

# Media Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE LAUNCHES NEW PROJECT SUPPORTED BY LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM

**Saranac Lake, NY, May 10, 2021** — Historic Saranac Lake announced the launch of a new project on the Cure Porch on Wheels titled, "Pandemic Past and Present." Funding for this project came from a 2021 Corridor of Commerce Interpretive Theme Grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership.

Historic Saranac Lake will host programs on its mobile museum space, the Cure Porch on Wheels, to explore local history in public health with new audiences. Visitors will view short videos and participate in interactive activities that will build connections between Saranac Lake's history as health resort and the collective experience of the current the pandemic.

The project will be led by Historic Saranac Lake's new Public Programs Coordinator, Mahala Nyberg. Ms. Nyberg stated, "As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, Saranac Lake's sanatorium history is newly relevant. Our history as a community built on the treatment and research of a highly infectious disease helps to shed light on issues in public health today. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic inspires us to explore untold stories in our local history and make new connections to broader themes."

Historic Saranac Lake (HSL) will explore perspectives on pandemics, past and present within the 640 square miles of the Saranac Lake School District. The Lake Champlain Basin Program grant will support the creation of short videos about Saranac Lake's TB history, highlighting the lives of patients whose TB experiences relate to common experiences in the present day. Four short videos will be created profiling each patient with photos and excerpts in their own words, captured in Historic Saranac Lake's archival resources and oral histories. The videos will be installed in the Cure Porch on Wheels and online.

This project is a natural outgrowth of a new exhibit soon to be unveiled at the Saranac Laboratory Museum titled, "Pandemic Perspectives." Following its closure through the winter due to the pandemic, the museum will reopen on May 25, 2021. The public will be asked to register for admission in order to help assure social distancing, and face coverings will be required.

Historic Saranac Lake's mission is to preserve and present area history and architecture to build a stronger community.

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