

**Study &  
Resource  
Guide for  
Teachers on  
the Internationally Famous  
Canadian Historical Treasure,  
the schooner **Bluenose****



# TEACH YOUR STUDENTS THE HERITAGE OF THE BOAT THAT HAS BEEN ON THE CANADIAN DIME SINCE 1937 ~ THE SCHOONER BLUENOSE.



Following are ideas for incorporating the hallowed 'Bluenose' legacy into curriculum and classroom...

1. Prepare a graph illustrating statistics associated with the 'Bluenose' a) racing career, and b) fishing career. Learn how 'Bluenose' earned the title: Queen of the North Atlantic.

2. The 'Bluenose' saga caught the attention of all Canadians as well as earning global recognition for her home province of Nova Scotia and home port of Lunenburg. Numerous topics can be identified as reasons why this happened. Discuss this with your class identifying time-related national and global events that contributed to making 'Bluenose' a legend. Once the topics are identified, assign essays and/or speeches.

*A German-born Canadian sculptor and coin designer, Emanuel Otto Hahn, created the design for the 'Bluenose' 10-cent piece.*

3. "Bluenose Fever" swept across Canada during the International races between 1921 and 1938. Compare this to other Canadian events that have stimulated similar waves of patriotism.

4. If practical from your location, organize a trip to the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg. Housed in the buildings of a former fish processing plant on Lunenburg's historic waterfront, the museum celebrates the rich fishing heritage of the Maritimes as well as housing an extensive collection of 'Bluenose' memorabilia.

5. Life aboard fishing schooners was a great deal different than life at home, from exhausting 16-hour days on fishing trips to "whatever-it-took" hours to prepare the vessels for competition during the races. Have your class perform a skit exploring life aboard 'Bluenose' a) during a fishing trip, or b) during a racing event.



**Bluenose, 1922.**

6. The hard-fought races that comprised the International Fishermen's Race series culminated with a Victory party to celebrate the participation of both vessels and to officially award the coveted trophy. Organize a Victory party in celebration of a win for 'Bluenose' in International racing competition.

7. Set up a 'Bluenose' memorabilia exhibit including school projects, newspaper clippings, pictures, etc. Target the displays to coincide with significant dates in "Bluenose" history; perhaps even make the date a "theme" day for your school or class.

8. Publish a class or school newspaper dated in the 1920s or 1930s during an International Fishermen's Race series. Or, assign five different groups within your class to each create a class or school newspaper published during one of the International series, i.e. 1921, 1922, 1923, 1931 and 1938.

9. A little-known indirect result of the International Fishermen's Races was the advocate of live radio broadcasts to cover the events. Canadians from coast-to-coast huddled around their radios to listen to reports during the races. Produce a program for a radio station that carried the races live.



**March 26, 1921. Bluenose hits the water.**

10. Invite a 'Bluenose' representative to talk to your class.

11. Numerous 'Bluenose' films and documentaries are available showing different aspects of the 'Bluenose' story. Show a film to your class and discuss it afterwards.

12. Have your students write a letter home from a 'Bluenose' crewmember describing their experiences a) fishing or, b) racing.

13. Research the honours and accolades that have been bestowed on 'Bluenose' and those key stakeholders that have been publicly acknowledged for contributing to her legacy, e.g. Captain Angus Walters and designer William James Rou  .

14. Write a film script and present a play or video on how 'Bluenose' affected the life/lives of: a) Captain Angus Walters; b) William James Rou  ; c) a fishing crewmember; and d) a racing crewmember.

15. Have your class build a model of 'Bluenose'. Invite a model shipbuilder to speak to your class. Several model shipbuilding guilds have speakers that are pleased to speak about their craft.

16. Research the subject of shipbuilding in the Maritimes. Invite a shipbuilder to speak to your class about the past, present and future of shipbuilding and how it affects the economy.

17. Invite a wooden shipbuilder to speak to your class about the differences in wooden and fiberglass ships – as well as teach some traditional shipbuilding skills.

18. Invite a member of a local yacht club to speak with your class about sailing.

19. Compare how the Atlantic Canadian salt-water fishing industry has changed from the 1920's to the modern day, comparing fishing methods then and now.

20. The lore of the 'Bluenose' legacy with regard to her fishing career was due in part to the vast fish stocks of the Grand Banks. Study the Grand Banks and determine what made it such excellent fishing grounds in the 1920s and 1930s.



