

# HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE at the Saranac Laboratory Museum



## HUMANITIES GRANTS RECEIVED

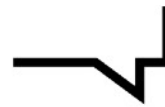
Historic Saranac Lake has been awarded American Rescue Act Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from Humanities New York to support our general operations as we bounce back from the economic damage caused by the pandemic. The grants will also support the production of a new film and a second year of humanities programs to complement our “Pandemic Perspectives” exhibit.

The new short film will introduce the history of the Saranac Lake region to museum visitors. It will include an introduction to the history of Indigenous peoples who lived in the region for thousands of years before white settlers arrived and who continue to make the Adirondacks their home into the present day. The grant will support consultation with the Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center. The film will be directed by filmmaker Kirk Sullivan. The project builds on a planning project supported by Humanities New York in 2020.

The Trudeau Building provides the space to tell a broader story beyond the story of tuberculosis, and to discuss the important history of TB more in-depth and in context. The humanities grants will help us build partnerships with scholars and other experts to ensure we tell the story of the region accurately, thoughtfully, and creatively.



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## ONLINE COLLECTION DATABASE LAUNCHING!



*Patients in the Old Workshop, HSL Collection, 2021.4, Courtesy of Trudeau Institute*

We are pleased to announce that our online collection database will launch to the public on November 15. Newsletter subscribers get an early sneak peek now! The database, hosted through PastPerfect Online, will allow researchers to search our collection from home. The records include photographs, objects, books, and more. Right now, there are only a handful of records available, but we will continue to add records to the catalog as we complete our IMLS

and Northern NY Library Network-funded image projects. Head to the website at <https://historicsaranaclake.pastperfectonline.com> to start exploring! Read more about the database on page 4 of this newsletter.



Made possible, in part, by the NY State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the NY State Legislature.

**OUR MISSION** is to preserve and present area history and architecture to build a stronger community.

## Letter from our new staff member

Dear Friends,

The summer has certainly flown by since joining the staff of Historic Saranac Lake back in May. I am pleased to say it has been a bustling season, full of tours, events, and enthusiastic visitors. I want to take this opportunity to share what I've been working on this summer and some of my plans moving forward.

In July, we opened our new Pandemic Perspectives Exhibit, which compares the experiences of tuberculosis patients to the current pandemic. Throughout the spring and early summer many visitors shyly brought up the similarities between the two. With the new exhibit, I've found that visitors feel encouraged to share their experiences more openly. In my opinion, the most compelling part of the exhibit is the interactive display where visitors can respond to questions about their pandemic experience on a card and add it to the display.

While some cards talk about fear and worry, I've noticed that overwhelmingly people speak of the gratitude they have felt during the pandemic. Gratitude for their safety, gratitude for time spent with loved ones, and most of all gratitude for healthcare workers and first responders. A few children have noted the confusion they felt, but most of our young visitors are proud to share how creative they were during their extra time at home. In my short time at the museum, I've noticed that TB patients seemed to have a similar reflection on their time spent curing. Despite their illness, many chose to see positives in their experience as patients.

I have been keeping busy with guided tours of the museum, Little Red, and the Bartok Cabin, and traveling with the Cure Porch on Wheels. So far this summer, the Cure Porch on Wheels has visited the Summer Market in Onchiota and Kate Mountain Park for a Town of Franklin celebration. When it travels, the Porch features a few key panels from the Pandemic Perspectives exhibit as well as interpretive material from a series of talks we have hosted with support from Humanities New York.

Finally, this summer we enjoyed the help of two great interns, Sydney Mariano and Francis Torres, both now seniors at Saranac Lake High School. Sydney and Francis helped out at the admissions desk, conducted research, and completed tasks for the museum collection. I enjoyed working with them and appreciated all their hard work.

As the pace slows moving into the fall and winter I plan to turn my attention toward school programming and educational outreach. I hope to develop some new ideas and programs for elementary and high school students and explore ways that we might expand our connections to S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) and utilize more humanities themes.

To wrap up on a more personal note, it has been a joy getting to know the Historic Saranac Lake community and meeting all the people who help make our programs possible. I have had a lovely summer exploring the village as well as the surrounding lakes and mountains, and I am looking forward to my first full winter in the Adirondacks with my snowshoes at the ready!

