

Launch Day

by stephen hastings-king

On the 9 July 2011 Launch of the Schooner Ardelle, Made in Essex
Massachusetts by Harold Burnham and a Circle of Devoted
Assistants.

Soon a new schooner built using methods consistent with the old
ways is to be launched from the last of the shipyards.

For many months, deep in the night when the birds have gone silent
and the hold of the present loosens phantom shipwrights have
gathered in the vapor that trails across the water to deliberate about
the work.

Because a side-launch is particular to this place and repeats so
many that came before it, the echo of the hull's first contact with the
water will pull the past through the present and the present into the
past. When the hole in time opens all the inhabitants of all past and
possible versions of the town will see each other. Like every launch,
this will be a celebration. People from all past and possible version
of town will converge. They will embrace and share drinks and tell
each other important things.

