

PRESS RELEASE

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Historic Saranac Lake to Open New Exhibit on Memorial Day Weekend: “The Great War: World War I in Saranac Lake”

May 12, 2009, Saranac Lake, New York: Historic Saranac Lake will open a new exhibit on Saturday, May 23rd in the John Black Room of the Saranac Laboratory.

World War I, also known as The Great War, left an indelible mark on the people of Saranac Lake, especially those who served in the war or helped out on the home front. Many servicemen came home injured or “shell shocked,” having endured horrific conditions in the trenches. Some of our citizens were among the 15 million men who lost their lives in the war.

Servicemen who had contracted tuberculosis came to Saranac Lake for the fresh air cure. One of those men was John Baxter Black, for whom the addition to the Saranac Laboratory was named in 1928.

Historic Saranac Lake has worked with designer Karen Davidson of Lake Placid to create panels that tell the story of how World War I impacted Saranac Lake. A number of panels were acquired thanks to the generosity of Elizabeth McAuliffe and the Windsor Connecticut Historical Society.

Several of the bookcases in the John Black Room will display uniforms and other artifacts loaned for the exhibit from families of local soldiers, Ralph Coleman, Dorchester Everett, Elwood Ober, Percy Bristol, and Olin Ten Eyck.

The “Great War” Exhibit is a lead-in to Historic Saranac Lake’s opening of Saranac Laboratory Museum this summer. July 18, the new exhibit “125 Years of Science” will open in cooperation with the Adirondack Museum and Trudeau Institute. The exhibits are the first to open in the Saranac Laboratory. Historic Saranac Lake opened an exhibit in the past in the Union Depot.

Historic Saranac Lake invites families of veterans to share their stories, letters, photographs, or artifacts on Saturday. The exhibit will be open from 10:00 to 2:00 on Saturday, May 23, and will remain open to the public through the summer months. Historic Saranac Lake requests a \$5 donation to help defray costs for the exhibit.

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