Sincerely,



Mahala Nyberg, Public Programs Coordinator



Public Programs Coordinator Mahala Nyberg

### Buy a Bottle and Support the Collection!



Richard Monroe generously donated 25 Collins Brothers bottles to be sold to further the preservation and use of our collections. Each bottle will be sold for \$100, with options for a clear or blue bottle. The sale will open to the public on Tuesday, October 19 at 12:00PM (EST). Purchases can be made on our website at that time. The sale will be first-come, first-serve. It will stay open until we sell out!

## SPRING AND SUMMER RE-CAP



### TRAVELS WITH THE PORCH

The Cure Porch on Wheels has been on the move! In May, the CPOW served as a site on the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce “Saranac Lake Grounded” event. In August, the CPOW hosted a talk about cure porch architecture. This summer, the Cure Porch on Wheels visited the Summer Market in Onchiota and Kate Mountain Park for a Town of Franklin celebration, sharing exhibits relating to the Humanities Series. Our thanks to the Lake Champlain Basin Program and NY State Council on the Arts for supporting this project. Special thanks to Bill Madden for help with towing!

### HUMANITIES TALKS

We hosted four programs this season supported by an Action Grant from Humanities NY. Topics included Women in Medical History with R.E. Fulton, Cure Porch history and architecture with Mary Hotaling, Narrative Medicine with Danielle Spencer, and Occupational Therapy with Beth Randall. Visit our YouTube channel for recordings of the presentations.

### GRANT FUNDING

We are grateful for recent grants received from:

- The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation for video recording and streaming equipment for our public programs.
- The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation for general operating support.
- Stewart’s Foundation to support school programs.
- Essex County Arts Council for operating support.
- Northern NY Library Network for image scanning.
- The Golub Foundation for the Trudeau Building.

### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Many students visited the museum for special tours and programs, including Saranac Lake High School history students, Petrova Elementary 5th graders, students in the Dewey Mountain summer program, and Union College students. In September, the Cure Porch on Wheels visited for a special history day at Petrova Elementary (pictured, left.) This fall, we look forward to upcoming tours for students from Paul Smith’s College, Northwood School, Saint Lawrence University, BOCES New Visions, and Petrova Elementary. We invite teachers to access presentations and virtual tours on our YouTube channel!

### SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS

In recent months we have hosted many events:

- A tour for students in the Trudeau Institute and Clarkson program with Professor Deb Brown.
- A tour with with the PBS Travel Show, “Fly Brother.”
- A tour of the Sanatorium for Trudeau Institute staff.
- A Facebook live tour of the Trudeau Building project with the Preservation League.
- A talk for the Upper Saranac Lake Association about our previous exhibit on 1920s hotels.
- Special open hours for Artwalk and a free community day at the museum.
- A meeting to learn about the history of Forestcraft Camp on Upper Saranac Lake.
- A talk for Mercy Care for the Adirondacks about oral history projects.
- A talk for the annual meeting of AARCH.
- Occupational therapy painting classes in collaboration with ADK ArtRise.
- Weekly tours of Little Red and the Trudeau Statue, the former Trudeau Sanatorium property, historic downtown, and the Bartók Cabin.
- The return of Loon Lake Live’s annual summer concert series.
- On the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Adirondack Park Agency, we hosted three book talks about *Rural Indigenoussness* by Melissa Otis, *Contested Terrain* by Phil Terrie, and *A Wild Idea* by Brad Edmondson. See our YouTube channel for recordings.

### Auction of Art by Ursula Trudeau

Our silent auction of artwork by Ursula Trudeau was a fabulous success. Our thanks to the Trudeau family for generously donating the paintings for auction to support HSL. Congratulations to the winners!

## COLLECTIONS



*"Bonnet Party" at the Trudeau House (ELT at center back with hat over face). Courtesy of Trudeau Institute.*

### BROWSE OUR COLLECTION

The creation of our Past Perfect online collections database was made possible with generous support from the Northern New York Library Network. It is not an exhaustive record of everything in our collection, and it will continue to grow as we catalog materials and receive new donations, so visit often! The front page of the database includes tips on how to use the search function. Try hitting the random button to see what you learn! If you have a research request and do not find what you are looking for, or have difficulty searching, please contact our Archivist / Curator, Chessie Monks-Kelly.

