



## **Harbour Grace People, Places, and Culture Workshop**

10 November 2018

Danny Cleary Community Center

### **Preliminary Report**

#### **Introduction**

Heritage NL's program, "People, Places & Culture," is designed to assist communities to identify their cultural assets and to consider ways to protect and develop them. It is based on a recognition that heritage/cultural assets are some of the strongest elements that a community has to: define its unique character; create new economic opportunities; and enhance the quality of life for residents and instill local pride.

These notes represent the outcome of a "People, Places & Culture" Workshop facilitated by Heritage NL in Harbour Grace 10 November 2018. The workshop comprised two parts: I) a cultural mapping activity that considered the community's tangible and intangible cultural assets; and II) a session to explore opportunities for protecting, safeguarding and developing these assets. The latter activity involved identifying themes and clusters of cultural assets that emerged from the mapping session.

#### **What Participants Want from Workshop**

Workshop participants expressed that they were attending the session because they wanted to help realize the potential of Harbour Grace's heritage, much like other communities in the province have done. A discussion was held at the start of the session around what the heritage needs of the community might be, and three key areas were identified by the group: inventorying, planning, and promotion.

##### **A. Inventorying our Heritage**

The group identified a need to identify and catalogue what exists in the community, so there is a good record of assets. There is a sense that there is already great material out there, based on previous research, collections, and oral histories, both public and privately owned. How do we find this information and make it useful for our town? And then how do we identify themes or areas of focus (church, courthouse, family history, etc) and undertake new research such as oral histories to fill in the gaps?

## **B. Planning for the Future of our Heritage**

The other need identified was to identify priorities and plan accordingly, and to develop a preservation strategy that will foster businesses and grow the economic value of the town. Local people need to know how to access funding and get information about funding agencies. It was also expressed that any heritage plan must have action strategies, so that the plan will move forward.

## **C. Promoting our Heritage**

The third key area identified was a need to create greater awareness of history and heritage both inside and outside the community, and to use that heritage to better promote the town. This could be in the form of promotional material or maps, and there was a discussion that there are new ways to use technology to present heritage and history.

In the workshop evaluations, one participant made the point that towns need animators and facilitators to help get dedicated and passionate people to put wonderful ideas into action. The Town's development office and the Heritage & Redevelopment Committee have a major role to play in this with support from Heritage NL.

## **Key Themes/Clusters**

Following our discussion of needs, there followed a long conversation and mapping session designed to create an introduction to the various aspects of Harbour Grace's heritage. A list of individuals was made who could possibly serve as good interview subjects for future research/oral histories ([see linked spreadsheet](#)).

The following 15 themes emerged from the discussion, written notes, and mapping exercise. The next step will be to prioritize these and set some actionable items with some recommendations from Heritage NL.

### **#1 Waterfront features/infrastructure**

Public wharf

Fishermen's wharf

Capt. James Cook's map of Harbour Grace & Conception Bay

Saltfish plant by the shoe factory

Marina

Wharf <- Stay off

Jumping from boat to boat

Ferry to Bell Island

Dry dock - ship building

## **#2 The History of Fishing, Whaling, and Sealing**

Whaling plant  
 Courage's beach - whaling slipway  
 Norwegian whaling operation  
 Fish merchants  
 Cod liver oil production (W.A. Munn)  
 Sealer's strike (1832) / Labour militancy

## **#3. Sports & Recreation**

Tennis - Doris Murcell  
 Cricket - John (Jack) Shannon Munn  
 Ball hockey  
 Soccer  
 Curling - Jamie Korab  
 Horse racing - Harbour Grace Turf Club (Lady Lake Road)  
 Joe Martin - long distance running  
 Harbour Grace Swimming Pool  
 Billiard clubs  
 Lady Lake - regatta - swimming - picnics  
 S.W. Moores Memorial Stadium - hockey, skating  
 Speed skating champion  
 Figure skating  
 Ice racing on harbour  
 Hockey - George Faulkner & Danny Cleary

## **#4 Community Organizations (Buildings/History of)**

Benevolent Irish Society (BIS)  
 Lions Club  
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 15  
 Masonic Lodge No. 476  
 Sons of England  
 British Society  
 Orange Lodge / Orangemen  
 Knights of Columbus / Daltonian Council  
 Church Lads Brigade (CLB)  
 Women's Patriotic Society - Sophia Oke medal  
 Women's Institute  
 RN Constabulary

## **#5 Cultural Spaces/Arts Groups/Cultural Events/Celebrations**

Music Cafe - St. Paul's Hall  
 Silver Bells - played at Pike's

Folk of the sea  
 Ridley Hall  
 History of school & church plays  
 Church choirs (St. Paul's, U.C., St. Joseph's)  
 Library - First public library; Literary Society (old Post Office); War Memorial Public Library  
 Donnelly Hall - performing arts  
 Annual Fall Fair  
 Miss NL pageant  
 Pirates to Pilots Festival  
 Santa Claus parade  
 Pirate Day

