

Symposium #18: The Year of the Zwicker Building

This June 25, 2022 marks our 18th 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. We are excited to host our first 'in-person' Symposium, after a too-long layoff made necessary by the Covid-19 pandemic. It's a special treat to be able to meet this year in the newly restored Zwicker Building. This project has been underway for virtually the entire period when we, as a community, could not meet together for public health reasons. This makes the 2022 Symposium extra special.

Work and investment to strengthen the working waterfront did not stop because of the pandemic:

The Big Boat Shed was completed together with its Annex that provides programs operated by the small boat building program of the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

A new wharf, floats, and a lift-out facility has been built at the location of the old finger wharf that was deemed inoperable after hosting the 'Farley Mowat' for a long period. The entire shipyard area has been upgraded with new infrastructure.

Wharf C was completely rebuilt and added to the lease held by Ocean Gear, there by increasing their capability to host more vessels needing repair.

The Railway Wharf was deemed unsafe for many critical uses in 2021, and the LWAI began to advocate for its restoration/replacement in May of that year. This project is moving forward, and the design phase for a replacement is underway.

We continue to try to organize the repair and repainting of the Battery Point Lighthouse; Labour shortages, climate, and high demand for painters in the marketplace have delayed this project until Summer, 2022. DFO construction personnel have indicated their intention this year to assist us with repairs, prior to painting.

LWAI is supporting the initiative to place a memorial, in the form of a statue, recognizing the contribution of women and families to the success of the fishery. Site selection and details of this project are presently being considered.

LWAI has expanded its definition of the role of the 'Working Waterfront' to include, beyond existing fishery and marine skills, new ocean technologies and research.

Your Board nominated and provided, from our membership, three qualified reviewers to assist with the evaluation of proposals resulting from the 'Business Development Opportunity' RFP issued by DNS for the Zwicker Building.

LWAI met with the Minister of Economic Development to discuss issues related to maintaining the ongoing operation of the Marine Railway—a vital service for the industrial and tourism fleet on the South Shore.

Finally, most recently, LWAI intervened with CBSA regarding the importance of restoring Lunenburg's role as a Port of Entry for foreign vessels. Restoration of this role has been announced.

Finally, waterfront activity to watch for this Summer includes:

- ❖ Folk Harbour Festival, August 4 to 7, 2022
- ❖ 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