

6 April 2017

To: Musgrave Harbour Town Council

From: Bill Montevecchi

Re: Saving the FPU Museum

Attached please find a report by Marcus Hart that provides community and historical rationale for saving the FPU Museum.

The report recognizes tourism, educational and entrepreneurial opportunities for the town.

We have identified what we believe is needed to save the FPU Museum.

We hope you will consider this matter seriously, and we would be glad to meet with Council to discuss options for moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward hearing from you.

Sincerely.



W. A. Montevecchi

cc: Raymond Stokes (Mayor)
Kim Osborne (Secretary)
Bill Smith (Head of Recreation)
Sheldon Gillam (Principle - Gill Memorial Academy)
Harvey Cuff
Watson Mouland
Siobhan Mouland

Save the Musgrave Harbour FPU Museum



Considerations for the preservation and renovation of the Fisherman's Protective Union (FPU) Museum in Musgrave Harbour NL.

And the benefits it would provide for the citizens and town of Musgrave Harbour

By Marcus R. Hart

❖ History

- The town of Musgrave Harbour was settled in 1834 by John and Ann Whiteway.
- The FPU Museum was built in 1910 by Sir William Coaker of the Fisherman's Protective Union as a general store and office.
- A portrait of Sir William Coaker is on display.
- FPU Museum contains hundreds of historic texts such as ledgers and documents detailing information about the town's and Newfoundland's history. These need to be archived because of their significance to our provincial history.



Sir William Coaker

❖ Community Values

- The exhibits in the FPU Museum are citizen donations. They are valued contributions from the town's past and present residents.
- Community involvement includes donations by people, painting of mural by Wayne Cuff, and the involvement of students in the summer.
- Has historic value to the town because the FPU Museum was the first store in Musgrave Harbour.
- The FPU Museum is one of a few providers of work for young adults just entering the work force.
- Used as an educational outlet about the history of Newfoundland for younger generations.



❖ Tourism

- The FPU Museum is on both www.newfoundlandlabrador.com, www.TripAdvisor.com and the towns website <http://musgraveharbour.com/links.html> but, those have been out of date for many years and need to be updated.
- Musgrave Harbour can become a Hub for tourism due to several factors:
 - i. The town is rich in both short and long term accommodations.
 - ii. The town has three restaurants and a grocery store.
 - iii. The town is adjacent to magnificent sandy beaches, dunes and forest habitat.
 - iv. Banting Memorial Park is already a tourist attraction, so the market is there.
 - v. The FPU Museum can expand on these, for example by incorporating a seabird exhibition [as has been created at the FPU Centre on Fogo Island]



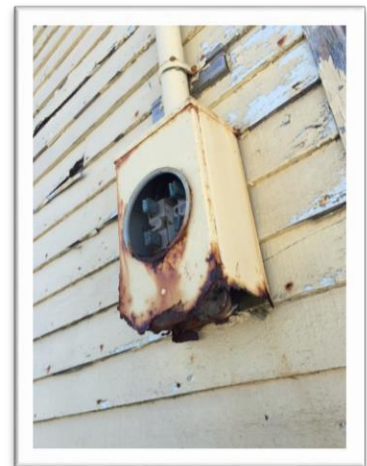
❖ Concerns

- This secondary Museum (Orange Hall) is out away from the main road, away from most sites, and has very little parking, is rather poor site for any tourist looking to visit (On a hill the poor view scape and is confusing for those who came to see the original FPU Museum.
- Work was done on the Orange Hall with the town spending money on minor repairs completed by high school students, but this cost is negligible.



❖ Renovations

- The FPU Museum is a solidly constructed, wooden building in excellent condition and is asbestos free.
- The plumbing needs replacement because there is no running water. A pipe outside was suffering from a burst due too frozen water. The cost for this is estimated at 2000 at most.
- The FPU Museum requires new coats of paint outside and some roofing repair.
- Some windows need repair, replacement, and cleaning



- The FPU Museum has a 200 AMP system so minor upgrading might be needed but the wiring is fine it will be estimated at 5,000\$ to repair.
- The grounds around the FPU Museum need cleaning (littering, broken glass, etc.)
- The foundation is on a stone slab with stone pillars as support which may need reinforcement.
- The outside siding is deteriorated and needs to be torn down and replaced. A coat of paint is also needed.



❖ **Looking Ahead for the FPU Museum**

- The town of Musgrave Harbour can save an important NL Historic landmark.
- This incentive would benefit the town's economy and cultural integrity.
- This preservation is important for the town's next generations.
- The FPU Museum preservation would:
 - Provide opportunity to move forward with ACOA and other funding opportunities.
 - Enhances the town's general appearance and description.
 - Provides an educational opportunity for youth as well as involvement in their community.
 - Could lead to a boost in the economy of Musgrave Harbour.

❖ **Letter to Bill**

- Work was done on the Inter. Centre and is completely repaired and there was an application for a grant to repair the boardwalk.
- No Ground wiring in the FPU Museum.
- The walls are sealed shut so no wires are exposed,
- The power was cut by Water & Power due to a rusted out power box outside, and is thus disconnected overhead. They did not contact the town before doing this.
- The inside is very structurally sound and shows no cases of decay or disrepair, no renovations are needed.
- The town does want to rebuild the Museum and has other plans for the Orange hall if we help them.
- The Interpretation Centre received a couple grants which have rebuilt it back into working order
- The boardwalk has a grant applied for it to fix it as well.

- While the last one on the council didn't care about the museum to much degree, Bill smith does and wishes to continue to help
- His email is billsmith.bs@gmail.com
- **Town Council** The FPU Museum's location is ideal for tourism because:
 - Being mentioned on several tourism sites.
 - Location by the sea.
 - Being on the main road is easy for tourist to find.
 - Parking space being quite open and accessible.

