

# BANKENOTES

STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM

ISSUE 6 2022



## From the President and CEO

**A S JANUARY AND MY RETIREMENT APPROACH,** I find myself often reflecting on the many dedicated, generous, thoughtful, and knowledgeable people I have worked closely and collaborated with in my time at Strawberry Banke. While driving, I often listen to NPR and recently listened to a program focused on the African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child.” I thought the same really goes for museums — it takes a community from all walks of life to grow and sustain a museum.

There are many individuals who make up Strawberry Banke’s community.

People like Burt Wolf, who travels from Maine to sit in the parlor of the Shapiro house to talk about his family and their home — that’s real living history. And Jeff Gilbert, who got up every Wednesday morning for four years to meet me for breakfast, where I learned about NH politics and got started on the Heritage House Program.

Martha Fuller Clark was serving in the State House while she was Chair of the Board and never missed a return call even if it meant a late evening. She and Geoff supported Strawberry Banke on a regular basis through thick and thin. Together with Tom Haas, they have built the foundation for an endowment to sustain the Museum’s future.

Douglas Webster and Jeffrey Keefe, unknown to each other, both proposed a skating rink to me the same week — and worked through many difficulties to make it happen.

Cynthia Harvell, former Chair of the Board, helped Strawberry Banke develop a virtual classroom in 2010. None of us ever imagined how far ahead it would put us during COVID-19 when school groups could no longer come to the site. And Rita Fabbriatore runs what my colleagues have determined is the best museum shop in New England.

The staff at Strawberry Banke is hardworking and dedicated to the Museum in ways you might not expect. Take a Stroll night and combine it with a blizzard you get Bekki Coppola, Director of Education, shoveling the walks while seven months pregnant. Dan Smith, Restoration Assistant, quit his job in the great recession of 2008 so that others could keep theirs. And Rodney Rowland, Director of Properties and Environmental Sustainability, kept projects moving forward no matter what chaos was going on.

*continued on page 3*



# Candlelight STROLL

**MEMBER PREVIEW OF CANDLELIGHT STROLL**

**MEMBER PREVIEW NIGHT SOLD OUT 2022, 6-8 PM**

Members are invited to experience Candlelight Stroll one night before the event opens to the general public. In addition to a first look and complimentary admission, members enjoy complimentary admission tickets and skate rentals to Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond\*, and a commemorative member gift.

*\*Tickets for Member Preview Night and skating tickets are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.*

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*Saturdays, December 3, 10, & 17, 2022, 5-9 PM*  
*Sundays, December 4, 11, & 18, 2022, 4-8 PM*  
*The event is held in rain, snow, or starlight.*

Visitors call on the many families who once lived in the Puddle Dock neighborhood including the Shapiro family as they prepare for a Hanukkah celebration in 1919, The Goodwin family and servants as they prepare for a Victorian Christmas, as well as the Abbotts, who await news of their soldier fighting in Europe in the Second World War.

Strawbery Banke Museum's furnished historic houses are adorned with handmade decorations created from greens and dried flowers from the Museum's heirloom gardens. As visitors travel from house to historic house, the glow of hundreds of lighted candle lanterns light the way and guests enjoy seasonal greetings from costumed roleplayers and performers who recreate the traditions of times past. The historic houses are open for touring during Candlelight Stroll 2022.

Be sure to catch Ice Dance International's Currier and Ives Vintage Skaters as they perform at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond and stroll the Grove of Holiday Trees, which are decorated by members of the community and local businesses and organizations. Additionally, enjoy an old-fashioned holiday shopping experience at Pickwick's at the Banke, the Museum store.

- Members: \$12.50 or free depending on membership level
- Adults: \$25.00
- Children (ages 5-17): \$12.50
- Children (under 5): Free

**Candlelight Stroll 2022 Presenting Sponsor:**



**Candlelight Stroll 2022 is also presented by:**



## Outdoor Ice-skating at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond

Target opening day for the 2022-2023 season (weather dependent): "Frozen Friday," November 25, 2022, 9 AM

- Daily public skating
- Private parties
- Skating lessons
- Adaptive ice time

Like and follow Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond for the most up-to-date schedule, closings, and changes.

