsletter or visit MANL's website.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We welcome news from your museum, heritage society & archives.

Please contact us and let us know about upcoming events, awards, employment opportunities, workshops, exhibits, programs, meetings, items for sale &/or donation, seasonal openings and closings etc.

Please call (709) 722-9034 or E-mail: manl@nf.aibn.com

Museum Announcements are forwarded by email every Thursday.

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome.



MANL members are encouraged to post directly on MANL's Facebook and Twitter Accounts.





Certificate in Museum Studies Program

MANL Certificate in Museum Studies Program

As part of its mandate to promote professionalism and skills development within the museum community, the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador provides the only Certificate in Museum Studies program in the province. This program provides museum employees and volunteers with a general introduction into current theories, standards, and best practices for museums. The content of the certificate program is based on topics covered in MANL's Best Practices publication.

PROGRAM FORMAT & SCHEDULE:

The certificate program is comprised of four core courses and four elective courses. Courses will normally be offered in a one to two day workshop format throughout the province. No less than two core courses will be offered each year and all four of the core courses will be offered within any two year period.

In addition to the core courses, no less than two courses designated as applicable elective courses will be offered each year. Workshops that can be credited as an elective course will be identified as such on the workshop registration form. Certificate program participants will have up to four years to complete their program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Core Courses:

In order to receive a Certificate in Museum Studies participants must complete courses, which cover the following topics:

1. Introduction to Museum Governance and Management
2. Introduction to Collections Management
3. Introduction to Preventive Conservation
4. Introduction to Exhibit Planning and Development

For each of the four core courses listed above, participants are given assignments from the instructor to complete, which must be submitted to the MANL office one month after the date of the workshop. In order to pass the assignment for the program participants must achieve a grade of 60% or higher.

Elective Courses:

In addition, participants are required to complete four elective courses. These courses will relate to various areas of museum operations and will expand on concepts covered in the core courses. Workshops from MANL's general workshop program that can be applied as an elective course will be indicated with the workshop announcement and registration form. Participants must indicate in advance their desire to use a workshop as an elective course.

Registration:

To register for the certificate program, or for more information, please contact MANL.



Ms. Sarah Dwyer (center), graduate of the MANL Certificate in Museum Studies Program, received her diploma at the 2017 MANL AGM from Mark Browne (L), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, and Mr. John Griffin (R), MANL President. Photo credit: Mr. Des McCarthy.

Upcoming MANL Workshops for 2018



**St. John's
Public
Libraries**

MINI-WORKSHOPS at A.C. HUNTER LIBRARY



The A.C. Hunter Library is pleased to partner once again with the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador to host two hands-on mini-workshops.

The instructor for both programs is MANL President, Mr. John Griffin. These are adult-only program; sharp knives will be involved. All materials will be supplied.

Registration is FREE!

Space is limited; Pre-registration is required.

To Register, please call the A.C. Hunter Library at 737-3950, using your library card.

Phase Boxes For Book Storage & Preservation

Date: TBA

Description: A Phase Box is a simple, low-cost, enclosure made from archival quality materials. It is designed to protect rare, fragile, or valuable items from damage and further deterioration during storage.

Encapsulation for Document Preservation

Date: TBA

Description: Encapsulation is a preservation method used by libraries, museums, and archives for storing and protecting frequently handled paper items, such as posters, maps, and architectural plans. Encapsulation allows the item to be easily handled and viewed. It protects the item from potential damage during display, study, or storage and is 100% reversible.





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Newman Wine Vaults



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The Commissariat

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Manning Awards Honour Heritage Excellence

The 23rd Manning Awards for Excellence in the Public Presentation of Historic Places were presented on March 7th, 2018. These awards recognize and celebrate the work of individuals, communities, and organizations in preserving and presenting this province's history and heritage.

Established in 1993 by the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (HSA), the awards serve as a tribute to the late Bill Manning, for his outstanding contribution to the preservation and development of the National Historic Sites of Canada located in the province, and for involving local communities in the process.

The Manning Awards are held bi-annually in the spring and are honored with the patronage of the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador. Over 100 projects, people, and organizations from across the province have been recognized with Manning Awards. To learn more about the awards, including the nominations process, please contact the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Congratulations to all the nominees this year, especially our MANL members!

Outstanding Heritage Supporter: *Linda White*, recognized for her great personal contributions to preserving the history of Greenspond.

