

BANKENOTES

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

FALL 2023

Letter from the Chair

I T'S HARD TO BELIEVE that autumn is arriving in the Puddle Dock neighborhood. 2023 is flying by! This is in part due to the numerous milestones and celebrations at Strawberry Banke and in the greater community. In addition to Portsmouth's quadricentennial, the Museum celebrates 30 years of roleplaying and the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Abbott Store.

In addition to these many anniversary celebrations, Strawberry Banke hosted the first ever Piscataqua Powwow, a wonderful intertribal celebration that occurred on Puddle Dock on August 12 & 13. The event served as a meaningful way to teach the greater Seacoast community about Native American culture and heritage. This is one of many ways the Museum is expanding the ways in which it shares stories of Native people, past and present, as a part of the Abenaki Heritage Initiative.

Speaking of milestones, on June 29, the Museum announced the completion of Building Community: The Campaign for Strawberry Banke. This campaign is the Museum's largest fundraising effort to date – garnering commitments of more than \$25 million! Funding priorities include restoring five historic houses as a part of the Heritage House Program, supporting the Museum's education and interpretation programs, protecting the historic houses from sea level rise, and increasing the endowment to support staffing and future initiatives.

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FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

We are grateful for the support from the Seacoast community and their commitment to Strawberry Banke's efforts to help preserve the past for the good of the future.

Although Building Community: The Campaign for Strawberry Banke raised a sizable sum, additional funds are needed to continue its initiatives. Our work as preservationists and historians is never completed.

The Strawberry Banke Fund (Annual Fund) keeps the Museum open and operating, covering operational expenses. This stream of unrestricted funds allows the Museum to retain its professional and knowledgeable staff and continue to spearhead innovative educational programs. When asked to support the Strawberry Banke Fund this fall, I hope you will join me in making a gift.

Thank you for your continued support



Cynthia Fenneman
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Portsmouth Fairy House Tours



**September 23-24,
10 am - 3 pm**

View hundreds of enchanting fairy houses on display on the grounds of Strawberry Banke

Museum, Governor John Langdon House, Prescott Park, and the Gundalow waterfront. Plus, enjoy fairy-inspired performances by the Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater and New Hampshire Theatre Project throughout the weekend. For more information and tickets, please visit FairyHouseTour.com.



Ghosts on the Banke

A Family-Friendly Halloween Event

October 26-29, 5:30-7:30 pm

Member ticket sales begin on Wednesday, September 13, at 10 am.

Trick-or-treat safely outdoors from house to historic house with jack-o'-lanterns lighting the way in Portsmouth's oldest waterfront neighborhood. Meet wayward pirates and a mysterious fortune-teller, listen to ghostly tales, construct a giant spider web, dance to spooky musical tunes, and play games for prizes. Additionally, enjoy frighteningly fun shopping at Pickwick's At the Banke, the Museum store. Ghosts on the Banke is spooky, not scary. Members receive a 50% discount or free tickets. The discount and quantity of discounted tickets are based on membership level.

Many thanks to Ghosts on the Banke sponsors:



Abenaki Heritage Initiative Update

As a part of the Abenaki Heritage Initiative, Strawberry Banke staff recently added audio interpretation to the Museum's wigwam. Step inside the wigwam and envision how traditional Abenaki families lived, as Anne Jennison, a professional historian and storyteller of European and Abenaki descent, narrates the history of wigwams. Staff has also expanded the 'People of the Dawnland' exhibit with new material on the Abenaki creation story and the history of Wabanaki conflicts with settlers.

Thank you to the Roger S. and Theresa S. Thompson Endowment Fund for their support of Abenaki Heritage Initiative programming at Strawberry Banke Museum.



2023-2024 Homeschool Programs

Strawbery Banke welcomes families to step into the past in person and virtually for learning and discovery in the historic neighborhood of Puddle Dock. Explore traditional arts and crafts such as basket weaving and woodworking, learn how to write a historical fiction book, solve mysteries using documents, images, and objects, and so much more! For more information, visit StrawberyBanke.org/school/homeschool.cfm.