**Bluenose, in fishing rig.**

21. A huge part of the success of any vessel, particularly those powered by sail, are the knots used to secure the rigging and fishnets. Study and learn marine knots, rigging, etc.

22. Remind students they have seen the 'Bluenose' many times on the dime. Why

was the 'Bluenose' chosen for the ten-cent piece? Lead the discussion on to compare "Bluenose" with other national symbols, e.g. the beaver and the maple leaf?

23. What special qualities does 'Bluenose' have that has made Canadians want to identify themselves and their country with it for over 85 years?

24. What special qualities does "Bluenose" have that has made it one of the world's most recognizable symbols?

25. 'Bluenose' was a gaff-rigged schooner and carried different riggings for fishing than she did for racing. There are many different types of sail arrangements for sailboats. Learn and compare the differences, by name and configuration.

## Resources

### Books

#### **A Race for Real Sailors: the Bluenose and the International Fishermen's Cup, 1920-1938**

By Keith R. McLaren. (2006) Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, British Columbia. 250 pages. ISBN: 9781553651611.

This tale is illustrated with 51 historical photographs and five maps, and rounded out by a glossary of sailing terms and an appendix of the ever-changing race rules. This is a story that will keep even confirmed landlubbers pegged to their seats, a tale of iron men and wooden ships whose time will never come again.

#### **A Spirit Deep Within: Naval Architect W.J. Roué and the Bluenose Story**

By Joan E. Roué. (1995) Lancelot Press, Hantsport, Nova Scotia; 2nd edition, with updates (2002) Vanwell Publishing, St. Catherines, Ontario. 110 pages, paperback. ISBN: 1551250659.

This book, written by the great-granddaughter of W.J. Roué, provides a detailed account of his professional life. Who was he that he was able to give Bluenose such magic? The answers are here.

#### **Bluenose**

By Brian and Phil Backman. (1965, 1988) McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, Ontario. 112 pages. ISBN: 0771010001.

Brian Backman was the Canadian Press copy boy sent to cover the launch of Bluenose II in 1963. That event sparked an interest in the story that eventually led to the writing of this book, in collaboration with his father. The telling of the story is complemented by dozens of superb photographs by W.R. MacAskill and many others. Much of the material is drawn from earlier books (Bluenose Skipper [Gillespie] and Schooner Bluenose [Merkell]), but there are several new elements as well.

**Bluenose and Bluenose II**

By R. Keith McLaren. (1981) Hounslow Press, Willowdale, Ontario. 66 pages. ISBN: 0888820429 : 1196.

The story of Bluenose is repeated here, though in somewhat less detail than many other books. While these others devote most of their pages to the original ship, however, Bluenose & Bluenose II fills in many important details concerning the replica.

**Bluenose: Queen of the North Atlantic**

By Jack Tremblay. (1967) Brunswick Press, Fredericton, New Brunswick. 20 pages. Story of Canada Series, No. 11. A book for young Canadians.

**Bluenose: The Ocean Knows Her Name**

By Heather-Anne Getson. (2006) Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 116 pages, paperback. ISBN: 1551095386.

The true story of the great fishing schooner Bluenose launched in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in 1921 and lost at Haiti in 1946. Heather-Anne Getson is a historian at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, NS. She remembers her official introduction to Captain Angus Walters, at the age of five. Heather writes about Bluenose, as he would have wished-as a Lunenburger, making it personal, accurate and full of life.

**Bluenose Master: The Memoirs of Captain Ernest K. Hartling**

By Ernest K. Hartling. (1989) Hounslow Press, Willowdale, Ontario. 177 pages. ISBN: 088882114X (paperback); 0888821182 (bound).

This book takes us on a voyage through a life crammed with adventure, colour, and excitement: his eye-witness account of the Great Halifax Explosion; crossing the Atlantic at the age of twelve as an ordinary seaman; striking out alone at fourteen in pursuit of his dream of a seafaring life; but that is just the beginning. He sailed the high seas on numerous ships to countless ports and, while still very young, became master of a ship. After more than fifty years at sea, he returned to it as master of the Bluenose II - the crowning achievement of his life.

**Bluenose II: The Last of the Tall Schooners - Measured Drawings**

By L.B. Jenson. (1975, 1981) Halifax, Nova Scotia. ISBN: 1551095386.

