GET READY FOR THE TRAVELING CURE PORCH!

Project Awarded National Endowment for the Arts Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded a $20,000 grant to Historic Saranac Lake for the design of the Traveling Cure Porch, a mobile space that will host community-based history and arts programs.

In November, HSL hired a new Oral History Coordinator, Aurora Wheeler, who is managing the Traveling Cure Porch project. In addition to planning the porch project, Ms. Wheeler is currently conducting oral history interviews and planning pop-up museum exhibitions. The NEA grant includes support for consultation with Traditional Arts of Upstate New York on the oral history component of the project.

The focus of the first phase of the project is to design a sturdy, low cost, mobile structure and plan for its construction and use in 2018. HSL will soon host several community meetings, inviting individuals and organizations to share their ideas about the design and use of the space for mobile museum exhibits, an artist studio and gallery, an oral history booth, a venue for living history reenactments, a prop for outdoor theater, an

NEW SPRING EXHIBITS

HSL will host two new exhibits this spring. In May, a short term exhibit titled “Remember When?” will feature models of buildings that once graced downtown Saranac Lake. These amazing creations are the careful work of John Wheeler. The models will be available to view the first week of May during our regular museum hours, Tuesday-Friday from 10:00-4:00. To close this special exhibit, an open house will be held on Saturday May 6 from 5:30-7:00. Light refreshments will be served.

Later this spring, HSL will open a new long-term exhibit in the John Black Room exploring the roaring twenties through the context of a grand hotel of the era. Celebrating the reopening of the restored Hotel Saranac, the exhibit is supported by a grant from Humanities New York and features work by local artists Hannah Gochenaur and Maria and Morgan DeAngelo.

MEET AURORA WHEELER

We are excited to welcome Aurora Wheeler to our staff as Oral History Coordinator and Director of the Traveling Cure Porch Project. From Plattsburgh, NY, Ms. Wheeler has a Bachelor’s degree in Literature from Harvard and is currently finishing her Master’s degree with a focus on Victorian literature and the role of science in literature and society. She has experience in the museum field and in the areas of digital storytelling, film-making, research, fundraising, and online marketing.

THE ROARING TWENTIES

check in to a grand hotel

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The "Remember When?" exhibit by John Wheeler features this model of the Riverside Hotel.

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School Outreach
Our busy school outreach program included a recent tour with the Wanakena Ranger School (pictured above). We recently expanded our school outreach program to include walking field trips with Bloomingdale 5th graders and a new project researching Pine Ridge Cemetery.

North Country at Work
This winter we collaborated with NCPR to host storytelling and photo sharing sessions at the Saranac Laboratory Museum, the Saranac Lake Free Library, and Will Rogers. Ron Keough (pictured above) shared some of his family history. Oral histories and images will soon be shared on our online archive of local history at https://localwiki.org/hsl.

Collection Project
Our museum collection continues to grow under the care of Museum Administrator and trained archivist, Chessie Mons-Kelly. Chessie is cataloging an important donation, the papers of Dr. David Pecora, former Chief of Surgery at Ray Brook State Hospital. We also recently accepted some wonderful items (pictured above) from local history legend, Phil “Bunk” Griffin.

Martha Reben Talk
Over 50 people attended a special Winter Carnival gathering to discuss the history of Martha Reben and her wildlife friends. Our thanks to Natalie Leduc (pictured above), Howard Riley, Fran Yardley, and Dan Sullivan for sharing their stories about Saranac Lake’s wilderness author. We look forward to hosting a slideshow by historian Betsy Tisdale later this year. Stay tuned!

Winter Carnival Pop-Up
Aurora Wheeler and Chessie Mons-Kelly hosted HSL’s first pop-up exhibit at this winter’s Ice Palace. People found out about our amazing Carnival history and shared their stories. Children had the opportunity to make their own buttons in the style of the iconic Carnival buttons by Saranac Lake’s own, Garry Trudeau.

Winter Carnival Parade
We had a fabulous time in this year’s parade, portraying author Martha Reben, her guide, Fred Rice, and her pet duck, Mr. Dooley. Our thanks to Fran Yardley, Dan Sullivan, and all the Mr. Dooleys. A special thanks to Trudeau Institute and Earl Gardner for making it all possible!

