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## A Great 2019 Season at the Depot Museum

The North Creek Depot Museum has just completed another successful season! Our volunteer docents welcomed 4,400 visitors to our Museum.

The most ambitious project was the moving of our new D & H caboose to static rail. Volunteers moved it to its new permanent home in front of the Museum platform. Stairs to access the car have been built, and we are making plans for painting the exterior and restoring the interior of the 80-year-old rail car. These plans include installing educational exhibits and building a model rail road for visitors young and old to enjoy.

The project is supported by Warren County Occupancy Tax funds awarded through the Town of Johnsbury and the Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region. The Caboose was dedicated at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Town of Johnsbury History Weekend with a plaque recognizing this generous donation of Mike and Linda Quintavalle.

**Depot Museum Grant Awards Further Our Mission-** The museum was recently awarded several grants to further its educational mission. A generous grant from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust allowed us to install a security system in the Owens House. This grant will allow us to more effectively use this space for temporary and permanent exhibits.



*Linda & Mike Quintavalle*

Plans include renovating the classroom to resemble a train station waiting room. A grant from the Community Fund for the Gore Mountain Region will help us with the interior renovations on our newly acquired caboose and purchase a small model train set that visitors can handle and run.

Through the efforts of Linda Quintavalle, The Depot Museum secured a Community Arts Organization Grant from the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council, for our project, "People and Trains That Could," Workshops were offered to elementary school teachers at Johnsbury Central School.

Students in the Kindergarten, First grade and Second grade have been delighted with the reading, writing and role playing they experienced in literacy workshops presented by guest teachers Robin Jay, Chris Flack, Linda Quintavalle and William Bibby. They drew, colored and painted art projects related to children's literature: **The Little Red Caboose**, **The Little Engine That Could**, and **All Aboard Trains**. The Depot Museum plans trips to the caboose for **Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee**.

**Getting into the Act-** Another exciting aspect of this collaboration: several of our local students joined an acting workshop designed to bring historical figures significant to our community alive for a platform performance at the station. Students were coached by local actors from GEM Radio Theater and were provided authentic costumes. Art Draper, young Teddy Roosevelt, Alice Lee Roosevelt and Lois Perret Schaefer all came alive on History Day on the platform. Plans include recording these students and adults - in their roles – to be part of a permanent exhibit in the Museum.



*Eric Mason as Young Teddy Roosevelt*



*Willow Hogan as Alice Lee Roosevelt*

*Hanna Jay as Melissa Ordway*

**The Town of Johnsburg's 4th Annual History Days-another success** - The "Voices from the Past" Graveyard Walk started History Weekend on Friday evening Sept. 6. Local actors portrayed more famous citizens from our town bringing their stories to life. This popular event was a sell out and delighted the crowds for a second year. On Saturday, September 7th events were held at the North Creek Depot Museum and River Front Park. History displays from all of our hamlets, tours of the Museum and caboose, music, food, hay-rake making and blacksmith forging exhibits, vendors, games, Old Time Photo Booth, and more made for an interesting and fun afternoon. The caboose was dedicated and Board member William Bibby was honored for his years of service to the museum. To cap off the weekend on Sunday GEM Radio Theater presented "The Great Adirondack Stagecoach Robbery" at Tannery Pond Center.

The radio play presented local history in a lighthearted manner well received by the audience. History Days events are co-sponsored by the Town of Johnsburg, the North Creek Railway Depot Museum, and the Johnsburg Historical Society.







**Recent Acquisitions-** When was your last visit to the museum? We are always updating and adding to the collection. Our museum was recently given an original Howard Fogg watercolor now on display in the Baggage Room. Fogg is famous around the world for his railroad art. We have acquired several photos of Teddy Roosevelt, notably one of his campaign train. In the ski room we now have a pair of 10th Mountain Division ski boots. These nicely complement the rest of the 10th Mtn. artifacts in the collection. We are grateful to the donors that have given these items to the museum.

### 2019 Honorees

On "Old Ski Movie Night," in February 2019, the Depot Museum recognized Larry Wilke as a "Ski Legend of the Greater Gore Mountain Region" for his contributions to the profession of skiing and his assistance in preserving local ski history. Larry was presented with a plaque and a proclamation that recognizes all he has done. Larry prepared the beautiful display on the history of Ski Tows in the Fr. McMahon Ski Room.



Bill Bibby receiving award

At this year's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Town of Johnsbury History Weekend, NCRDPA recognized William "Bill" Bibby for his years of dedicated service to the Depot Museum, especially his skill and efforts to keep the train on our model rail road diorama running.

### Historic Restoration and Preservation Continues

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the Town of Johnsbury has granted exclusive use of the circa 1900 Delaware and Hudson Milk Car to the North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association for a period of 25 years. This historic railroad car is in need of major restoration in order to save it. It is believed to be one of only 4 known to have survived.

Please consider helping us to bring this piece of rail road history back to its original condition. Targeted donations are welcome as well as any circa 1900 milk bottles and milk cans that would become part of an ongoing exhibit.



### We Couldn't Do It Without You

Fulfilling our mission takes the efforts of many volunteers. The NCRDPA Board of Trustees is very grateful to our volunteer docents who cheerfully welcomed 4,400 people to the Depot Museum during 2019. We hosted six (6) groups of Road Scholars Travelers in addition to our regular visitors, many of whom stopped in to check us out before or after their excursion on Revolution Rail.

We could use your help. If you are interested in helping to preserve our local history and available a few hours a week during the summer, we need you. In addition to more volunteer docents, we are in search of people willing to serve on our Board of Trustees. Currently we need an accountant or person with a financial background who might be willing to serve as treasurer, a person with not-for-profit experience to assist with fundraising and grants applications, and an attorney to help make sure we are

following the “rules” and regulations as they pertain to the operation of a Museum chartered under the New York State Department of Education.

### **Become a Member**

We ask that you consider becoming a supporting member of the NCRDPA with an annual donation. Your tax deductible donation helps us to insure that the

If you would like to become more involved with your community, are interested in model railroading, history of the greater Johnsburg area, especially Theodore Roosevelt, the Railroad, and/or skiing, please give us a call at 518-251-5842 or email [admin@northcreekdepotmuseum.com](mailto:admin@northcreekdepotmuseum.com). We’d love to hear from you.

### **Lights On Main Street and Holiday Parade**

The Depot Museum will again participate in the North Creek Lights on Main Street event on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Owns House will serve as a warming station for those who come out for the tree lighting and reception at the Tannery Pond Community Center. Come and see our new float that will appear on Friday as well as in the Parade down Main Street at noon on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Depot Museum is happy to participate in Community events such as the Independence Day Parade.

### **Teddy Roosevelt Returns**

Please join us on January 2, 2020 at Garnet Hill Lodge for a great evening with our friend and Teddy Roosevelt reprisor, Joe Wiegand as he entertains with “A Salute to the Vigorous Life” Dinner with Teddy Roosevelt. See the flyer enclosed for more information.



*Haley & Eric Mason as George Washington & Betsy Ross*



*Willow Hogan as our Snow Princess*

### **In Memorium**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Robert D. Wiedeman one of our longtime friends and docent at the Museum. Bob worked on Fridays during the summer months with his wife Nan Sargent and friend Rita Gleason. We offer sincerest condolences to Bob’s family and we will miss him at the Depot.

