



# HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

at the Saranac Laboratory Museum

Newsletter  
Spring  
2011

### SAVE THE DATE

**June 30:** Cure Cottage Meal and Bartók Concert at Hohmeyer's Lodge on Lake Clear

*See list of spring and summer events inside.*

### 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Ruth Chasolen  
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### STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- Amy Catania  
Executive Director
- Liz Bennett  
Office Support
- Judy Rush  
Collections
- Marc Wanner  
Wiki Website

State of the Arts



NYSCA

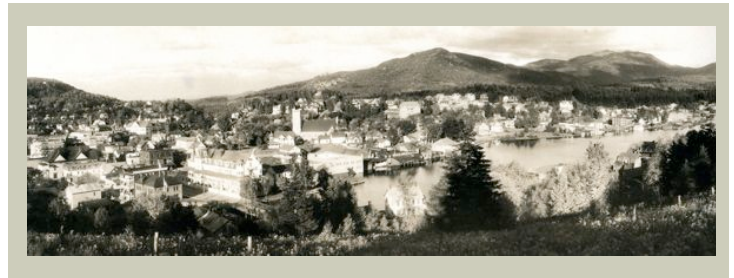
Made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

## Grants Fund New Projects

### Work begins on Exhibit Planning and Collections Care Consultancies

Two new projects will help ensure that artifacts and historic photos like the one at right will be properly preserved in our collection and also available for display on exhibit.

HSL was recently awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for a collections care project. The grant supports the services of a professional consultant and the purchase of storage materials. Eileen Corcoran will help HSL develop a plan for the collection and train HSL staff and volunteers in collections practices.



*William Kollecker panorama c.1920. HSL Collection, courtesy of Ted Comstock*

In March, HSL received a grant to secure the assistance of two professional museum consultants, Kevan Moss and Field Horne, in the development of a long-term exhibit plan for the Saranac Laboratory Museum. The GET SET grant, from the New York State Council on the Arts, is administered by Museumwise. This is the first phase of a project to design and install a new exhibit that tells the story of Saranac Lake in the John Black Room in 2012.

In preparation for the 2012 exhibit, we will retire the WWI exhibit this May. In collaboration with the Adirondack Room of the Saranac Lake Free Library, we will install a temporary exhibit of historic photos.

## Thank You, Mary



This spring, Mary Hotaling retired from employment at HSL. Thanks to Mary's hard work for 30 years, so much of Saranac Lake's architecture and history has been saved, and we have her to thank for the preservation of Historic Saranac Lake's home, the Saranac Laboratory.

We are glad that Mary will continue to serve in an advisory capacity, sharing her deep knowledge. We wouldn't be here without her!

### Coming Soon...

## The Traveling Cure Porch



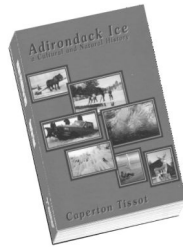
Last fall, Amy Catania visited Salem Art Works in Salem, NY, to learn about "Porch Pieces." UK Artist Bryony Graham created the traveling porch from donated pieces of dismantled porches and toured with the porch, investigating the place of porches in the lives of Upstate New Yorkers.

HSL plans to create a traveling cure porch in 2012. Modeled on Graham's work, the porch will anchor arts and culture events highlighting Saranac Lake's unique history and architecture. The porch will also serve as a venue for conducting oral histories. When not on the road, the porch will make its home behind the Saranac Laboratory, serving as an exhibit about the fresh air cure. HSL has applied to the National Endowment for the Arts for support.

IN THE NEWS

**Annual Meeting**

Last Fall, HSL marked its 30<sup>th</sup> year with its Annual Meeting. Local author, Caperton Tissot presented on her new book, *Adirondack Ice: a Cultural and Natural History*. The book describes the many surprising ways that ice has determined the course of Adirondack history, and is available for sale in the Saranac Laboratory Museum Store.



**First Night Banner**

Jim Hotaling created a beautiful banner on behalf of HSL for 2010's First Night celebration. The colorful banner features Dr. Trudeau's famous first cure cottage, Little Red. HSL's banner was one of a number of festive banners created by area organizations to promote the performances and events of First Night.



**Winter Carnival Parade**

HSL volunteers turned out to march in the winter carnival parade, with the slogan, "Curing all Knight Long." Natalie Leduc, winter carnival queen of 1951, rode the float as our fair maiden in the cure chair. Thank you to Natalie and all the volunteers that helped make the float and march in the parade: Penny Curran, Margaret Worden, Susan and Glen Arnold, Judy Rush and Marc Wanner, Kirk Peterson, Louis and James Catania, Nils Petersen, and Loraine Kelley. A special thank you to driver and artist Fred Schwarz and to Lee Foster for loaning his trailer.



