

## President's Message

Lawrence J. Yerdon, President & CEO

Watching the happy skaters of all ages, shapes and size on the ice at the new outdoor skating rink, it is hard to imagine the time when winter at Strawberry Banke Museum was anything less.

The creation of a temporary outdoor ice skating rink in the middle of Portsmouth — one of just seven such traditional outdoor skating ponds in all of New Hampshire — took vision, commitment and the persistent desire to bring such joy to the community. It also took a Herculean amount of time and effort.

Credit and profound thanks go to the Puddle Dock Pond Committee and the tireless volunteers, led by co-chairs Cynthia Harvell and Jeff Keefe. But close behind them come the boards, staff, officials and well-wishers at City Hall and its attendant Departments. It certainly took a village to make seasonal ice skating at Strawberry Banke a reality. The donors who made the Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, Strawberry Banke Museum, are due substantial praise. The Trustees, professional staff, members and friends have each advanced the project in different ways. But the unsung heroes of the work are the full-time members of the City of Portsmouth municipal team, from City Manager John Bohenko on. Thank you City of Portsmouth for being a government of, by and for the people you are. And thank you for being always ready to listen with open ears and an Open Door.

And to all our members and friends, many thanks for the countless ways you support Strawberry Banke Museum.

See you on the ice!



## Winter Weekend Fire + Ice



The 2nd Annual Portsmouth Fire + Ice Festival takes place February 12 through 16 and on that Valentine/President's Day weekend, Strawberry Banke debuts two new wintery features, along with a return of the dogsleds for TWO days of rides.

The icy-est feature of this year's Fire + Ice is, of course outdoor ice skating at the Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond. Skating is offered each day of the Festival, with a free hour of skating made possible by the Portsmouth Rotary on Saturday morning, February 14.

One of the most exciting new features is that on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Strawberry Banke Museum will open the historic houses, offering traditional crafts opportunities and interactions with costumed role players. This "Winter Weekend" runs daily 10 am to 4 pm (note the slightly earlier closing time). Regular admission applies, which means Strawberry Banke Members are admitted free. The ticket also includes free skating that day. Non-member admission is \$17.50 for adults, \$10 for children 5–17 and free for children under 5. Family ticket is \$45 covering 2 adults and all accompanying children under 17.

The dogsled rides on Sunday and Monday require a separate ticket and timed tickets are being sold on the Strawberry Banke website. Each ticket covers up to 300 pounds (an adult and 2–3 small children).

**For the full schedule of the activities planned throughout the city for the 2nd Annual Portsmouth Fire + Ice Festival, visit [portsmouthchamber.org/fireandice.cfm](http://portsmouthchamber.org/fireandice.cfm)**



## Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond

It's official! The rink now honors one of the primary donors who enabled the creation of the rink with the official name, "Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, Strawberry Banke Museum."

Throngs of skater have brought to life the painting "Labrie Family Skate" (a copy of which hangs in the warming shed at the new rink), created in 1982 by the Labrie family's acclaimed painter Rose Cushing Labrie.

At the rink grand opening, museum President & CEO Lawrence J. Yerdon recognized the contributions of the Labrie Family in making the rink a reality, noting, "Ours is a state of the art, seasonal rink, to ensure that children growing up around Portsmouth will remember skating with their families on New Hampshire winter days, just as the Labrie Family does."

The ice rink is open 9 am to 9 pm daily, with several sessions for daily public skating (including a free skating session on Tuesdays and a Portsmouth Rotary Free Skate on Saturday mornings each week), pond hockey for children and adults, skating lessons for all ages and private rentals on Sunday evenings. The rink has adult and child skates available for rent, thanks to a donation from Performance Sports Group.

The effort to create Puddle Dock Pond began in 2012 when Strawberry Banke leadership and a group of community members banded together to build a rink that fits the museum's historical surroundings and brings people together to enjoy the traditional



Credit: David S. Murray, ClearEyePhoto

New England winter sport. The rink resonates with those who grew up in the Puddle Dock neighborhood before Urban Renewal claimed the 10-acre site. The families who lived in this waterfront Portsmouth neighborhood remember skating on local ponds and even the tidal inlet when temperatures were frigid enough to freeze salt water. The rediscovery of an old skate blade during Strawberry Banke Heritage House Program reconstruction of the Winn-Yeaton House confirmed the memories.

For more information about schedules and amenities at the Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, Strawberry Banke Museum, please visit [www.puddledockpond.org](http://www.puddledockpond.org).

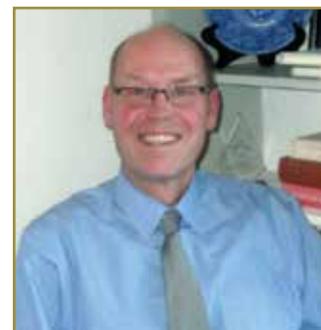


## Strawberry Banke welcomes Jeffrey Morris as Director of Development

In December, the Museum welcomed Jeffrey S. Morris as Director of Development. Most recently senior advancement officer for the University of New England in Portland, ME, Jeff also brings twelve years' knowledge and experience as New Hampshire Public Television's director of corporate relations and new business development to the Museum. Jeff is responsible for managing the Membership, Corporate Relations and Grant team of three, supporting their initiative and directing the comprehensive Development program.

