



TOWN OF KITTERY, MAINE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gundalow to Deliver Rain Barrels to Kittery Point

The earliest settlers were drawn to this region by the abundance of natural resources and the protection and access provided by the natural areas, especially our tidal estuaries. The local waterways were like highways – used for transporting harvests and goods between farms and mill towns along the tributaries. And the 18-wheeler of the 1800s was the gundalow. These shallow-bottom vessels plied the rivers and creeks in the area, carrying tons of raw materials to factories up the rivers and finished cargo back out with the tides to waiting ships.

While a wooden boat guided mostly by the tide and poled over the shallows is no longer the commercial transport of choice today, this May the replica Capt. Edward H. Adams gundalow will once again be put to use delivering a load of rain barrels to local residents as well as carrying an ecological message. Rain barrels catch rain water from our roofs and help slow down stormwater. The reenactment of cargo delivered by the gundalow is a reminder of the importance of our working waterways and our personal influence on the health of Spruce Creek and the Piscataqua River system. (For more information on rain barrels visit www.protectkitterywaters.org.)

The Spruce Creek Watershed Improvement Project, a Town of Kittery project funded with Maine Department of Environmental Protection funds, is proud to offer the public a chance to come aboard and explore this vessel that has become a symbol of the Piscataqua region and to learn more about our local waterways, their use, and how we all unknowingly contribute pollution to the surrounding waters with our modern industrial lifestyle.

By Saturday morning May 16th, the 70-foot-long replica gundalow cargo vessel will have entered Pepperrell Cove and tied up to the Kittery Point Town Wharf. From 9am to 12pm, visitors can climb aboard this floating museum and talk with the captain about the history of the Piscataqua region's gundalows and its use in the late 1800s/early 1900s by the Frisbee Store for deliveries of goods in Spruce and Chauncey Creeks.

While our reliance on and treatment of our natural resources has changed considerably, we are still a water-based community. Whatever your personal connections to our waterways, the health of these fragile tidal estuaries is in our

hands. Come learn simple things you can do to help protect Kittery's waters (and the Piscataqua River). Together we can make a difference.

Sponsors of the gundalow visit to Kittery Point include Marcia Gibbons, Rhett & Carol Austell, Gail Simons and Steve Bos, Paula and Ron Ledgett, Donnajean Ahigian, Sandy Domina Associates, Peter & Suzanne Bowman, John Robbins & Shaye McGann, Kent Allyn, and John Pearson.



Caption: The Frisbee gundalow (middle) tied up in Kittery Point. The gundalow was used to deliver goods to Spruce and Chauncey Creeks in the late 1800s and early 1900s from the Frisbee Store. (Photo courtesy of Frank Frisbee, Sr.)

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