

# HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Historic Saranac Lake at the Saranac Laboratory Museum



## MUSEUM EXPANSION AHEAD

### Major grants fund acquisition and rehabilitation of the Trudeau Building

On April 30, Historic Saranac Lake will take ownership of the former home and medical office of Dr. E. L. Trudeau at 118 Main Street. All supporters of the project will be invited to join us for a champagne toast and pose for a group photo by the new sign!

Fundraising to meet our goal of \$1.7 million has been very successful. We recently received news that the project will be awarded a \$500,000 EPF grant from the State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, supporting building acquisition and rehabilitation. Additionally, the Village of Saranac Lake has recommended the project for a \$325,000 Downtown Revitalization Grant. Over \$350,000 has been raised in generous gifts from private donors and foundations.

The expanded museum campus will explore the rich history of the Saranac Lake region and Trudeau's pioneering work in tuberculosis treatment. We are contracting now with museum planner Kate Cravens to define an overarching interpretive plan for both buildings this summer, and we welcome the community's input! Find out more on page 7.



*New signage awaits installation on April 30.*

### NEWS INSIDE

- Saranac Laboratory recognized as Milestone in Microbiology Site
- Cure Porch on Wheels Grand Opening Event

### BOARD MEMBERS

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- Executive Director:  
Amy Catania
- Museum Administrator:  
Chessie Monks-Kelly
- Oral History Coordinator:  
Kayt Gochenaur

Made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



### CURE PORCH ON WHEELS LIVES!



The Cure Porch on Wheels made its debut in the 2019 Winter Carnival Parade. With just a few finishes needed on the inside, it will be ready to roll soon! See page 5 to find out about a fundraiser to raise last funds to finish the porch and the grand opening event on June 14.

### THE ART OF THE CURE EXHIBIT



*Courtesy of David Chapin.*

Our new exhibit, "The Art of the Cure," will explore the rich history of occupational therapy in the growth of Saranac Lake's thriving arts community.

The exhibit will feature pottery created by Mott and Elise Chapin, the jewelry of Temming Studio, and much more. Humanities New York is supporting consultation on the exhibit script and design with museum consultant Caroline Welsh.

**OUR MISSION** Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit architectural preservation organization that captures and presents local history from our center at the Saranac Laboratory Museum.

## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Strategic Planning!*

Dear Friends,

I am excited to report that Historic Saranac Lake is nearing the finish line on our strategic planning process, and we are getting ready to dive headfirst into our adventurous future. The strategic plan couldn't come at a better time. With the addition of the Trudeau building, we are growing into an historic campus devoted to the preservation and interpretation of local history. This growth, along with what feels like infinite possibilities for the expanding scope of our museum and collections, has required us to create a clear, thoughtful, and strategic plan.

With the support of a grant from the Pearsall Foundation, we were able to hire local consultant Chris Morris of Tell Media, who has extensive experience with strategic planning for nonprofits in the Adirondacks. Chris has kept us on schedule - while having fun - with the aim of the final strategic plan being completed early this summer.

The strategic planning process has already yielded wonderful results. One such benefit is the formation of an Advisory Committee made up of a vibrant group of volunteers including historians, teachers, the arts community, economic development professionals, retirees, people with young families, and more. We held an Advisory Committee kick-off meeting last fall, and our new committee members provided us with enthusiastic feedback about HSL programming and ideas for new initiatives.

The next and final steps in the strategic planning process are a community survey in this spring (look for it in your inbox and help us to share it widely!), and a retreat for our Board of Directors and Advisory Committee in early May at Heaven Hill Farm where we will hash out focus areas and a vision statement.

If you have input to share or would like to be involved in any way, we welcome your thoughts and participation. You might consider hosting or attending an HSL Social Hour, which is a fun new way that we will be meeting people and gathering input this coming summer.

The message we are getting loud and clear from our strategic planning process is that Historic Saranac Lake *is you*, our friends! Your input and involvement keeps local history vibrant and thriving, and your enthusiasm makes our work so worthwhile. Thank you!

