

Depot Museum Celebrates Johnsburg’s History Weekend

On September 14, during the town’s annual History Weekend, the Depot provided an afternoon full of fun and food, theater and music—and of course, plenty of history! Taking center stage at the celebration was a talented cast of local actors, trustees, and student performers who dressed in period costumes, delighting attendees with their knowledge and creativity while breathing life into historical figures. Members of the Adirondack Mountain Bluegrass Band also helped set the scene, regaling the crowds with traditional American tunes that got toes tapping and hands clapping.

Museum Educator Anne Buckwheat and Museum Trustee Roger Thomas portrayed Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Durant as they guided museum goers through the Depot exhibits. (Thomas Durant, founder of the Adirondack Railroad Company, was instrumental in bringing the railroad to North Creek.)

Several local thespians paid tribute to Theodore Roosevelt’s links to the area, reminding their audience that it was at the North Creek train station that the then Vice President learned of President McKinley’s death. Among the featured performers were Robin Jay, Ryder Olesheski, and Linda Quintavalle, who portrayed Edith Roosevelt, Young Teddy Roosevelt, and Alice Lee Roosevelt Longworth respectively.

In a nod to North Creek’s ski history, Barbara Westbrook took on the persona of Lois Perret Schaefer, a local nurse, who founded America’s first Ski Patrol. Many of the protocols she developed would later be adopted by the National Ski Patrol.

In addition, young student actors Rhys and Hollis Olesheski charmed listeners by sharing some unusual fun facts about the Depot and its history. Meanwhile, Museum President Greg Schaefer and Vice President Tony Cucchiara demonstrated their own dramatic talents by enthusiastically playing the roles of Train Conductor Stanley Waters and Teddy Roosevelt’s personal secretary, William Loeb.

Cindy Morse prepared a lovely refreshments table, and Robert Engel introduced the new portable Roosevelt panels (which will be used in our education program) and manned the gifts and raffle table. Another important partner was Revolution Rail, which provided promotional materials and set up a special Roosevelt Commemorative Rail Bike Ride.

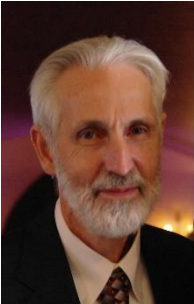
The festivities were supported in part by funds from the Town of Johnsburg Occupancy Tax Grant and the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council (LARAC), a regrant program of the New York Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by LARAC.



North Creek Railway Depot Museum Newsletter Fall/Winter 2024



President’s Message



Dear Friends,

The Depot Museum concluded another busy season on Columbus Day Weekend. Our active year began last winter with our season-long celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the First Snow Train to North Creek.

After opening Memorial Day Weekend, our docents greeted over 3500 visitors this year! We are very grateful for all their work. Many other events filled our calendar, including the Independence Day Parade, the Town of Johnsburg History Weekend, and our wonderful Wine Pairing Dinner. None of these would have been possible without our hardworking Board of Directors, our great docents, and the volunteers who help in so many ways. We are deeply appreciative of the time they have dedicated to supporting our Museum.

Looking ahead, in 2025 we’ll be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Museum. Also, next year will be the 90th Anniversary of the First Rope Tow in New York, built by Carl Schaefer in the historic Ski Bowl. We’ll be installing an exhibit in the Fr. McMahon Ski Room to share pictures and artifacts about this early ski lift used in the “Ride Up-Slide Down” era. We’ll also unveil our new Teddy Roosevelt information kiosk, re-done under the direction of Board member Robert Engel.

We would also like to give a shout-out to all our members who support our mission by generously contributing to the Museum. Donations and memberships are so important to keeping the Museum open and preserving the artifacts we have collected.

Thank you so much for supporting our Museum so we can continue to tell the stories of Teddy Roosevelt, Trains, and Skiing in the Greater Gore Mountain Region.

Greg

Off the Beaten Path . . .

On September 16, 2024 the Depot Museum was visited by **Cassie Hudson**, a reporter for Albany’s Channel 10 News (WTEN).

Our Museum was featured on her News segment on September 17th and can be viewed on the WTEN website.

[Off the Beaten Path: North Creek Depot Museum](#)



Grand Re-Opening of our Gift Shop

Grand Re-Opening of the Museum Gift Shop!

We're thrilled to announce the re-opening of our Museum gift shop—a one-stop destination for unique gifts and meaningful keepsakes that celebrate the history of the North Creek Depot and the role it played in the development of the Adirondacks. Located just past the Museum entrance, the gift shop is open to all visitors during the Museum's seasonal hours.

Whether you're searching for a one-of-a-kind gift or a special memento of your visit, we invite you to explore our new gift shop. We hope it adds an extra layer of enjoyment to your Museum experience. Stop by on your next visit and discover the perfect piece to commemorate your day with us!

Remember, every purchase made at the Museum gift shop directly supports the Museum's educational programs, exhibitions, and conservation efforts. By shopping with us, you're not only taking home a memory but also helping to ensure that our Museum can continue to inspire and educate future generations.

