STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM
2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

We may have spent the better part of 2018 apologizing for our mess but it was for good reasons. We were knee-deep in preparations for the installation of the Potomac Pilothouse – in time for the 2019 season. To complement our new centerpiece, we also reconfigured the existing exhibits and added some new ones. In other words, the museum got a complete make-over. You may recognize some bits and pieces but the space has a whole new look and feel. Major renovations began last winter when walls were removed to accommodate the sizeable Pilothouse. We also dismantled the country store display and the canny exhibit to make room for the aritfact. Behind the scenes, there were hours of research through old photographs and memorabilia to identify images to incorporate into the new displays. We took our story-telling up a notch with the development of an interactive exhibit about an African-American steamboat captain. Now that the Pilothouse has been installed and the surrounding exhibits are in place, we are eager to welcome visitors to a new experience in our new space.

In April 2018 we celebrated the 26th anniversary of the founding of the museum. The museum was created with centennial tape throughout the area. The museum grew up to be an amazing piece of history. We couldn't have done this without the support of our sponsors.

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A GREAT THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING MUSEUM, EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEERS!

• More than 3,000 adults and children visited the museum or took part in museum events.
• The museum received generous grants from the Nemtie Lokey Wiley and Charles L. Wiley Foundation and the Carter C. Chinnis Charitable Trust. The Garden Club of the Northern Neck awarded a grant to transform the museum's garden into a Victorian flower garden.
• More than 200 children took part in the museum’s scavenger hunt and Friday afternoon activities.
• More than 500 children were introduced to local steamboat history through Hunter on the Go.
• River Counties Community Foundation awarded the museum a grant to convert the static Captain Handford exhibit to an interactive screen.
• The Town of Irvington and the Tidewater Foundation contributed to the operational funds of the museum.
• A Smithsonian bus tour visited the museum.
• State highway directional signs to the museum were placed on Route 3 and 200.

The museum supported other non-profit organizations in the area, by taking part in the Rappahannock Festival of Trees event and by advertising in event programs. We invited children from the Boys and Girls Club and the YWCA to attend Friday morning activities free-of-charge.

Ritchmond exhibit design firm Riggs Ward was hired to consult on new exhibits and interactive projects.

The museum announced it was an “Amazon Smile” member. When supporters purchasing items on Amazon buy through the Amazon Smile site, the museum receives a portion of the sale.

With a $15,000 challenge grant from Beth and Marshall Orr and the Museum’s Board of Directors, the Annual Appeal once again raised important funds for the museum.

A YEAR OF UPHEAVAL
(But in a Good Way)