**Bluenose II: Saga of the Great Fishing Schooners - Measured Drawings**

By L.B. Jenson. (1994) Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 125 pages. ISBN: 1551090635.

**Bluenose Skipper: The Story of the Bluenose and her Skipper**

By G.J. (Gerald Joseph) Gillespie. (1955) Brunswick Press. 2nd edition (1964) Brunswick Press. 3rd edition (1969) Brunswick Press, Fredericton, New Brunswick. 129 pages.

If you are at all touched by the story of Bluenose, then you will find this to be a beautiful book. It tells the story of Angus Walters, and only through him of Bluenose herself. The prose is well crafted and the story, in all its detail, compelling.

**Captain Angus Walters**

By Jacqueline Langille. (1990) Four East Publications, Tantallon, Nova Scotia. 48 pages. ISBN: 0920427189.

**Once Upon a Schooner**

By Silver Donald Cameron. (1992) Formac, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 146 pages. ISBN: 0887802257. Previously published as "Schooner."

**Queen of the Grand Banks**

By Feenie Ziner. (1970) Chilton Book Co., Philadelphia. 111 pages. ISBN: 0801955513.

This account of the Bluenose saga is written by an American who was born in Brooklyn just a few days before Bluenose was launched. It offers some interesting counterpoint to the story, though not in a way that diminishes it. The book was intended in part for a younger audience and can make a good resource for school projects. Describes the racing and fishing career of the schooner Bluenose, how she was built, and her relationship with the men who sailed her.

**Race to Fame: The Inside Story of the Bluenose**

By Claude K. Darrach. (1985) Lancelot Press, Hantsport, Nova Scotia. 77 pages. ISBN: 0889992800 : .95. Previously published as "Schooner."

Claude Darrach spent many years as a member of the Bluenose crew and is able to tell the story with a great depth of understanding.

**Schooner Bluenose**

Text by Andrew Merkel, Photographs by Wallace R. MacAskill. (1948) Ryerson Press, Toronto, Ontario. 70 pages.

Chapters : On the Banks; The Building of Bluenose; Elsie and Mayflower; Henry Ford; Columbia and Haligonian; Gertrude L. Thebaud; "Anything Goes". .

**Schooner: Bluenose and Bluenose II**

By Silver Donald Cameron. (1984) McClelland and Stewart-Bantam, Toronto, Ontario. 134 pages. Published in 1992 as "Once Upon a Schooner."

Represents a unique approach to writing history. Bluenose is the ship on the Canadian dime, the Nova Scotia fishing schooner which won the international fishermen's races in 1921 -- the year she was launched - and held the trophy until the races ended in 1938. Bluenose II is "Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador," an exact replica, launched in 1963 and still sailing. In 1983, Silver Donald Cameron signed up as an ordinary seaman and sailed on Bluenose II from Lunenburg to Atlantic City, NJ. The exciting history of the two schooners emerges from his experiences and conversations at sea during that voyage. .

**The Frigate Constitution & Other Historic Ships**

By F. Alexander Magoun. (1928) Marine Research Society, Salem, Mass., Publication No. 16. 154 pages.

Includes Introduction--The Viking Ship--The "Santa Maria"--The "Mayflower"--United States Frigate "Constitution"--Clipper Ship "Flying Cloud"--**Fishing Schooner "Bluenose"**.

**The Saga of the Bluenose**

By Ernest Fraser Robinson. (1989) Vanwell Publishing, St. Catherines, Ontario. 89 pages. ISBN: 0920277179.

This is the story of the Bluenose, how she was built & became famous around the world.

**The Story of the Bluenose**

(1933) Lunenburg Exhibitors Ltd., Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. 16 pages.

**War Years of Canada's Bluenose**

By Jesse Spalding. (1974) Vantage Press, New York. 61 pages. ISBN: 0-533-01075-6:.50.

**World War II Adventures of Canada's Bluenose: the Americans**

By Andrew Higgins & Jesse Spalding III. (1998) West Indies Trading Company, Newport Beach, California. 192 pages. ISBN: 0966307305.

Profusely illustrated with photographs and facsimiles of letters and documents. Contents : Introduction (Andrew Higgins); The Grenfell Mission - The American Introduction (Andrew Higgins); Story (Jesse Spalding III) - New York, Nova Scotia, Florida, Cuba, The Bluenose Last Days; Investigation (Andrew Higgins) - Thomas Higgins II, Why Canada Sold the Bluenose, Bluenose Captains, Sinking of the Bluenose

**Computer Disc****Bluenose Schooners**

By Bluenose II Preservation Trust - Lunenburg, Nova Scotia - (1996). CD-ROM, in english and french. Composed by Ron Schofield, former main topsailman on Bluenose II.

