



Dear Members and Friends,

Today, our shipyard is nestled in a bed of white snow, but we can assure you that inside the Museum is full of activity. This is a time of reviewing our activities in 2008 and developing new events for 2009.

The Program Committee is planning a wonderful variety of monthly programs for 2009. The early springtime events include:



A Timeless Love Story - Friday, Feb. 13, 8 P.M. – Congregational Church - the enduring love story of John and Abigail Adams is brought to life in a presentation by costumed re-enactors Thomas Macy and Patricia Bridgman. A reception featuring a sumptuous chocolate buffet featuring **Winfrey's** fudge and chocolate will be held immediately following the performance. The Adams' will be joining us in tasting these delights. This is truly a heart-warming event – not to be missed.

Woodland & Shore Birds of Essex - March 17, 7:30 P.M. - The Waterline Center - For those who have an interest in our feathered friends, Jim Berry is a wealth of information. Jim gave us a wonderful talk on Owls to a full house last year. He is this year to introduce us to the fascinating lives of our local birds.

Ice Harvesting and Transportation - April 14, 2009: 7:30 P.M. - The Waterline Center. Ed Howard and Jim Witham will be presenting a fascinating 30 minute documentary on New England Ice Harvesting, followed by a panel discussion with Ed and Jim. At one point in the late 1800's the ice industry was actually a more financially significant industry than shipbuilding in our locality.

Old Barns - May 12, 7:30 P.M. – The Waterline Center. Bob Weatherall will be taking us on a detailed tour of Old New England barns: their history and construction.

At the beginning of 2008 we set out to further develop programs that live up to the mission of The Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum:

"Mission of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum and Historical Society is to provide a center for education, preservation, and study of traditional Essex shipbuilding and the community that supported it. We value the skills, creativity, learning abilities, and connectedness to their environment of the Essex shipbuilders, and we believe that building a clear understanding and appreciation of their unique craftsmanship serves as a valuable model for us today."

Educational Experiences:

Education is a core component of the Museum's mission, and this year was no exception. The Education Committee served up a series of ongoing classes,

workshops, lectures, and entertaining activities. Consistent with the mission of our Museum, between the months of May and November, the education staff provided a variety of educational experiences to tour groups totaling approximately 1500 adults and children, including schools, Elderhostel™, reunions and two kayak classes.

Planning for this year's educational programs has already begun for the 2009 season.

Visitors Drop-in From All Over the World:

Matthew Dean is the newest edition to our staff of docents. "Being a tour guide at ESM is VERY rewarding," Matt exclaimed. "There are daily visits by "passer-bys" who drop in to find out what we are all about.

We are fortunate to have great museum docents. Justin Demetri and Matt Dean meet visitors at their point of interest and use their command of historical facts to bring history alive. That engagement is enough to encourage visitors to stay for a tour. A typical tour takes between 60 to 90 minutes. Matt and Justin will devote just as much attention to a single visitor as they do to a large Elderhostel group.

The interest a guest exhibits sets the guideline for each tour. Some tours are extended to two hours because the visitors are so engaged and excited. To our guides, the reward is mutual. As Justin Demetri says, "When the visitors get engaged, the tours are both exhilarating and rewarding."

A tour consists of a video presentation and a walking tour of the grounds. Visitors see the 80-plus year old schooner *Evelina M. Goulart* that was actually built in the A.D. Shipyard, the *Lewis H. Story* a reproduction Chebacco from the late 18th century and tools of the trade. If they are interested, visitors are given the opportunity to use some of these tools to caulk a seam or make a trunnel.

According to AAA Magazine, The Essex Shipbuilding Museum is a "Hidden Gem" and over the years, from David Delorey and Linda Scott to Justin Demetri and Matt Dean, our tour guides are the reason for our reputation.

Improvement of the Grounds and Facilities:

The Facilities Group is constantly making improvements to our facilities. During the summer, there was a major initiative to improve the "street appeal" of the Museum. Volunteers Tia Schlaikjer, Susie Talbot, Cindy Cameron, Fritz Fuller, John Drake and David Brown planted new gardens, revitalized the signage and added a fresh coat of paint.



Lewis H. Story – Our Touring Ambassador

Our historic replica of a traditional Chebacco Boat, the Lewis H. Story, showed her freshly-painted Pinky hull around the North Shore. This past spring, Museum volunteers and members Bob Quadros, Fritz Fuller, Brian Chapski and Rick Wilcox dedicated many satisfying hours to scraping, sanding, caulking and painting the forest green hull.



Throughout the summer, **The Lewis H. Story** sailed with EHSSM members and guests. EHSSM Members can sail for free anytime there is room aboard.

