

Age of Sail Museum - Plans and Funding



Scott Armstrong announced ACOA's contribution toward the \$120,000 cost of new infrastructure at the Age of Sail Museum, Port Greville. (L-R) are Rhonda Kelly, Executive Director CREDA; Ohra Colins, President Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society; Scott Armstrong, MP Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley; Cumberland County Municipal Councillor, John Kelligrew; Cumberland County Municipal Councillor, Ratchford Merriam, and Age of Sail Manager /Curator Oralee OByrne. (Submitted)

By Oralee O'Bryne

If you were to go back, way back, to the beginning of the museum in 1992 you would see the seed of an idea. An idea that started in the mind of Ross Colins, to build a museum a place to keep and conserve the rich history of the Parrsborough shore and the idea grew and spread. Back at the time the

museum was being started blueprints were drawn up and on those blueprints if you were to look, is the future concept of a boat shaped building. That's right after close to 20 years that seed is growing.

The concept for our new expansion dates back to the beginning. It was an idea which sat on the back burner

for years and was resurrected again about 7 years ago. At that time, John "Jack" Wagstaff, Stan Spicer, Sid Hughes Ross and his wife Ohra Colins started talking about an expansion.

An architectural group from Dalhousie University and their professor Roger Mullin spent time at the site and came up with some

unique designs but they did not quite match what the society envisioned. Then President Stan Spicer, Sid Hughes, Jack Wagstaff and Ohra Colins sat down and put to paper the design reminiscent of a ship's half model.

Roger Mullin did architectural drawings and a model and the idea continued to grow. Years slipped past and we saw the rapid decline in health of Ross Colins and the passing of first Stan, then Jack and eventually Sid Hughes yet Ohra and the members kept forging ahead. Funds were raised and RMA's, Tom Young, was hired to do a feasibility study.

With the guidance and hard work of CREDA and a very determined building committee applications went out to provincial, federal and municipal governments in 2010. The municipality was quick to jump on board and secured their partner funding for the project, the society had the first half of their funding secured as the year marched on patience and hope waned.

In December a building committee met with representatives from ACOA who left us optimistically hopeful and Economics which straight out told us there was no funds available. A little more tweaking and fingers crossed we awaited word from ACOA. Christmas passed and a new year began.

On January 20 word came from ACOA that there would be a funding announcement, unfortunately this news was superseded by the death of Ross Colins the next day. On January 25 a small crowd of about 35 gathered at the FPW Fire hall to receive the official announcement.

to seeing old friends and meeting new ones during the 2011 season. Keep in mind we have a free admission day every month to welcome local friends. Check out the website www.ageofsailmuseum.ca, or look for information on posters and through the local media for free admission dates and other current events.

COMMITTEE ANTICIPATES PHASE 2 COMPLETION FOR 2011 SEASON

By Oralee O'Bryne

CREDA is working hard on behalf of the Museum society to have applications submitted to the provincial and federal governments for the beginning of the new funding period. Now with the first part of the expansion done everyone is anxious to see this dream completed and the hope is that funding partners will come on board to set the wheels in motion this year.

The entire proposed expansion will include the finishing of the building. The top floor housing display area and the bottom floor being a multi-purpose community meeting area, research area and conservation room.

The expansion also includes a wharf style walkway and pavilion depicting the last shipyard, upgrades to

the café and gift shop as well as wheelchair accessible walkways to the wharf area and new addition.

When the museum was built 17 years ago it was home to 700 artifacts, now it hosts over 2500 and an expanding genealogy and archival collection. The additional space is needed to collect, conserve and showcase an increasing number of artefacts properly and to share them with the world.

The society is hard at work to secure its own portion of the funding needed for phase 2 of the addition. While fundraisers are held on an ongoing basis the money raised is used for the general upkeep and operation of the museum.

A special fundraising campaign has begun for the proj-

ect. With the help and generosity of Kerwin Davison a funding tree is being designed and created for the new addition. This metal tree will stand along the outside wall of the new addition and leaves are being sold on the tree to sponsors.

Leaves start at \$100.00 and can be bought in memory or in honour of loved ones. All the proceeds from the tree will go towards the new expansion project. For more information please contact gbsmsageofsail@yahoo.ca or call Ohra 348-2060 or Oralee at 254-2079.

Friends and members of the society are invited to join us at the AGM April 10, 2pm at the museum for a sneak peek at the new addition. The museum opens May 28 for the season and we look forward

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