



14 Hancock Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Visit [strawberybanke.org](http://strawberybanke.org)  
for updated schedules  
and event details

### FROM THE COLLECTION



This stoneware bear jug (2000.226) was made in England, circa 1740 and was produced to depict the sport of bear-baiting. The grayish-white body of the jug depicts a bear with a small dog on its chest. Bear-baiting was a controversial yet popular sporting event in England from the Elizabethan period until it was banned in 1835 with Parliament's passing of a Cruelty to Animals Act.

The white salt-glazed stoneware container is molded and the bear's collar and head form a cover. The fur of both animals is made of bits of clay, often called grog. These jugs did not have a specific purpose and could have been used as ale mugs, or even storage because of their lids. This example is missing its original ceramic chain through the bear's nose.

This jug is part of the Vivian Hawes Collection, a collection of fine ceramics acquired by Strawbery Banke Museum in 2000. The bear jug was displayed in the c.1716 Warner House as part of the 2019 exhibition "From the Mundane to the Sublime: Stoneware 1600 To 1775."



**LEARN TO SKATE  
REGISTRATION IS  
NOW OPEN!**

Visit [StrawberyBanke.org/skate.cfm](http://StrawberyBanke.org/skate.cfm)

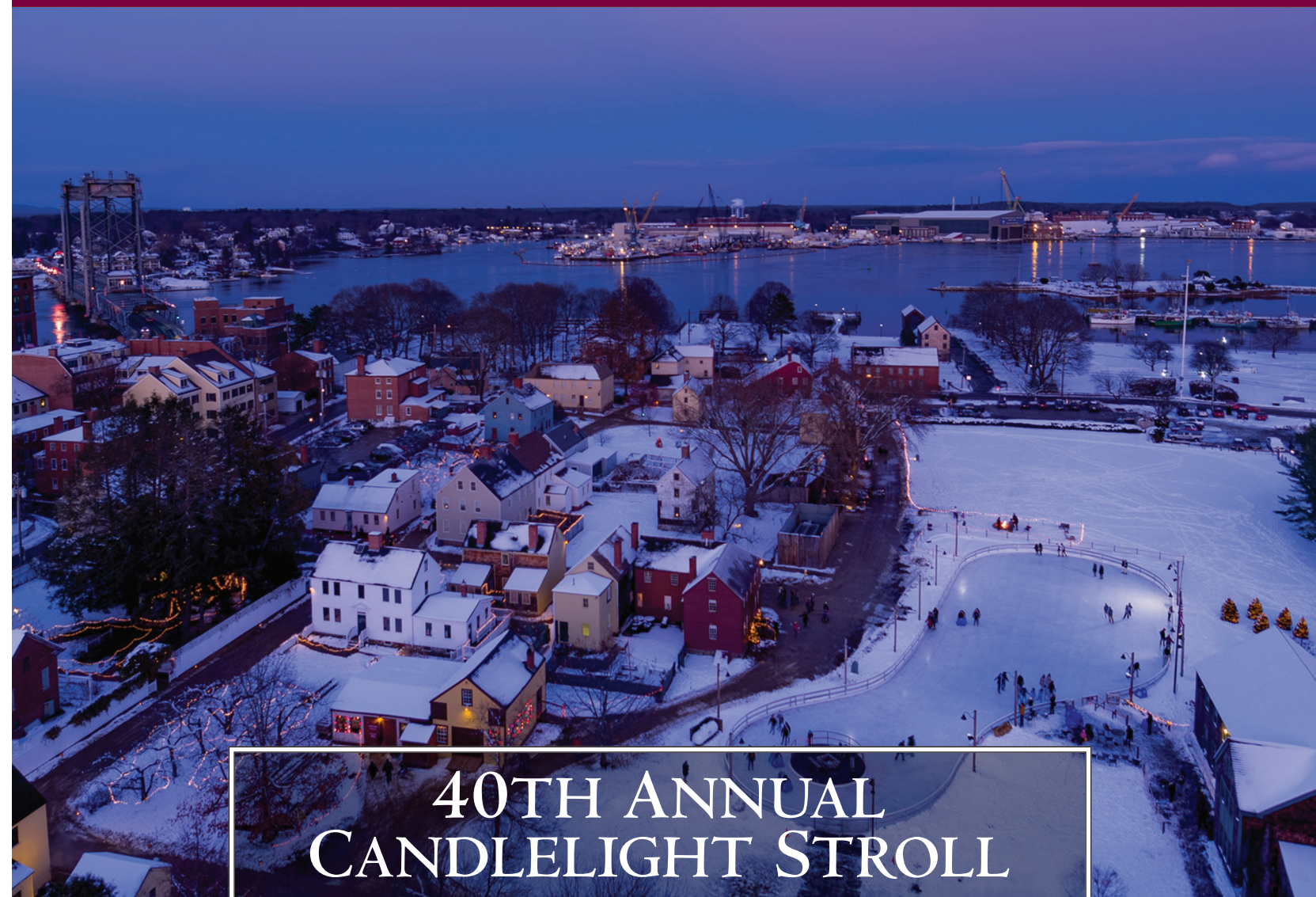


**LABRIE FAMILY SKATE  
AT PUDDLE DOCK POND  
STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM**

# BANKENOTES

STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM

ISSUE 6 2019



## 40TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT STROLL

*"A Tradition for Every Family"*

DEDICATED IN MEMORIAM TO BILL MOSS, TOWN CRIER



STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL  
**DECEMBER 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 & 22, 2019**

Saturdays, 5:00–9:00 pm. Sundays, 4:00–8:00 pm.  
Member ticket discounts. [StrawberyBanke.org/tickets.cfm](http://StrawberyBanke.org/tickets.cfm)  
Anchoring the 15th Annual Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth



## President's Letter



Each year in October, The New York Times publishes a special section on museums and their newest exhibitions and projects.

Reading this year's reporting on trends in museum interpretations, I was struck by the excitement museum directors expressed for three key themes: finding the stories of enslaved Africans, women and Native Americans within their sites and walls.