The Lewis H. Story completed her season back in Essex, rafted with Harold Burnham's **Maine**, as the platform for the **Flagship** cocktail event. Supporters of the Museum were entertained by the sounds of Captain Stan and Daisy Nell, as all enjoyed a crisp late fall evening on the basin.

The Rededication of the A.D. Story Shipyard.



The biggest achievement in 2008 was the rededication of the A.D. Story Shipyard. This was the culmination of over seven years of work to meet the DEP and EPA standards for remediation. The seven-year project was lead by volunteers Ken Hudson and David Brown. On September 20, 2008, the Museum celebrated with a rededication program recognizing leaders in the remediation project. Representative Bruce Tarr was on hand to praise past president Tom Ellis, Ken Hudson and David Brown for their

efforts. A happy celebration followed with food and live music. It was another great example of meeting our mission. As stated in the program handed out at the event:

"The supporters of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum have always believed in the importance of good stewardship and the responsibility to preserve, protect, and interpret our historical legacy. The rededication, taking place today, September 20, 2008, celebrates the supporters and volunteers of this Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum who have worked tirelessly to create a grounds upon which we can bring alive the strength, determination, resourcefulness and craftsmanship of the Shipwrights of Essex."

New interpretive signage for the **Evelina M. Goulart** and **Caulk/Trunnel Shed**

The remediation of the shipyard gave us the opportunity to re-evaluate exhibit placement and interpretation. As a result of generous donations from **Advanced Imaging** and **PG Trionic** we were able to mount interpretive signage for the **Evelina M. Goulart** and the new **Caulk/Trunnel Shed**. Under the leadership of Dave Brown, Justin Demetri, Dennis Corkery, Tia Schlaikjer, Barry O'Brien, John Drake, Jeff Lane, Brian Chapski, Fritz Fuller, and Rick Saunders took part in different phases of researching, writing, producing, painting, or building these exhibits.

Celebrating the History of Steam



Once again this October, the Museum hosted the second annual Steam Muster to celebrate the era of steam. It is interesting to note that the Essex shipyards produced thirty-one steam powered tugs, trawlers, lighters, freighters and passenger haulers. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Barry O'Brien and Edwin Howard, a longtime collector and enthusiast, steam collectors from around New England converged on our shipyard literally transforming it into a steam museum for the day. There were steam launches, working steam engines, working scale steam locomotives and working scale models of steam engines. The return of the popular and very rare turn-of-the-century Gloucester coal truck added to the whimsy.

Throughout the day there were presentations on steam exhibits, tours of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum, live music and even a digital photography "Picture Taking Tips" workshop given by volunteer Tony Schettino. There was certainly not shortage of subjects!



The Essex Historical Society Creates a Monthly Learning Environment:

Thanks to volunteer and board member Kurt Wilhelm, The Essex Historical Society re-established regular monthly meetings to bring together avid amateur historians and history buffs to share research, stories and the Museum's Collection of historical artifacts, photographs and maps. Each month a new historical topic was introduced by a volunteer presenter and a congenial and collaborative exploration was greatly enjoyed by all. Each monthly meeting generally brings more than 20 to 30 people together.



Maritime Make-Over:

As this newsletter is being written, the desks and administration offices are being moved to the 2nd floor of 66 Main Street and the first floor is being laid out for increased exhibit and store space. By the time we re-open to our drop-in visitors early this spring, the new look of the first floor will help orient our visitors, and have fresh appeal.

Staying in Touch with You:

Thanks to the generous contribution of a one year subscription to Constant Contact® web services by The Essex Choral Society, we can now provide you with timely e-newsletters and notices of upcoming events, workshops and lectures via the internet to your e-mail address. But, you can't benefit if we don't have your current e-mail address. If you are a member and we don't have your e-mail address, we will try to contact you

and get it. You can help us by being proactive! Make sure we have your current e-mail address. We promise that your address will only be used for Museum updates, news and correspondence. We do not and will not share your e-mail address with anyone. Either e-mail info@essexshipbuildingmuseum.org, or go to our website www.essexshipbuildingmuseum.org and fill in your e-mail address on home page. Taking advantage of the fact that all our members have e-mail addresses greatly facilitates the process of keeping you informed, and helps us focus your generous financial support on programs, not promotion.

Despite the challenges faced this year, our Museum reached so many at so many levels. With your help, we are interpreting and preserving a threatened way of life – the New England Village. Through the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum, the history, traditions, skills, and way of thinking of this unique shipbuilding community are alive and eagerly shared with our visitors. We deeply appreciate your interest and look forward to your support in 2009.