

Heart's Delight-Islington Christmas Carol Project Meeting Minutes



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Heart's Delight-Islington Christmas Carol Project 19 February 2019 7pm, Town Office, Heart's Delight-Islington

Attending: Allan Boyce, Betsy Bond, Marilyn Bond, Dorothy Reid, Stan Reid, Carl Sooley, Howard Sooley, Art Ryan, Melvin Harnum, Doug Robertson, Wayne Ford. Dale Jarvis and Terra Barrett of Heritage NL also attended.

Allan Boyce called the meeting to order, and turned things over to Dale Jarvis from Heritage NL who lead a discussion on how the heritage committee might work with the Town and the Recreation Committee to revitalize the **Heart's Delight-Islington Christmas Carol tradition.**

Points Discussed

How healthy is the tradition?

It was felt that the tradition is very healthy for the age group that are doing it now, but not necessarily for younger generations. There was a great discussion about the authentic aspects of this over 100-years-old tradition: about how all men would go; how it was treated with reverence with no drinking or smoking during carols, lights off and hats off; how Cavendish and Green's Harbour also once did a version of the carols; Joe Crocker, Leander Peach, Heber Crocker and his family were the three groups who initially went caroling; Heber waited until after midnight service (would take his older children); how men would make sure to visit the Reids and the Harnums (the merchants); the Crocker's current tradition do it on Boxing Night (Sharon plays accordion); Alan's brother went the Sunday before Christmas for one part of harbour, then the night of Christmas for the other half. Last Christmas, Howard and Stan coordinated the singing on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas, largely for people who might be ill or seniors. The carols were also sung at SUF Christmas sing along/town Christmas party.

What exists in terms of recordings/written material?

- Heber clip (8mm, disc)
- CBC has a clip on it
- Cassette tape recording? (Kim's mother has tape of Joe singing?)
- Some photographs
- Howard - has paper on traditions which was put in MUN Folklore and Language Archive (MUNFLA) - written for Larry Small.
- Bugs Green filmed some material - see if there is more on the material
- Some interviews exist on CDs - perhaps there is something there

Where would people like to see this project go?

- Have a public event fairly soon to share stories and memories about Christmas traditions, and to scan people's old Christmas photos (April/May)
- Hold public rehearsals in October/November so people can learn the words;
- Have an event specifically for kids, and grandkids of committee members/citizens to teach them the words;
- Pick or get people to nominate some other houses in community to visit over the Christmas holidays, outside of the usual seniors' houses (ie houses with young families);
- Have a roast pork, bread & butter, and bacon & eggs supper! (fundraiser?)

Other ways to promote the tradition

- Reach out to Eastlink or Land and Sea to see if they'll do something
- Presentation/carol singing at The Rooms
- Interview for the Living Heritage Podcast radio show (CHMR, 3 people interested)
<https://livingheritage.libsyn.com/>

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

1. Compile list of names and numbers of people who should and are willing to be interviewed (prioritize who should be interviewed first). Suggested names: Aunt Viola (in the Goulds - good person to do an interview with - her husband was one of spearheaders), Jessie, Jennie Worthman, Margaret Crocker, Sadie Rowe, Stan Reid. People should email names and numbers to betsybond@hotmail.com by Feb 24th.
2. Dale Jarvis will help interview Aunt Viola (in the near future) and help develop some interview questions.

3. Everyone will help to pull recorded/printed/photographic material together in one place. Give what you find to Allan Boyce alandmal2@hotmail.com
4. If people will be in St. John's over the next couple months, contact Terra Barrett terra.hfnl@gmail.com at Heritage NL to arrange doing an interview on Christmas traditions at the CHMR studio at Memorial for the Living Heritage Podcast radio show.

Next Meeting

Executive will set a date for the next meeting, sometime in early April.

At that April meeting, the committee will:

- Organize a storytelling/photo scanning party on the theme of Christmas memories; and,
- Make a plan for doing future oral history interviews, based on the names sent to Betsy.

There is an email list started here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15TfhO8N0xdiekziOKKW5X3Or3ova24JX_r10Tm4x3Y/edit?usp=sharing

If there are errors or you know someone who should be added to this list email dale@heritagenl.ca