After graduating from Keene State College with a B.S. in Business Administration, Jeff pursued a career in sales and advertising with several New Hampshire companies. He joined NHPTV in

1998, doubling his first year's fund-raising success in his second year there. In 2010, Jeff joined University of New England to increase gifts from key donors.



"We are delighted to welcome Jeff and his exceptionally well-suited skill set to Strawberry Banke at this exciting time in the Museum's history," said Larry Yerdon, president and CEO in making the announcement. "The success of the fund-raising efforts for the Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond and the Heritage House Program, demonstrates the vibrancy of the institution to which we welcome him."



## Winter Nights at Pitt

Pitt Tavern lives again as a convivial place to gather, enjoy a pint from Throwback Brewery (or glass of wine) and tavern snacks while listening to live music. Winter Nights at Pitt Tavern are a great opportunity to meet your friends and fellow Museum members in the cozy, historic tavern, built in 1766 and restored to its original atmosphere.

**FEBRUARY 7**

**SUSIE BURKE & DAVID SURETTE**

**MARCH 7**

**TOM RICHTER & THE SIDEWALK BOYS**

**MARCH 28**

**LIZ & DAN FAIELLA**

**APRIL 11**

**JEFF WARNER**

Kennebunk Savings Bank is underwriting the cost to produce the Pitt Tavern events, and keep ticket prices at the low cost of \$20 for members (\$25 for non-members). Tickets are available on the Strawberry Banke website and include two drinks per person, food and entertainment. (Must be 21 or older to attend.) Each event sold out last year.



## Hearth Cooking



Strawbery Banke is offering a new round of special hearth cooking experiences in Wheelwright House. The two-hour hands-on workshops allow participants to learn open-hearth cooking skills as they make and enjoy a traditional menu. This season the schedule includes

**FEBRUARY 14, (NOTE SPECIAL TIME: 6 – 8 PM)**

**VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER – SOLD OUT!**

Prepare a meal of roast chicken & stuffing, cranberry chutney, squash, Brussels sprouts, parsnip pancakes, churned butter, cheesecake and chocolate tart.

**MARCH 14, 11 AM – 1 PM**

**TRADITIONAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY FARE**

Prepare a meal of corned beef & cabbage, roasted root vegetables, pickled beets, mustard, soda bread, churned butter and apple pie.

**MARCH 28, 11 AM – 1 PM**

**ENDING WINTER "BOTTOM OF THE BARREL"**

Prepare a meal of bean soup, cod cakes, cabbage salad, churned butter, gingerbread and whipped cream.

**APRIL 25, 11 AM – 1 PM**

**WELCOME SPRING!**

Prepare a meal of dressed macaroni (macaroni & cheese), ham, pickled vegetables, mustard, spring greens soup, churned butter, and rhubarb pie.

**MAY 10, 11 AM – 1 PM**

**MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY**

Prepare a meal of frittata, Chelsea buns, fruit compote, sausages, herbed lemonade, churned butter, coffee and Liberty Tea.

*The cost for each workshop is \$55 for members (\$65 for non-members). Tickets are available on the Strawberry Banke website. Each workshop requires a minimum of 6 participants.*



We welcome your comments about this issue of Banke Notes and encourage your ideas.  
Please contact us at 603-433-1100 or [info@strawberybanke.org](mailto:info@strawberybanke.org)



Strawbery Banke Museum, PO Box 300  
14 Hancock Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

## Annual Fund now underway!

Strawbery Banke's fiscal year ends March 31, 2015, so there's still time to help with the Annual Fund and get a head start on 2015 tax deductions! For a secure online donation, simply click the "Donate Now" button on the Strawberry Banke website home page.

As a gentle reminder, here are 10 great reasons to support the Museum's work:

1. A community that doesn't know where it's coming from can't know where it's going.
2. 10,000 students and their chaperones participated in SBM's onsite educational programs. These students represented 111 schools in 86 communities in NH, MA, ME, CT, VT and NY.
3. Costumed role-players who help guests discover the joys of history, gardens and hands-on participation with the past.
4. History lives at Strawberry Banke
5. The Museum's "History Within Reach" initiative makes programs available to schools that would otherwise be unable to take advantage of Strawberry Banke's unique historical learning opportunities. In 2013, the Museum provided tuition and/or transportation funds to host 1,547 students from 22 schools in 15 communities in NH, MA and ME.
6. Six signature events help ensure the enjoyment of this 'place to learn, place to gather, sustainable resource for the community.'
7. The Museum's collection of 25,000 artifacts help define the histories of the families who lived and worked in the Puddle Dock neighborhood
8. Eight historic gardens and orchards flourish on their original 'foundations' filled with heirloom plants — the making of historic foodways, planting heritage seeds for the future.
9. The Museum is *Yankee Magazine's* "Best Historic Village," welcoming 70,000 guests each year. 74% were in-state visitors and 15 percent of the out-of-state visitors were international guests.
10. The Heritage House Program that preserves and sustains ten previously under-utilized buildings for the future.