### NNYLN SUPPORT FOR TB PHOTOS

This fall, Historic Saranac Lake was awarded a generous grant from the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) to fund digitization of approximately 1,500 photographs. The focus of this project will be on photographs of TB patients and the TB industry in Saranac Lake.

This digitization grant will dovetail with catalog records already created during the IMLS-funded cataloging project and will help improve access to "secondary" records of patient life. These images will be made available on our PastPerfect Online catalog, as well as the NY Heritage collections portal.

This summer, we finished our NNYLN-funded transcription of the TB Society records, and we have already found many matches for patient research requests! We are proud to continue to work with NNYLN and thank them for their continued support!

### IMLS-FUNDED IMAGE CATALOGING

Our Archivist / Curator is continuing work on the IMLS-funded image cataloging project; she has cataloged more than 800 photographs. The project will continue until September 2022, and we anticipate creating catalog records for 2,000+ images. These records will be added to our online catalog as they are completed.

### RECENT DONATIONS

- Letters sent by Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau to Mary Goodall Bradley, whose sister Ruth was a patient, 1893-1900. Courtesy of John Cooley.
- Papers, books, and more belonging to Phil and Elsie Wolff and family, documenting their lives in Saranac Lake, starting in the 1930s. Courtesy of Holly & David Wolff.
- 15 scrapbooks on Trudeau Sanatorium history kept by Marguerite Armstrong, longtime superintendent and advocate. Courtesy of Trudeau Institute.
- Photographs, correspondence, and more documenting the lives of Nita and Ed Worthington, beginning with their time as patients at Trudeau Sanatorium in the 1930s. Courtesy of Janet Worthington Dudones.
- Photographs taken while Betty [Kelly] Gaffney cured at Trudeau in the 1940s. Courtesy of Betty Gaffney.

Do you have something to donate to our collection? Contact our Archivist/Curator, Chessie Monks-Kelly, at [chessie@historicsaranaclake.org](mailto:chessie@historicsaranaclake.org) or 518-891-4606. Visit [www.historicsaranaclake.org/collections](http://www.historicsaranaclake.org/collections) for more information.

## THE MUSEUM

## PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES EXHIBIT



This summer we unveiled a provocative new exhibit titled, "Pandemic Perspectives." Twelve panels placed throughout the museum explore connections between our current experience of Covid-19 and Saranac Lake's TB history. The exhibit incorporates historic images and quotes from literature highlighting experiences common to pandemics throughout history. The exhibit is informed by a course taught by Columbia University Professor Arden Hegele titled, "Epidemic Fictions." Complementing the new exhibit, we have hosted a series of events and temporary exhibits on the Cure Porch on Wheels, supported by grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the NY State Council on the Arts, and Humanities NY. The project has forged new connections with community members and practitioners in health care, like the two Adirondack Health nurses pictured above. Sara Diaz (left) is the nurse shown on the title panel for the exhibit. Sara's photo was taken by her friend, Lisa Keegan (right). We enjoyed welcoming Sara and Lisa at the exhibit opening party.

## WELCOME, BABY ROSLYN!



We are thrilled to announce the birth of baby Roslyn Guillette! Congratulations to the proud parents, Liz and Adam, our Membership and Grants Manager! Welcome to the HSL family, baby Roslyn!

## COMING EVENTS

**October 26: Annual Meeting**

Members and anyone interested in HSL Membership are invited to join us on Zoom for our Annual Meeting! The topic will be an update on the Trudeau Building project.

**November 13: Exhibit Closing**

The John Black Room exhibit, "The Art of the Cure" closes on November 13. Be sure to come in to see the exhibit before it closes! You can view the exhibit online at: [www.historicsaranaclake.org/art-of-the-cure](http://www.historicsaranaclake.org/art-of-the-cure)

**November 4: Prisons in the Adirondacks**

Join us for a Zoom presentation by Jeff Hall about his new book about the role of prisons in the Adirondacks. Stay tuned to our website to register for a Zoom link.

**Fall and Winter Tours**

We look forward to a busy season of tours and other in-person and online events and programs. See our website for a complete schedule to be announced soon!

## LABORATORY IMPROVEMENTS

As we work to expand the museum into the Trudeau Building, we are planning for repairs and improvements at the Saranac Laboratory as well. Grants and naming opportunities have raised over \$70,000 for improvements and new exhibits at the laboratory. Grants through the Richland County Foundation and the Franklin County Energize NY Fund will support upgrades to the John Black Room, including restoration of the bookcases, installing air conditioning, and reactivating the original ventilation system. Other funding will support refinishing of the doors, painting, and the installation of interior storm windows in the main laboratory space to protect the collection from UV light and to prevent heat loss.