The reason the groundswell of interest in these topics resonated was that here at Strawberry Banke, the window on the neighborhood and community of the families who lived here has focused on those same themes for several years. It's always nice to have "the museum world" align with the goals, aspirations and plans here at Strawberry Banke.

In the area of African-American history, and especially the stories of enslaved Africans in the households of Portsmouth, we have Valerie Cunningham to thank. (Congratulations are in order to her for receiving the American Association of State and Local History award for Leadership in History at their national conference this past August.) Valerie highlighted four sites at Strawberry Banke in her landmark Black Portsmouth and the bronze plaques she has had installed at all of the sites on the Portsmouth Black History Trail. They include Pitt Tavern, Stoodley's Tavern and two sites where the museum is currently developing enhanced interpretations: Sherburne House and Penhallow.

Women's History and the story of those who literally "kept the homefires burning" is, of course, central to Strawberry Banke and the history of Portsmouth from 1695 to 1955. Trials and triumphs were written by so many female heads of households and strong-willed individuals who left us the stories to share — Mary Sherburne, Mary Rider, Sarah Price Goodwin, Lillian Aldrich, Sarah Shapiro, Bertha Abbott and so many more.

Native American history is the subject of one of the newest exhibits, "People of the Dawnland" in Jones House; but traces of the presence of the Abenaki/Wabanaki on whose land the museum stands, have marked the campus from the beginning. Each archaeological dig finds remnants including projectile points; but the stories of local cultures infuse storytelling, foodways and place names constantly.

History is fluid in the sense that there's always more to the story. I am proud that Strawberry Banke makes a habit of uncovering new stories from the past and incorporating them into the interpretation of our site. It may seem counterintuitive, but at this history museum, there's always something new. I look forward to seeing you on campus.

*Lawrence J. Yerdon*

Lawrence J. Yerdon  
President & CEO

## Tribute to Nancy Beck

It is with deep sadness that Strawberry Banke reports the death of Nancy Beck, our faithful friend, advocate and supporter of Strawberry Banke and many other community cultural and philanthropic organizations.

