

# New Brunswick Mat Registry Update

**October 28, 2016** – The New Brunswick Mat Registry (NBMR) continues to move forward with our 12 month project to document the mat hooking heritage of New Brunswick. Since our last report, we have completed eight video interviews with individual rug hookers and textile experts/artisans who shared their journeys in rug hooking. As two of our interviewees were 95 years of age, you can only imagine the wealth of knowledge and wonderful stories they had to share. We are grateful to each of our “Rug Hookers” for giving of their time and sharing their tales of how they became interested in hooking mats; what inspires them; what they like to hook subject wise; etc. It was quite remarkable to see the beautiful mats they have produced over the years and so inspiring to hear a 95 year old with still so many ideas and plans of mats yet to be created.

Also interviewed were our two Honourary Chairpersons - New Brunswick artists Viola Leger OC ONB and Susan Vida Judah. Neither of these women hook mats, but both recognize and appreciate our fine craft as fibre art and value the heritage of our mats and see the importance rug hooking continues to play in the New Brunswick art scene.



*Line Godbout with Honourary Chair Viola Legere*

Our film/interview crew were on-site at the Moncton Hook-in on October 1 to capture “what happens at a hook-in” and record conversations. Featured, were a husband/wife “hooking” team; two sisters and a mentor with two members of the REACH program out of Fredericton. Again our thanks to all who shared - there were some wonderful stories of how rug hooking has enhanced their lives and created strong relationships. Next interview was at l'École Grande-Digue, where Marielle Poirier spoke with two of her young pupils she taught rug hooking to within the school setting.

The committee is delighted to see the broad scope of

whom we have captured hooking - from school kids to 95 year olds. It proves that this is a craft for anyone and everyone - kids, ladies, gents, young or old...it doesn't matter. The love of the hook has no restrictions!

October 29 found us in Moncton filming “what happens at a Mat Registry”. Here we captured both the process of what happens to the mats and heard from those bringing in their treasures to be examined - what does the mat mean to them and what did they learn about their mat that day. The last segment of our project will be creating learning modules intended for use in New Brunswick classrooms, which will be added to the New Brunswick Mat Registry database currently under development by the New Brunswick Museum.

For more information on the NBMR project, we invite you to visit and LIKE our Facebook page - New Brunswick Mat Registry-Registre des tapis du N.-B. or contact one of our co-chairs: Judy Morison 506-379- 6682 or Marielle Poirier - 506-532- 9578

## Maine Harvest Hook-in Great Segue into Fall Hooking Season

For many of us, this beautiful summer weather that we have been enjoying was a chance to relax and spend some quality time in the sun, be it at our summer cottages along the shore or at home in our back yards on the deck. For me, it was a combination of both and while our hooking group continued its weekly meetings on the verandah at Ottawa House in Parrsboro, I didn't always make the journey from my cottage in Pugwash on the Northumberland Strait to the rocky shores of the Bay of Fundy for these weekly outings, choosing instead to lounge on my deck overlooking Pugwash Harbour to pull some loops on my own.

And so it was with the imminent arrival of fall, and a great amount of enthusiasm, that Mom and I loaded up the SUV for our first “hook in” in Bangor, Maine. Yes, the Harvest Hook-in held every September in Maine was our destination and we spent 5 wonderful days south of the border, shopping and sightseeing with two full-days dedicated to our favourite past-time of rug hooking.

Now many of you may remember reading my account in the last Loop about the importance of attending Rug School and hooking with groups as a way of learning the skills of the craft and improving your rug hooking; not to mention the wonderful friendships that are made in this



## New Brunswick East

As many hooking groups take a break for the summer, the Kent Hookers/Hookeuses de Kent, step it up a gear. The group meets weekly during the summer at the Bonar Law Farm in Rexton playing host to many visiting hookers, including the Miramichi Hooking Group. This summer the Kent Hookers had many opportunities not only to showcase their talents but also to promote rug hooking - the Scallop Festival in Richibucto, the Kent County Agricultural Fair (Expo Kent) and the Arts & Crafts day at Kouchibouguac National Park.

Moncton's 'hooking season' begins with the annual Harvest Hook-in hosted by the Past Time Matters Hookers in Riverview, NB. It's an opportunity to enjoy good harvest fayre, lots of hooking and the company of hooking friends from across the Maritimes. This year the group also hosted the New Brunswick Mat Registry. Several video interviews were recorded at the event which will form part of the twelve month long project to document the rug hooking heritage of New Brunswick.



*Harvest Hook-in, Riverview, NB*



*Heritage Rugs at Moncton Hook-in*

The Sussex Tearoom Rug Hookers will be holding their 12th Annual Hook-in on Saturday, November 26th. The weather isn't always the best at this time of year but it's worth wrapping up warm and heading out for legendary food and warm hospitality! This year's theme will be MITTENS. There will be a mitten tree for needy families. People attending the hook-in are asked to hang a pair of mittens on the tree. All the mittens will then be sent to their local Sharing Club. The vendors at the

hook-in will be Sande Gunning of River Gallery and Edie Cole-Arsenault of EC Wools Rug Hooking Studio. Erin McKenna will also be fundraising for the Rug Hooking Museum of North America.

Another not-to-be-missed event for the calendar is a visit to the sugar camp and hooking at Trites Maples on Friday, March 31st, 2017. The camp in Stilesville, just outside of Moncton, can comfortably accommodate fifty people, so if you, or your group, are interested please contact Joy Trites - joyd@rogers.com, for more information.



*Hooking at Trites Maple Sugar Camp 2016  
- Submitted by Helen Dunstan-Blackie, Director*



*Basque Fairy Tale Pattern Available 82"x20"*

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### Linen Backings For Rug Hooking

#### UNBLEACHED HAIRLESS LINEN — 60" & 55" wide

	60"	55"
Per Yard	\$27.00	\$25.00
Teachers' Price	\$22.00	\$20.00
5 yard minimum	(5-14 yd)	
Bolt Price	\$20.00	\$18.00
15 yard minimum	(15-49 yd)	
Bulk Price	\$18.00	\$16.00
50 yard minimum		

#### IVORY HAIRLESS LINEN — 56" Wide

Per Yard	\$28.00
Teachers' Price	\$23.00
5 yard minimum	(5-14yd)
Bolt Price	\$20.00
15 yard minimum	(15-49 yd)
Bulk Price	\$18.00
50 yard minimum	

**Prices do not include shipping**