Playing in the Past Homeschool Class
Tuesdays, September 26 - October 17, 2023

A History of Thanksgiving Homeschool Day
Friday, November 10, 2023

Family History Mystery Homeschool Program (Virtual)
Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024

Historical Fiction Writing Class Homeschool Program (Virtual)
Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2024

Journey into Colonial Life Homeschool Day
Friday, March 8, 2024

Archaeology Adventure Homeschool Day
Friday, May 3, 2024

Changes and Challenges at Strawberry Banke 1900-1950 Homeschool Program
Wednesdays, May 1-22, 2024

PORTSMOUTH POSSESSIONS

Objects that Shaped the City



In celebration of the City of Portsmouth's 400th anniversary, Strawberry Banke presents "Portsmouth Possessions: Objects that Shaped the City," a new exhibit for the 2023 season. Collections on view include objects featured in the book "A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects," as well as textiles, furniture, portraits, samplers, and objects relating to local industries. Open daily through October 31. Included with general museum admission.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS



For some, fall means football season. Don Trefethen wore this football jersey (2023.1) during his time at Haven School, the elementary school Puddle Dock children attended. He claims no athletic ability, saying that Coach Clough put him on the team to warm the benches. The jersey was originally a shade of maroon. "When I received my football letter after the fifth-grade season I sewed the new letter on the shirt, replacing the old, faded, moth-eaten 'H' that had been there for many years. I speculate the shirt was used by many Haven School players from the 1940s until I first got it in the fall of 1961." Today, Mr. Trefethen leads tours at Strawberry Banke Museum, and his jersey is part of the "Portsmouth Possessions" exhibition, on view until October 31. His jersey is on display in the Pridham House.



30th Anniversary of Roleplaying

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Strawberry Banke’s roleplaying program. With dozens of real Puddle Dock figures portrayed over the years, both by adult roleplayers and in roleplaying summer camps, this program has brought delight and education to visitors by immersing them in the daily life of the past. Guests and roleplayers have shared countless meaningful experiences since the program’s debut in 1993.

Oracle House Archaeology

This summer Alix Martin, Archaeologist, directed a team of volunteers in exploring the Museum’s property at the corner of Court and Marcy Streets. They were looking for material evidence of the so-called Great House, built in 1631. Throughout the two-week excavation, the team uncovered artifacts from the 17th-, 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century history of the lot, but nothing that could be linked definitively to the Great House or the 1630s. However, work of the team has resulted in a much more complete understanding of how this lot was used over time, including evidence of the demolition of the 19th-century variety store that was at this location before the Oracle House was moved to the site in 1937. Over the next year, Alix and the volunteers will clean and catalog the thousands of artifacts recovered.



Penhallow House Update

Strawbery Banke Museum recently began the restoration of the c1750 Penhallow House, located on the Museum grounds, facing Washington Street. The house is to undergo important restoration of both the exterior and interior. The exterior work began this summer and will include wet-proofing the basement to protect the home from the increasing impacts of groundwater. Once the building is restored Penhallow House will be open to the public and feature an exhibit interpreting a 20th-century Black experience of living in Puddle Dock.



Check out the Penhallow Restoration Webcam to watch preservation efforts live! The link for the webcam can be found in weekly member emails or via StrawberyBanke.org.

Preservation Timber Framing, the company conducting the restoration of Penhallow, is beginning the careful work of creating a wet-proof basement, a major step in the Museum’s groundwater-intrusion adaptation strategy. The house will be lifted approximately 10 feet into the air using hydraulics, structural steel, and cribbing. After the house is lifted, gravel and filter fabric will be added to the basement to encourage drainage to perimeter drains and the City of Portsmouth’s stormwater system. A new concrete foundation will be poured and faced with existing foundation material.

