

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 03 Feb 2011 (timed for start of Halifax Boat Show)

Benefitting all boatbuilders

Bluenose II restoration will have far-reaching impact for the Nova Scotia boat-building industry

In an impressive new building on the Lunenburg waterfront, the restoration of Bluenose II, Canada's sailing ambassador, is steadily taking shape.

Though still in the early stages of the project, the restoration of Bluenose II is already proving to be a great boon - not only for the companies involved in the project, but for all boatbuilders in the province.

Tim Edwards, the executive director of the Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association, said that the restoration of Bluenose II is a huge asset for all of Nova Scotia's boat-building experts.

"The Bluenose II project is a big help to promotional efforts at home and abroad," he explained. "We've had many visitors coming to our booth at the recent Toronto and Montreal boat shows asking about it."

The reconstruction of Bluenose II is the single biggest project going on in the Nova Scotia's boat-building industry right now, he added, and it has brought with it benefits that will last long after the schooner is sailing once again.

Three experienced Nova Scotia boat-building companies - Lunenburg Industrial Foundry & Engineering, Covey Island Boatworks, and Snyder's Shipyard - have incorporated a new joint-venture company, Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance (LSA), and that alliance has been awarded the contract for the reconstruction of Bluenose II.

The Bluenose II project is the first of many that the LSA plans to undertake jointly and the combined technical assets and skills that the alliance offers will be extremely enticing when marketed around the world for refitting, repairing and converting large sailing and motor vessels.

The restoration involves designers and project managers from across Nova Scotia and, Mr. Edwards said, it is a "great boost for the industry in terms of training young people, maintaining existing jobs, and creating new ones."

Already, four apprentices are working on the project and it's expected that more will be involved as restoration proceeds over the next 18 months.

These young craftspeople represent the next generation of boatbuilders and each are enrolled in the province's Boat Builder Apprenticeship Program - the only one of its kind in Canada.

Jeff Robar is a recently certified boat builder, whose grandfather was one of the builders of the original Bluenose II in the early 1960s.

A part of the team rebuilding Bluenose II, Jeff said that he's well aware of the history that's being made before his very eyes.



photo: novascotiawebcams.com

Work on the restoration of Bluenose II is well under way, with the keel, stem and frames helping the hull to take shape.

Bluenose II is being restored with traditional Nova Scotian care and craftsmanship, but with new building approaches that will make it stronger and safer than ever before.

One example of new hull construction technology being used is in the hull frames.

Unlike in years gone by, when each frame was made from a few large pieces of sawn lumber, the new frames are made by laminating veneers of angelique together with epoxy resin.

This results in a much stronger structure.

The restoration of Bluenose II can already be viewed remotely on the internet using the Nova Scotia webcam service, www.novascotiawebcams.com.

The general public can also view progress in person from a public viewing gallery located in the building. Anyone wanting to view the restoration on site is asked to check in at the visitors' centre when arriving.

FOR BROADCAST USE:

It may be early days, but the restoration of Bluenose II is already proving to be a great boon for the companies involved in the project and for all boatbuilders in the province.

Tim Edwards, the executive director of the Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association, said on February 4 at the Halifax Boat Show that the restoration of Bluenose II is a huge asset for all of Nova Scotia's boat-building experts.

"The Bluenose II project is a big help to promotional efforts at home and abroad," he explained. "We've had many visitors coming to our booth at the recent Toronto and Montreal boat shows asking about it."

The restoration of Bluenose II is the single biggest project going on in the Nova Scotia's boat-building industry right now.

It is being overseen by three South Shore firms - Snyder's Shipyard, Lunenburg Industrial Foundry & Engineering and Covey Island Boatworks - which have combined to form the Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance.

The project involves designers and project managers from across Nova Scotia and, Mr. Edwards said, it is a "great boost for the industry in terms of training young people, maintaining existing jobs, and creating new ones."

To view live images from the restoration of Bluenose II, visit [w-w-w dot novascotiawebcams dot com](http://w-w-w.dot.novascotiawebcams.com).

-30-

Media Contacts

Tim Edwards
Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association
902-423-2378
Cell: 902-233-4348
Email: nsbaexec@eastlink.ca

Patrick Hirtle
Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance
902-640-3064
Email: patrick@coveyisland.com