



### EDUCATION PROGRAM THRIVES WITH CONTINUED LARAC FUNDING

The Depot Museum’s elementary school education program in partnership with Johnsbury Central School continues to thrive thanks to the continued support from LARAC (Lower Adirondack Regional Art Council). We have again been awarded funding to continue the program, but also to expand it to reach upper grade levels for the upcoming school year 2024-2025.

The program, titled “People and Trains That Could,” incorporates local history, classic children’s literature, role play, dance, art and performances by local actors to bring our past and present alive with engaging classroom lessons, art projects and museum visits.

Recently, in conjunction with our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Snow Train Celebrations, students in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade competed in a design/coloring contest. Through class room lessons with actors Barbara Westbrook and Dennis Willson on the development of skiing in our area, students were introduced to historical figures and examined “old” ski equipment. Then the 5<sup>th</sup> graders were encouraged to design their own ski outfits. Their entries were so varied and elaborate that the Board heartily approved additional prizes and one member treated the whole class to a celebratory pizza party. Teachers Mrs. Hayden and Mrs. Knickerbocker motivated terrific student participation.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were shown different types of model train cars by local train man and rail enthusiast, Bill bibby. Their use in commerce and trade were explored. In class, students made their own wooden ornament, but then teachers Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Turcotte were given an extended project to complete with the children later. Those students submitted trains of their own design and two students were awarded gift cards for their detailed entries.

Next fall we hope to initiate a unique project proposed by artist, Frances Gaffney. Students will closely examine our recently restored folk art print, “Pictorial Map of North Creek” and then will use needle and thread to interpret a section of the print or perhaps their own train/depot design.

As a result of our program, student volunteers have developed historical characters to take to their class mates as well as dressing in costume to represent the museum at various events. Students Ryder Olesheski and Charity Lupo as well as actor, Robin Jay presented “Meet the Roosevelts” to the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in late May and the class had a subsequent museum visit in June.

This program has proven to be a strong collaboration between school and community, and raised awareness of local history.

**This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council.**

### Come Visit Us

**2024 Summer/Fall Hours: Thursday thru Tuesday 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM and by appointment for groups.**

**Call: 518-251-5842 to schedule.**

### North Creek Railway Depot Museum Newsletter Summer 2024

### President’s Message



Dear Friends,

Happy Summer to all! Although our museum was closed as usual for the Winter months, we have been very busy since we closed last fall. The events celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Snow Train

were all very successful. Presentations were well attended and enjoyed by all. We are especially proud of the Unveiling Event of our 1939 Dorothea Loewel Watercolor in January. This piece which was restored last year is a detailed folk art “map” of North Creek as it was in the winter during the “Ride Up-Slide Down” era. Our re-opened Gift Shop now has poster re-prints, coffee mugs, puzzles and other pieces based on the piece.

We have been very busy with our renovations in the Owens House. As we explained in the last newsletter, we received several generous grants supporting the work. We are working on the inside and out to prepare for a Re-Dedication in the near future. Renovation details are included in the Newsletter.

We are excited that we reopened again for the season on May 25. Details of schedules and events can be found on our new website. Please take some time to look over the updated information.

And speaking of events, we are looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Fall Fundraiser in September. Look for details on this also in the Newsletter.

Hoping to see you at the Museum this year! Come see what’s new!

*Greg Schaefer, President*



**Welcome Anne  
Buckwheat  
Museum Educator**

The North Creek Railway Depot Museum is excited to welcome our new Museum Educator.

Anne Buckwheat is a native upstate New Yorker who now calls the North Creek area home. She was born in Oneonta, NY in 1961 and lived there until 1980. She was a Rotary International Exchange student from 1977-78 in Hiroshima, Japan. Her experiences there left her with a permanent quest for adventure.

In 1980 Anne enlisted in the United States Air Force. She was stationed in Biloxi, MS and it was there that she met and married her husband, Ken. They have since lived all over the United States. During their tenure in Washington, D.C. in the early 80’s, Anne worked as a tour guide for Tour Mobile, her specialty tour being in Arlington National Cemetery. Upon completion of military service, they called Oneonta home and then Troy, NY so Ken could complete his degree in Nuclear Engineering. They then found themselves in Richland, WA where Anne obtained a degree in nursing, after which, a 26-year career in Trauma and Family Practice ensued.

