



## **Strawbery Banke announces opening of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond on “Frozen Friday,” December 1.**

**Portsmouth, NH** (November 29, 2023)– Strawbery Banke announces the plans for the seasonal re-opening of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, the Museum’s professionally maintained ice-skating rink. Weather permitting, the rink will open on “Frozen Friday,” December 1, 2023, at 9 AM. Updates and skating tickets are available via [StrawberyBanke.org/skate](https://StrawberyBanke.org/skate).

Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, a Portsmouth winter tradition, offers various ice skating opportunities for all ages and skill levels within the historic museum campus. Skaters can take advantage of daily public skating sessions, skating lessons, private rink rentals for special events, and dedicated adaptive ice time for those with varying abilities. Additionally, skate sharpening services, skating aids for beginners, and skate rentals are available.

"We are excited to kick off the 10th season of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond," said Linnea Grim, President and CEO, Thomas W. Haas Endowed Chair. "This rink has become a cherished community gathering spot, and its setting among the museum’s historic homes is unparalleled. We look forward to welcoming skaters back for another season of winter fun."

Key offerings include:

- **Daily Public Skating within a Historic Neighborhood:** Open to the public, providing hours of skating enjoyment for individuals, families, and friends with views of the historic houses and landscapes
- **Free Public Skating Sessions:** The 2023-24 schedule offers a FREE public skating session each week on Saturdays from 8-10 AM.
- **Learn to Skate Lessons:** Professionally instructed lessons for children and adults, offering an opportunity to enhance skating skills and build confidence on the ice.
- **Private Rink Rentals:** Ideal for hosting special occasions, corporate events, or group gatherings.
- **Adaptive Ice Time:** Dedicated public skating sessions tailored for individuals with varying abilities are offered in partnership with UNH’s Northeast Passage.

- **Pop-up Performances, Community Skating Classes, and School Programs:** Ice Dance International offers performances and programs throughout the season. Pop-up performances are free and open to the public and occur on December 14, 6-6:25 PM and December 29, 7-7:25 PM.

Once the rink is open for the season, online ticket sales will begin each week on Sundays at 5 PM, when the weekly ice schedule is published. Tickets are available for purchase online or in person on a first-come, first-served weekly basis. At this time, phone call reservations are not accepted.

Weather permitting the rink is open Monday through Friday and Sundays from 9 AM to 9 PM. Saturdays from 8 AM to 9 PM, with a free skating session taking place from 8 AM to 10 AM. The rink opens at 11 AM on Wednesdays due to scheduled ice maintenance.

During Candlelight Stroll, Dec 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17, skaters can purchase skating-only tickets — it is not necessary to purchase a Candlelight Stroll ticket to skate.

Public skating admission is \$15 for ages 5 and up. The skate rental price is \$6 and skate sharpening is available for \$7. Strawberry Banke members and active duty military receive a 50% discount on skating tickets. All visitors are encouraged to check the website or Facebook page for daily updates to the schedule.

For information on schedules, lessons, and event rentals contact Kayley Vavra at 603.422.0600 or [kayley@rinkservicesgroup.com](mailto:kayley@rinkservicesgroup.com). For sponsorship information, contact Wendy McCoolle at 603.422.7502 or [wmccoolle@sbmuseum.org](mailto:wmccoolle@sbmuseum.org).

Building the temporary rink each year is an ambitious and costly effort; Strawberry Banke appreciates the support of Rink Services Group, The Labrie Group, Dunkin', Aland Realty, D.F. Richard, Proulx Oil & Propane, Haley Ward, Mayflower Transit, Ice Dance International, Seacoast United, Evergreen Dental, HDC General Contractors, Northeast Delta Dental, Ouellett and Furbush Family Trust, Ambrose Integrative Medicine, F.W. Webb Company, and Portsmouth Webcam.

For more information, the weekly ice schedule, and ice conditions, visit [StrawberyBanke.org/skate](http://StrawberyBanke.org/skate).

### **About Strawberry Banke Museum:**

Strawbery Banke Museum, in the heart of downtown Portsmouth, NH, is a 10-acre history museum interpreting over 300 years of history, from Indigenous history to the present day, through historical houses on their original foundations, heirloom gardens, traditional crafts, and

costumed role players who share the stories of the families who lived in the authentic waterfront neighborhood of Puddle Dock. The Museum welcomes visitors, members, school children, and volunteers for daily programs, exhibits, skating, and signature special events throughout the year. Strawberry Banke Museum is funded in part by grants from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom; and the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. For more information and a complete calendar of events, please visit [StrawberryBanke.org](http://StrawberryBanke.org).