



For Immediate Release

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Date: July 25, 2019

‘LOVE YOUR COVERED BRIDGES DAY’ IS BACK *Association Heritage New Brunswick Hosts Event for Second Year*

Fredericton, Canada — July 31, 2019 — Plans for the second annual “Love Your Covered Bridges Day” on August 4th have been announced by Association Heritage New Brunswick. “The concept of ‘Love Your Covered Bridges Day’ is simple,” says Marion Beyea, President of the organization. “We are encouraging people to visit one or more of the provinces covered bridges. And what better time to do this than on a holiday that celebrates all things New Brunswick.”

As if spending time enjoying the scenic countryside isn’t enough, the organization is offering an additional incentive. “We are asking people to share their experience by emailing us their photos to info@amnb.ca. Anyone who does will have their name entered in a draw for prizes. ‘Love Your Covered Bridges Day’ is officially August 4th, but because of the contest, we are going to honour photos taken Saturday through Monday.” Updates on the event are posted every Friday on AHNB’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AHNBAPNB/>.

The mandate of Association Heritage New Brunswick is to support the conservation, promotion and sharing of the history and heritage of New Brunswick through its museums and built-heritage. Beyea explained that the non-profit organization designs enjoyable projects and events that help residents of New Brunswick realize, and gain an appreciation for, the cultural and historic value of the built-heritage in their communities. “New Brunswick has a very rich and vibrant history that, when seen and experienced through our built-heritage, can be a source of great pride.”

“Built with lumber harvested nearby, these bridges are practical, utilitarian structures that reflect the efficiency and resourcefulness of those who lived in rural New Brunswick in the late 19th and early 20th century. To the untrained eye, the design of the bridges appears to be simple, but an engineer who specializes in the repair of timber structures would tell you that there is quite a bit of ingenuity behind the construction methods used.”

According to Kellie Blue-McQuade, Executive Director of AHNB, the loss of two covered bridges in recent months, though devastating, have served as a wake-up call for government, heritage groups, and residents of the province. “There has been organized efforts calling for the preservation of our covered bridges in the past, but now that we are down to 58 bridges and at risk of losing more, especially with recent flooding issues, there is an increased sense of urgency.”

“Covered bridges are important for tourism and serve as key transportation links for numerous communities throughout rural New Brunswick,” said Bill Oliver, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “Not only do these structures have sentimental value, they also play a role in bringing people together.”

“We want to take every step we can to conserve our remaining covered bridges,” Oliver said. “Once our covered bridge strategy is in place, it will provide government with a path forward for operating, maintaining and maximizing these assets.”

The Association agrees with the government’s decision to consult with engineering experts, covered bridge groups, and heritage advocates when developing a new conservation policy for the bridges. “One of the positive things that came out of the consultations is that both sides came away with a new appreciation for the other’s position. The AHNB wants to promote the heritage value and the architectural value of covered bridges. “They are cultural assets that give character to our province. Not only do we want people to share their photos with us, we are also hoping they will share their photos on social media with others.”