In 1998 the family moved to Woodstown, NJ. After caring for her parents until their passing, Anne retired from nursing and followed her true passion – acting. She returned to college and obtained a degree in Theater Performance. When not performing, she was adjunct faculty at Rowan College of South Jersey, Vineland Campus (formerly Cumberland Community College), where she taught Stage Make-up, Acting for Television and Children’s Theater. She also was a teaching artist at Main Stage Center for the Arts in Blackwood, NJ and The Broadway Theater of Pitman NJ where she worked extensively with five-to-13-year-olds, teaching theater performance.

Her extensive theater credits include Madame Thenardier (Les Misérables), Amanda (The Glass Menagerie), Golde (Fiddler on the Roof), Dotty (Noises Off), Sr. Aloysius (Doubt), Mrs. Lintott (The History Boys) and Violet Weston (August: O’Sage County), for which she received the 2015 NJACT Perry Award for Best Actress in a Play. She also has extensive screen credits in both film, television, and industrial videos. Anne is extremely excited to begin the next chapter here at the Depot Museum. She and Ken look forward to many years in their new home and look forward to becoming a part of the North Creek, Town of Johnsbury, community.



# North Creek Railway Depot Museum

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship Winner

We are happy to announce the 2024 Johnsbury Central School graduate Caroline M. Williams as the recipient of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual North Creek Railway Depot Museum Scholarship. Caroline not only excelled academically, and Class Salutatorian, but is a student athlete and accomplished musician. She will be attending Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts with the goal of pursuing a career in music and business.

The Board of Trustees of the North Creek Depot Museum felt that all the applicants for this scholarship were deserving of recognition and awarded Corbin DeGroat, Cole Sears, and Madelaine (Lainy) Freebern with \$100 each.

Join us in congratulating all our 2024 graduates and wishing them success in their future endeavors.



Caroline M. Williams



Do have an interest in local history? Do you have a few hours per month that you could volunteer some time? The Depot Museum is in great need of more Docents (Museum Guides) to greet our visitors this season. Docents greet visitors as they enter the Museum and guide them to our exhibits. We have a great orientation program for new Docents, and it truly is an interesting experience. Please call the Museum at 518-251-5842 for more information.

## 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.

Please remember the North Creek Railway Depot Museum in your estate planning. Thank you.



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

March 4, 2024 marked the Anniversary of the First Snow Train to North Creek. Events this winter sponsored by the Depot Museum, the Johnsbury Historical Society, Gore Mountain and Tannery Pond Center were all well received. Movies, Early Gore Ski History lectures, and the Unveiling of the Dorthea Loewel 1939 watercolor were well attended. Especially poignant was a presentation by JHS on the local soldiers who joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn Division, the skiing division of the US Army in WW II. The Museum plans to have a small display this summer to continue the commemoration.



## Lois Perret Schaefer Ski Patrol Award



The Lois Perret Schaefer Award recognizes Gore Mountain Ski Patrollers for their excellent service to the public during their careers, providing care for injured skiers, riders, bikers and hikers on and off trails at the Gore Mountain Ski Resort.

The award is given in honor of Lois Perret Schaefer, RN of Schenectady who led the "First Aid Committee" in 1933 as part of the Schenectady Wintersports Club and North Creek Ski Club effort to bring Snow Trains to North Creek.

The Memorial Award was first presented in 2003 to Dr. Dan O'Keeffe, II who was an original member of the 1933 First Aid Committee, an early ski instructor, and race champion in North Creek. The Ski Patrol Award has been given periodically, and consists of a hand carved base trophy created by renowned woodcarver Carl Borst of Schenectady.

It depicts the image of a female skier, painted in a retro ski outfit, with a Red Cross arm band, carrying skis, standing in a field of snow atop a large hexagonal base, symbolic of the six-sided snow crystal. The trophy has a brass plaque designating the name of the award in Lois Perret Schaefer's honor. Brass plaques attached to the five remaining sides are engraved with the names and year of each recipient. The awardee also receives a "take home" plaque inscribed with the name of the award, the recipient's name and year.

