

# BANKE NOTES

ISSUE 6 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LARRY YERDON, PRESIDENT & CEO



Strawbery Banke is on track to achieve one of the best years ever in the Museum's history. As the calendar year winds down and the season suggests "taking stock" there are many reasons to be pleased—and to thank all who played a part in the accomplishment.

Attendance this year is strong, with more visitors than ever on a typical day, in addition to comfortable crowds at events like Baby Animals and An American Celebration on the Fourth of July. School group and homeschool visits are up and participation in adult education craft workshops has increased as well. Thanks to Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, Strawberry Banke has become a year-round destination, with more and more people discovering—and enjoying—this living history museum for the first time.

The enthusiasm generated by the pilot programs initiated as part of the Long-Range Interpretive Plan encourages us to continue to "think outside the box" as we respond to the growing interest in American history, civics and the search to understand 'who we are' as a nation.

I like to think that the position we hold in the museum community and the part we play in our own Seacoast community are reciprocal. When Strawberry Banke succeeds it's because we listen to what the many audiences we serve tell us. As always, your comments are welcome. Your support is essential.



## LABRIE FAMILY SKATE AT PUDDLE DOCK POND RETURNS!

Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond returns to Strawberry Banke for its 4th season, December 2017 to March 2018. Now a cherished feature of winter on the Seacoast, the ice skating rink—one of the few outdoor skating venues in New Hampshire—is a highlight from Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth throughout the month of December to the annual professional Ice Show in February, and beyond.

As one visitor put it in a TripAdvisor review, "I can't imagine a better setting than this one... surrounded by old New England homes ... The curvy rink seems to mimic a real pond and even has a fire pit\* at one end. When you get cold, you can go inside to warm up [in the cafe.] ... We had fun skating the entire afternoon [and] when the sun goes down, there are lights around the rink so the fun doesn't have to end. Highly recommended for everyone!"

When school vacation arrives, remember that the rink is open for public skating, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., every day of the vacation weeks during the holidays and in February. Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond is also available for private rentals, with catering options right at hand. Host a dinner or meeting and then go for a glide on the professionally-maintained surface. Skate rentals available, too! For more information, contact Monique Deforge at 603.433.7552 or [mdeforge@strawberybanke.org](mailto:mdeforge@strawberybanke.org).



**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018**

ICE DANCE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS  
THE 4TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL ICE DANCE SHOW.

Made possible in part by a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts.



\*Thank you, Proulx Oil & Propane for making this possible.

# 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT STROLL

DECEMBER 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 2017 | SATURDAYS 5-9 PM | SUNDAYS 4-8 PM

The costumed roleplayers strolling the candlelit lanes of Strawberry Banke are a highlight of Candlelight Stroll, now in its 38th year. Thanks to a grant from the NH State Council for the Arts, the actors portraying long-past residents of Portsmouth add a festive layer to the streets around Puddle Dock, greeting visitors with voices from the past and bringing the history of the 300-year-old neighborhood to life.

Among the recent additions to the cast of roleplayers are Evy Bernier, who plays 19th century businesswoman Mary and Jay MacDougall, a music teacher who portrays itinerant singing master Israel Nahum Watts and assists the volunteer choral groups wending their way around the grounds of the museum.

Evy, who by day is a high school chemistry and astronomy teacher, began her roleplaying life after volunteering at a Renaissance Faire. Now perfecting her roles, accents and personas, she has a knack for anticipating guests' interests with insightful observations (which is why she makes a terrific 'gypsy fortuneteller' during Ghosts on the Banke). Evy also portrays a suffragist during the American Lives Timeline at Strawberry Banke in July.



New Hampshire  
State Council on the Arts

## REMINDER: PICKWICK'S HOLIDAY TAVERN DINNERS IN PITT TAVERN:

SEATINGS EVERY NIGHT  
OF CANDLELIGHT STROLL  
4 PM, 6 PM AND 8 PM

Tickets at [www.pickwicksmmercantile.com/pages/holiday-dinners](http://www.pickwicksmmercantile.com/pages/holiday-dinners)

*Remember to use your Member discount code for 10% off each ticket!*



*Evy Bernier portrays Mary during Candlelight Stroll; and the Dover High School Chorus is one of the many volunteer musical groups coordinated by Jay MacDougall, aka singing master Israel Nahum Watts.*

## PARTNER NEWS

Pontine Theatre, company in residence, presented the preliminary results of their 6-week community arts project, "History of the Portsmouth Plains" in a forum at Strawberry Banke featuring memories from past residents of the neighborhood.

Pontine presents its popular "New England Christmas" holiday performances during Candlelight Stroll then resumes its 2017-18 season at Strawberry Banke featuring David Stephens in "The Devil and Daniel Webster" February 9-11; Jo Radner in "Burnt Into Memory: 1947 Fire in Maine," February 16-18; and Pontine's own "Brewster's Rambles," April 6-8. For more information and tickets, visit [Pontine.org](http://Pontine.org).



*Marguerite Matthews and Greg Gathers, Pontine co-artistic directors at Candlelight Stroll.*

# DONOR RECOGNITION

Strawbery Banke programs and events are made possible by corporate and individual donors and by grants from many sources. These grants help fund important initiatives and often open the door to collaborations with other grantees, such as the Horticulture Center program with Future In Sight (pictured here), both beneficiaries of Thompson Endowment Fund grants.

