



MEDIA RELEASE
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IN THE MAINE STREAM EXHIBITION GOES ON VIEW AT BRICK STORE MUSEUM

KENNEBUNK, Maine – The Brick Store Museum’s newest exhibition, “In the Maine Stream,” opens on August 7, 2010. Featuring the museum's own circa 1899 Wabanaki birchbark canoe and an array of vintage wooden paddles and oars on loan from the private collection of Kate Manko, this exhibition is equal parts history, art and nostalgia.

“In the Maine Stream” marks the first time that a rare, 15-foot, birchbark canoe—a recent donation to the museum’s collections—is on public view. The canoe’s provenance relates the story of Kennebunkport's "Indian Village" at the turn of the 20th century, when Native Americans came each summer for decades from Old Town, Maine, to camp along the banks of the Kennebunk River and cater to summer visitors by selling sweetgrass baskets and canoes and by offering guided paddle excursions to Sunset Rock. Exhibit-goers will be enthralled by tales of the various canoeing traditions on the river over the years. The exhibition also explores the intricate makings of a birchbark canoe, from the gathering of winter bark to the framing and planking. Visitors can touch a swatch of birch bark, and children can even cut and assemble a paper canoe to take home.

Artistically, museum guests will appreciate the utilitarian simplicity of the hand-crafted wooden paddles and oars. Of the more than 40 displayed, many are painted in a folk art tradition with scenes and names evocative of Maine's natural beauty. Particularly noteworthy is a pair of birdseye maple paddles decorated with images of deer, canoeists, and a moose. To acquaint visitors with what goes into making a quality paddle, an interactive station within the exhibition is equipped with wood samples from Shaw & Tenney; founded in 1858, the Orono, Maine-based company is the oldest manufacturer of paddles and oars in the United States.

An added attraction to the exhibition is a new cell phone-based audio guide allowing visitors to access additional information. “In the Maine Stream” remains on view through April 2, 2011, and is sponsored by Cape Arundel Inn.

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The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in the midst of 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 (closed holidays). Admission is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit www.brickstoremuseum.org or call 207-985-4802 for further information.

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