

News from the Age of Sail



Oralee O'Byrne, left, does what it takes to promote Port Greville's Age of Sail Museum in parades and fundraising events. (Submitted)

By Oralee O'Byrne

What a beautiful summer we have had well okay maybe just August but what a busy one. Just the everyday operation of a business is a full-time job but when you add in administrative work, employee training and fundraising and general maintenance it makes for a very busy job. We have met people from all across the world, Japan, Australia, Europe, the Caribbean, UK, US and Canada to name several but still the majority of our visitors, 40%, have been from within Nova Scotia.

How wonderful to see people exploring their own province! New artifacts and archives continue to be donated, like the gun mentioned in July's edition, and I remind people that we have genealogical files for over 53,000 names related to the Parrsborough Shore, Census records, sailing vessel registration information, photos scrapbooks, histories and various other archival information pertaining to the Parrsborough Shore area too many to mention.

Our Annual Age of Sail heritage Festival took place, as

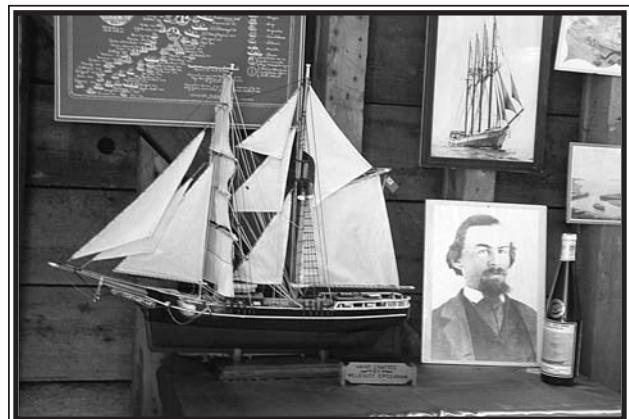
usual the third weekend of July and we had a full house for our Murder Mystery Dinner Theater and a great turnout at our Sunday brunch. I cannot thank enough all of those who cooked, served and cleaned up over the 2 days and made for a great weekend. We also celebrated our 19th birthday and volunteer appreciation day July 28 with cake and free admission for all. Despite the wet weather our Labor day events also drew great support.

After 25 years we finally got rained out for our outdoor church service but 44 people joined us in the FPW firehall for the service and breakfast. Even 6 of the Antique Engine and Fundy Car Club came for a visit sans engine, just to say hello. As all non-profits know, volunteers are the life's blood of the organization and need to be recognized which, when you have a limited budget, is not always easy.

Next year we hope to throw a big celebration as we see our 20 year birthday! As well we have taken part in 3 local parades and were one of the sponsors for the Age of Sail Marathon which hosted over 40 runners/walkers between the ages of 20-91. What a busy summer!

Visitation was up May and June but down considerably for July which is a bit worrisome but August was at par with 2012 and September and our 2 weeks in October will make up for the slack.

I know the season is winding down for many attraction and tourist operations and I hope that they have had a successful season, by promoting each other we have created an area full of activities and benefited us all, as well as visitors who are introduced to our little slice of heaven and all we offer. Remember that many places, like ourselves, are still rolling along, but may have changed hours so check websites or call



If you wish to know more about the Amazon, aka, Mary Celeste visit the Age of Sail Museum in Port Greville. (Submitted)



One great fundraiser is the Murder Mystery Theater Hockey Night event. (Submitted)



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Refundable Drive on October 5

By Chris Urquhart

Masstown United Church will hold a Refundable Drive on Saturday October 5th. Please make sure your refundables are either at the end of your driveway, at the Masstown United Church or you have called someone for pick up by 9am on that day.

In closing here are a few historical facts to whet your appetite, to find out more, drop in for a visit:

Many historians believe Prince Henry Sinclair explored these parts 100 years before Columbus came to North America.

In the area between Shubenacadie and Parrsboro over 700 tall ships were built in a 115 year span.

One of the greatest mysteries of the sea involves the locally built vessel Amazon better known as The Mary Celeste still considered one of the greatest mysteries of the sea.

Although some superstitions prevented women from traveling on board ship, many women from this area did go to sea especially if their husbands were Captains.

*Oralee O'Byrne is Curator/Manager
Age of Sail Heritage Center and
Museum, Port Greville, N.S.*

For pick up or just information, call either Irene 662-2863 or Chris 662-3550.

Coffee Parties for October will be on Wednesday October 9th and October 23rd, at 2pm at the Masstown United Church. Bake table, play room for the children. Everyone Welcome! The Coffee Party on the 23rd will have a Hallowe'en theme so come in costume for a spooky good time!

Masstown's Fall Activities Starting Again

By Christine Urquhart

Quilting and Crafts are every Monday starting at 1pm. Everyone welcome. Come for the fun and fellowship and stay for a cup of tea!

The Masstown Community Association will meet on Monday October 1st, 7pm in the restaurant part of the Masstown Market.

Everyone Welcome!

RATH EASTLINK COMMUNITY CENTRE GRAND OPENING

Saturday, September 28

Ribbon Cutting at 11:45 AM

Community Events from 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Celebration featuring April Wine at 7:00 PM



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for the schedule
and details!

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Monday - Friday:
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Saturday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