Bluenose Schooners is a comprehensive history of the Grand Banks and racing Schooner



Bluenose. The CD-ROM contains 200 plus photographs taken by Wallace R. MacAskill during the 1920's and 1930's. There is 20 minutes of digital video, including rare colour footage taken by MacAskill during the last International Fishermen's Races of Gloucester in 1938 between Bluenose and the Gertrude L. Thebaud. There are facts and figures of the schooners that raced in the elimination races, exhibition races and Trophy challenges. The courses that they raced on with results of those races. History of shipbuilding and fishing off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

## Internet

**Bluenose II** ~ <http://bluenose.novascotia.ca/>  
Official Nova Scotia government website for Bluenose II

**Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia** ~  
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fma/new-frames-master.html>  
The Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia has the largest collection of Bluenose artifacts in the world. Visit their website to learn more.

**Nova Scotia Archives** ~ <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/bluenose/>  
A comprehensive accounting of the 'Bluenose' story, includes video clips and pictures.

### Other 'Bluenose' Links

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluenose>  
History by the Minute, Canadian Symbols, [histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca) -  
<http://www.histori.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=10213>  
History by the Minute, All Canadian, [histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca) -  
<http://www.histori.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=14207>  
Bluenose II Donated to Nova Scotia, [http://archives.cbc.ca/IDC-1-69-220-1118-10/on\\_this\\_day/life\\_society/bluenose\\_2\\_donated](http://archives.cbc.ca/IDC-1-69-220-1118-10/on_this_day/life_society/bluenose_2_donated)

## Music Recordings - arranged by artist

**Boudreau, Pat: Nova Scotia Home**  
(2000) P. Boudreau, Dundas, Ontario. One sound disc, digital. Song titles include **The Schooner Bluenose**.

**Carlton Showband: Sing Irishman Sing**  
(1972) RCA Camden, Don Mills, Ontario. One sound cartridge (8 track). Song titles include **Ballad of the Bluenose**.

**Connors, Stompin Tom: Sings Canadian History**  
(2001), EMI Music Canada. One sound disc, digital. Song titles include **Bluenose**.

**Finnigan: The Old Home Summer**  
(1982) Banana Records, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. One sound disc (33 1/3 record). Song titles include **The Bluenose Song**.

**Flynn, Jimmy: Songs from the Maritimes**  
(1994) Quality Music. One sound disc, digital. Song titles include **The Bluenose Song**.

**Gallant, Tom: Dance in my Body**  
(1995) Schooney Tunes. One compact disc. Song titles include **Pride of the Bluenose**.

**Hughes & Curtis: Turn of the Tide**  
(2006) Hughes & Curtis. One compact disc. Song titles include **Bluenose Lives On**.

**Irish Rovers: 15th Anniversary**  
(1980) Video Memories, Brunswick, Ohio. One sound disc, analog (33 1/3 rpm). Song titles include **Bluenose**.

**Kindred Spirits: Canadian Harmony**  
(1995) Kindred Spirits, Victoria, British Columbia. One sound cassette. Song titles include **Ballad of the Bluenose**.

**Knickle, Mary: On the Wind and the Sea**

(1991) Windward Productions, Toronto, Ontario. One sound cassette. Song titles include **Bluenose**.

**MacDonald, Marilyn: My Love Cape Breton and Me**

(1991) Marilyn MacDonald, Sydney, Nova Scotia. One sound disc, digital. Song titles include **Bluenose**.

**Marsland, Fred L.: The History of the Bluenose in Sound and Song**

(1998) Marsland Professional Services, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. One sound disc, digital. English and french narration. ISBN: 0968526713.

**McGuinty: Atlantic Favourites**

(1994) Rocky Coast Music, Halifax, Nova Scotia. One sound cassette. Song titles include **The Bluenose Song**.

**McGuinty: Call of the Sea**

(1978) Boot, Mississauga, Ontario. One sound cassette. Song titles include **The Bluenose Song**.

**Mitchell, Michael: Canada is for Kids**

(1994) MKM Music, Victoria, british Columbia. One sound disc. Song titles include **The Bluenose**.

