

**Intangible Cultural Heritage - Celebration Committee**  
**May 7, 2010, 9:30am**  
**Heritage Foundation Office, 1 Springdale Street, 3rd floor**

In attendance:

Dale Jarvis  
Pat Carroll  
Diana Quinton  
Karen Hewitt  
Mu Lee

via skype:

Anita Best

regrets:

Lloydetta Quaicoe

recording secretary:

Deborah O'Rielly

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**1. Role of Committee**

The committee reviewed the objectives of the committee. They wondered what their role would be and if it would be a working group that implements goals or one of idea generation only. Dale suggested that he could find funding to hire staff to implement the goals and ideas that the committee creates, and that he would be an intermediary between the staff person and the committee. The committee has already created a profile for itself and it is now time for next steps.

***recommendation:***

- ***The committee is the idea generator***

**2. New Project Ideas**

Dale discussed two ideas he had for new projects - the Folklife Festival, and Culture Days.

***Folklife Festival:***

Dale recapped the 2009 Mummers Festival. The idea is that each year the theme of the Folklife Festival will change, and that it should be a broader theme than mummering, to encompass more traditions. The 2010 Festival could be based around the theme of "fire" and it would take place in October and November, culminating on November 5 - Bonfire Night. The Indian festival of Diwali is also November 5 in 2010 and is centered around light and fire.

A lot of traditions can be highlighted based on their association with fire; volunteer firefighters, the 10th anniversary of Victoria Park's Lantern Festival, craft production, blacksmithing (the northern peninsula has a Viking blacksmith), fire juggling, fire eating, etc.

ICH could do more outreach into communities and could partner with existing groups who are also doing their own tradition demonstrations or community festivals; It was suggested that Living Rich could get involved. The digital archives (DAI) are an excellent repository for projects eg. ICH could do video based on volunteer firefighting. Ryan Davis, who developed the Mummer's Festival, has been

suggested as an excellent candidate to hire for the 2010 Festival, with funding to come from the recent graduate employment program.

The committee agreed that they must try to keep the profile high in communities, and that persons who may have some relevance to the theme could be profiled in local papers. eg. if a person who celebrates Diwali lives in Trinity, than that person could be interviewed by the local paper.

Dale mentioned that the mummers parade was highly successful last year, and that the Rooms were interested in pursuing it again in 2010. Therefore, a parade has been scheduled for December 19, 2010.

***recommendations:***

- ***The committee agrees to hire Ryan, beginning in June, to begin work on the 2010 Folklife Festival, and for that festival to be based on the theme "Fire".***
- ***The committee also agrees to try to think of as many ideas as they can based on this theme, and they will try to identify as many relevant people as possible, eg. Hindu persons, volunteer firefighters, tradition bearers of fire-related traditions.***

***Culture Days (September 24, 25, 26, 2010):***

Culture Days is a Canada-wide celebration which is free and interactive, involving arts and culture. It brings together creators and the public to celebrate the vitality of our communities. The Department of Education is presently working with the NL Arts Council to bring a "culture week" to schools for the 2010-2011 schoolyear. It is suggested that ICH can also get involved, particularly with using Doors Open to showcase tradition bearers. Individual sites are responsible for their own listing but the Committee can facilitate.

The focus of Doors Open this year could be more results-oriented, and less static than a heritage building, for example. This must move quickly in order that teachers can get their curriculum in place, as they only have May, June and September in which to work. They must also find a way to get tradition bearers into schools, much like the Arts Council's visiting artist program. The tradition bearers would also be expanded beyond story tellers and ballad singers to include rug hookers, lobster fishermen, boat builders, etc.

***recommendations:***

- ***The committee will think of ideas to move this process along quickly.***
- ***Dale and Karen will meet before May 19 to formulate some ideas of a similar program to the Arts Council Visiting Artist program.***
- ***Dale and Karen will meet with the department of Education on May 19 to discuss with a larger committee.***

***ICH Awareness:***

The committee discussed how to create greater ICH awareness within the community. They felt that building on an existing program would be more timely and less complicated than trying to create a brand new type of program. Anita suggested that ICH try to work with the Folklife Society, who would be happy to partner with them.

It was suggested that ICH try one Folk Night at the Ship in which they will conduct a staged oral history interview with tradition bearers (the topic of which has yet to be decided). The format would be much like the usual Folk Night at the Ship, where singers usually perform, but in this case the interview(s) would take place the first hour, and after a break they would have the usual open mic for those who

wish to sing. It was also suggested that singers would bring a repertoire of songs related to the topic of the tradition bearer(s).

Mu mentioned that Canadian Immigration is doing something now related to folklife events, possibly Asian History in Art. He will provide Dale with more details.

***recommendations:***

- ***The committee will branch out and create more publicity through existing programs.***
- ***The committee supports one event for Folk Night at the Ship and will evaluate it afterwards to discuss its merits and potential for future, similar events.***

**3. Living Tradition Awards**

The committee discussed the benefits of creating a new awards program which recognizes tradition bearers. It was acknowledged that much thought has already gone into this and it was now time to move forward and implement the process.

Dale stated that the group was dependent on government grants to fund this project, and that writing grant proposals was time consuming and labour intensive. Dale stated he would need some time to get things in place and that the best source of funding would be a JCP grant.

The committee discussed the merits of an annual award program and compared it to a monthly recognition and after much discussion decided that it would be best at this time to begin small. Working with the Folk Arts Society, ICH can profile one tradition bearer per month and will conduct a short interview, which will be featured in the ICH newsletter, as well as the Folk Arts Society's newsletter. It was felt that this process would be easier to implement and could be undertaken soon.

It was suggested that each profiled person could be selected based on what types of traditions occur seasonally, and the particular person's own tradition, and that they should be related, if possible.

The committee acknowledged the Provincial Commemorations Board and felt that, in lieu of an ICH annual awards program, they could submit one nomination for tradition bearer per year to the PCB.

***recommendations:***

- ***ICH will create a monthly profile of a Tradition Bearer, to be published in the ICH newsletter and the Folk Arts Society's newsletter, as well as other areas to be identified.***
- ***Once per year ICH will nominate a tradition bearer to the Provincial Commemorations Board.***
- ***The committee will devise a list of potential candidates for both.***
- ***Karen will provide a list of Tradition Bearers from both Newfoundland and Labrador.***

**4. Other Business: none**

**5. Next Meeting** to be held **June 4, 2010 at 9:30am** at HFNL, third floor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.