



From Dream to Reality 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Oralee O'Byrne and Maurice Rees

If you look at the original blue prints designed for The Age of Sail Heritage Center Museum you will see a boat shaped drawing behind the main pavilion and titled future construction. These drawings are dated 1992. That's how long this dream has been around.

In the summer of 2006 a group of directors for the museum, Stan Spicer, Sid Hughes, Jack Wagstaff and Ross and Ohra Colins sat in the café and discussed a new building. Jack Wagstaff, son of shipbuilder George Wagstaff roughly sketched a half model upside down and so the dream was revived.

This summer visitors can see the fruition of this dream as the new Wind and Wave building is opened at The Age of Sail Heritage Center Museum. The project has been active for the last 4 years as funding was secured for a feasibility study and then for the construction itself.



The new Wind and Wave building with one wall looking like an upside down hull of a vessel at the Age of Sail Heritage Museum complex will be connected to the main building by a new walkway. (O'Byrne Photo)

Funds raised by the society and grants garnered from Government sources take time and for the dedicated bunch of volunteers comprising the Greville Bay Shipbuilding Society directors, it seemed at times an impossible dream. However the dream of completion was foremost on the minds of all connected with the Heritage Centre Museum.

Sadly since 2006 when directors sat around a table in the café, all of the directors who sat around the café table except Ohra Colins have passed away. Determination has kept that dream alive and as President Ohra Colins has forged ahead with full backing from her equally dedicated board.

The recent construction initiatives are not only important to the centre being able to offer expanded services and have better facilities, the efforts of the local directors and supporters has been important to the local economy. Most of the services and supplies have been sourced locally.

Local construction company Rafe's Construction, as general contractor, has worked wonderfully with the board in bringing the engineered design by John Green to life. Green's firm, J.M Giffin Engineering, Amherst captured the vision established in the drawings dating back to 1992 translating them into a wind and wave building meeting the expectations of the current board of directors.

Local inputs did not stop at engineering and the general contractor. Earle MacAloney Excavation, Parrsboro was hired for the excavation work, while Dwight MacGillivray's Welding and Metal Fabrication Ltd., Advocate was empowered to fabricate a series of brackets to accommodate the curvature of the ribs forming one of the exterior walls to resemble the hull of a vessel.

Rafe's Construction obtained building supplies and materials from Harrison's Home Hardware and Fundy Building Supplies, both of Parrsboro. The museum's board of directors is very pleased with Rafe's Construction's efforts to keep inputs to the project as local as possible.

J.Todd Vassallo of Projectworks, a New Glasgow company, has been hired as interpretive designer and over the next 3 months will work with the society on interpretive for the new building



Without windows and partitions installed, the beaming sun showing the intricacy of the interior ribs on the wind and wave wall. (O'Byrne Photo)



A new observation deck is the end of a new walkway under construction down to the water's edge. (O'Byrne Photo)

and wharf walkway and integration of the new building with the old.

Although the building will be open May 26 with the rest of the centre, displays will not be completed until midsummer with a grand opening planned for July 28.

Age of Sail Museum holds AGM

The Age of Sail Museum governing board of the The Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society held their Annual General Meeting at the new Wind and Wave Building at the Museum on Sunday April 22. Guest speaker was Paul Collins-Community Museum Assistant Program gave his presentation after general business was concluded.

Refreshment were served. This meeting was open to members and interested members of the general public. The directors are hoping that more people will join and help take the heritage museum complex to its next level.

CCHN Members Looking At E-Touch Kiosks

Members of the Cumberland County Heritage Network (CCHN) gathered at the Fundy Geological Museum, Parrsboro for the network's annual general meeting on Saturday, April 14th. 16 of the group's 23 members were in attendance representing various members of heritage sites in Cumberland County.

Topics discussed were spe-

cial advertising opportunities, hiring of a student employee to assist with administrative work, member promotion for the summer and grant opportunities for the network society. Updates to the members were given by the Managing director of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums and by the executive board of CCHN.

Guest speakers from E-

touch Kiosks presented a unique advertising opportunity to the society which generated much discussion. The meeting was closed and followed by a pot luck lunch. Chair Oralee O'Byrne commented on the strengths of core members from the various sites and by working together as a cohesive group

they can do much more and take advance of many marketing opportunities to promote and market the heritage sites throughout the county. A collective approach to advertising and e-touch kiosks will deliver greater results.

Members are also participating in a travelling exhibit for the summer between members and ongoing opportunities like special group pricing on rack cards.

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