So many of us were the beneficiaries of her generosity, community spirit and friendship; but, in particular, Nancy was one of the original champions of Strawberry Banke. She worked diligently with Jim Garvin, our first curator, to document and salvage the historic houses of Portsmouth during the years of Urban Renewal and the demolition of many historic houses. She served as Chair of the Strawberry Banke Board of Trustees and received the museum's highest honor, the SBM Preservation Award.

She and her husband, Peter, were generous to the museum; and in typical fashion, when Nancy received the Portsmouth Advocate's Arthur Gerrier Award for her efforts to preserve the houses of Strawberry Banke, she immediately donated the proceeds from that award to further the rehabilitation of Strawberry Banke houses.

It is gratifying to remember that the community had the opportunity to thank Nancy and recognize her for her many contributions to Portsmouth and the Seacoast when Mayor Blalock proclaimed that May 6, 2019 be a day to honor the civic service of Nancy Beck.

## Making a Case for the Sherburne House



The Archaeology Field School at Strawberry Banke this past summer welcomed four students to sift the ground at the back of the c. 1695-1703 Sherburne House, in search of early foundations and items that might remain to indicate the lives of the Sherburnes. As Lillian Page, one of the students noted in the Dig Strawberry

Banke! blog (find the whole blog collection at [StrawberryBanke.org/Archaeology.cfm](http://StrawberryBanke.org/Archaeology.cfm)):

"Being a merchant in the 18th century was not only a career but a lifestyle. John and his son Joseph Sherburne were mariners and merchants who sold textiles, clothing, building materials, grains, and foodstuffs through a shop connected to the Sherburne House. Artifacts found at the Sherburne site suggest that merchants were of a higher social class and used their wealth to reflect and advertise their business. For my project, during the lab session, I sorted through artifacts from previous digs at the Sherburne house and selected examples that reflected the lifestyle of the Sherburne family."

Strawberry Banke has begun the process of re-examining the Sherburne House, re-assessing the 1960s preservation project and planning for its future. To learn more about the project, visit [StrawberryBanke.org/Sherburne.cfm](http://StrawberryBanke.org/Sherburne.cfm)



Skating with the Stars participants with Ice Dance International skaters at last year's event

## SKATING WITH THE STARS! Saturday, February 8, 2020

For the second year, the annual professional ice show at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond follows the format of "Dancing with the Stars."



Five local Seacoast-area 'stars' are paired with a professional skater to perform an ice dancing routine. The volunteer skaters are coached by Ice Dance International and Labrie

Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond artistic director Doug Webster.

The complete show also includes performances by professional IDI skaters. A panel of judges awards points to determine the 2nd Annual Seacoast Skating with the Stars Champion!

Strawberry Banke Members receive a 20% discount on tickets! All tickets include free skating after the show.

General Admission:	Adults \$15.00
	Children (ages 5-17) \$10.00
Family:	\$40.00
	2 adults + 2 children ages 5-17
VIP (meet & greet):	Adults \$22.00
	Children (ages 5-17) \$18.00

Many thanks to event sponsors:



Skating with the Stars is funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.



## Keep Skating!

*Boston Bruins Tickets Raffle to benefit Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond*

In 2014, Jim Labrie and his family were inspired to help Strawberry Banke create an outdoor ice skating rink to serve the community. To further the cause, the Labrie Family has secured four tickets to the Boston Bruins versus Vancouver Canucks game at TD Garden on February 4, 2020. Raffle tickets are \$20 each and 3 for \$50, and are available at [StrawberryBanke.org/tickets.cfm](http://StrawberryBanke.org/tickets.cfm) or at the TYCO Visitors Center. Available now through January 20, 2020 when the ticket winner will be drawn at random.

Also, enduring thanks to Exeter Hospital for sponsoring the Zamboni that maintains a professionally-groomed ice surface. This year, the Zamboni has some new graphics.