Sincerely

Sunita Halasz, Board and Staff Development Committee Chair



Board Member Sunita Halasz and Consultant Chris Morris

### ADVISORY BOARD

*We thank the following friends for serving on Historic Saranac Lake's new Advisory Board:*

Jane Carroll, Ruth Chasolen, Kathy Daggett, Innam Dajany, Janet Dudones, Emily Fogarty, Tim Fortune, Phil Gallos, Jim Greibsch, Mary and Jim Hotaling, Linda Jackson, Lorraine Kelley, Shaun Kittle, Natalie Leduc, Fred Mazzeo, Judy Meagher, Elisa McIntosh and Patrick Murphy, Kirk Peterson, Howard Riley, Judy Rush, Marc Wanner, Barbara Wells, and Pat Wiley.



## IN THE NEWS



*Kari Grytebust Harrington, Al Grytebust, Natalie Leduc, and Mayor Clyde Rabideau.*

**NATALIE LEDUC HONORED**

This fall, Norway honored Natalie Leduc with a commemorative medal for her years of service caring for the memory of the Norwegian Sailors. Over one hundred sailors came to Saranac Lake during WWII with TB, and a memorial in Pine Ridge Cemetery marks the graves of those who died here. The family of Knute Greytebust nominated Natalie for the award. Saranac Lake's last Norwegian Sailor, Mr. Greytebust died in 2017 at the age of 97. The medal was given to Natalie by Mayor Clyde Rabideau in a special ceremony at the Town Hall in November.

**IRISH GAELIC ORGANIZATION**

Community members recently formed the Saranac Lake Irish Gaelic Organization to promote Irish and Irish-American culture and history and provide community service in the Saranac Lake region. The group not only organizes the village's St. Patrick's Day parade, but also focuses on year-round activities and local history. HSL looks forward to collaborating on local history projects exploring the important role of Irish people in the history of the Saranac Lake area.

**TAXIDERMY AT ADKX**

We look forward to an upcoming taxidermy exhibit at the Adirondack Experience, the museum on Blue Mountain Lake. The polar bear, displayed for years at the former Charles Dickert Studio, is on loan for the exhibit. The bear is pictured in bubble wrap, ready for the move.

## TALKS, TOURS, &amp; EVENTS



*Howard Riley presented about the history of local hotels at the September meeting of the Breakfast Club.*

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

Our monthly meeting of the breakfast club at the Hotel Saranac will resume in May. Check our events page for the schedule of speakers. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Reservations are required.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

HSL staff have been sharing news about all that is happening with the museum expansion and the Cure Porch on Wheels. This winter, Executive Director Amy Catania presented to the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, and the College Club of Malone. Cure Porch on Wheels Coordinator Kayt Gochenaur also presented about the project to the Rotary Club.

**Spring and Summer Events at a Glance**

April 4: Trudeau Sanatorium Walking Tour  
 April 23: National Register Information Session  
 April 27: Saranac Lake at Work — Stories and Snapshots  
 May 16: Saranac Lake at Work — Audio and Photo Exhibit  
 June 14: Grand Opening of the Cure Porch on Wheels with Saranac Lake at Work Live!  
 June 15: Lake Flower Bartók Walking Tour for Path Through History Weekend  
 August 10: AARCH Pioneer Health Resort Tour

Breakfast Club at the Hotel Saranac will meet the last Wednesday of the month, May-October.

Our regular Wednesday tours start in June. Sites include Trudeau Sanatorium, historic downtown, Cure Cottage Museum, Little Red, and the Trudeau Statue. We will also offer a special Saturday tour of each of the sites as well as additional special tours. Tours of the Bartók Cabin are available by appointment. See our events page at [historicsaranaclake.org/events](http://historicsaranaclake.org/events) for more information.

## MUSEUM AND COLLECTIONS



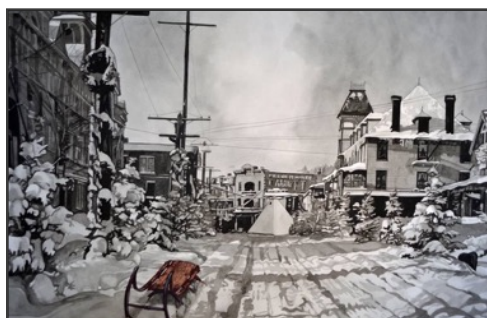
*Chessie Monks-Kelly, Amy Catania, Laura Rice, David Kahn, Cheryl Braunstein.*



*Will Rogers Local Historian, Leslie Hoffman and Chessie Monks-Kelly.*

**FIELD TRIP TO ADKX**

In March, HSL staff and a member of our board of directors, Andy Rawdon, traveled to the Adirondack Experience to discuss possible future collaborations as HSL expands our museum. We met with Executive Director, David Kahn; Chief Curator, Laura Rice; and Director of Interpretation, Cheryl Braunstein.

