

HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Historic Saranac Lake at the Saranac Laboratory Museum



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 pop for outdoor theater, an



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.

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.



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

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.



The new exhibit on the 1920s opens later this spring.

HISTORY WEBSITE

Visit our growing website of local history: localwiki.org/hsl
Click the edit button and add what you know!

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.

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



RECENT HAPPENINGS



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 Monks-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 Monks-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

CURRENT PROJECTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



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-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 _____
 Name as appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

You may also give online at <http://www.historicsaranaclake.org/support-us>

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




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

Nonprofit Postage PAID
 Saranac Lake NY 12983
 PERMIT No. 9

HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE
 89 Church Street, Suite 2
 Saranac Lake, NY 12983
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