Community Category: "English Harbour Arts Centre", a project of the English Harbour Arts Association, who preserved the built-heritage of All Saints Anglican Church, and re-purposed the restored building into a thriving centre, fostering art and traditional culture of the area.



Marystown Museum

Community Category: *Marystown Heritage Museum*, established by the Marystown Heritage Museum Corporation, the museum presents the heritage and shipbuilding past of Marystown and Mortier Bay, actively engaging the community in this rich history.

Community Category: *St. Gabriel's Hall Event Centre*, a project of St. Gabriel's Hall Inc., who restored St. Gabriel's Hall to its original historic design and returned the hall to its cultural role as a prominent events centre in the region.

Community Category: *Heart's Content Regional Centre for the Arts*, a project by the Mizzen Heritage Society, who restored the historic Heyfield Memorial Church, and have contributed greatly to the preservation of Heart's Content's unique history.

Provincial Category: *Trails Tales Tunes Festival*, a 10-day festival created by Shirley Montague and the Trails Tales Tunes Festival Committee, which showcases the culture and heritage of the province through guided group hikes, family experiences, traditional workshops, and musical performances.

Provincial Category: *Preservation of Lightstation Heritage*, a personal project of artist Leslie Noseworthy where he created original paintings of the province's lightstations and made them accessible to the public and future generations to come.



Linda White

The Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador office is located at 10 Forbes Street, Suite 204, Chelsea Building, St. John's, NL, A1E 3L5. For more information, please visit their website: www.historicsites.ca.



English Harbour



St. Gabriel's Hall



Heart's Content



Trails Tales Festival



Lightstation Heritage

Shanks, Homemade Tattoo Machines Heading to Prison Exhibit

Retired HMP captain lobbied for years to preserve rich prison history

On a white square of protective foam, David Harvey carefully lays out an array of plastic and metal items gathered from inside the walls of Canada's oldest running prison. "These are all shanks," Harvey says matter-of-factly. "Something so small as a piece of Plexiglas like that to a sharpened toothbrush handle. It just goes to show, you can make a weapon out of pretty well anything." Tattered and stained medical cloth and electrical tape create a handle around the bottoms of screwdrivers, rebar, toothbrush handles and box cutters — a collection of things used for personal protection by inmates. The homemade weapons have been confiscated by correctional officers throughout the years at Her Majesty's Penitentiary, a men's provincial jail on the banks of Quidi Vidi Lake.

While they may be items some would rather forget, the efforts of one retired correctional officer will soon see them displayed for the public at Memorial University. "There's a mass interest in them because people's impressions of this sort of weaponry have come from television," said Madeleine Mant, a Banting post-doctoral fellow at MUN's archeology department. "To see the ingenuity of them but also some of the necessity of some of the items, to feeling like you need some kind of protection." "Speaking of ingenuity," Harvey pipes up as he holds up a bone taken from a roast dinner that's been carved into a knife.

Harvey retired in July 2014, after exactly 30 years on the job. But, every month or so, he visits the basement of HMP's administration building; a two-storey white house, just outside the walls of the Victorian-era jail. There he created a museum containing artifacts illustrating the province's sordid history of crime and punishment. The only problem was that no one knew it existed, outside of those who worked at HMP. The project started when Harvey noticed stacks of ledgers and old cardboard boxes about two decades ago in the damp basement of the jail's gymnasium. Harvey spent his lunch hours reading through the material, which outlined hangings, prison guards' daily diaries and death notices, all containing names and dates, never seen by anyone other than the person who wrote them. The oldest document dates back to 1838, when the province's prison was just east of the Supreme Court on Duckworth Street in St. John's. HMP was constructed in 1859.

After years of pushing for the documents to be protected, the provincial archives stepped in. "This ledger is probably one of the most damaged," conservator Miki Lee says as her gloved hands open a box containing the ledgers. Her job was to put the crumbling pieces together like a puzzle and stabilize it so it could be copied and digitized for generations to come. Intrigued by charges like "driving violently" and the young ages of some of the prisoners, Lee admits she was slowed down in her work. "So as I was doing the work, I realized I had to stop reading so much and get on with my work so I would actually just scan the charges and remarks.... it made for really good reading," Lee laughed. The project was delayed after some employees at the provincial archives at The Rooms began to get sick, she said. After Lee ruled out mould, she asked a colleague to test it for something else. "We sampled on the outside, inside, and spines on all of the material that we had and what came up was really high levels of arsenic, lead and copper," she said. With some detective work, Lee discovered that those deadly elements were used in pesticides. The two sprays, Lee determined, were used back when the documents were stored at the prison in Supreme Court and when it was on Signal Hill.

