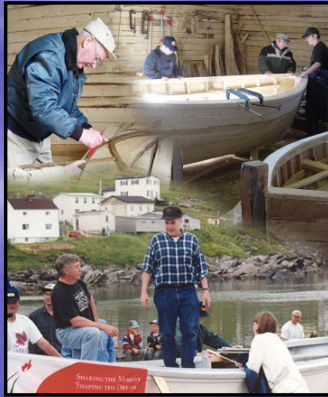


The Winterton Community & Boat Building Museum: Using the Old Economy to Grow in the New Economy

Prepared by Jennifer Butler as part of the NRE² Project

www.woodenboat.ca



Who? What? When? Where? How?

• **1970s:** David Taylor writes master's thesis on Winterton Boat Building

• **1994:** Heritage Advisor from Ottawa contacted then mayor, Essie Green to discuss establishing a Heritage Board

- meetings with council
- began with 6 members, including then mayor, Essie Green, and Marcus French, who served as an advisor on Winterton's past and traditions
- passed around many ideas until deciding on artifact collection

➢ many artifacts collected related to boat building, and they also had Taylor's thesis – decided that boat building should be the focus of the Heritage Board

• **1995:** Museum was established

- a former resident purchased the old United Church school and turned it over to the town as a place to house the artifacts – now the museum

• **1997:** Museum's grand opening in July as part of the Come Home Year Celebrations

The Early Years

- Staff consisted of volunteers from the community
- Some small-scale fundraising and government grants covered expenses
- Community donated artifacts



What Has the Museum Initiated?

- Futures Committee
 - several committees working together to benefit the community as a whole
- Prospects for the future
 - tourism
 - traveling exhibit
 - centre for provincial boat building activities

Presently

- There are paid staff
 - Curator and summer staff of local students
- Government grants still aid the museum, but the goal is to become financially self-sufficient
- The community is still involved



"This could help develop tourism quite a bit...from all areas, not only from a heritage perspective" (F.F., 2005)



Museum Attractions

- Boat Building Room
 - watch the construction of a traditional Winterton boat
- Genealogy Room
 - dating back to 1675
- Community Artifacts
- Craft Shop
 - selling locally-produced items such as artwork

"Things are happening in Winterton" (M.G., 2005)

What Does the Future Hold?

- Tourism
 - the museum, park, and walking trails already exist as attractions
 - must now look to entrepreneurs to open restaurants and accommodations – employment opportunities and revenue for the community.
- Traveling Exhibit
 - off season travel will promote the museum and the community, hopefully resulting in more visitors during the summer season
- Provincial Centre for Boat Building Activities
 - collaboration with people from other areas will help Winterton become recognized while helping other areas become known as well

Photos courtesy of the Winterton Boat Building Museum. For more photos, visit their online photo gallery at <http://www.woodenboat.ca/discover.php>