**VALERIE PATTERSON EXHIBIT**

In February, HSL hosted an exhibit of Valerie Patterson's "Ghosts in Saranac Lake" watercolors. Patterson's paintings mesh

past and present to explore time, memory, and Saranac Lake's unique history as a TB treatment destination. Museum visitors were able to see these fascinating works, and many attended a closing reception on February 28. Prints are available for purchase in our gift shop and at [ValeriePatterson.com](http://ValeriePatterson.com).

**HISTORY MATTERS BLOG**

This winter, we launched a "History Matters" blog on our website to share updates about events, interesting Saranac Lake history facts, and other goings-on at HSL. We just wrapped up a month-long series on women in Saranac Lake area history for Women's History Month. We know that not everyone uses social media regularly, so now you can find out the latest from HSL by visiting our website at [historicsaranaclake.org/history-matters](http://historicsaranaclake.org/history-matters). Please follow along and comment!

**WILLIAM MORRIS ARTIFACT**

We are proud to share that the fireplace screen from William Morris' Camp Intermission is on display at Saranac Village at Will Rogers. It was presented to Morris when he was helping vaudevillians curing in Saranac Lake, and bears the signatures of many famous actors including Charlie Chaplin. In the 1960s, the screen was on display at Will Rogers Memorial Hospital. The screen eventually made its way to the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation, who donated it to HSL's collection so it could be loaned to Saranac Lake Village at Will Rogers for public display.

**LABORATORY HONORED**

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Milestones in Microbiology Committee and the Center for the History of Microbiology/ASM Archives announced the recognition of the Saranac Laboratory as a Milestones in Microbiology site. A special ceremony will mark this important occasion in October. Stay tuned for news!

**NEW TO THE COLLECTION**

Recent exciting additions to the collection include:

- Papers of Dr. Leonard Bristol, who worked at the Saranac Laboratory.
- Kenneth Davis' Saranac Lake Police Department Badge, c. 1931.
- Scrapbook of letters to Homer Sampson, Director of the X-ray lab at Trudeau Sanatorium, presented when he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

*Have an item you want to donate to the collection? Contact our Museum Administrator at [chessie@historicsaranaclake.org](mailto:chessie@historicsaranaclake.org).*



## CURE PORCH ON WHEELS



### FINISH THE PORCH FUNDRAISER

The Cure Porch on Wheels is already beautiful on the outside but we still need to finish the interior. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 to finish it! Help bring the Porch to life by donating at [cureporchonwheels.org/donate](http://cureporchonwheels.org/donate).

### GRAND OPENING EVENT!

On Friday, June 14, join us for the grand opening of the Cure Porch on Wheels with a night of live storytelling! Historic Saranac Lake and NCPR's North Country at Work are collaborating to bring you Saranac Lake at Work: LIVE! Onstage, people tell their funniest, craziest, or most meaningful work stories to a live audience full of friends, family, and neighbors in Saranac Lake. Come to sit back and listen, or bring your own story to share! We'll be at the Cure Porch on Wheels at Riverside Park (ice palace location). Join us for an open house on the porch from 6 - 7 p.m., with the live storytelling starting at 7! In case of inclement weather, the storytelling event will be held in the John Black Room at the Saranac Laboratory Museum.



## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



### 250 STORIES AND COUNTING

The Oral History archive continues to grow! Above, Kayt Gochenaur interviews Phil "Bunk" Griffin. Follow the Cure Porch on Wheels and Oral History Project on Facebook and Instagram to see our "Story Saturday" posts, highlighting the stories of the people who live in the Saranac Lake area.

### SARANAC LAKE AT WORK EVENTS

We are collaborating with NCPR's North Country at Work to bring you Saranac Lake at Work! Share your stories about working life, share snapshots of people at work, and become part of our growing online archive!

