



MEDIA RELEASE
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**VISITORS INVITED TO “LEAVE THEIR MARK ON HISTORY”
AT MUSEUM’S BEAM-SIGNING EVENT**

KENNEBUNK, MAINE – The community is invited to a “Beam-ing with Pride” Open House on Saturday, March 7 from 10AM to 1PM at Kennebunk’s Brick Store Museum at 117 Main Street. Visitors will have a chance to “leave their mark on history” by writing their signatures on a 22-foot steel support beam, one of three being fabricated by New Hampshire’s Novel Iron Works and installed to strengthen the framing and increase the floor loads in the museum facility. The beam will ultimately be enclosed, preserving the signatures as a time capsule. Attendees signing the beam will receive a special commemorative souvenir.

It is not unusual in old homes to find evidence or signatures of previous owners, and signing beams remains common in modern construction projects. “This seemed like a fitting tradition to uphold, particularly since the museum belongs to everyone in the community” said the museum’s executive director, Tracy Baetz. “We’d love for as many people as possible to turn out for this event and to literally become part of the museum’s history.”

Since December, work crews have been busy at the Brick Store Museum making basement-to-attic structural improvements to the four 19th-century buildings that comprise the institution’s iconic Main Street façade. The renovations come as a result of the museum’s three-year *Connecting Generations* Capital Campaign that raised more than \$1.3 million to “build a better future for preserving the past.”

John DeStefano of DeStefano & Associates, Inc., the Portsmouth-based construction management firm coordinating the museum’s project, will be on hand throughout the beam-signing event to answer questions. Visitors will be able to tour the museum’s *Salon Style* and *Treasures of the Community* exhibitions and will additionally be treated to the debut of an all-new exhibit that presents the history of the museum’s buildings and displays photos chronicling the current renovations. Included on view will be a number of items—from an early light bulb to an unique patent medicine bottle—discovered over the past few months by the construction crews.

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The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in Kennebunk’s historic district. For more than 70 years, the Museum has been dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the region’s rich cultural and artistic heritage. Its galleries and research archives are open to the public year-round: Tuesdays – Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1. Admission is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit www.brickstoremuseum.org or call 207-985-4802 for further information.

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