**2022-2023 Admission Rates:** Members (ages 5+): \$6; Nonmembers (ages 5+): \$12  
 Skate rentals: \$6; Sharpening: \$7



## Larry's Birthday & Retirement Skating Party

Sunday, January 22, 2023, 4:30–6:30 pm

Save the date to attend a drop-in birthday and retirement party for Larry. Wish Larry a happy birthday and retirement, enjoy a slice of cake and complimentary skating & skate rentals



at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond. Cake and skating are first-come, first-served.

# LARRY'S LEGACY *Celebration*

**O**N FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, over 200 friends, family, past and present Trustees and National Council members, donors, and business and community leaders gathered at the Wentworth by the Sea to honor Lawrence J. Yerdon for his 18 years of transformational leadership as President and CEO. In addition to testimonials from current Museum leadership, a short video highlighted some of Larry's accomplishments during his tenure, including:

- **Creating the Heritage House Program**, a cultural, community, and economic initiative which has restored and leased underutilized properties
- **Spearheading the creation** of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond at Strawberry Banke Museum with other community partners. The rink has become a staple for recreation and family gatherings in Portsmouth.
- **Growing the Museum's endowment** by \$8 million, helping ensure long-term financial stability and growth.
- **Overseeing the \$25 million dollar Building Community Capital Campaign for Strawberry Banke** – the largest fundraising effort in the Museum's history.
- **Creating innovative programs and events** such as History Within Reach and Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke.
- **Doubling annual attendance.** Under Larry's leadership, Strawberry Banke has more than 110,000 visitors each year.

## Renaming Visitors Center to Lawrence J. Yerdon Visitors Center



Cynthia Fenneman, Chair of the Board of Trustees, announced plans to rename the TYCO Visitors Center to the Lawrence J. Yerdon Visitors Center in honor of Larry's significant accomplishments in his eighteen years as President and CEO of Strawberry Banke Museum.

The Visitors Center, which opened to the public in September 2005, serves as a space to orient visitors to the uniqueness of the site and housing the admission desk and multimedia orientation area. In 2013, the Museum received a generous gift from Martha Fuller Clark and Dr. Geoffrey Clark to expand the Visitors Center in response to the steady increase in attendance at the Museum and for special events. Today, more than 110,000 visitors utilize the space for a Museum visit, to attend an event, lecture, or program, to ice-skate at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, and more.

“Under Larry's direction, Strawberry Banke made great efforts to become a place to gather,” said Cynthia at Larry's Legacy Celebration. “The Visitors Center serves as a central location to welcome the more than 110,000 visitors to the Museum each year. Renaming this building after Larry is a small way to honor his significant contributions and accomplishments as President and CEO.”

### From the President and CEO

*continued from page 1*

All the organizations and their leaders who share our resources — from the Leftist Marching Band rehearsals arranged by John Myer on Mondays to St. John's worship service in the Goodwin Garden arranged by Reverend Rob Stevens on summer Sundays. And former employees who never stop helping — Jane and Richard Nylander, Stephanie Seacord, Jeff Morris, Wickie Rowland, Joanna Brode, Judy Loto, and so many others.

All of these individuals and many more have played a part — whether big or small — in making Strawberry Banke the superb museum it is today. It has been a privilege to work with those who value and love history. Many thanks for all you bring to Strawberry Banke and the community. I am counting on you to keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Yerdon  
wPresident and CEO

## VIRTUAL HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Strawbery Banke welcomes families to step into the past for learning and discovery in the historic neighborhood of Puddle Dock. For more information and to register, visit [StrawberyBanke.org/school/homeschool.cfm](http://StrawberyBanke.org/school/homeschool.cfm)

### Historical Fiction Writing Class ~ Tuesdays, January 10–31, 2023, 10–11 am

Learn the art of creative writing through the lens of history. Participants work with a professional author to hone writing skills, use authentic historical primary and secondary sources, and develop imaginations. Program is suitable for ages 8+.

### House Hunters Class ~ Tuesdays, February 7–28, 2023, 10–11 am

Join this four-class series investigating homes of the eighteenth & nineteenth centuries. Through images, videos, lively discussions, and hands-on projects, students learn the parts of a house and how to identify different house styles. Program is suitable for ages 8+.

