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Please help us thank them by supporting their businesses.

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Romeo Toyota	Ellen Schaefer	Garnet Hill Lodge
J. Michael Quintavalle	Square Eddy	Community Bank N.A.
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Community Bank	Diane Harrington Szlachowski	Hey Days
Cunningham’s Ski Barn, Inc.	Linda Quintavalle	Indian Lake Theater
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The Lodge & beck’s Tavern	Cronin’s Golf Course	H'Art Studio
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Rich Greco Plumbing & Heating	Ellen Schaefer	Izzy's Deli
Glens Falls National Bank		Ben Tomb
John Rugge, MD & Victoria Palermo		
Anthony Cucchiara & Miriam Deutch		
Greg & Ellen Schaefer		

Help Us Continue Our Mission

The North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, and a New York State Registered Charitable Organization. Your tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted and help us to keep the Museum open and working to fulfill our Mission to “. . . collect, preserve, and interpret objects related to the history and culture of the Gore Mountain Region . . .” Increases in the cost of fuel oil and maintenance of our historic buildings puts a strain on our operating budget. Please consider a membership or additional donation if you are already a member. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



North Creek Railway  
Depot Museum  
Newsletter  
Fall/Winter 2023

President’s Message

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Depot Museum. I hope you enjoy our latest edition of the *Depot Museum Newsletter*. Inside you will find details about our very successful Gala and our Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser. You can also read about our wonderful Cunningham Family Ski Exhibit that opened this season, and all the other activities from this season.

There is much more to come this winter; please check out our website for events celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Snow Train! There will be music, movies, lectures, and promotions at local businesses. Of note we will hold the official unveiling of the Dorothea Christine Loewel watercolor entitled “Pictorial Map of North Creek in the Adirondacks.” This beautiful “birds’ eye” view of North Creek shows the excitement of skiers who traveled here starting in 1934. Look for prints that will be available for framing. I wish to thank everyone who made this past year so successful.

First, I am grateful to the Depot Board, which has done outstanding work supporting our many activities. Our docents have again been invaluable in opening the Museum six days per week this summer. We have had many volunteers step up this year to help with our Gala and Pumpkin Patch fundraisers, and assist with painting and electrical work. And lastly, we are very grateful to the individuals and businesses that so generously support us with memberships and donations.

Your generosity is extremely important this year as you renew your membership. Our Owens House building on Main Street is in desperate need of humidity and mold control. Your support will be most important in remediating the issue so we can use this as a new education center. Thank you again for your support of the Museum. We hope to see you soon.

Greg Schaefer



Educational Resource Center  
Needs Your Help!

The Owens House (c. 1857), the oldest extant structure in North Creek is part of the Depot Museum complex. Located less than 50 yards from the museum, the classroom is ideally located to serve as our educational resource center. The sizable first-floor gallery adds significantly to our museum exhibition space and enables us to install a variety of exhibitions. The main entrance on Main Street provides direct access to the gallery. This space offers a multitude of potential uses where we can host lectures, historical presentations, book talks, and other programmatic offerings



Unfortunately, the Owens House is currently unusable due to a pervasive high humidity condition in the house stemming from a heavy moisture and mold problem in the basement. These poor environmental conditions make it extremely unsafe for human use and detrimental to our rare



(Owens House Con't)

and unique collections. Before we can realize the full potential of this extraordinary facility, a major moisture remediation and mold abatement project must first be completed. This expensive work is well beyond our annual operating budget. So, the museum trustees have embarked on a major capital fund raising initiative, seeking both state and federal support as well as foundation funding and individual donors to accomplish this essential work. Going forward, we will be updating our members on these fund-raising efforts to restore this wonderful and vitally important museum space. We hope you will generously support this effort.



Mold in Owens House basement

## “People and Trains That Could.”

Thanks to the efforts of NCRDPA Trustee Linda Quintavalle, the North Creek Railway Depot Museum has again been awarded a LARAC Education Grant for its program entitled “People and Trains That Could.” These funds enable us to continue and expand upon our class offerings in collaboration with Johnsbury Central School. Diverse topics include “Teddy Roosevelt’s Night Ride to the Presidency,” the development of the Snow Trains of the 1930s and its impact on skiing in this region, the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in World War II, and the significance of trains in the economic growth of the region. Age-appropriate activities range from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 and incorporate museum visits to build upon the lessons and skills presented at the school. Adult and student actors portray historical figures such as young Teddy Roosevelt, his teenage daughter Alice, Edith Roosevelt, also Lois Perret Schaefer, Art Draper, and others. Performances took place on the Depot platform in September for Johnsbury’s History Days. A special visit was made to the school this September, as Joe Wiegand, renowned Teddy Roosevelt impersonator, addressed 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at JCS. These funds will also allow for winter related topics in the classrooms through December.



## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First “Snow Train”



On March 4, 1934, the First Snow Train arrived in North Creek from Schenectady, carrying 378 intrepid winter sports enthusiasts. The Snow Trains brought thousands of visitors to North Creek, where they enjoyed skiing the trails in our “Ride Up-Slide Down” town. Many skiers stayed in homes and boosted the local economy during the long Depression years.

