

New Brunswick Mat Registry (NBMR)

NEWS RELEASE

Creation of a New Brunswick Mat Registry to document hooked mats of more than 25 years.

Moncton, September 30, 2010 - New Brunswick mat hookers have talked for years about the importance of documenting the hooked mats that cover the floors of New-Brunswick homes. A network of volunteers from all regions of the province have created a New Brunswick Mat Registry to document hooked mats made by grandmothers, mothers and friends and to preserve the stories behind them. Renowned New Brunswick artists Viola Leger and Susan Vida Judah have lent their support as Honorary Chairpersons. This initiative will result in the development of a database documenting mats hooked in New Brunswick more than 25 years ago.

A pilot project has so far ensured the documentation of more than 50 mats, some as old as 100 years. These mats were photographed, examined in detail and the owners were interviewed to capture the individual histories behind them. This project will now be extended with registries taking place in various parts of the province. Everyone who owns a mat made more than 25 years ago in New Brunswick or by someone born in the province is invited to share this heritage with the NB Mat Registry.

Two additional Registries will be held in 2010, one at Government House in Fredericton (October 23) and the other at The Acadian Museum of the University of Moncton (November 6). The public is invited to meet with volunteers between 9:00 and 4:00 and receive information on how to register a mat. A brochure outlining the objectives of the Registry is available. For more information, please contact Judy Morison (379-6682) or Line Godbout (532-4681).

- 30 -

For information and/or Interviews:

Judy Morison, NBMR Steering Committee (379-6682), morc@rogers.com

Line Godbout, NBMR Steering Committee (532-4681), lgodbon630@rogers.com

Jeanne-Mance Cormier, Musée acadien (858-4088), jeanne-mance.cormier@umoncton.ca