

# OLD TOWN MUSEUM

353 Main Street, Old Town, Maine 04468  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 375  
(207) 827-7256  
www.oldtownmuseum.com

*Established 1976*

*The Old Town Museum is a volunteer effort dedicated to preserving Old Town's history.*



**THE OLD TOWN MUSEUM'S FLOAT IN THE ANNUAL RIVERFEST PARADE** – Once again the directors of the Old Town Museum participated in the annual Riverfest event in Old Town. We were honored to have our float, depicting "Logging Days", to act as the Grand Marshal of the parade. With generous assistance from Domino's Pizza, Hanaford Brothers, Rite Aid and Bell's Orono IGA we were able to attain a fair amount of income from selling pizza, soda and water. Our membership booth did fairly well with the sales of t-shirts depicting the 175th anniversary of Old Town and various gift shop items. T-shirts are available for purchase, please call Carol May at 207-827-9012 for more information.

*Thanks!*

**For Your Support**

does is supported by your donations.

You may be interested in some of the activities that the Museum undertakes each year as the result of donations and membership payments. For the past several years, each June we have been visited by the Third-grade Students from the Old Town Elementary School who are given tours so they can see some of the history of the Old Town area before the days of television, cell phones and airplanes. The small-group tours provide ample opportunity for students to ask questions and learn more about what life was

**THANK YOU Donors and Members**

This Newsletter provides the Museum Board with an opportunity to express our "Thanks" and appreciation to all of those that provide the funding that make the operation of the Old Town Museum possible. The Old Town Museum exists as the result of active volunteers and all of the expenses are paid by the funds generated from our Annual Donation Drive, our Membership campaign and the small number of sales from our Museum Gift Shop along with a few fund raising activities such as Riverfest, we do not receive any funding from the City of Old Town. This means that everything the Museum

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# Report of Acquisitions Committee by Eisso Atzema



The task of the Acquisitions Committee is not just to take in any items offered to the Museum. Indeed, not all items serve the mission of the Museum and we cannot accept just any item that is brought to the Museum. This year, for instance, an offer of a very nice, late 19th century wood stove was declined because there was no connection to Old Town at all. For the same reason, we decided not to take in a 1930s upright piano even though it appeared to be in excellent condition.

Among the items that we did accept, a few stand out. Earlier this year, we received a collection of personal papers of Anna Wareing (1912-2009), a long-time elementary school teacher in Old Town. Items include school programs, student work, and teaching materials, along with a number of Sunday School text books from the 1850s that were used in Old town.

One of the more curious donations was an explosive cannon ball that was found in the Penobscot River near the Old Town Dam. It probably dates back to the Civil War era, but how it might have ended up in the river is unclear.

As every year, the Museum received several photographs of former Old Town public figures. This year's crop included a set of photographs of former police chief Otis LaBree (1915-2003). Provided they are well-documented, such photographs are always welcome.

The Acquisitions Committee has also been working on streamlining the acquisitions process and the recording of items that were acquired, but have yet to be included in the catalog. We now have an electronic database that ultimately should include a rudimentary record of every new item. This database will by no means replace the Museum catalog, but hopefully it will allow us to include new items in the Museum catalog on a more systematic basis



**Old Town Museum, P.O. Box 375, Old Town, ME 04468**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## OLD TOWN MUSEUM

353 Main Street  
P. O. Box 375  
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*Established 1976*

Individual \$30	Senior \$20
Family \$50	Life \$400
Group or Business \$175	Donation: \$ _____

Membership entitles you to voting rights at the Annual Meeting.

The Old Town Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Museum, please check here

## 2015 Programs Draw Good Audiences, Offer Enthusiastic Entertainment

The Old Town Museum Program Series for 2015 began in March with an evening presentation on the early railroading history of Old Town, at the Old Town Library. We are thinking of adding some other evening programs to our schedule in the future, so if this is something you think you would enjoy, please let us know.

The Opening Sunday Program for the season in May, a kick-off of Old Town's 175th anniversary celebration, featured several community members sharing poems, essays and songs written through the years by Old Town High School students and other residents of the area. Our readers were excellent and while some selections were humorous, others were quite touching, making for a very entertaining afternoon.

For Flag Day, the Old Town Museum Chorus, led by Pam Martin, treated us to a program of patriotic songs.

In July, Joe and Sue Cyr presented a history of John T. Cyr & Sons, which was one of the highlights of our season, and Duane Prugh, who teaches many interesting Senior College courses in the Augusta area, told us all about Maine's Giant Trees.

In August, Dr. Hal Borns introduced us to a mid-19th century unpublished manuscript, written by a Vinalhaven doctor, that, had it been published at that time, would have greatly influenced the debate about how our landscape was formed.

September brought us Kevin Johnson from the Penobscot Marine Museum, sharing images from the Eastern Illustrating Co. collection of glass plate negatives. Later in the month, Richard Grady, who lived in Old Town as a young man and graduated from Old Town High School, shared his memories of our community and how his years here had influenced him throughout his life.