### Family History Mystery ~ Tuesdays, March 7–28, 2023, 10–11 am

Using documents, images, and objects, participants investigate the life of a family that lived over 200 years ago. Practice critical thinking, develop theories, and come up with many more questions. Program is suitable for ages 8+.



# Building Community

## The Campaign for Strawberry Banke

Launched in 2018, *Building Community: A Campaign for Strawberry Banke* is the largest fundraising effort in the Museum's history with an ambitious goal of \$25 million in cash, pledges, and planned gifts.

The campaign name "Building Community" is credited to Martha Fuller Clark, Trustee after she stated that "people reached over fences to say hello and community was the centerpiece of the Puddle Dock neighborhood." With building community as the driving theme, the capital campaign has raised over \$24 million in funds for the Heritage House Program, Sea Level Rise, Interpretation & Education Programs, and The Martha Fuller Clark and Dr. Geoffrey Clark Endowment.

"The success of this campaign has shown that a cohesive community can pull together and achieve anything," said Zachary Slater, Building Community Campaign Chair. "The Museum started out with a more modest goal but as the campaign progressed we expanded our reach to where we are now – at the cusp of \$25 million."

*Building Community: A Campaign for Strawberry Banke* is expected to conclude in June 2023 with a large public event on the grounds of Strawberry Banke. To learn more about the capital campaign, initiatives, and to make a gift, visit [BuildingCommunitySBM.org](http://BuildingCommunitySBM.org).

### The Heritage House Program

Strawbery Banke launched the Heritage House Program in 2009 to restore and lease unpreserved and underutilized properties in its care. The Museum sets its sights on renovating the final buildings that are a part of this model program including Penhallow and Yeaton-Walsh Houses.

### The Sea Level Rise Initiative

Many of the historic buildings at Strawberry Banke are threatened by rising sea levels and groundwater. The sea level rise initiative of the *Building Community: A Campaign for Strawberry Banke* plays a key role in saving these buildings and in launching a related public awareness initiative to showcase how science and history work together in the service of preservation.

### Interpretation & Education Programs

Campaign support for the *History Within Reach* program, reinterpretation of the Captain Walsh House, and the launching of a Public Historian in Residence are the cornerstones of this initiative.

### The Martha Fuller Clark and Dr. Geoffrey Clark Endowment

Named in honor of generous and longtime supporters of the Museum, the Martha Fuller Clark and Dr. Geoffrey Clark Endowment ensures the long-term financial viability of the Museum through a consistent and reliable source of revenue.

#### Campaign Steering Committee:

Zachary Slater, *Chair*  
Martha Fuller Clark  
Mark Connolly\*  
Marcia Cronin  
Cynthia Fenneman  
Kathy Williams Kane  
Matthew McFarland  
Patricia Meyers  
Ben St. Jean  
Lawrence J. Yerdon, *President and CEO*  
Joseph April, *Director of Development*

#### Honorary Campaign Committee

Nancy Beck\*, *Co-Chair*  
Jameson French, *Co-Chair*  
Charles B. Doleac  
Mary Ann Esposito  
Jeffrey Gilbert  
Peter Hamblett  
Cynthia Harvell  
Michael Harvell  
Thomas Watson  
\*deceased

## Thank you & well-wishes!



**Bethany Porter, Event Rental Manager** — Bethany joined Strawberry Banke in the spring of 2021 as Event Rental Manager. Many thanks to Bethany for her work managing Strawberry Banke’s site rental program and Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond as well as her willingness to assist in every area of the Museum. Strawberry Banke wishes her well as she pursues future endeavors.

## Staff Promotions



**Andrew Towne, Landscape Horticulturist** — Andrew Towne joined Strawberry Banke in the spring of 2018 as an interpreter and role player, later expanding his roles to work as a site manager and contract researcher. After being promoted to the full-time staff as Landscape Horticulturist in September of 2022, Andrew works to maintain and improve the gardens, paths, fences, and greenways of the Museum. He has a BA in History with a minor in Art History for Plymouth State University, alongside five cumulative years of work experience in landscaping and commercial farming.