JOIN THE HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE LEGACY SOCIETY
You can make a long-lasting commitment to ensure the financial viability of Historic Saranac Lake into the future by joining the HSL Legacy Society. Joining is simple. You can name HSL as a beneficiary in your will, or you can make a donation to our endowment fund at the Adirondack Foundation. There is no minimum gift to join the HSL Legacy Society. Feel free to contact Executive Director Amy Catania for ideas and suggestions. Together we can secure the future of Historic Saranac Lake and our unique history. Thank you!

THANKS TO OUR CURRENT BUSINESS MEMBERS!
✈ Adirondack Architectural Heritage
✈ Adirondack Massage Therapy
✈ Bionique Testing Laboratories
✈ Carcuzzi Car Care Center
✈ Fogarty’s Bed and Breakfast
✈ Guide Boat Realty
✈ Patti Brooks Books
✈ St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
**Preservation Advocacy**
In March, Executive Director Amy Catania attended the Preservation League’s annual Preservation Colleagues meeting in Troy. The day included a press conference about the historic preservation tax credit, attended by Assemblyman John McDonald (pictured above). HSL’s current advocacy efforts include the protection and enhancement of the Historic Tax Credit, and the preservation of the AMA (former Trudeau Sanatorium) property, the Saranac Lake Post Office, the William Morris Camp, and Saranac Lake Union Depot. This spring, we will complete a project to expand Saranac Lake’s downtown National Register District.

**Building Improvements**
Thanks to successful fundraising and support from NY State through the office of Senator Betty Little, we invested over $30,000 in repairs to the building last year. This year we will install heat in the main laboratory space. We are also working with architect Carl Stearns to plan for a handicap lift, with the goal to install it in 2018.

**Upcoming Talks and Tours**
The History Matters Lecture Series will resume May through September! The series will include a talk by Will Madison retracing the 1883 trip of his great-great-grandfather, George Sears—best known as Nessmuk. This talk is in partnership with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. We will also offer history tours each Wednesday this summer. Each month we lead tours of the former Trudeau Sanatorium property (AMA), historic downtown, the Cure Cottage Museum, and Little Red. Tours of the Bartók Cabin are also available by appointment. Check our website or call for more information.

**Student Interns**
HSL will hire two student interns to work at the museum this summer. The intern program is made possible by generous support from Kay and Marvin Best to the Ralph Kelly Education Fund.

**Hotel Saranac Pop-Up Exhibit**
Later this year, we will host a temporary pop-up exhibit at the Hotel Saranac. The pop-up will feature artifacts and archival images. We will invite the community to help us create this short term exhibit by including your memories and stories of the Hotel Saranac! Look for announcements soon.

**Historic Saranac Lake Breakfast Club**
Plans are in the works for a new club to meet once a month to enjoy breakfast, discuss local history, and listen to a brief presentation. With the opening of the Hotel Saranac this summer, we are looking at opportunities to host the breakfast club in one of their function spaces. Stay tuned for news!

**Museum Conference**
All Historic Saranac Lake staff will be attending the spring Museum Association of NY conference in Saratoga, with support from a NYSCA travel grant and the NEA grant for the Traveling Cure Porch.

**Annual Fund Success**
We exceeded our original goal and raised over $20,000 to support our general operations and programs in 2017. Thank you for your generosity!

**Promoting Arts and Culture**
HSL is promoting heritage tourism by attending new meetings of the Saranac Lake Area Tourism Council. We are also participating in the project to create a new Arts and Culture Master Plan, and we are supporting the efforts of the Local Development Corporation and the Downtown Advisory Board.

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**
Our thanks to the many volunteers who support our work. Special thanks to Karen Morris for office support, Margaret Worden for tours, Andy Rawdon for grant writing, our board members, and Winter Carnival volunteers!
Membership Matters!
Become a member of Historic Saranac Lake and help us preserve the past for the future!

Name: ______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
City: _______________________________________
State:__________ Zip:_________________________
Email: ______________________________________

Make your check payable to Historic Saranac Lake
or donate by credit card:
☐ Visa ☐ M/C ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover
Card No. ____________________________
Exp. Date ___________ security code __ __ __ __
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Join us! Members enjoy benefits such as free museum admission and a gift shop discount!

- Benefactor: $1,000
- Patron: $500
- Business: $125
- Historian: $100
- Organization: $35
- Family: $65
- Individual: $35

You may also give online at
http://www.historicsaranacle.org/support-us

Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
Dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.