**Moore, James: The Promised Land**

(1997) Madawaska Music, Woodlawn, Ontario. One sound cassette. Song titles include **Bluenose, Queen of all Fishing Fleets**.

**Pub Dogs**

(2000) Pub Dogs, Miramichi, New Brunswick. One sound disc, digital. Song titles include **The Bluenose**.

**Rogers, Stan: Turnaround**

(1998) Lady Blue Productions, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. One sound cassette. Song titles include **Bluenose**.

**Ryan's Fancy: A Time With Ryan's Fancy**

(1979) Boot Records, Mississauga, Ontario. One sound cassette. Song titles include **The Bluenose**.

**Stenabaugh, Larry: The Pink Slip Blues**

(1998) Lady Blue Productions, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. One sound cassette. Song titles include **The Bluenose, Queen of the Seas**.

**Songs****Bluenose**

Written by David Martins.

**The Ballad of the Bluenose**

Written by Michael Stanbury (1963).

**Video Recordings****Bluenose II: Foremast '97**

© 1999, Bluenose II Preservation Trust - Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. VHS videocassette, 24 min.. Script, direction and photography by Murray Creed, Creed Productions.

**Bluenose II: Spirit of the Sea, Canada Tour '97**

© 1998, Bluenose II Preservation Trust - Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. VHS videocassette, 53 min.. Script, direction and photography by Murray Creed, Creed Productions.

**Bluenose II: Voyage to the Heart of Canada, Canada Tour '97**

© 1998, Bluenose II Preservation Trust - Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. VHS videocassette, 24 min. Script, direction and photography by Murray Creed, Creed Productions.

See Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador, Bluenose II, making her first passage deep into the heartland of Canada.



**Canada Vignettes: Bluenose 1921-1946**

© 1979, National Film Board - Montreal, Quebec. VHS videocassette, 2 minutes, b&w.

A short history of the 'Bluenose'.

**Canada Vignettes: Bluenose II July 24 1963**

© 1979, National Film Board - Toronto, Ontario. VHS videocassette, 3 minutes, b&w.

A vignette about the building of the schooner 'Bluenose II', a replica of 'Bluenose'.

**Forever Young: the Legend of the Grand Bank Ladies**

© 1992, Bruntouch Entertainment Group for Canada Post Corporation. Written and directed by Michael Brun, co-produced by Denise Brun and M.A. Brun. VHS videocassette, 58 minutes.

**Heritage Minutes Commemorative Video**

© 1997, The CRB Foundation Heritage Project, Montreal, Quebec. VHS videocassette, 60 minutes.

A compilation of one-minute vignettes paying homage to Canadian Heritage; includes Bluenose.

**Lunenburg - Home of the Bluenose**

© 1955, National Film Board - Toronto, Ontario. VHS videocassette, 30 minutes, b&w.

A visit to Exhibition Week in Lunenburg introduces Fred Davis to the birthplace of the Bluenose, the most famous two-masted schooner ever to sail with the Nova Scotian fishing fleet. Between events at the exhibition, we see the town and visit with the renowned captain who piloted the Bluenose throughout the course of her fishing and racing life.

**The Captain and the Queen**

© 1998, Great North Productions Inc. - Edmonton, Alberta. VHS videocassette, 60 min. Directed by Chuck Stewart.

Captain Angus Walters and the schooner Bluenose.

**The Queen and the Skipper**

© 2004, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation - Orangeville, Ontario. DVD videorecording, 43 min. Directed by Lane Drewery. Closed-captioned. ISBN: 1552594017.

Eighty years ago when men went to sea in wooden ships, she was the fastest deep-water fishing schooner ever to sail the Grand Banks. For nearly two decades she dominated the International Fishermen's Trophy races. This is the story not only of the Queen but also of her Captain, a man named Angus Walters. For 22 years they faced new challengers and beat them all. But in the end it was age and economics that defeated them.

**The Sea Got In Your Blood**

© 1965 National Film Board of Canada; film reel, 28 minutes. © 1997 National Film Board of Canada; VHS videocassette, 41 min., 28 sec. Directed by David Millar; produced by Tom Daly.

A taste of the sea and people who sail it from the ports of Atlantic Canada. Includes footage of Bill Roué who designed 'Bluenose' and Captain Angus Walters who brought her to victory.

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While every effort has been made to assure accuracy, it is not guaranteed.