Age of Sail opens 'WIND AND WAVE'



Included in the ribbon cutting ceremonies were Ohra Colins, Betty Hughes, Sally Anne Wagstaff and Gwen Spicer wives of four of the five now deceased directors who conceived the Wind and Wave Building. The fifth member of the group is Ohra Collins. (Submitted)



This photo shows the large crowd gathered on the new balcony and walkway built as part of the Wind and Wave building project. (Submitted)



Oralee O'Byrne-Curator/Manager Age of Sail Heritage Center and Museum, in period costume, stands by the cake. (Submitted)

By Oralee O'Byrne

Over 100 people joined in the celebration in mid-August for the grand opening of the new Wind and Wave building at the Age of Sail Heritage Museum in Wards Brook. An ongoing project, the Wind and Wave building was conceived over 6 years ago by 5 directors of the Greville Bay Shipbuilding Museum Society Sid Hughes, Dr. John "Jack' Wagstaff, Stan Spicer, Ross Colins and Ohra Colins.

Of these five only Ohra Colins remains today. "It's a bittersweet moment for all of us," Curator Oralee O'Byrne says "We are so happy to have the project completed but miss terribly the other 4 members who started it. We do however feel as though they are with us today, looking down and smiling and raising a toast."

Ohra Colins as well as Betty Hughes, Sally Anne Wagstaff and Gwen Spicer the surviving wives of the members were on hand to cut the ribbon for the new addition while photographs on the four men decorate a wall inside. Guest speakers included MLA Cumberland North, Brian Skabar; Executive director of the Association Nova Scotia Museums, Anita Price; retired director Community museum Assistance Program, Paul Collins and Warden for Cumberland County Municipality, Keith Hunter. Music was provided by Rob Bentley and Patty Dauphne.

The society's building committee and special guests were presented with bottles of wine from Jost vineyards with a special WM Richard label. Vice President Layton Yorke was awarded a plaque honoring his many years of dedication to the society and the community in general and director Walter Lake presented Ohra Colins, President with a dozen red roses to thank her for her guidance and hard work. "This project is the result of hard work and

the dedication of many people, it is not the work of just one or two", Ohra stated, "Our appreciation to everyone who has helped make this project possible Without all our supporters it would not be possible to stand here today".

A beautiful cake with a photo of a painting by Walter Lake, of the WM Richards, last vessel built on this site and the inspiration of the building and walkway was cut and served along with other refreshments. The walkway is the approximate length of the WM Richards and the building a true ½ model half the length and width of the actual

The building's upper level connects to the main building of the museum by a walkway and is home to displays



Jost Vineyards, donated bottles of wine with a special WM Richard label. The WM Richards was the last vessel built on this site and the inspiration of the building and walkway. (Submitted)

depicting artifacts used on board ship and items associated with where the vessels traveled using the power of wind and wave. The lower level is accessed by walkways and houses a few larger artifacts, as well as, the archival holdings and an area for researching.

A large open space is available for meeting, workshops or speakers and is available for use by the local community. "The support we get from the community is amazing," Ms O'Byrne says "through donations of artifacts and archives as well as financial donations and supporting our events. We try to give back in small ways like holding a free admittance day once a month and now offering a space for get-togethers"

The center hopes to add to

their archival collection over the next few years and is working on sorting and setting up the archives. "It's a time consuming project but an enjoyable one", Stated Ms.O'Byrne. She will be completing the core curriculum for archiving this fall through the Council of Nova Scotia Archives "I will have my certificate this fall and hope to be able to volunteer some time over the winter in setting up the archive and research area properly for the center. We just don't have the man power to get it done this season." Anyone wishing to donate archival material relating to the Parrsborough Shore History should contact the center.

Oralee O'Byrne is Curator/Manager Age of Sail Heritage Center and Museum

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A large crowd in excess of 100 visitors and special guests gather outside the Age of Sail Museum Complex prior to the grand opening of the new Wind and Wave building. (Submitted)



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