



# Boat School

BUILDING BOATS, CHANGING LIVES

Presented by the  
**Canadian Maritime Heritage Foundation**  
and the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**

May 2024



**Making positive impacts  
in the lives of  
Nova Scotia's youth  
since 2015.**





- Boat School is a free program that creates inclusive and transformative maritime experiences for everyone, but especially for youth from underserved communities.
- Participants develop pride, purpose and recognition of life's possibilities.
- Boat School unites community and co-creates life-changing learning experiences.
- Demand has outgrown the capacity of our current facilities.

*We believe that everyone should have access to our shared maritime heritage!*





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We started by building **BEVIN'S SKIFFS:**  
Three magic days from a pile of wood  
to a boat that floats.







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**PARTNERSHIPS**, like with MSVU and Pictou Landing First Nation School, are critical.







**Our community partners bring us students for Boat School programs; support them while they're busy boat building; and help us to track the impact of their Boat School experience after they leave.**

## **Community Partners**

- Mount Saint Vincent University
- Nova Scotia Sea School
- YMCA Immigrant Youth Services
- HomeBridge Youth Society
- Mi'kmaq Two-Eyed Seeing Project
- Delmore Buddy Day Learning Institute
- HRM Centre for Education (O2 Program)
- IWK Youth Forensic Services
- NS Boat Builders Association



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These two short **VIDEOS** capture the essence of Boat School. They're definitely worth watching!

**Building Boats, Changing Lives  
Pictou Landing First Nation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGypdvkpfzA>

**Building Boats, Changing Lives  
YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4bQ7V2lug4>



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# THE BOATS WE BUILD: Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner

**Advanced  
Projects**

**Intermediate  
Project**  
**Bird Class Sailboat**

**Beginner  
Project**  
**Bevin's Skiff**







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# BIRD CLASS

(Intermediate, 17-week program)







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# PUFFIN

One of several Advanced Projects  
(Built over four semesters.)







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**We also build toboggans!**  
(It only takes a day and draws on many of the same woodworking skills used in boatbuilding.)



**Fun Fact:**  
*'Toboggan'*  
comes from  
the Mi'kmaw  
word  
*'tepaquan.'*





## Testimonials from Youth

*"I feel accomplished!"*

*"I thought that it was great."*

*"When everyone comes together, we can do great things, such as learning to build a boat."*

*"In only a few days I learned things I never thought I could ever learn. ... Everyone felt the same way."*

*"The fact that the boats actually floated was a successful and proud moment."*





**Successful programs  
create demand!**

**We can't meet the  
demand for our  
boatbuilding and  
on-the-water programs  
within our current  
facilities.**

**We need to build  
a Boat School.**



For the past five years, our *Building Boats, Changing Lives* pilot programs reached between 50 and 90 youth each year.

## **Our new Boat School will expand this capacity ten-fold.**

- The new Boat School building will include a boat construction gallery, a boat building workshop and a combination maker space and classroom.
- Classrooms, workshops, and maker spaces on board the recently restored CSS Acadia will also be folded into the Boat School's facilities.
- The small boat marina we're creating will enable a major expansion of the Boat School's On The Water program for youth.

**When the Boat School is fully operational, it will serve at least 850 at risk kids every year.**





## **The Boat School also will bring to our community:**

- A new tourism attraction on the Halifax Waterfront, and a key feature of the Maritime Heritage District
- Space for short programs for casual visitors to the Waterfront
- Facilities for university partner programs
- Space for maker-programs for groups of women, seniors, and survivors of PTSD, for example
- A central home for a core staff of boat builders with capacity to conduct programs across the province.



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With your help we  
can make this  
happen!

Please  
[Donate Now!](#)





*Thank You!*

From the  
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