**Our thanks to these businesses  
for their membership and for supporting  
the Cure Porch on Wheels!**

Absolutely Adirondacks, Adirondack Daily Enterprise, The Adirondack Experience, Adirondack Massage Therapy, Ampersand Biosciences, Blue Moon Home Builders, Carcuzzi Car Care Center, Essex Community Heritage Organization (ECHO), Geomatics Land Surveying, PC, Hoffman's Auto, Madden's Transfer and Storage, North Woods Engineering, Owl and Fern, LLC (DBA Wilkins Agency), Saranac Lake Free Library, Prescott House ADK, and T. F. Finnigan.

## ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

## PRESERVATION ZOOM



In August, we were honored to be invited to participate in a discussion hosted by the Preservation League of NY State titled, "Preservation in the Adirondacks." Executive Director Amy Catania presented about HSL's dual mission as a museum and architectural preservation organization. Howie Kirschenbaum, whose efforts to save Great Camp Sagamore in the 1970s helped put the Preservation League on the map, detailed the process of getting a constitutional amendment passed to save that Great Camp and discussed the current campaign to save Debar Pond Lodge. Adirondack Architectural Heritage Executive Director Steven Engelhart spoke about AARCH's role as a regional partner in preservation. Anne Van Ingen, former League Board Chair and current Chairman of the Board for the Adirondack Experience, moderated a group discussion. The recording is available to view at: [www.preservenys.org/blog/preservation-in-the-adirondacks](http://www.preservenys.org/blog/preservation-in-the-adirondacks).

## FACEBOOK LIVE TOUR

In July, we had a great time talking to Katy Peace of the Preservation League of New York State about our plans for the rehabilitation of the historic Trudeau Building. Executive Director Amy Catania gave a tour of the building on Facebook Live, pointing out crucial features that will be brought back to the time period when Dr. E. L. Trudeau lived and worked there. For a behind-the-scenes peek at the current state of the building, and to hear more about our vision for the future museum exhibits, check out the recording here: <https://fb.watch/8E75inGG4z/>

## CURE PORCH PRESERVATION DAY

August 4 was Cure Porch Preservation Day! We celebrated cure porch architecture and educated our neighbors about historic preservation. Volunteers met at the Cure Porch on Wheels parked behind the Saranac Laboratory Museum for a brief training with Executive Director Amy Catania on cure



porch architecture and the importance of historic preservation. Then we reached out to the community by walking through the Helen Hill Historic District to share flyers about the National Register and the Homeowner Historic Tax Credit program. The project helped to inform a new short video about cure porch architecture in consultation with Architectural Historian, Mary Hotaling. The video is now installed on the Cure Porch on Wheels to help visitors understand the CPOW in the context of cure porch history and architecture. This project was supported by an Action Grant from Humanities New York and a NYSCA Design Grant.

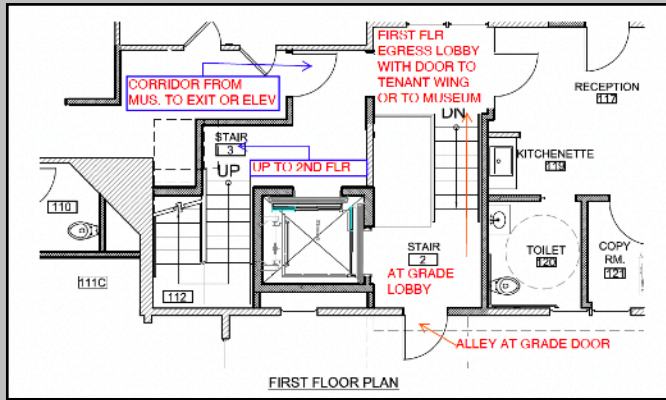
## BARTOK CABIN UPDATE

Since 1995, we have worked to preserve the story of Béla Bartók in Saranac Lake and the cabin where the great composer spent the last summer of his life. HSL restored the cabin in 2001, but Adirondack weather has taken a toll, and further repairs are needed. We are working to prioritize repairs and will be seeking the help of volunteers to undertake some of the work in the spring of 2022. Stay tuned, and we hope to see you at the cabin soon!