What's New?

The gift shop offers a carefully curated selection of reproductions inspired by our collections of prints, photographs, and works of art. Visitors will find a range of exclusive gifts, including:

- **Artwork-Inspired Prints:** These high-quality prints capture the essence of some of the Museum's most popular pieces, allowing you to bring part of the Museum's collections home with you.
- **Wearables:** There are shawls and scarfs made of fine English cotton fabric emblazoned with a print of one of our most popular pen-and-ink drawings.
- **Educational Items and Books:** Designed for children and adults alike, these books dive deeper into Adirondack history, railroad history, and those key local and national historic events associated with the depot.
- **Fun and Functional Goods:** From coffee/tea mugs to bookmarks to computer mouse pads to 1,000-piece puzzles, each item has a detailed image drawn from our print and photograph collection.
- **Kids' Creativity Corner:** We're dedicated to inspiring young minds, so our shop includes a special section with art kits, interactive books, and puzzles designed to engage children in creative exploration and introduce them to railroad and Adirondack history.

Membership Benefits As a thank-you to our members, we're offering an exclusive 10% discount on all purchases in the shop.



Borho Print Mug



Loewel Print Mug

90th Anniversary of The First Ski Tow

In 2025 the Depot Museum will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the First Rope Tow in NYS, built by Carl Schaefer in the Historic Ski Bowl. An exhibit at the Museum will tell the story of how the lift came to be built, and its impact on skiing during the "Ride Up-Slide Down" era. We hope you visit the Museum next summer to enjoy the exhibit.

Join us on Saturday, January 18, 2025 for "Old Ski Movie Night" at Tannery Pond Community Center and learn more and see footage of skiers using the rope tow.

Depot Museum Welcomes Two New Board Members

The Board of Trustees is happy to announce the addition of two very talented members to our Board. Valerie Havas, a resident of North River, recently retired from a lengthy career as a writer, editor, and community relations specialist.

Her roster of clients has ranged from the United Nations to public school districts, community newspapers to international magazines, book publishers to PR firms.



Robert Engel joined the Museum's board of trustees in July and immediately teamed up with other board members to rewrite and redesign the Theodore Roosevelt kiosk on the Depot platform. He also served on the board in the late 1990s, during the Save Our Station years.

Robert earned a master's degree in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program. From there, he researched the art collection at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Wvoming. was assistant curator at the Adirondack Museum, curator

at the Clermont State Historic Site, exhibits coordinator at the New York Historical Society, and executive director of Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and the Rensselaer County Historical Society. Along the way, he earned a diploma from the Wine & Spirits Education Trust.

Please 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.





Wine Pairing Dinner

The Depot Museum held a wonderful Wine-Pairing Dining Experience at Garnet Hill Lodge on September 19, 2024. The event included a full five-course dinner with a wine paired with each



Board President Greg Schaefer and Honoree Glenn Pearsall

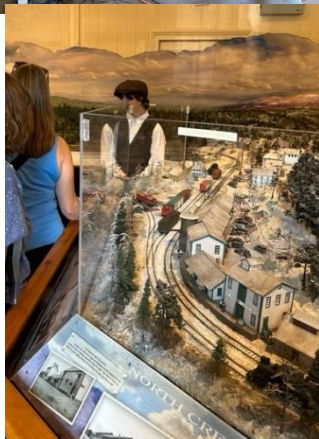
course. It was a festive event with old and new friends, as well as an educational experience where we learned about the fine wines being served with the deliciously prepared meal.

At the event the Museum honored Glenn Pearsall with a commemorative plaque, thanking him for his philanthropy and dedication to recording local history and philanthropy. We are grateful to all those who supported the Museum at this wonderful event.



Chef Nick Keiper and Sommelier John Lipinski

2024 Johnsburg History Weekend Photos



“People and Trains that Could”

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Linda Quintavalle and her crew, the Depot Museum Local History Education Program with Johnsbury Central School continues and thrives.



This program is made possible by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council (LARAC), a regrant program of the New York Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by LARAC.

Old Ski Movie Night FEATURES FILMS FROM THE 1930s-60s



On January 18th the Depot Museum will sponsor another Old Ski Movie Night at Tannery Pond Center in North Creek. A selection of films will show what downhill skiing was like in its infancy in the “Ride Up/Slide Down” era, and in later decades with film from “Old Gore” at the Ski Bowl. Also featured will be shots of the original rope tow built by Carl Schaefer at the Ski Bowl in 1935, and “the Bear” on the Rabbit Pond Trail. Many of these films were made by Bill Gluesing who was famous for his “GE House of Magic.” Other films are from the Baroudi Collection and the Schenectady Wintersports Club.

In addition to the films, there will be raffle ticket sales for posters, lift tickets, and other ski-related items from local retailers. Tickets for the event will be \$10.00 with children free. Advance sale tickets will be available at Hudson River Trading Company until January 16th, 2024. Tickets will also be available at the door. Check the Museum website in December for information.