### **#6 Heritage Buildings/Sites**

Old Riverhead School - Otterbury  
 Courthouse  
 Site of the old Salvation Army Church (next to the current fire hall)  
 Former Presbyterian Church ('The Kirk') - site of the present day library  
 Existing Churches - St. Paul's, St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, Immaculate Conception Church, and  
 Laurence Coughlan United Church  
 Schools - Harbour Grace Grammar School (headmaster John Roddick)  
 Airfield  
 Hotels - ie., Cochrane Hotel/Cochrane House, Archibald's Hotel, Harbour Grace Hotel  
 Old houses/buildings throughout the town  
 Railway Station

### **#7 Traditional Holidays/Customs**

Bonfire night  
 Orangemen's parade - Boxing Day/St. Stephen's Day and the Harbour Grace Affray  
 Aug 15 - Lady Day - donate fishing income to church  
 Jannying & the hobby horse  
 St. Patrick's Day  
 Berry picking in Riverhead boundaries  
 Coady's Brook - Bonfires & swimming  
 Feather Point Dancers

### **#8 Roads and Laneways**

Laneways in town & old roadways going out of community connecting to other communities  
 Building of roads  
 Drunkard's Road - Harbour Grace to Carbonear (1st road)  
 Town planning (e.g., Noad's survey, 1841)  
 Military Roads, O'Keefe's Grove  
 Fisherman's Road, Riverhead  
 Public Lanes, Water Street to Harvey St and north

Lee's Lane - site of Harbour Grace Affray  
 Jamie's Way

### **#9 Famous & influential people in the community**

Sir Richard Squires  
 Sir. Thomas Roddick  
 John Munn  
 Sir Henry Pynn  
 Rutherfords  
 Amelia Earhart  
 Rose Archibald  
 Mary Strutton  
 W.A. Munn  
 Doctors & dentists - ie., Goodwin  
 Megan Nutbeem - Newfoundland dog breeder

### **#10 Industry and Manufacturing**

Pynn's Mill - Bannerman river  
 wood mill  
 Also - flour grinding  
 Pine Grove Ice House - Ice from Tilton Pond brought & stored in ice house  
 Forge at Martin Brook (Murray's Sq), used by Eugene Martin (possibly last one in Harbour Grace)  
 Industrial Guilds  
 Boot/shoe factories -several generations / Bill Luffman  
 Local business currency  
 Mercantile history  
 Gasoline storage facilities: Esso - Water St, Irving - Water St, Gulf - near railway station  
 Paper bag factory  
 1st beehive industry started in Hr Grace by a man "Davis"

### **#11 Military History**

Fort Duckworth  
 Battery Road  
 Volunteer Artillery Company used for saluting, etc.  
 Spy Station  
 Antennae Base (WWII)  
 Radar Station  
 Military - battery 1812  
 HFDF station

### **#12 Cemeteries**

Salvation Army Graveyard

Bennett's Lane Graveyard Thomas Ewer, Patrick Phelan  
 Unmarked smallpox cemetery  
 Family history documentation

### **#13 Stone Walls/Fences/Ruins**

Stones Road Cairn (South Side)  
 Rocking Chair  
 Stone Walls - few good examples left of what were very common  
 Feather Point community pasture, with stone house foundations & stone walls -> great hike & mushrooming area  
 Elfreda's Rock  
 Wrought/Cast iron fencing/gates

### **#14 Favourite Hangouts/Local Stores and Shops**

William Snack Bar - place to go as teenager "some of my fondest memories were made here."  
 SW Moores Park  
 Grocery - Goddem, Quinn, Clarkes, George's, Smith, Wm Smith, Parmiters  
 Pikes, dry goods, Handy Andy, Saunders & Howell, Directway, Stoney Pizza, Singards Health & Beauty, Nat Parsons, Jeanette Cram  
 Restaurants: Tetfords, Mercers  
 Tenant's store (Water St, Courage's beach area)  
 Movie theatre  
 Malcolm Butt's Store  
 John Hearn's Store

### **#15 Local Place Names**

#### **Examples:**

Thomey's Plain  
 Red bridge -> railroad  
 Fairy hill  
 The village - collection of houses on Glover Rd. just west of the new stadium  
 The river  
 Fairy path  
 Pipe track  
 Stapleton's beach  
 Ships head  
 Courage's beach  
 Stephenson's village  
 Point of Beach  
 CLB campsite  
 Connors Valley  
 The Ridge  
 Stapletons Beach

Feather Point  
Martins Brook  
Bears Cove  
Riverhead Bridge  
CLB Campsite  
Gibbet Hill

## **Opportunities & Priorities Session**

The ideas generated in the workshop don't necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all of Harbour Grace's heritage assets but they do provide a starting point for mapping them. A follow-up session will bring together interested workshop participants with partner groups (regional tourism, culture and business groups along with government agencies) to identify opportunities for the preservation, safeguarding and development of the town's heritage assets and to identify some key initiatives.

This session is set for Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the Firemen's Social Building, Bannerman Street, Harbour Grace, and is open to anyone interested.

## **For more information**

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