❖ **Members**

- Raymond Stokes (Mayor)
- Kim Osborne (Secretary)
- Bill Smith (Head of department of recreation)
- Sheldon Gillam (Principle of Gill Memorial Academy)
- Harvey Cuff
- Watson Moulard
- Siobhan Moulard

Save The Shores Of Musgrave Harbour!



Considerations for the preservation and conservation of Sand Dunes on the Kittiwake Coast around Musgrave Harbour.

By Marcus Hart

Due to human activity, especially the use of off-road vehicles, the beaches surrounding Musgrave Harbour have begun to decay. Over time, the shore will retreat.

This can cause many problems for the town, including:

- Disturbing wildlife species. The Piping Plover warrants special consideration. With no habitat, there is no hope for their appearance.
- As the shoreline is lost, the ground farther inland can give way. This can cause unstable building grounds as well as damage to existing infrastructure.
- Disturbing the community.
- A decline in tourism. The erosion of beaches will have massive impact on tourism and the local economy.
- Over time, the loss of the beaches will become very apparent, leading to the loss of one of Musgrave Harbour's greatest landmarks.

The benefits to taking action to protect the beaches are plentiful, including benefitting

1. Tourism and Ecotourism

- The protection of the sand dunes will allow tourists and local residents to enjoy them, as well as support ecotourism for those that want to study or observe the natural environment.

2. The Local Economy

- Supporting wildlife and habitat preservation is an excellent way to attract attention and visitors, which would generate revenue for the town. The Piping Plover, in particular, is an endangered species and its presence would attract attention.



3. Piping Plover and other Wildlife

- The Piping Plover is a small shorebird that nests on the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Atlantic Coast of the United States. They used to nest on the Kittiwake coast, but, due to declining conditions, they have been unable to nest. They are now more often found on the southwest coast.
- The Piping Plover has nested in Deadman's Bay in recent years, and with the potential for a population shift due to urban development on the Atlantic Coast of the United States, we hope to see more in the future.
- With the protection of the Plover, other species that call the Sand dunes home will be protected as well.

4. The Community

- The decrease in noise pollution (caused by off-road vehicles, especially) will make the town a generally more enjoyable place and encourage more beach-outings.

5. Government Funding for Future Projects

- By showing that Musgrave Harbour can take responsibility for the declining beaches, this incentive on provincial government in support of acquiring grants for future projects.

What should we do?

- We could consider protecting our beaches: Flagging tape could be set up around some of the sand dunes to protect it from human activity and allow for a protected habitat should the Piping Plover return.
- The use of off-road vehicles on the beach is a particularly noteworthy problem. The use of ATVs and dirt bikes tear up the grass on the beach, disturb or destroy birds' nests and other habitats, and compact the sand. The use of ATVs on beaches is illegal in New Brunswick and P.E.I. because of the destructive effect they have on the coastal ecosystem. Information should be distributed about the impact off-road vehicles have on the sand dunes and the environment.
- Off-leash dogs on the beach can also be problematic for coastal habitats. The public should be reminded to keep curious dogs close to keep them away from nests.
- Consider working with the school system to discourage students from shooting wildlife on the shores (including the endangered Piping Plover) with pellet guns.
- Informational pamphlets, as well as signs, about the coastal ecosystem and how to support and protect it should be accessible.



The Piping Plover: They're worth protecting



There's hope!

- The Piping Plover has been seen in Deadman's Bay only (only ~25km from Musgrave Harbour) in recent years.
- They face habitat loss with the development of their former nesting areas in the south. The lines of beach houses along the Atlantic coast of Florida, South Carolina, and other Southern states have taken their nesting area. This raises the possibility of a population shift, and the appearance of more piping plovers along Canadian coastlines.

The Piping Plover is a small shorebird found only in North America, mainly on the Atlantic coast. This species, which nests exclusively on beaches, has been classified as endangered since 1985, and has received a great deal of attention since.

The Piping Plover arrives in Newfoundland in the second half of April and leaves for its winter habitat in early August. While the bird used to nest along the northeast coast of Newfoundland (including Musgrave Harbour), it is now more commonly found on the southwest coast, and its survival is conservation-dependent.

The Piping Plover's existence has been threatened in the last 40 years by the increased use of beaches for recreation, threatening this species in particular as their backs are the colour of dried sand, letting them blend into their environment. As well, their nests are just a shallow depression in the sand, making them especially vulnerable to destruction. The chicks are unable to fly and thus remain incubated by their parents in the nest until about 28 days after hatching: a period of time that they must remain undisturbed. However, with nearby human presence, the parents will abandon the nest.

Even once the chicks have begun to leave the nest, human disturbance is still threatening to the wary Piping Plover. Their foraging time significantly declines with increased human disturbance, and their survival rates are lower on beaches with human presence.

When thinking about how to create a safe habitat for Piping Plovers, there are a few things to consider:

-During the plover's stay (late April to early August), nesting areas should be deemed restricted areas to protect them from the public.

-The use of ATVs in protected nesting areas should be prohibited. Not only do ATVs impact the quality of the nesting area and potentially destroy nests, but the sound can also disturb the bird. The birds will leave the nests at as little a distance from approaching humans as 40m, so imagine the effect of ATVs!

-Dogs should not run off leash in potential nesting areas, as they can destroy the delicate nests or cause birds to flee.

-When observing from a distance, you should be sure that the plovers do not change their behaviour. If nearby stress causes them to leave the nest, you are causing a major disturbance.

