

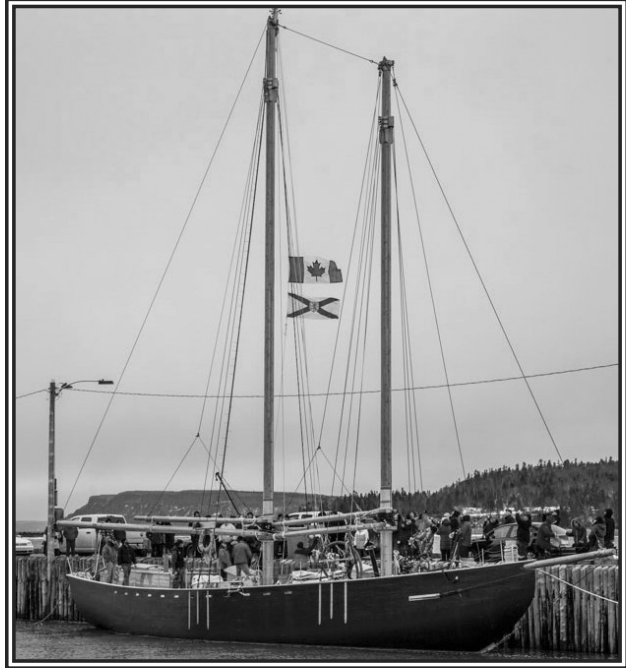
Dreams become Reality - 'Katie Belle' Departs Parrsboro

By Lawrence R. Nicoll

The Katie Belle after five and one half years of construction finally sailed from Parrsboro to Saint John, NB on February 20th. Evan and Nick Densmore and their total crew of 8 left to the enthusiastic cheers and best wishes of over 200 people at the Parrsboro wharf.

Construction started in Stewiacke, where the two cousins got a start with their grandfather, who built a half hull model, which still hangs in the workshop at the shipyard. The Densmore cousins won't reveal the actual cost of construction, but Nick said it costs \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 for a boat like this depending on the final custom finishes.

When it was launched in Stewiacke, the vessel motored its way down from Stewiacke onto the Shubenacadie River, past South Maitland, entering Cobequid Bay where the Shubenacadie River empties into the Bay at Maitland, then across the bay to Parrsboro, It was taken to Parrsboro for a lot of the top outfitting



Approximately 200 people came out to purchase mementos, and to say good-bye to the crew on departure day. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Evan cooks the crew meal on the deck the evening before departure. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



There's still a lot of work to be done, but it can be accomplished as the Katie Belle undergoes sea trials. This photo shows the bunks up towards the bow. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Although still not finished, a lot of work has been done below deck showing the bunks and the mid-ship ladderway. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

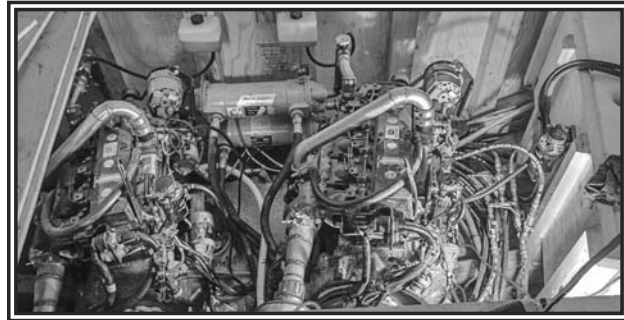
including installation of the masts, and a host of other rigging, plus partial completion of the crew and cargo spaces below deck.

A furious spat of purchasing mementos of the boat was one of so many projects to help finance this ongoing journey. Using the twin 140hp engines, they met the power of the Bay of Fundy as the tide reversed on-route and they were slowed to a snails' pace.

During the night 3-metre swells gave the crew a taste of the next part of their journey but not much rest. Some minor repair work and interior completion in Saint John, then they were finally on their way south for the sea trials. The plan is to be back in Nova Scotia by summer. The actual date of departure is not set at this time. I wish them a safe journey.



The Katie Belle's crew as identified by Evan's girlfriend, Erin included: Back row: Stephen Densmore, Evan Densmore, Simon Kalall, Kenny McGuire and Chester Gourley. Front row: Brett Isenor, Brian Densmore and Nick Densmore. (Georgina Gourley Photo)



The Katie Belle has twin 140 hp engines to provide power when the sails are lowered. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



The wharf was lined full of cars as over 200 people came to say "good-bye". (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



The Katie Belle crew waves goodbye as they leave Parrsboro Harbour for Saint John, before heading south for sea trials. It is expected to return to Nova Scotia this summer. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



A camera mounted high on the mast shows roads from Parrsboro's Public Wharf back towards town. The large screen in the lower deck enables crews to keep an eye on the sea around them. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

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