



*Maritime*

# *Blacksmiths Association*

*3 Penny Avenue, Halifax NS, B3P 1P2*

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14 April 2016

To whom it may concern,

The Maritime Blacksmith Association would like to encourage your support for the the development of *Les Forges de Montréal* 's project. Their plans to create an Interpretation and Research Center for the protection, preservation and diffusion of our blacksmithing heritage must be given our full support. The embedded knowledge and mastery of the craft must be retained and the hands on practice associated with our work must be taught. *Les Forges de Montréal* must remain as an important link to our heritage and growth.

Historically, Blacksmithing, as an industrial process, as a craft, or as an art, has been an integral part of our life and culture. It is a fundamental trade, producing the tools of settlement, of travel, of trade and of domestic life; it provides a connection with the roots of our civilization. The presence of a blacksmith in each region was central to the growth and success of our communities. Even today, the processes and basic tenants of manufacturing with metals are based on the centuries old work of smiths.

In the Maritime Provinces, the preservation and support work of blacksmiths is left in the capable hands of a few entrepreneurs who have created businesses producing iron work, a number of artisans who recognize the value of preserving the craft and enjoy creating with iron, and a very few institutions that provide opportunities to research and study the role and work of a

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blacksmith and put a public face on the craft. *Les Forges de Montréal* provides a unique situation where the craft may be supported and enhanced in a very public and accessible venue with the enthusiasm and dedication of a number of very engaged smiths. Their work, preparing and presenting workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions and events has been a resource for our members.

*Les Forges de Montréal* must ensure its sustainability and we, The Maritime Blacksmiths Association, believe that *Les Forges de Montréal* should be publicly supported.

Sincerely



Hugh Fraser  
President MBA