The 2024 award was presented to Ann Dingman whose individual award this year was a 10" red cross with a white recognition plaque.

The hand-carved trophy is displayed in the Fr. McMahon Ski Room at the Depot Museum.



Ann Dingman 2024 Recipient



Take Home Award



## An Unveiling of Note



On Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, the museum showcased the restoration of the 1939 Dorothea C. Loewel's ink and watercolor drawing entitled "Pictorial Map of North Creek in the Adirondacks." The formal unveiling and presentation of this exquisite work of art had a large audience at the Tannery Pond Community Center. The piece is now on permanent display at the Depot Museum.

The artist having visited North Creek in the winter of 1939 stayed at the then American Hotel on Main Street and drew this whimsical folk style piece as a

thank you gift to the hotel's proprietors, the Gregorys. It was later donated to the North Creek Depot Museum by Dr. Dan and Katherine (Gregory) O'Keeffe. Years of neglect, poor storage, vermin, and the acidity of the paper board had taken its toll. After hundreds of hours of very detailed work and color matching, the restoration of the Loewel picture was completed and framed, preserving it for future generations to enjoy.

Approximately 100 people attended this momentous occasion and were treated to a special insight into the life of the artist; the intricate and painstaking restoration work of conservator, Carolyn Frisa; and the piece itself which depicts the

*Steve & Jane Hartenstein were presented with a framed print for their efforts in researching this piece.*



arrival of the famed "Snow Train". President Greg Schaefer provided fascinating historical information about the "Snow Train" and its significance to North Creek. The evening concluded with the singing of the "Snow Train" song by its noted ADK songwriter, Doug Irving. Notably, the Loewel unveiling took place during the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Snow Train" service which began on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1934. To mark the occasion, we raffled two beautifully framed prints of the drawing raising \$1,500 for the museum's education program. The winning tickets (James Schaefer and Julie Sherer) were pulled from the raffle drum on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the closing event of the anniversary celebration, a fitting coda to a great anniversary celebration. To mark this milestone, the museum revived its gift shop and is now featuring several attractive items derived from the Loewel drawing. We have beautiful scarfs and shawls, drinking mugs, frameable prints of the drawing, bookmarks, postcards, mouse pads, and a 1000-piece puzzle are available for purchase at the museum.

## Owens House Update

Thanks to the generosity of the several local residents and the receipt of a grant from the Solomon Foundation, we were able to complete some major work on the Owens House basement. For the past several years the building was unusable to excessive moisture and water issues in the basement. These problems have been eradicated by installing a state-of-the-art basement sealing system and high-tech sump pumps, dehumidifier, and air purification system. This work was followed by professional cleaning, bringing it up to a level we can now begin to use for exhibits and education space.

Work continues on completing the classroom space and a grand re-opening is scheduled for later this season. Stay tuned and check our website for updates on our re-dedication and Open House.





***Save the Date!***  
*Wine Pairing Dining Experience*  
*September 19, 2024*  
*Garnet Hill Lodge*  
*Join us for a wonderful meal and wine*  
*pairing experience.*

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Johnsburg History Weekend**

**September 13, Friday 4:00-7:00 Graveyard Walk Mill Creek Cemetery  
Gem Radio Theatre and Johnsburg Historical Society co-sponsors**

**September 14, Saturday 10:00-1:30 Craft Demonstration and Open House at  
Waddell Town Historian sponsored**

**Special benefit ride on Revolution Rail, 10% of proceeds going to the North  
Creek Depot Museum**

**September 14, Saturday 2:00-4:00 Music by Adirondack Blue Grass League on  
Platform North Creek Railway Depot Museum – Free Refreshments**

**September 14, Saturday 7:00 PM Movie on Charles Evan Hughes narrated by  
Glen Pearsall and the filmmaker at Tannery Pond Community Center**

**September 15, Sunday 2:00 PM Radio Play “Leaves Torn Asunder” based on  
Glen Pearsall’s book of the same title sponsored by Gem Radio Theatre**

