SPRING 2023

HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE at the Saranac Laboratory Museum

NEW EXHIBIT

A new John Black Room exhibit will open this spring honoring the hardworking people of Saranac Lake, past and present. This is a reinstallation of an exhibit first created 25 years ago by Mary Lou Hanpeter, featuring photographs of local independent businesses owners.



Many of the businesses to be featured are family operations that have been handed down from one generation to the next. These historic businesses continue to serve as an essential part of the fabric of our community.

The exhibit is a partnership with the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and North Country Public Radio. An opening reception is planned for the end of June. The community will be invited to attend the exhibit free of charge this summer during special free community days. This exhibit is generously supported by Generous Acts at Adirondack Foundation. The Foundation works to enhance the lives of the people in the Adirondacks through philanthropy.

CONSTRUCTION AHEAD!



HSL staff, Emily Banach and Chessie Monks-Kelly pose with signage recognizing funding agencies and tax credit financing.

The bidding process is complete, and the results are in! We are now finalizing the paperwork in order to proceed into construction at the Trudeau Building!

Planned work includes complete rehabilitation of the interior and exterior, addition of a handicap lift, fire suppression, site improvements, collections storage, a research room, and reconstruction of the historic front portico. We look forward to holding a groundbreaking ceremony this summer! We are grateful for generous support from donors, foundations, state and federal grants, and historic preservation tax credit financing. Fundraising continues to support museum exhibits. See page 3 for more information about the new museum!

Planning for the new museum!
See page 3 for details!

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Museum Specialist:
Emily Banach

Museum Assistant:
Matthew Marlow

Made possible, in part, by the NY State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the NY State Legislature.

OUR MISSION is to preserve and present area history and architecture to build a stronger community.

WINTER RE-CAP



WINTER CARNIVAL FUN

The museum was busy during Winter Carnival with many visitors, including two with the last name "Trudeau!" Garry Trudeau and Jane Pauley's son, Ross Trudeau, stopped by the museum with his wife Jessie. During carnival, we hosted hundreds of visitors at the museum at the Cure Porch on Wheels by the ice palace. We also hosted several talks for local school groups, and we danced down Main Street as Romans "curing" in the Roman baths!

SAFE HARBOR

In November, we hosted a reading of "Safe Harbor," a play about the TB years in Saranac Lake. The play was read from the stage of the historic auditorium at the former Trudeau Sanatorium and served as a fundraiser for HSL. Safe Harbor was written in 1990 by Karen L. Lewis, one of the founders of Adirondack Stage Rats. Our thanks to Karen Lewis and Beth Glover, and to actors Donna Fortune, Christopher Leifheit, Tyler Nye, and Josie Good.

CHAPEL LIGHTS

On December 10, we went back to the Sanatorium property for a special event at the recently restored Baker Chapel. Guests enjoyed carols by vocalist Kimberly Weems, music by the Backwoods Brass Quintet, and a short reading for the season by Amy Catania. Special thanks to the lead sponsors of the event, Roedel Companies and the Hotel Saranac. And thanks to our bronze level sponsors: the Joan Grabe Family Fund at Adirondack Foundation, Members of the Board of Directors of Historic Saranac Lake, Absolutely Adirondacks, Hyde Fuel, Sunita and Steve Halasz, Landmark Consulting, LLC, Madden's Transfer and Storage, Moody Tree Farm, and North Woods Engineering.

LOOKING AHEAD

MUSEUM CONFERENCE

HSL staff attended the Museum Association of NY annual conference in Syracuse in April. We explored many topics relating to this year's theme,"Finding Center: Access, Inclusion, Participation, and Engagement." The cost is supported a NY State Council on the Arts/CNY Arts Professional Development grant. Thank you, NYSCA!

UPCOMING TALKS AND TOURS

Many talks and toours are planned for the spring and summer! Executive Director Amy Catania will present to Dr. Laura Ettinger's class at Clarkson University on the history of public health in the U.S. We look forward to another visit from Tupper Lake 5th graders in May in collaboration with Christine Campeau and Adirondack Experience. Our spring and summer tour schedule is in development, as we are recruiting volunteers to help lead tours! Contact us if you would like to be a part of our fun tour team!

STRATEGIC PLAN

In February, the Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan to chart our path forward over the next three years. Our thanks to Susan Weinrich, our consultant from the NY Council of Nonprofits, whose work was supported by a grant from the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York.

PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

One of the exciting initiatives spelled out in our new strategic plan is the creation of a new Preservation Task Force to help educate the community about historic preservation and to advocate for preservation of history and architecture. Contact us if you want to get involved, or if you are interested in any other volunteer opportunities!