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Liz Avital, Bob Bevilacqua, Ruth Chasolen, Jim Clark, Ted Comstock, Rosemary Crowley, Penny Curran, Jan Dudones, John Fadden, Russ Feher, Lucy Fleming, Lee Foster, Gretchen Gedroiz, Priscilla Goss, Carolyn Greenberg, Mary Hotaling, Linda Jackson, Amy and Peter Jones, Lorraine Kelley, Andy Kelly, Rich Loeber, Bill Madden, Sidney Mariano, Karen Morris, Kevan Moss, Dan Nardiello, Carol Neiderbuhl, Kathy O'Kane, Amanda Phelps, Marty Rowley, Rob Russell, Sara Sheldon, Karen Sligh, Marc Wanner, Caroline Welsh, and Margaret Worden.

**THE TRUDEAU BUILDING**



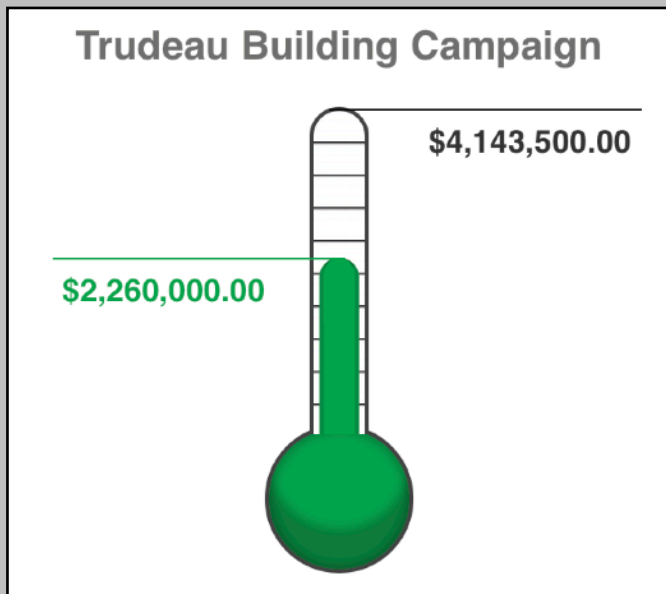
**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**

We are proceeding with interior and exterior design and site planning at the Trudeau Building, with the goal of going out to bid for the entire project in early 2022. Our consultants at Landmark Consulting, LLC continue to work on the design along with our mechanical engineers at Quantum engineering. Key aspects include planning for a handicap lift, a fire suppression system, and energy efficient cooling. Careful site planning will connect the two buildings, creating an integrated experience for visitors.



**MUSEUM PLANNING**

We will be applying for an IMLS Inspire! Grant for Small Museums to support schematic design of exhibits in the two museum buildings, to begin in the fall of 2022. The project is guided by our Exhibit Committee, pictured left to right: Caroline Welsh, Kevan Moss, Jan Dudones, Amy Jones, Ted Comstock, and Mary Hotaling. We continue to work to develop a new name and logo for the museum campus. We look forward to seeking community input and making new progress on this aspect of the project in 2022.



**FUNDRAISING SUCCESS**

We are well on our way to our \$4.1 million goal to support acquisition, rehabilitation, personnel, and exhibits. Our special thanks to Honorary Chair of the Campaign, Garry B. Trudeau. We continue to speak with donors about naming opportunities in both museum buildings.

**TAX CREDITS**

We are working to make use of Historic Preservation Tax Credits to help finance the project. The credits will bring in over \$700,000 to support construction and museum exhibits. Partnering private donors and/or companies will benefit by reducing their state and federal tax burden. Contact Amy Catania with any questions about this exciting opportunity.

**JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY!**

You can ensure the preservation of our rich history by joining the Legacy Society and including Historic Saranac Lake in your estate plans. Planned gifts, including bequests, represent a wonderful opportunity to preserve Saranac Lake's history for future generations. Contact Executive Director Amy Catania to find out more!

**HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE**

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<https://www.historicsaranaclake.org/collections-support.html>

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*Lillian Wright (Bibro) at the Santanoni, c. 1940s. HSL Collection, TCR 713. Courtesy of Kay and Marvin Best.*

**Thank you for your support!**

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