

Grand Manan Museum *Preserving our Island Heritage*

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February 17, 2016

Dear Friend of the Grand Manan Museum

Subject: Grand Manan Museum Renovation Funding Request

In 1967, the dream of Otis Green and Keith Ingersoll to have a proper museum on Grand Manan became a reality. Since that time the Grand Manan Museum has twice expanded in size and improved the types and quality of its displays. There was a major expansion in 1979 when the Gannet Rock Second Order Fresnel Lens was moved into the new Walter B. McLaughlin Marine Gallery. The last expansion was in 1997 when the administrative offices, the Reading Room, the Elmer Wilcox Memorial Hall, the spiral staircase which is home of the soon-to-be-completed Intertidal Zone Wall Murals exhibit, and the shipwreck gallery and geology room exhibit areas were constructed. The Grand Manan Archives vault is in this wing of the Museum also, and it contains the paper history of our island, such as photos, maps, letters, journals and other documents. The Boards of Directors for the Museum and the Historical Society work together to maintain the Archives.

Next year, in 2017, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Museum, but like most 50 year-old buildings, there are a number of maintenance and repair issues facing us. Some of the repairs or upgrades we need rather urgently include: a new roof, eave troughs, a number of new windows and doors, insulated floors in some areas, an upgraded heating system, and an upgrade and renovation of the storage areas. We also have the wonderful Deep Cove School, a Registered Historic Place, which needs some attention, including connecting access to the Museum by a boardwalk. By improving insulation in key areas, and by upgrading the heating system in the Museum, we will be able to open for special events throughout the year, including New Brunswick's Heritage Week which falls in mid February. We would like to be able to serve our community, especially its youth, more effectively, and these planned improvements will allow us to do that.

These upgrades and improvements will cost over \$250,000.00, 60% of which we hope to obtain from various government sources through special one-time funding opportunities. The other 40%, approximately \$100,000.00, we need to raise by donations, starting now. Any funds raised in excess of this amount we will use to help pay our annual operating expenses, a significant challenge we face each year. The Grand Manan Museum is a registered non-profit charity, so any donations you make to the Museum are tax deductible (and the more money you donate to a charity, the more tax credits you get).

You can lend valuable support to our renovation project by making a donation. *Cheques payable to Grand Manan Museum may be sent to 1141 Route 776, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4E9.* We will be happy to recognize your monetary contribution by placing your name on our Renovation Fund Donor Wall in the main foyer of the Museum, and on our website.

Please check our website www.grandmananmuseum.ca for more information about the Museum, and visit the website and our Facebook page for the latest updates on exhibits, special events, evening programming and other activities at the Museum.

The Members of the Board of Directors and the Curator/Director of the Museum thank you for supporting the Grand Manan Museum, and we look forward to seeing you there soon!

Sincerely,

John Cunningham
President, Board of Directors

Mary Joan Edwards
Curator/Director