Funding for the Penhallow House restoration was provided in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom (NEH) and the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Additionally, funding came through the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, and the McNinch Foundation, as well as from an anonymous grantor and private donations to the Building Community: the Campaign for Strawberry Banke.

The Living Collection at Strawberry Banke

Did you know that the many trees and woody plants are a part of Strawberry Banke’s living collection? The Museum’s woody plant and tree collection totals more than 350 specimens and nearly 90 different species. Some of the trees in this collection date back to the 1930s and earlier. These specimens make a collection of plants that serve critical functions for the local ecosystem, including carbon sequestration, ground and surface water mitigation, and temperature regulation.

With the help of tree service companies, the Landscape Horticulture Department works hard to keep these plants healthy and thriving despite the challenges of increasing variability of weather, soil compaction, road runoff, and reduced air quality. When you next visit the Museum, pay closer attention to the living collection and enjoy the shade!



In addition to the generous support of our members, the **Strawbery Banke Fund** (annual fund) is a critical financial resource for the Museum. It supports a range of discretionary and programmatic needs, including exhibitions; educational programs for families, students, veterans, and seniors; conservation projects to protect the permanent collection; and other various efforts. Your donation to the Annual Fund is essential to the vitality of the Museum. **Thank you!**



President's Club

The Strawbery Banke President's Club offers Museum supporters the opportunity to socialize at exclusive and behind-the-scenes gatherings throughout the year. These lively events are an opportunity to network with other supporters and Strawbery Banke's leadership. To learn more or to join, contact Joe April, Director of Development, via 603.422.7551 or japril@sbmuseum.org.

Campaign Event Recap

On Thursday, June 29, nearly 300 donors and friends of Strawbery Banke Museum gathered on Puddle Dock to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Building Community: The Campaign for Strawbery Banke. Chaired by former Trustee Zach Slater, the campaign raised \$25.2 million, almost doubling the \$13 million original goal. Funds raised will support a myriad of projects, including restoration and interpretation of several SBM historic properties, such as Penhallow House, which will tell the story of an African American experience in Portsmouth. The campaign was highlighted by a \$5 million gift from Martha Fuller Clark and the late Dr. Geoffrey Clark, which helped establish an endowment focused on bringing Strawbery Banke staff salaries closer to industry standards.



Become a Strawbery Banke volunteer!

Want to get more involved and support numerous activities that keep the Museum moving forward? Strawbery Banke invites you to share your time and talents! As a small token of appreciation, the Museum offers volunteers special benefits and perks (such as a complimentary ticket to the Museum or one of our partner locations) on a tiered incentive system. To learn more, visit StrawberyBanke.org/people/volunteers.cfm

Thank you, interns!

This summer, Strawbery Banke welcomed the assistance of six interns. They played a critical role in planning for Vintage & Vine; teaching in summer camp programs; maintaining historical landscapes; researching the Abenaki people, who were here long before the area was known as Strawbery Banke; and helping to develop the Museum's long-range site plan. Strawbery Banke is incredibly grateful for their efforts and the unique insight that each brought to the Museum.





14 Hancock Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Visit strawberybanke.org
for updated schedules
and event details

SAVE THE DATES!



Landscape Horticulture Department Holiday Wreath Sales

Beginning in mid-November

Decorate your home for the holidays with a wreath made by Strawberry Banke staff and volunteers.

Candlelight Stroll

Saturdays, December 2, 9, & 16, 2023, 5-9 PM

Sundays, December 3, 10, & 17, 2023, 4-8 PM

Candlelight Stroll Member Preview Night

Friday, December 1, 2023, 6-8 PM

Tour decorated historic houses and experience seasonal and holiday traditions of times past. Adults: \$30; Children (ages 5-17) \$15; Children (under 5) free. **Member benefits:** free admission to Member Preview Night, plus 50% discount or free tickets to the Stroll based on membership level.



10th Season of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond

For updates on the rink opening, Learn-To-Skate sign-ups, ice schedule, and ice conditions, visit StrawberyBanke.org/skate.cfm AND like and follow Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond on Facebook.