- Stories and Snapshots: April 27, 1:00 - 6:00 pm
- Photo and Audio Exhibit: May 16, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Saranac Lake at Work: LIVE and the Cure Porch on Wheels Grand Opening: June 14, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

### HOTEL MEMORIES EXHIBIT

The Hotel Memories exhibit, on display in Hotel Saranac's Great Hall, celebrated its one year anniversary in 2019. You can now browse a year of Hotel Saranac Memories online! Visit [www.hslstories.org/hotel-memories.html](http://www.hslstories.org/hotel-memories.html) to see the hundreds of memories shared with us. Contact us to share your hotel memories, or visit the restored phone booths, where you can add a memory card.

### It Takes a Village to Build a Cure Porch on Wheels!

Our thanks for construction help from Martin Rowley; Earl Gardner; Jim Meade; Marc Wanner; Ken Gochenaur; Richard Fletcher; Paula Blanchard; Lee Foster; Bryony Graham and Salem Artworks; Bill Plumb and Adirondack White Pine Cabins; Clarence Brockway and BOCES; Melissa Kline and Maple Lane Design and Drafting; Wiley Lavigne and Adirondack Inspection Services & Engineering; Jesse Schwartzberg and Black Mountain Architecture; Garrett Foster and Miles Gillette of Garrett Foster Roofing; Mike Mahoney, Stephen Kemp, Tyler Legault, Mike Holmes, Shawn Barney, and Austin Proper of Blue Moon Builders; Bill Madden and Madden's Transfer and Storage; Jay Annis and Spencer Boat Works; Bob Bevilacqua and Caruzzi; Adams Brothers Painting; Harlow Excavating; Haselton Lumber; and Lamb Lumber. Our thanks for financial support from: Cloudsplitter Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation, and all the individual supporters of the project. The Cure Porch on Wheels is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the NY State Legislature.

## SCHOOL OUTREACH



### COLLEGE VISITS AND PRESENTATIONS

This winter we hosted a visit from Professor Jamie Savage's class on Adirondack Cultural Ecology at the Wanakena Ranger School as well as Mindy Pitre's class, "Plagues and Peoples," from Saint Lawrence University. Executive Director Amy Catania traveled to Clarkson University to present to students enrolled in Dr. Laura Ettinger's course, "The History of Public Health in America." HSL coordinated with Dr. Ettinger to provide primary resources for a class project. Student work will soon be posted on our wiki website.

### ELEMENTARY STUDENT TOURS



Last fall, we led our annual 5th grade history project. Students researched a person buried at Pine Ridge Cemetery and took a walking tour to the cemetery, where

they presented about their research. Our thanks to the teachers who make this possible each year, and to special volunteer, Jim Clark, who meets the kids in the graveyard to share his stories about local history. We look forward to museum visits this spring from Saranac Lake 4th graders and Tupper Lake 5th graders!

## PRESERVATION



### LOST BUILDINGS OF SARANAC LAKE

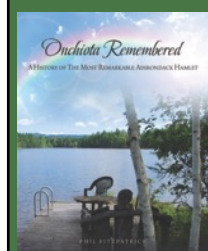
This winter, eighteen models of lost buildings of Saranac Lake graced the empty storefront of the former Sears Building. The models are the work of HSL board member, John Wheeler, pictured above with his model of the Riverside Inn. Our thanks to Paulo Magro for providing the space, volunteers: CJ Hagmann, Jenny Rush, Kareen Tyler, and Curtis Lumber for a donation of materials. Stay tuned to our website for a complete online exhibit of the models.

### NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

Our proposal to expand the Berkeley Square National Register district has been submitted to the state, and we await news on the nomination. The new district includes several additional buildings located along Broadway, Main Street, Olive Street, and Woodruff Street. We will hold an information session on Tuesday, April 23, from 5:30-6:30 in the John Black Room at the Saranac Laboratory Museum. We will share specifics on the new proposed downtown district. The public can also find out information about how to get listed on the National Register, the benefits of the program including the historic preservation tax credit, and guidelines for building repairs. Thanks largely to the work of Historic Saranac Lake, over 230 local properties are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

### NEW BOOK RELEASED

Local author Phil Fitzpatrick released a new book on Onchiota history. Phil, who was interviewed for HSL's oral history project in 2018, published *Onchiota Remembered* in March of 2019. *Onchiota Remembered* explores the history of this small hamlet, covering institutions such as Tormey's Store, Stony Wold Sanatorium, and the Adirondack-Florida School. *Onchiota Remembered* is available for purchase through [www.pjfadkmemories.com](http://www.pjfadkmemories.com).





