

# EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

FRIENDS OF EAGLE ISLAND, INC.



## FRIENDS OWN THE ISLAND THEY CALL HOME The Future Begins Now

If there were recognitions and awards for perseverance, the founders and supporters of Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. (FEI) would certainly be at the forefront. For over five years FEI has worked diligently to ensure that the camp it treasures would be available to future generations of youth and visitors to the Adirondacks. FEI knows the value and importance of educating the rising generation to appreciate nature and respect the environment. FEI knows the importance of preserving a National Historic Landmark for the benefit of campers and visitors.

The purchasing funds were provided by an anonymous donor. As incredible as that seems, the line that keeps playing

out is not “who” the donor is but the acknowledgement of “what” Eagle Island represents that elicits such generosity. It was not for publicity; it simply was meant to be. Finally this island that so many of us have called home will be home once again.

*“... once again the wooded isle [will] ring with childish laughter . . .” (as the annual rededication ceremony says.)*

It is for the future generations of young people who will fall in love with the out-of-doors, with camping, sailing, wilderness adventure or the simple pleasure of falling asleep to the sounds of loons calling.

## \$100,000 MATCHING GRANT!

Have you been waiting until FEI owns the property to donate in a significant way? Well NOW is the time.

Another anonymous donor has challenged our supporters with a \$100,000 unrestricted matching grant. All donations received between the closing through December 31, 2015 will be eligible to be matched one-to-one.

IMAGINE . . . your donation of \$500 is now \$1,000, your \$2,000 gift is now worth \$4,000 and so on . . .

**NOW IS THE TIME TO DONATE!**

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If now is not the right time to make a larger donation, we encourage you to show your support by becoming a FRIEND for a donation of \$25. This enables FEI to keep you up-to-date on news and happenings on the island and beyond.

**BECOME A FRIEND!**

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

### Partnering with AARCH and Historic Saranac Lake

The preservation and conservation of the island's historic buildings and maintaining the Adirondack culture through educational programs for all visitors are key components to FEI's vision. The Eagle Island Great Camp was built in 1903 by former New York State Governor and U.S. Vice President Levi Parsons Morton. Its buildings were designed by William L. Coulter, preeminent architect of the Adirondack Great Camps.

To this end, FEI is partnering with Adirondack Architectural

Heritage (AARCH) and Historic Saranac Lake.

AARCH is the non-profit historic preservation organization for New York State's Adirondack Park. AARCH was formed in 1990 to promote better public understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the Adirondacks' unique and diverse architectural heritage.

Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit architectural preservation organization that archives and presents local history from its

center at the Saranac Laboratory Museum.

An early step will be to hire a historic preservation architect to properly assess the buildings and develop a renovation plan with cost estimates. With such a plan we are hopeful that there is grant funding available

Michele Racciopi, Eagle Island alumna and long-time supporter of FEI will be working closely with Howie Kirschenbaum of AARCH and Mary Hotaling of Historic Saranac Lake on this restoration committee.

## SUCCESSFUL REUNION HELD

### Over 80 Friends and Alumnae gathered

A reunion was held on September 19 in Maplewood, NJ. Over 80 alumnae and friends gathered; it was a time to connect and to reenergize the organization.

Many thanks to Chris Hildebrand and Pat Foody for pulling this event together. They did an incredible job. Ellen Winn compiled a beautiful slide show from photos across the generations.

It was announced just days before

And they sang,  
"we'll cheer, cheer,  
cheer for our  
donor . . ."



that FEI and GSHNJ had reached an agreement in principle to acquire Eagle Island. Not to disappoint Eagle Islanders anywhere, the crowd erupted in a rendition of "we'll cheer," a musical tribute to our donor.

Fundraising began in earnest and over \$15,000 was raised.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### Over \$220,000 raised for renovations

Once again the friends and alumnae of Eagle Island have heeded the call. In just one month over \$220,000 was raised. With these funds we can begin preparations as the new owners of our island home. We have the island back. Now we will become stewards of its future. What is it about this place that

brings tears to the women who once lived here? What memory warms your heart?

It is estimated that it will take \$1.5M to provide the infrastructure (sewer, water, electrical) and building renovations (roofs, structures, boathouse) necessary to become a fully operational camp.

About 180 donors raised \$220,000. If you have not given yet please consider it as we begin to plan for 2016 and beyond. Friends of Eagle Island is seeking financial support from individuals, foundations and organizations that have similar visions and a passion for

preserving history and educating future generations through the out-of-doors.

Mimi Harrington, FEI VP is heading up the Fundraising Committee. Reach out to her to volunteer or submit ideas.

[mharrington@friendsofeagleisland.org](mailto:mharrington@friendsofeagleisland.org).

## TIRELESS LEGAL TEAM

Led by Eagle Island dad: Bob Goodsell

FEI now owns the island. But we cannot forget that we got to this place due to the tireless efforts of our legal team, led by Bob Goodsell of Post, Pollack, Goodsell, MacNeill & Strauchler LLC in Roseland, NJ. Bob has been with FEI since the beginning, taking on our unique legal challenge to the Girl Scouts. He has invested countless uncompensated hours. We ask you to visit the website and consider his firm for yours or your company's legal needs. [www.ppgms.com](http://www.ppgms.com)



Ginny & Chris Hildebrand with the barge that was purchased using Friends' donations in memory of their mother, "Mama Ginny".

## WISH LIST . . .

To bring back "the camp that really can't be beat. . ."

In addition to the major infrastructure renovations, FEI will need to replace most of the camp's equipment, including cots, tents, kitchen and dining hall equipment, sailboats, canoes, infirmary supplies, and more. We are working on a wish list, and we should all think about ways to fill some of these needs. With other camps closing, perhaps we can avail ourselves of their gently used equipment. An initial wish list will be included in next newsletter and posted on the website.

## FEI ANNOUNCES BOARD CHANGES

New Executive Director, New Treasurer

From an advocacy organization working to save Eagle Island to the proud owner of this valuable Historic Great Camp, FEI has made a few changes. Friends of Eagle Island is pleased to announce a new Executive Director and Treasurer.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paula M. McGovern a Livingston, N.J. resident, earned a B.A. in Biological Chemistry from Wellesley College and an M.S. in Environmental Science from New Jersey Institute of Technology. She served as Chair, 2003-2015, of the Livingston Open Space Trust Fund. During that time, through the Open Space Trust Fund, Livingston completed three land purchases and received grants from Essex County

and N.J. Green Acres to leverage the Trust Fund. Paula was also the Vice Chair of the Livingston Environmental Commission. She served as Treasurer of FEI from its inception. As a Sr. Regulatory Affairs Specialist at Benjamin Moore & Co, she monitored environmental protection and worker safety laws and regulations, writing policies and educating personnel of requirements and changes, and performing on-site reviews.

### TREASURER

Carole L. Mackenzie a Livingston, N.J. resident, earned a B.S. in Math/Physics from Mount Holyoke College and an M.S. in Physics from Stevens Institute of Technology. As a Senior Systems Engineer for

General Dynamics Mission Systems, she works with customers and design engineers to develop, manage, document and verify requirements for specialty design engineering products. In addition to her engineering duties, she has led the annual Take-Our-Daughters/Sons-to-Work-Day program at her company for 22 years to promote STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) opportunities with

youth. She also helped found Little Angels Christian Montessori School in Livingston, NJ 11 years ago and serves as its treasurer. Carole served as assistant Treasurer of FEI since 2011 and has been a Board member since 2014.

Friends of Eagle Island is thrilled to have Paula and Carole in these key leadership roles as we go forward with our vision.



*Back issues of this newsletter can be found on the website.*



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