



Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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www.brattleboromuseum.org

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Historic Ice-Cutting Presentation and Hands-On Activity Organized by Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Brattleboro, Vermont — In the mid-nineteenth century, New England was the center of a thriving, lucrative, worldwide industry: the harvesting and transportation of ice. The industry even had its own “Ice King,” Frederic Tudor (1783-1864) of Boston, Mass., who made a fortune in the days before there was electrical refrigeration by shipping ice from New England ponds to the Caribbean, Europe, and India. Brattleboro had its own ice pond, and although there’s no evidence that Brattleboro ice ever made its way abroad, that pond and its ice played an important role in the local economy and in the lives of area residents.

On Saturday, January 9, those interested in learning more about this mostly forgotten bit of history or those just looking to get outdoors and gain a new perspective on their surroundings are invited to take part in activities being organized by the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. At 10:30 a.m., Bob Cottrell, director of the Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm (Tamworth, N.H.), will display his vintage ice-cutting tools and give a brief historical presentation at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Following the presentation, at 12 noon, participants will gather at Brattleboro’s historic Ice Pond—accessible by clearly marked walking trails in the Retreat Woods—where they will have an

opportunity to cut ice in the old-time way, using Cottrell's tools. Both the historical presentation and the hands-on ice-cutting activity are suitable for all ages. Hot beverages will be provided at the Ice Pond. Maps of the walking trails leading to the Ice Pond will be handed out at the museum. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students, \$3 for seniors, and free for BMAC members and children 5 and under; pay at the door or call 802-257-0124, ext. 101.

"This is not a typical art-museum event," said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld, "but it so happens that one of our current exhibits, Eric Aho's 'Ice Box,' includes a captivating image of an ice cut and references this fascinating bygone practice, so we thought, 'Let's give it a try.'" Of his painting, entitled "Ice Cut, 1929," Aho said, "This is the third work in a series that originated in a memory of my father, who spoke about ice harvesting in a rural New England community of Finnish immigrants during the Great Depression."

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2009-2010 season is provided by BMAC members and Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, and Chittenden Bank. The Museum's exhibits and gift shop are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Members and children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Each season features compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, the Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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