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

**THE ROGER R. AND THERESA S. THOMPSON ENDOWMENT FUND** for the 2018 special exhibit, "Vice."

**THE FABULOUS FIND**, the resale boutique in Kittery, ME that has donated more than \$1 million to local non-profits, for History Within Reach

**NH STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**, for a two-year grant underwriting arts activities at Strawbery Banke

**GEORGIA-PACIFIC FOUNDATION** for History Within Reach

**ANN DE NICOLA TRUST, CITIZENS BANK, N.A. TRUSTEE**, for History Within Reach



# SPONSORS MAKE CANDLELIGHT STROLL A GIFT TO THE SEACOAST

Candlelight Stroll, like so many other signature events, depends on the support of area sponsors, many of whom have supported Strawbery Banke for many years.

Once again, and for the 31st year(!), Lincoln Financial Foundation is the lead sponsor for the 38th Annual Candlelight Stroll. Commenting on their sponsorship, Byron O. Champlin, CLU Program Officer for the foundation said, "Lincoln Financial Group is deeply committed to community and the diversity that makes our cities, towns and neighborhoods resilient and productive. Candlelight Stroll, in the way that it demonstrates the different traditions connected with our winter festival of light through the centuries, reflects these qualities. Whether it's hearing about the first Christmas trees at the Goodwin Mansion, celebrating Hanukkah with Mrs. Shapiro and Molly at the Shapiro House, or contrasting attitudes about the holiday season across two centuries at the Shapley Drisco House, the Stroll deepens our understanding of the traditions that have made us a people."

Also repeating is D. F. Richard, the sponsor of Members' hospitality in Walsh House during Candlelight Stroll. Rick Card, CEO of D.F. Richard said, "D. F. Richard Energy is always happy to support such a great organization as Strawbery Banke and especially a quintessential holiday event in the Seacoast like the 38th Annual Candlelight Stroll."



**REMINDER:** *Members should take advantage of preferred entrance to Stroll through the Washington Street front door of Walsh House. Light refreshments and entertainment is provided for members in Walsh throughout the event.*

*Left to right: Lawrence J. Yerdon, Strawbery Banke President & CEO; Matt Romano, People's United Bank Portsmouth branch VP; Marc Ouellette, People's United Bank VP & Senior Market Manager who presented a gift in support of the 38th Annual Candlelight Stroll event. Matt Romano commented: "As a part of downtown Portsmouth, People's United Bank is proud to support Strawbery Banke and Candlelight Stroll, one of the anchors of the holiday festivities that make this city so wonderful at this time of year."*



## GUIDED HOLIDAY HOUSE TOURS, DEC. 26-31

These daytime tours extend the life of the handmade decorations in the historic houses for a brief time after Candlelight Stroll. Offered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., these 90-minute tours are a great way to enjoy festive holiday décor when there's time to "stop and smell the flowers."

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).



14 HANCOCK STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

## PORTSMOUTH/STRAWBERRY BANKE WELCOMES CNEHA

The museum's Collections Department staff have for the past two years been involved with planning the 51st annual Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meeting in Portsmouth that took place over Veterans' Day Weekend. The conference attracted more than 200 archaeologists and their guests for four days of meetings, workshops, tours and presentations.

Curator Elizabeth Farish and Archaeologist Alexandra Martin hosted a tour of the museum's archaeological sites and the Carter Collections Center. Martin also served as the chairperson for a session titled "50 Years of Urban Archaeology at Strawberry Banke Museum," where six museum archaeologists from 1967 to 2017 reflected on their time

at the museum and their contributions to interpretation, public outreach, education and preservation. The presentations included:

Daniel Ingersoll: *Fifty Years of Archaeology at Strawberry Banke*

Steven R. Pendery: *The Death and Rebirth of Public Archaeology at Strawberry Banke*

Martha Pinello: *Tides of Public Archaeology: Reseeding the Banke 1985–2006*

Sheila Charles: *Cutting to the Chase: Results of the Archaeological Investigation of the Chase House Site*

Alexandra G. Martin: *#SBMArch: Museum Archaeology in the 2010s*



Left to right: Dan Ingersoll, Faith Harrington, Elizabeth Donison, Sheila Charles, Alix Martin, Martha Pinello, and Steve Pendery, who have all worked as archaeologists at Strawberry Banke, participating in the CNEHA conference session, "50 Years of Urban Archaeology at Strawberry Banke Museum."

Elizabeth M. Donison: *Intern to Interpretation: A Take on Public Archaeology at Strawberry Banke*

Marley R. Brown III, the former Director of Archaeological Research at Colonial Williamsburg, offered concluding comments.

Alix noted that "It was a great opportunity to celebrate the role of the museum in making Portsmouth 'the most intensively researched urban area in New Hampshire.'"

## GIVE THE GIFT OF STRAWBERRY BANKE MEMBERSHIP



SUPPORT THE MUSEUM AS YOUR PLACE TO LEARN, PLACE TO GATHER AND A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY. TO JOIN, RENEW OR GIVE MEMBERSHIP CALL 603.422.7508.