ADVISORY BOARD

Our thanks to the 20 members who joined us for the spring meeting of HSL's Advisory Board. It was a chance to think together about our new strategic plan, hear an update on the Trudeau Building museum planning, and to hear about volunteer opportunities.

Best Wishes, Mahala!

We are sad to say good-bye to Mahala Nyberg, who has left her job as Public Programs Coordinator for another position in the not-for-profit community. In the almost two years that she has been on staff, Mahala did a wonderful job leading tours, working with school groups, and hosting other programs. We wish her well in her new position!

MUSEUM



POST OFFICE PHARMACY EXHIBIT

Later this spring, we will open a new exhibit featuring the amazing collection of Post Office Pharmacy artifacts donated to Historic Saranac Lake from Jim Bevilaqua. Tom Seymour custom built two new large cabinets for display. The cabinets feature drawers that visitors can slide out to explore the collection.

LABORATORY IMPROVEMENTS

Doors are being refinished and trim re-painted. New storm windows and air conditioning have been installed. Two new exhibit panels interpreting the story of John Black are being installed on each side of the John Black portrait. The improvements are made possible by major support from the Robert and Esther Black Family Foundation and Fund, the Richland County Foundation, a special legislative initiative grant through the office of Assemblyman Billy Jones, and Franklin County Energize NY grant.

EXHIBIT PLANNING

Our professional exhibit design team is wrapping up the first phase of exhibit design for both buildings. Kate Cravens and Travis Wood have planned dynamic new exhibits for all ages that explore the rich history of the Saranac Lake region. Our thanks to the Exhibit Committee and consulting scholars: Koko Bickford, Ted Comstock, Ann Greene, Mary Hotaling, Kevan Moss, Melissa Otis, Suzanne Roberson, Phil Terrie, and Caroline Welsh. The project is supported by an IMLS Inspire! Grant for Small Museums and a Vision Grant from Humanities New York. Stay tuned for more information this summer!

COLLECTIONS

IMPORTANT TB HISTORY COLLECTION RECEIVED

Our collections staff made an exciting trip to Georgia at the end of January to retrieve an amazing donation. Archivist / Curator Chessie Monks-Kelly and Museum Specialist Emily Banach loaded a U-Haul truck full of materials related to the history of tuberculosis detection, treatment, and prevention in the United States from the mid-1800s to the early 2000s. Our collections staff have just finished inventorying and rehousing all of the materials, so we will be sharing more about the collection and its amazing collector very soon. Watch out for an official press release about the collection with information about how to access it!

GRANT WORK ONGOING

We are honored to receive grant funding from two organizations who are recurring supporters of HSL. The Northern New York Library Network has granted us funds to flatten and rehouse our Branch & Callanan Blueprint Collection using a low-tech humidification chamber. We look forward to sharing the outcome of this project. We are also about to embark on a project to explore the long-term future and hosting of the local history Wiki with generous support from the National Network of the Library of Medicine, Region Seven. Thank you to both grantors!

BOOK CATALOGING CONTINUES

HSL staff and volunteers have been hard at work to return the John Black Room to its roots as a library, with support from the Lake Placid Education Foundation. Cataloging work is ongoing with our book collection. When completed, books will be searchable in our online catalog, as well as in person. We have installed a new temporary exhibit detailing the steps for cataloging a book, along with information on time and expertise required.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- A growing collection of photographs and postcards, primarily focused on Ray Brook Sanatorium and Winter Carnival. Gift of Ann Pecora Diamond.
- Letter from Calvin Coolidge to local minister Elmer Miller, 1926. Gift of Lisa Yanchitis.
- Home movies filmed by Gretchen Senn, tuberculosis patient, 1940s. Gift of Matt Wamsganz.
- Charlie Green's cash register used at the Market. Gift of William Allen.
- Bowl from Ray Brook Sanatorium. Gift of Chris Brescia.

HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE
89 Church Street, Suite 2
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HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

DEDICATE A BRICK PAVER—Support the museum expansion by having your name and/or message permanently displayed on a brick paver at the new museum campus! Honor a friend or memorialize a loved one.

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:

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Signature:

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Scan the QR code to place your at www.historicsaranaclake.org/pavers

ORDER YOUR BRICK PAVER!

- ☐ *4"x8" brick paver ($100)*
- ☐ *8"x8" brick paver ($250)*
- ☐ *I wish to make an additional donation of $_____ to support the museum.*



Total amount: $_____

We will contact you for your wording preference. 4x8 pavers include up to 3 lines of text. 8x8 pavers include 6 lines. Each line includes up to 20 characters, all caps, with spaces & punctuation. Pavers will be installed by all entrances of the museum campus while space allows, first come, first served!

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