One of the most important items is a doctor's notebook that includes details of executions that happened within the walls of the penitentiary. It was that book that sparked Mant's curiosity in Harvey's collection. "I'd been doing work with 19th-century discharge records from General Hospital and so what I kept seeing was patients coming in to the hospital from the penitentiary," Mant explained, while helping Harvey pack up his collection. "I thought, 'What's the story there?'"

A friendship was formed by Harvey and Mant over a common interest in history, and sparked a partnership with Memorial University and the Department of Justice. An exhibit will be unveiled at Queen's College on MUN's campus this fall, and Harvey stresses it will finally give the public an opportunity to see what Harvey has been holding onto all these years. Despite handing over his collection, Harvey is quick to say he's not abandoning his work. "Oh, I'll always be hands-on. There's always something that will be found down there that people will be amazed with."

Written by Ariana Kelland, CBC NL Reporter.

Reprinted with kind permission from author Ariana Kelland, CBC NL. Originally posted August 21, 2018

(Editor's Note: A sincere thank you to Dave Harvey for sharing this article with MANL. Her Majesty's Penitentiary Museum/Archives is a member of MANL).

WELCOME to our *Newest* MANL Members

LABRADOR REGION

J.O. William Museum

Location: Port Hope Simpson, NL
Email: porthopesimpson@nf.aibn.com

CENTRAL REGION

Corduroy Brook Enhancement Association & Nature Centre

Location: 2 Conservation Place, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
Telephone: 709-489-3900

WESTERN REGION

Norstead Viking Village

Location: L'Anse aux Meadows, NL
Email: norstead@nf.aibn.com

The Olde Brake House Museum

Location: 203A North Shore Highway, Meadows, NL
Telephone: 709-341-7192

Bay St. George South Historical Society & Legge Heritage Home

Location: Cartyville, NL
Email: bsgsmuseumnl@gmail.com

And Welcome Back Moreton's Harbour Museum.....

New Beginning for an Old Piece of History

Moreton's Harbour Museum Reopens

When Cheryl Dearing moved back to her hometown of Moreton's Harbour two years ago, she couldn't believe the town's museum she went to as a child was closed. "Driving by the museum every day and seeing it closed was just breaking my heart," she said. "It's a part of my childhood, and a part of the history of the community that everyone loved."

Dearing said within a week of moving back to the community, she set her sights on reopening the museum and started gathering information. "In the midst of doing that, the retired president of the Moreton's Harbour Museum Committee called me and asked me [if I] would be interested in taking over her position," Dearing said. "It's a little bit of fate, I think."

The previous committee that ran the museum was burned out and couldn't keep the building running, but Dearing is bringing some new life to the place. She said Moreton's Harbour is beautiful, but it isn't the thriving place it once was. That's why, Dearing said, it's important to keep the community's history alive. "There's such a rich history here, [the museum] will bring a lot of interest to Morton's Harbour," she said.

"There a whole other world that we forgot about, there's a whole other world that we had no idea existed, so I think it's very important that people know about that and they don't forget about the places where a lot of us came from." It's no small task to be in charge of all that history, but it's one that Dearing relishes.

"It is a big responsibility, but I am excited for it and I look forward to what it's going to bring to the community over the years," she said. "I feel like it'll be a fresh start or a new beginning for an old piece of history." Fortunately, that new beginning wasn't too difficult, as Dearing said the museum was in good condition, despite being closed since 2015. "We just had to do some cleaning and organizing and tidying," she said. "We didn't know what we would face, if there would be any water damage or anything like that, and luckily, there wasn't any damage."

The museum now holds old clothes, furniture and kitchen items, plus numerous church registries and censuses. Dearing said most of the items and documents have been donated from people in the community. "We have books written up with everything in, who brought it, who owns it, if it was given to the museum or on loan. Everything here is documented," she said. Dearing admitted she's got a lot of reading to do to catch up, but it's a labour of love, as she's passionate about the history of her community. "Everyone calls me Nan, that's my nickname, so this is my thing that I love to do and I love to be a part of."

Written by Ariana Kelland, CBC NL Reporter.

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