

Press Release re: Cape Elizabeth's 250th Anniversary Committee
July 10, 2014

If you start seeing a large blue banner at various summer functions around town announcing the beginning of "A Year of Celebration" on November 1, 2014, there's a great explanation! At their meeting on June 10, 2013, the Town Council voted to establish the Cape Elizabeth 250th Anniversary Committee, with a charge "to provide leadership in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of Cape Elizabeth" which occurred on November 1, 1765.

On December 9, town councilors appointed residents Catherine Adams, Jane Beckwith, Carole Anne Jordan, Norman Jordan, Stephanie Korrup, Darren McLellan and Barbara Powers to the ad hoc committee. Carrie Dyer was later added as an eighth member. Mike McGovern, Town Manager, attends the meetings as the staff representative.

At their first meeting on February 25, Barbara Powers was elected chairperson and the committee began discussing a variety of events designed to celebrate this important occasion in Cape Elizabeth's history. Important partnerships with Cape's Historical Society, Farm Alliance, Fort Williams Foundation, Community Services, and the schools are already underway with additional contacts being pursued with other organizations and businesses that may wish to participate. The Inn by the Sea anticipates hosting a kick off event on November 1, 2014 with a festive Open House for Cape Elizabeth residents, and plans are underway for a ticketed gala event for November 1, 2015. Also, Pond Cove School recently received a CEEF grant for two artists in residence to lead a "Local Stories Project," including creation of a physical theater performance of Cape's history as well as the design and production of a permanent mural depicting important historic sites the children will have studied.

Another significant event being enthusiastically pursued by 250th committee members in partnership with Fort Williams Foundation representatives and the Portland Symphony Orchestra has been named "A Night at the Light," featuring efforts to initiative a long-desired return of the symphony to Fort Williams Park next summer for a special performance. The proposed date they are working toward is Saturday, August 29, 2015, pending all appropriate town approvals. Sponsors will soon be contacted and it is anticipated that host committee opportunities will be offered to interested Cape residents. The performance would be in honor of both the 250th anniversary and the town's beautiful Fort Williams Park, with some of the proceeds earmarked for the Children's Garden project. More details will be available as planning continues and it is hoped that this partnership with the PSO will carry forward beyond the 250th celebration.

Bus tours, historic site presentations, streetlight banners, activities with local children, and many other activities will be involved as other organizations and individuals begin offering their own ideas for opportunities to celebrate the past and connect as a community. The committee members welcome your thoughts and ideas. Stay tuned for more details as plans are further developed and finalized.