# STRAWBERRY BANKE ANNUAL FUND



**T**HANKS TO THE SUPPORT of members, visitors and advocates, Strawberry Banke Museum is recognized as one of the leading American history museums in the nation for protecting the historic landscape of Puddle Dock and engaging the public with the authentic stories of this neighborhood. The responsibility for presenting accurate, truthful and inclusive stories about Portsmouth's past motivates everything the museum does.

The 10,000 schoolchildren who visit each year leave Strawberry Banke with a new, energized perspective on the question of how their families' stories fit in the big picture. One schoolgroup reported that their 3rd graders had a 46% grasp on American history before their visit and a 98% understanding, after.

Strawberry Banke exists to tell the stories of a neighborhood that, like America, has persevered through trial and triumph. The Annual Fund is a significant contributor to the income the museum needs to sustain itself — the preservation, educational programming and basic operations. Contributions to the Annual Fund in response to this annual appeal truly make the key difference.

**Strawberry Banke matters.** Please take a moment to consider a tax-deductible gift to support the cause of preserving and protecting American history and those who continue to make it. Use the enclosed reply envelope or make a donation online at the secure website ([StrawberryBanke.org/donate.cfm](http://StrawberryBanke.org/donate.cfm)). Thank you for your support.

## DONOR PROFILE

### JIM PROULX

*President & CEO, Proulx Oil & Propane*

*Year-round Sponsor of Strawberry Banke Museum  
and Founding Sponsor of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond*

**Jim Proulx** was one of five locals competing in the 2019 Seacoast Skating with the Stars at Labrie Family Skate. In addition to committing his company to year-round sponsorship of the museum, he has a special interest in the outdoor skating rink.

"Growing up in Exeter NH in the 1960's and 70's as an ice hockey player, I had lots of favorite 'natural' ice skating locations to choose from. There is a freedom you experience by pulling on a pair of skates while outside in the winter's elements," he said.

"That feel-like-a-kid again feeling and fun is recreated today with the development of the Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond. While the availability of safe natural ice has shrunk compared to those winters long ago.

"The Strawberry Banke rink perpetuates that carefree feeling of playing outside. It reminds us all of the thrill of enjoying the natural outdoors. And Labrie Family Skate now gives many that same chance to develop a skill into a healthy hobby or an exercise regimen, that may even turn into a passion, and one that can continue to be honed over a lifetime of enjoying ice skating at all levels.

I am beyond proud that Proulx is able to support this community gem."

Strawberry Banke deeply appreciates Proulx's continued support of this community rink.



Jim Proulx as a 2019 Seacoast Skating with the Stars contestant with Erin Reed at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

# STRAWBERRY BANKE ANNUAL FUND

## Plant a gift to the future: Trees at Strawberry Banke

Just as the museum has worked to enhance the first impression made on visitors by implementing the Heritage House Program to preserve and rehabilitate 10 underutilized historic buildings in the collection, it is now time to address the landscape.



Rendering of the Vivian Baker Treat Garden

The Vivian Baker Treat Garden, initiated with a generous gift from the Treat Family, will be planted along the Marcy Street border of the campus, offering flowering trees, groundcover and shade to visitors approaching Strawberry Banke from that direction. A row of 22 flowering crabapple trees and plantings designed to accommodate winter impacts from the street will also frame the view of Puddle Dock from Prescott Park and complement the gardens there. Trees are also needed in eight other sites around the campus.

This is a unique opportunity to honor, celebrate and remember someone close. A new baby, a graduate, a loved one — any person who deserves to be honored with a living legacy in this historic place. The garden will be planted in Spring 2020. Reserve a tree today by contacting Joe April, Development Director, at 603.422.7551 or [japril@sbmuseum.org](mailto:japril@sbmuseum.org)

### STRAWBERRY BANKE FY2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Candlelight Stroll Members House! Don't forget to stop by Walsh House for a special holiday welcome just for members.

Give the gift of  
Strawberry Banke  
Membership

The gift that gives back,  
all year long!

Gift certificates available at TYCO  
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