**Howard Riley Presents on New Book**

HSL was pleased to host a talk by Saranac Lake legend, Howard Riley in February. A special winter carnival event, Howard shared anecdotes from his new book, "You Know What," a selection of his commentaries as a columnist with the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*. The book is for sale in the Saranac Laboratory Museum Store.



**Oral Histories at Will Rogers**

The first Saturday of each month, HSL has been meeting with residents at Will Rogers during "Memories Time." Volunteers meet with longtime Saranac Lake residents to record their stories. The interviews are being transcribed and posted on the HSL wiki website, [www.hsl.wikispot.org](http://www.hsl.wikispot.org). Pictured right, Judy Cameron shared her memories of life on Upper Saint Regis Lake.



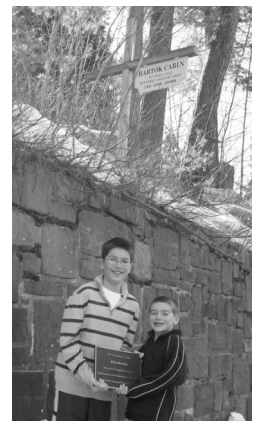
**Winter Walking Tours**

This winter, thanks to the help of HSL volunteer Margaret Worden, HSL has expanded our tour schedule to include several winter walking tours of historic downtown. The tours will be continued through the year, on the second Tuesday of each month.



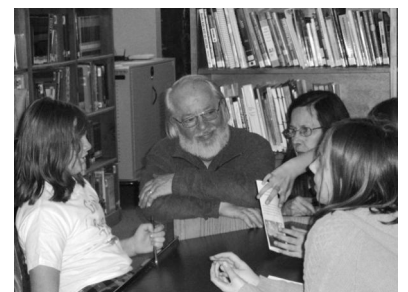
**Bartók Signage**

A generous gift in 2010 from Béla Bartók's son, Peter, made possible the design and installation of signage at the Bartók Cabin. A brass plaque will soon be installed on the stone wall below the cabin as a permanent memorial to the great composer's time in Saranac Lake. Pictured right, Louis and James Catania hold the brass plaque. Above them is the sign identifying the cabin, with HSL's phone number to schedule a tour.



**Elementary School Project**

As a result of last summer's workshop, Petrova 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been exploring local history. In March, students showed brochures they created about cure cottages during a special library reception. Trudeau Institute staff and HSL supporters Kay and Marvin Best attended the reception.



## ON THE HORIZON

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ May 29, 3pm and May 30, 10am: Daffest Historic Walking Tours
- ◆ June 15: AARCH Pioneer Health Resort Tour
- ◆ June 22: Opening of the Saranac Laboratory Museum and unveiling Photography exhibit in John Black Room.
- ◆ June 28-July 4: Adirondack Arts and Heritage Festival
- ◆ June 30: Cure Cottage Meal at Hohmeyer's Lodge at Lake Clear, featuring a Bartók Concert by the Hyperion String Quartet.
- ◆ July 1, 7pm: Historic Motion Pictures -- shown by Jim Griebisch at Will Rogers
- ◆ July 2 and 9: Martha Reben Days at the Farmers' Market
- ◆ August 8-9: Teacher Workshop on local history
- ◆ August 12-14: Bartók in the Adirondacks Program with Sembrich Museum & Lake Placid Sinfonia
- ◆ More Bartók Concerts TBA

### TOUR SCHEDULE

June 1 – October 10.

Begin at 10:30 am, \$5/person

- ◆ First Tuesdays: Cure Cottage Museum. Meet at house, 103 Helen St.
- ◆ Second Tuesdays: Downtown Walking Tour. Meet at Riverside Park Bandshell
- ◆ Third Tuesdays: Bartók Cabin. Meet at sign on Street, 58 Riverside Drive
- ◆ Fourth Tuesdays: Little Red & Trudeau Statue. Meet at sign by Little Red at Trudeau
- ◆ Saranac Laboratory Museum open 6/22-10/7 Wed.-Fri, 10:00-2:00, or any time by appointment