This winter, we will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the first train with music, films, and lectures. Look for the anniversary logo at local retailers, and enjoy meals/deals at restaurants and retailers for only \$19.34! The events kick off with a Coffee House at Tannery Pond Center (TPC) on January 14 with Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys. A complete schedule will be posted on the Depot Museum and TPC websites.

## Cunningham Exhibit and Reception

This year the Board of Directors, led by Trustee Cindy Morse, prepared a new exhibit spotlighting a family who has contributed immensely to our local ski history. We chose the Cunningham Family, focusing on Butler Cunningham as one of the pioneers who brought skiing to North Creek beginning at the North Creek Ski Bowl in the 1930s. We also acknowledged his son, Patrick J Cunningham, detailing his early days competing on the international race circuit, as well as pioneering white-water rafting on the Hudson River.

On August 27, 2023, the Museum held a Reception honoring the family. Deb, Tom, and Dick Cunningham, as well as Mary Cunningham Moro shared wonderful memories of early skiing in North Creek at this wonderful event. Please take some time to stop in to view our exhibit along with all the other wonderful displays in the Depot Museum.





## Recent Acquisitions

The Depot Museum was honored to receive a variety of new items for the collection this year. The Waters Family has given additional items (they gave a trove of D & H items in 2016) including a tie tack, a switch lock key, and an employee ID tag.

Susan Murante, one of our Docents, donated a large collection of ephemera related to the early days of our Museum and items about Teddy Roosevelt.

Judy Sitterly has donated some great photos of early North Creek. Her husband spent his early years in North Creek and had fond memories of the town. We are grateful for these wonderful donations.



Mike Prescott from Chestertown, NY recently gifted the Museum a beautifully framed 1930s Gore Mt Ski Trails arm band. Mike's craftsmanship in creating an Adirondack style frame enhances the quality of this historic piece.

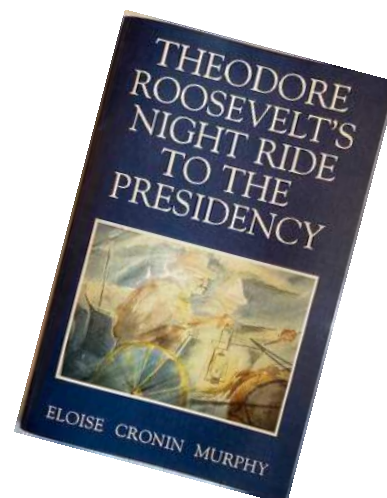


These authentic conductor's pocket watches were donated to the Museum this summer by a good friend of Linda Quintavalle's, John Lange of Red Bank, NJ.

One was made by the Hamilton Watch Company and has 27 jewels and has a watch makers scratch mark under the cover dating back to the 1800s. The second, also 27 jewels, was made by the Ball Company which was considered the official RR Standard time piece. Visit the Museum and learn more about these unique pieces of railroad history.

## Grant Supports Book Reprint

The Museum is very grateful to the Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region for a grant awarded this summer. For many years the Depot sold Eloise Cronin Murphy's book "Theodore Roosevelt's Night Ride to the Presidency." As the book is out of print, we received permission from the ADKX to publish it ourselves. Greg Schaefer scanned the text and worked with M & M Digital to print 300 copies, the printing costs supported by the grant. We are grateful to CFGMR for making this possible.



## ***Dinner with a President Gala***



*Honoree Sterling Goodspeed, Depot President Greg Schaefer, Joe "TR" Wiegand, & NYS Assemblyman, Matt Simpson.*

The Depot Museum Gala, held on September 7 at the Garnet Hill Lodge, was a huge success. The sold-out "Dinner with a President" with Teddy Roosevelt impersonator Joe Wiegand was enjoyed by all.

During the dinner, the Museum honored special guest Sterling Goodspeed, who has helped to preserve many facets of our local history, for his years of service to the Town of Johnsbury. Goodspeed also received a citation from New York State Assemblyman Matthew Simpson.

Guests had the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of auction items, ranging from fine art to ski and rafting passes. The auction created a great deal of interest, and the bidding helped raise much-needed funds for our Owens House restoration project.

During his presentation, "TR" recalled his time spent in the Adirondacks, his famous "Night Ride to the Presidency," and other career highlights. As always, he enthralled the guests, and was certainly the highlight of the event!



*Greg Schaefer, Johnsbury Town Supervisor Mark Smith, & Joe "TR" Wiegand*

### **Another Successful Glass Pumpkin Patch**

This popular fund-raiser, held on September 22-24, sold beautiful glass pumpkins created by artist Greg Tomb at his glass-blowing facilities in North Creek.

Anthony Cucchiara coordinated the Depot volunteers, whose responsibilities included setting up, welcoming customers, providing baskets and orientation, recording sales, and managing payments. Trustees and docents, as well as several new volunteers, all contributed to the success of the fund-raiser.

Greg Tomb generously committed 20% of the total sales to benefit the Museum. Our brief review showed that customers travelled farther on average this year compared to last year. This indicates that our broader marketing effort was very helpful.



**Thank you to all who helped make this event a success!**