### MUSEUM PLANNING

Many years ago, HSL defined the geographical area of the Saranac Lake Central School District as our area of interest. We have worked to document and present the rich history of the area on our wiki website and through varied public programs. HSL has never been only about tuberculosis, but the small space available at the Saranac Laboratory has limited the scope of exhibits.

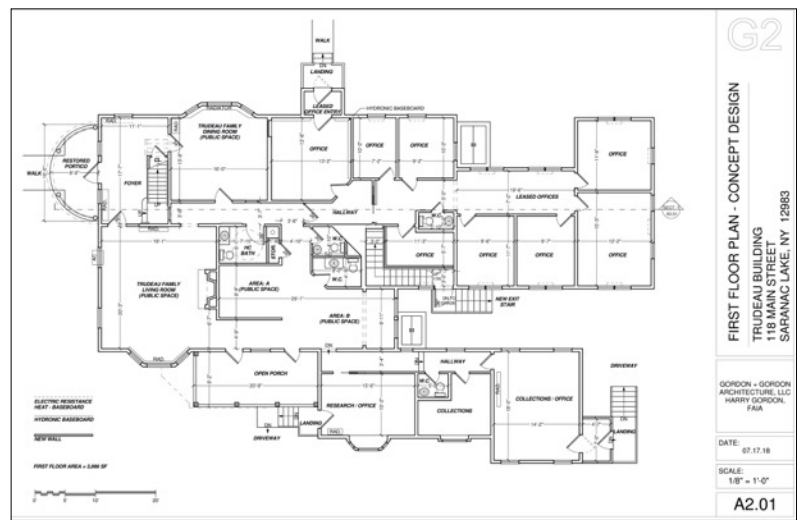
Our project to expand our museum to the Trudeau building presents exciting new possibilities. What stories will we tell? How will visitors find their way between the two buildings? How will technology be incorporated? How can we engage locals, visitors, and people of all ages? How can we collaborate with other museums?

Installation of exhibits is the final phase of the project, but planning now is essential. We are contracting with Museum Planning Consultant Kate Cravens to create an interpretive plan this summer. Kate's extensive experience includes serving as curator and director of interpretation at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs from 1993 to 2004.

Kate will work with our architect, staff, and board and community members to define a comprehensive interpretive plan for both museum buildings. We welcome the community's involvement in this important planning project. Stay tuned for news about community input sessions!



Museum planner, Kate Cravens.



### SURREAL GALA

Our second annual winter gala at the Hotel Saranac was a smashing success! Special thanks to our lead sponsors:

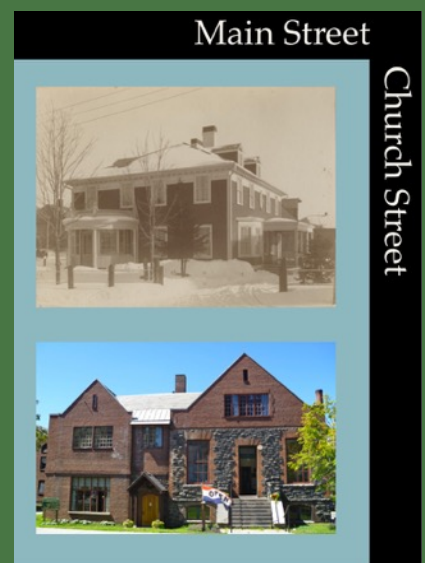


Blue Moon Builders, The Dance Sanctuary, Hotel Saranac, Hyde Fuel, North Woods Engineering. And thank you to our friend level sponsors: Cantwell Jackson Design Build, LLC, Casa del Sol, Clix Photo Booths, Community Bank, N.A., Empire Merchants North, Evergreen Auto Center, Homenergy Services, Placid Audiology, Sami Rae Photography, and the Village Mercantile.

### SUMMER SOCIAL HOURS

We've got a corner on history!

We look forward to meeting with new friends at a number of these small gatherings hosted throughout the community. We will share news about our project at the Trudeau building and hear the community's ideas for the museum expansion. Contact us to get involved!



**HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE**

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HSL staff, Amy Catania, Kayt Gochenaur, and Chessie Monks-Kelly.

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