



Symposium #15: The Year of the Shipyard

This June 22, 2019 marks our 15th Summer Symposium. These annual events are designed to review the ongoing work of the Association over the past year and to discuss plans to continue to develop our working waterfront.

The high point of 2019 thus far has been the joint announcement by the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada of a major stabilization and renewal project for the iconic Big Boat Shed situated at the eastern end of the waterfront. The Big Boat Shed was the main boatbuilding facility of the Smith and Rhuland Shipyard, which opened in 1900. Over its 67 years of operation, more than 270 boats were built on site including prominent vessels such as the Bounty, Rose, and Bluenose II. This phase of the project includes stabilizing the building, re-constructing the floor and installing a full-length concrete slipway. This will be followed by improvements to the structure and windows and doors while preserving the historical character of the building. The Federal Government's investment, via ACOA, supports a new accessible viewing deck for the public to observe large boat construction and repair activities. In partnership with the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, an exhibit area will be part of the expansion, as well as programming space for the Museum's boatbuilding demonstrations.

Marine-related trades have this past winter applied their skills to several vessels hauled out onto the site immediately west of the Shipyard Wharf, illustrating the capability for year-round yacht maintenance on our waterfront.

The fundraising effort in 2016, supported by many of our members, helped to fund the replacement of the roof shingles on the Battery Point Lighthouse in 2018. As the marine climate continues to impact the building, we have concluded that 2019 will be the year for another new painting project. The plan is to strip the shingles down to bare wood this time, and carefully apply a completely new painted surface. All trim and window components will also be repainted.

A new roof for the Zwicker Building is still in the planning stage.

The updated Business Plan for the waterfront properties will be presented by Develop Nova Scotia at this edition of the Symposium. The Plan will form the basis for government support for the next few years and will be reviewed by DNS as part of the program.

DNS and LWAI will again publish a Mariners Guide to Lunenburg and its waterfront. This resource document will assist mariner-visitors in finding the services they require as they arrive at our waterfront.

Finally, waterfront activity to watch for this Summer includes:

- ❖ Folk Harbour Festival, August 8 to 11, 2019 - Lunenburg, NS
- ❖ The wharf at Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic is open to the public
- ❖ Visit the renewed Fisheries Museum, now open with new and expanded exhibits