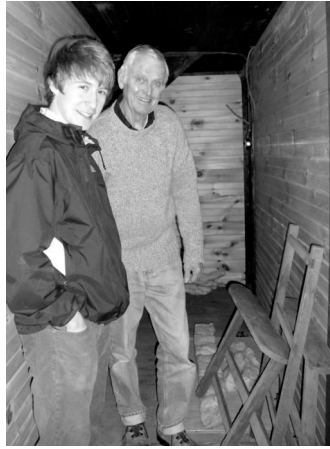
*Dates and times may change.*

*Call for more info:  
(518) 891-4585*

*or check the events page  
on our website:*

[www.historicsaranaclake.org](http://www.historicsaranaclake.org)

### High School Collaboration



*Ed Scharmer shows teacher Leif Sorgule the cure chair parts in the Saranac Laboratory attic.*

In March, former HSL Board Member (and reigning Winter Carnival King) Ed Scharmer met with industrial technology teacher Leif Sorgule to explain how to build cure chairs. This spring, Leif's high school woodworking class will build a cure chair for raffle or for eventual inclusion on the traveling cure porch. In the fall, Mary and Jim Hotaling will share their knowledge of cure porch architecture with Leif's architectural design class, and the students will create

designs of the traveling cure porch. Depending on available funding, the BOCES buildings trade class will help build the traveling cure porch in 2012.

### Elementary and Middle School Outreach

This school year, we anticipate that we will give tours to over 350 area students, along with numerous in-class presentations. We look forward to a new initiative this fall, the **Cure Cottage Storybook Project**. Students from Saranac Lake Middle School will create a children's book of historical fiction. Photographer Mark Kurtz and children's book author Liza Frenette will lead 7th graders in connecting with local history and architecture through photography and literature.

In preparation, students will learn about the history of curing in Saranac Lake and the architecture of the cure cottage and cure porch with a field trip to the Saranac Laboratory Museum and a presentation by the Adirondack Museum's "Wilderness Cure" program. Mark Kurtz will lead students in photographing cure porches and cure cottages for use in their storybooks. Author Liza Frenette will guide students in imagining historical characters and creating storybooks. HSL will arrange for group oral history interviews with elders, and students will use the information for inspiration.

The project is a collaboration with Saranac Lake Artworks, the Adirondack Curriculum Project and Sandra Hildreth. Further planning will occur during HSL's summer teacher workshop in August. The group is seeking funding from NYSCA for the project.



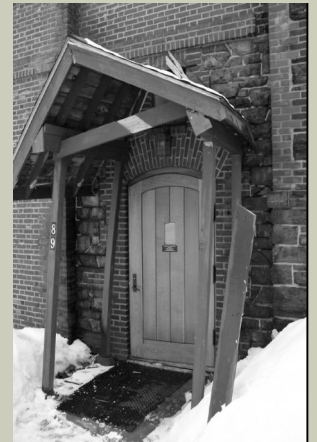
### The HSL Endowment

A strong endowment will enable us to carry on our work long into the future. For information about ways to include Historic Saranac Lake in your estate plans, please contact Amy Catania at the HSL office at 518-891-4606.

### Dissertation Project

This Spring, HSL began work on a project to attract a Ph.D. in history of science candidate to write a dissertation on the history of the science research done at the Trudeau labs. The study would shed light on the importance of the research that occurred at the laboratories. Amy Catania has enlisted the help of Peter Sayles to perform some preliminary research in the Trudeau Institute archives. HSL will seek funding for a fellowship to attract candidates and will contact Universities with the dissertation topic.

### Caring for the Lab



It has been a tough winter. Ice damage caused roof leaks and destroyed the front portico. A special appeal for help with repairs has raised almost \$3,000 as of March 21. Thanks to friends of the laboratory, we are on the mend!

The lab received a very special gift last December. John and Peter Black, nephews of John Baxer Black, for whom the laboratory addition was built, gave a generous donation of \$51,000 in order to retire one half of the mortgage, and represents major progress in securing the financial future of the lab and HSL.

HELP US PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



Ed Scharmer shows shop teacher Leif Sorgule how to make a cure chair.



St. Bernard's School on a tour of the Saranac Laboratory, 2011.

BECOME A MEMBER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Benefactor — \$1,000 or more
- Patron — \$500 or more
- Friend — \$250 or more
- Booster/Business — \$100 or more
- Family — \$50 or more
- Individual — \$35
- Other — \_\_\_\_\_

- Check Enclosed Card No. \_\_\_\_\_
- Visa Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit code on back \_\_\_\_\_
- M/C Name as appears on card \_\_\_\_\_
- Discover Signature \_\_\_\_\_
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Historic Saranac Lake 89 Church Street, Suite 2, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

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