We wrapped up the season with a rousing concert by the Six Basin Street All Women Dixieland Band. We continue to plan our 2016 program schedule, which will be available on our website ([www.theoldtownmuseum.org](http://www.theoldtownmuseum.org)) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Old-Town-Museum-82802006819/>) in early spring.

We're looking forward to learning more about the history of our local communities and the state of Maine and hope you will join us in the adventure.

*Copies of "Old Town, Maine, The First 175 Years, 1840 - 2015" are available through the Museum. It's a great look back at Old Town through the years.*

*These books would make a great Christmas for anyone on your list and we will mail them for you!*

*Please send payment of \$14.00 for each book (to cover handling and shipping) to:*

**The Old Town Museum  
PO Box 375  
Old Town, ME 04468**



**Peter Stowell  
Working on  
'Images of  
America –  
Old Town'  
for  
Museum**

Old Town's history is rich indeed, much of it captured in old images. Sometime in early 2017, the Arcadia Publishing Company will publish "Images of America – Old Town," featuring more than 200 old photos of our town. We've worked diligently to locate hundreds of pictures of people and places but always are looking for more, preferably before 1960. Hurry, time is short. Writing gets underway in January!

Our greatest need is of images of French Island – old cabinet photos of people, street scenes, buildings, and homes would be most welcomed. Additional needs: old photos of the James W. Sewall Co., the pie plate factory, the T M Chapman Company, Bernard Langlais, Gary Thorne, Tabitha (Spruce) King, Bud Leavitt, Dick MacPherson, Civil War Gen. Charles W. Roberts, and Miss Maine 1954 May Ellen St. John.

I have previously authored "Images of America – Dixfield" for the Dixfield Historical Society.

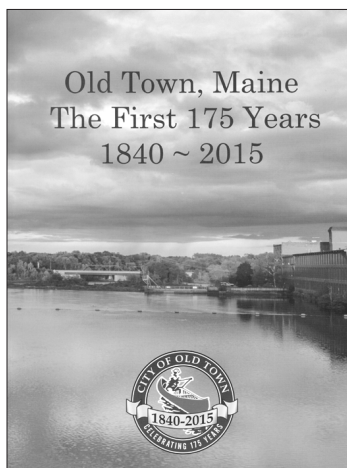
## THANK YOU Donors and Members

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like in Old Town when their parents and even their grandparents were their age. We had hoped to be able to expand these school tours to the Milford Third-grade this year but it did not occur, possible next Spring.

The Museum held special tours for residents of two of the local Assisted Living Centers, the Orono Commons and the Meadows in Old Town. Although the groups making the tour were equally as interested in the displays as the third-grade students, it presented a uniquely different experience for the Board Members leading the tours as the groups remembers many of the items on display or remembered their parents telling them about the lumber, wool or shoe industries. The tour was an opportunity to reminisce about their childhood days. The Old Town Museum also hosted some programs relative to the history of the Old Town Area where the programs were provided by the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge.

All of these special programs along with our regular Summer Sunday Programs extended our reach into the community and helped enlighten both residents and visitors to the history of the Old Town area. This area played a very significant role in the development of the Penobscot Valley area and the area north and east of Old Town. This history should not be lost.



# OLD TOWN MUSEUM

*Established 1976*

December 8, 2015

Dear Museum Friends,

Our 2015 season has come to an end and we have already begun planning for 2016. Our exhibits committee is making plans for creating some new exhibits and updating some of our permanent displays. Our acquisitions committee is working through a backlog of donated items, making sure they are added to our inventory database and finding safe and accessible storage for them. Contacting speakers for 2016 programs is already underway, and we look forward to arranging some interesting and informational presentations on local and Maine history, as well as some entertaining musical glimpses into the past.

Of course, our fundraising and ways and means committees are always hard at work. Their task is to raise the money we need to keep the museum heated, lit, well-maintained and to create an environment that is suitable for storing historic documents, photographs, clothing, tools, machinery, and all the other pieces of Old Town area history that we have made it our mission to collect and preserve. Equally important to me is the part of the mission that says we will display these items, and create community interest in our heritage through programs, exhibits and education. It's great to have the stuff, but if nobody sees it and learns from it, we're only accomplishing half of our goals.

In order to do it all, collect, preserve, educate, and keep the museum open part of each week from May to October, we need your help. We need active and interested members, we need volunteers to serve on committees and staff the museum during open hours and most importantly, we need financial support from our friends and neighbors who believe what we do is important and who are able to contribute to our continued success and growth. I hope we will be able to count on you to assist and support the museum in any or all of these ways. You will find more about our activities in this newsletter, as well as information about how you can become a member and/or make a tax-deductible donation.

Please see the enclosed card and consider the Museum in your financial giving this year.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Betsy Huyett Paradis  
President  
Old Town Museum

## MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eisso Atzema, Joe Ayotte, Barbara Connors, Philip Dunn, Richard Eustis,  
Virginia Fortier, Carol Klitch, Margaret Manzer, Carol May, Michael May,  
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