

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Hotaling, Executive Director
Historic Saranac Lake
89 Church Street, Suite 2
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
(518) 891-4606
www.historicsaranaclake.org

Historic Saranac Lake to Hold Annual Meeting

Laura Rice, Chief Curator of the Adirondack Museum, will speak on “Exoticism in Adirondack Camps.”

SARANAC LAKE, New York; October 13, 2008

Historic Saranac Lake will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 30, at 7p.m. in the John Black Room of the Saranac Laboratory. Laura Rice, Chief Curator of the Adirondack Museum, will give a talk titled, “Pagodas, Parasols, and Peacocks: Exoticism in Adirondack Camps, 1880-1920.”

Up through the 1920s, Victorian fascination with the exotic influenced interior decoration both at home and at camp. Ten million people visited the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, which featured exhibits and buildings representing little known cultures like those of Japan, China, Turkey and Egypt. Interiors were crammed with artwork, tapestries, furniture and knick-knacks in an eclectic mix of styles.

Camp, a place away from the workaday world, was particularly suited to such playful décor. American Indian crafts, Japanese fans and lanterns, Turkish rugs, Moorish statues and trophy animals were incorporated into rustic interiors to lend an air of fantasy, make-believe and wildness.

After two well-received presentations at the Adirondack Museum earlier this year, Ms. Rice will be presenting her talk for the first time in the Tri-Lakes. She will show slides of a number of historic Adirondack "great camps."

The annual meeting for Historic Saranac Lake marks the organization's 28th year in existence. Historic Saranac Lake is a nonprofit membership organization offering professional knowledge and experience to the public in support of historic preservation, architectural and historical research, and education. HSL is dedicated to nurturing a sense of place and pride in community by advocating the restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the built environment and the cultural heritage of the Saranac Lake area.

The public is invited to attend the talk free of charge. Refreshments will be provided.

###