

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2009

For information contact:

Ellen Thurston

518-828-3378

thurston@mhonline.net

www.henryandhudson.org

Replica Ship *Half Moon* sails into Hudson NY for two-day Namesake Celebration

A replica of Henry Hudson's ship *Half Moon* will sail into Hudson NY this Thursday as the centerpiece of the City of Hudson's Quadricentennial celebration on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26. Mayor Richard Scalera and city residents will welcome Capt. William T. (Chip) Reynolds and his crew as they arrive in Hudson at approximately 3 pm.

The big weekend waterfront festival is called the Namesake Celebration, giving a nod to the fact that the City is the only municipality on the river named for Henry Hudson.

On Friday at 5:30 pm, the Mayor kicks off the festivities with a public dedication ceremony to officially name the city's waterfront park Henry Hudson Riverfront Park. The ceremony is followed by a paid reception to benefit the Quadricentennial celebration.

The two-day Namesake Celebration starts in earnest on Saturday. The *Half Moon* will be moored at the city dock and available for tours on a first come-first served basis from 10 am to 5 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for the *Half Moon* tour, at a fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors, will be available at the festival. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult. Group tours of the ship can be pre-arranged for Monday, July 27 by calling 518-822-1912.

There will be plenty of other activities to keep festival-goers busy. Throughout the festival, craftsmen will be demonstrating native technology and leading other hands-on activities on shore. The Bindlestiff Family Cirkus will be teaching juggling and circus skills workshops for children from 11 am to 2 pm each day. Dutch folk singers Nanne & Ankie will perform both days at 11 am. Henry Hudson himself will be available for picture-taking.

On Saturday, tours of the historic Hudson-Athens Lighthouse will be available from 11 am to 3 pm, and during the afternoon on Saturday Roger the Jester will be entertaining adults as well as children.

At 8 pm on Saturday, festival-goers can bring a blanket or lawn chair and claim a seat on the great lawn of Henry Hudson Riverfront Park for a gala evening concert. The Johnson Girls, a premier *a capella* group from New York City, will open the concert with rousing

songs of the sea. Headlining the concert is Tao Rodriguez-Seeger, whose music “fuses the Folk styles of his family heritage with modern day Rock’n’Roll.” After the concert, there will be fireworks in the colors of the Dutch flag and a sky-high display that unites the communities of Hudson and Athens through the magic of light and technology.

At 1 pm on Sunday, songs from the musical *River of Dreams*, based on a book by Hudson Talbott with music by Frank Cuthbert, will be performed by students from three Greene County school districts. Sunday will also feature the ever-popular Mr. Twisty and a Henry Hudson Look-alike contest at 2 pm.

For the public’s convenience, a free trolley bus will run all day between the waterfront and the top of Warren Street, Hudson’s main commercial street. The trolley’s route also takes in part of Hudson’s historic district. A ferry boat will run between Hudson and Athens from 12 noon to 4 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

Souvenirs of the Quadricentennial will be available at the festival and food vendors will be on hand as well.

Tours of the ship will continue rain or shine, but the evening concert may be moved to the Basilica Industria, if needed. The Basilica is a performance space on the waterfront within walking distance of the concert location.

A full schedule of festival events, and directions to Hudson NY, can be found on the Hudson Quadricentennial website, www.henryandhudson.org .

The City of Hudson Quadricentennial celebration is funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the City of Hudson, A. Colarusso & Son, Stair Galleries, Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, Stewart’s Holiday Match, Hudson-Catskill Newspapers (*Register-Star* and *The Daily Mail*), Clear Channel of the Hudson Valley, The Inn at Hudson, Hudson Development Corporation, Pro-Printers, Hudson Film Works, Inc., Ron Toelke Associates, and Arlene Boehm Graphic Design.

Additional support has been received from HAVE, Inc., Ihlenburg Plumbing & Heating, J. Damiani Gallery, Johnny’s Ideal Printing, Keystone on the Hudson, Koweek Cranna & McAvoy, Marx Home, S&F Technologies Corp., Tanzy’s, and Jason O’Toole.