## Thank you, Grantors!

Strawbery Banke is grateful to the grantors who have recently awarded funds to support the Museum’s mission:

- Anonymous
- Georgia Pacific Foundation
- New Hampshire Humanities
- New Hampshire State Council on the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts



*“Strawbery Banke is one of the most unique and interesting museums I’ve visited. Beautiful old homes have been returned to a point in time in every respect. There is a docent for every property who gives a very detailed and interesting talk about the residents and history or the property. Sometimes it’s a costumed roleplayer. They are so knowledgeable and never break character. I love going from place to place, stepping out into the sunshine in between houses and entering a new time each time I go back inside.”* — MUSEUM VISITOR

This is one of the many rave reviews of Strawberry Banke Museum for the season. Visitors discover the joy of “time travel” by meeting historical interpreters and roleplayers, strolling the heirloom gardens, and visiting the many historic houses that have been restored to a period in time. These experiences are funded in part by the Strawberry Banke Fund, the Museum’s annual fund. This year, the Museum is behind on fundraising goals and needs your support more than ever. Will you help keep the joy of discovery alive for visitors by making a gift today?



To make a gift, visit [StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm](https://StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm), scan and use the QR code, contact Megan McNutt, Membership and Stewardship Manager, at 603.422.7508, or mail a check payable to Strawberry Banke Museum to PO Box 300, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

## Make a plan for giving: JOIN THE PUDDLE DOCK SOCIETY!



With a planned gift, make a significant and long-lasting impact on Strawberry Banke Museum and the Museum’s programs and services for years to come. Make a planned gift through a will or living trust, retirement

account, life insurance policy, or a more sophisticated estate planning vehicle. Those who make planned giving arrangements as a part of their legacy become members of the Museum’s Puddle Dock Society and are recognized:

- In the annual Honor Roll of Donors
- With special event invitations
- With annual updates

*To learn more about supporting Strawberry Banke Museum with a planned gift, please contact Joe April, Director of Development at [japril@srbmuseum.org](mailto:japril@srbmuseum.org) or 603.422.7551*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Peter Reed, Jr.** former Trustee, National Council member, Puddle Dock Society member, and generous donor to Strawberry Banke, died on August 22, 2022. Peter and his wife Phyllis moved to New Hampshire in 2005 and shortly thereafter became involved with the Museum. He joined the Strawberry Banke Investment Committee sharing his background and expertise in finance, including the management of pension portfolios and protecting the value of such assets. He was asked to join the Museum’s Board of Trustees and worked closely with Museum staff to enhance Strawberry Banke’s Planned Giving program.





14 Hancock Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



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

## SAVE THE DATES!



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MINIATURE MEDIA/WILL ZIMMERMAN

### Seacoast Skating with the Stars

Saturday, February 4, 2023, 2 pm

**Member ticket sales** begin on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 10 AM.

***Last year's event sold out!***

Choreographed by Douglas Webster, Ice Dance International & Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond Artistic Director, local "stars" are paired with IDI pros in a skate-off for audience votes. As in "Dancing with the Stars," esteemed judges give their marks on skill and expression. Tickets for rinkside viewing are limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. VIP tickets include the opportunity to meet & greet the skaters.

### "Run Through History" Half Kilometer

Saturday, February 11, 2023, 1 pm

A half-k run? Not a typo! Join Strawbery Banke for the second annual "Run Through History" half kilometer. Enjoy 260 years of architectural heritage in one loop that can be walked, jogged, or run on the historic campus of the Museum. **Historical costumes are encouraged** as is bringing a watch for self-timing.

### APPLE HOWLING



Nothing says "fall in New England" more than apples and apple cider, and in the eighteenth century, people might start ensuring a good harvest as early as New Year's Eve. A tradition called "apple howling" originated in southern England, where many of Portsmouth's colonial families originated. Apple howling involved taking a bowl of wassail (mulled cider or ale) to an orchard and rapping an apple tree with sticks while reciting a chant asking for "every twig, apples big" and "hats full, caps full, full quarter sacks full." This way, even in the dead of winter, people could look forward to next fall's pie and cider.