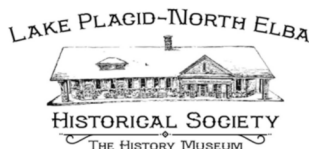


Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

# Newsletter

WINTER 2024

The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society is pleased to announce this year's Winter Lecture Series



## 2024 WINTER LECTURE SERIES

*All programs are free and open to the public and will be held on Thursday evenings at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts auditorium at 7 pm.*

**JAN  
18**

**An Untold Story of Black & White Community-Building on the Adirondack Frontier**

*Presented by Amy Godine, lecturer and author of the recently published Cornell University Press book, The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier.*

**FEB  
15**

**NYS Ranger History in the Forest Preserve & Rescue Stories Along the Way**

*Presented by Kevin Burns, Captain of the NYS DEC Forest Rangers for District 5.*

**MAR  
21**

**Get Down & Dirty:  
Farming in the Adirondacks**

*A panel discussion presented by local farmers .*

**APR  
18**

**Lake Placid Steamboats, Fancy Hotels,  
& the Gilded Age**

*An all-new historical photo tour presented by RJ Potter, retired radio and television broadcaster and former educator.*

518-523-3830

[www.lakeplacidhistory.com](http://www.lakeplacidhistory.com)

## BOARD of TRUSTEES

Perry Babcock  
*Co-President*

Betsy Hlavacek  
*Co-President*

Stephen Sama  
*Vice President*

John Huttlinger, Jr.  
*Treasurer*

Erin Perkins  
*Secretary*

### Trustees

Michael Butler

Keith Clark

Nevton Dunn

Karen Fountain

Margie Gallagher

Georgia Jones

Doug Lansing

Michael Mahoney

Ashleah Mayberry

Peter Roland, Jr.

Cindy Smith


Parmelee Tolkan


\*\*\*\*\*


Chris Malmgren  
*Director*

## The History Museum is Closed for the Winter

*Check our Website and  
Facebook /Instagram pages  
for news and updates  
throughout the winter.*

 lakeplacidhistory.com

 facebook.com/lakeplacidhistory

 instagram.com/lakeplacidhistory

## Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

242 Station Street

PO Box 189

Lake Placid, NY 12946

\*

director@lakeplacidhistory.com

\*

(518) 523-3830

## Presidents' Message

2023 has been an exciting year for everyone at the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society. President Parmelee Tolkan led the museum for the past eight years and has turned over the reins to us. It will take two of us to begin to fill her shoes. Thank you Parm! We cannot say this enough.

The Historical Society programs are well positioned because of Parmelee's hard work, vision and her ability to put together an excellent Board of Directors. Each member of the Board will have a role to play as we implement the "action plans" identified in the newly minted 2023 Strategic Plan. Board Member, Peter Roland, spearheaded the process of updating the 2016 plan. We hired A.D. Hamingson & Associates to guide us. Several projects are already in motion in response to this exercise.

First on the list are modifications inside the museum to enhance accessibility; widening the hallway and creating an ADA compliant restroom. Thanks to a generous LEAF grant, we are moving forward with this project over the winter, led by Board Members Steve Sama and Michael Mahoney. The renovations will also create a small kitchen, office space and gift shop. In addition, the strategic plan captured ideas to improve the property surrounding the train station museum. Board member Peter Roland led negotiations to establish a Rail Trail terminus at the south end of the property. We envision additional improvements of the space to include creative community centered events and beautification of the rail yard.

And now, a big welcome to our new Director Christine "Chris" Malmgren. Chris landed in Lake Placid at the end of September and has already made huge strides forward. She is learning about the area, meeting other professionals from local cultural organizations, generating our Annual Appeal, setting up the Winter Lecture Series and creating the newsletter. She hopes to reach out to as many of our local partners and friends as possible in the coming months. Please feel free to contact Chris if you have questions about the Historical Society at (518) 523-3830 or email her at [director@lakeplacidhistory.com](mailto:director@lakeplacidhistory.com).

Though the museum is closed for the winter, the Historical Society is not hibernating. The Winter Lecture Series will begin Thursday January 18th and run monthly through April. The *Oral History Project* continues. We urge each of you to think of a memory, a story, or share your family history by capturing it in a recording for the Historical Society. You can contact our Oral History Project Coordinator, Caleb Mihill, at [digitalmedia@lakeplacidhistory.com](mailto:digitalmedia@lakeplacidhistory.com) to set up a time to meet.

Thank you for all you do to help make the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society a "must visit" for residents and visitors in Lake Placid.



Betsy Hlavacek



Perry Babcock

## The Society Welcomed New Staff in 2023

**Chris Malmgren** became our new director last September. She brings a wealth of experience to the directorship, most recently working in various capacities with several Central New York organizations, including the Cazenovia Public Library and Museum, the Skaneateles Historic Society and the Manlius Historical Society. Chris is no stranger to the North Country, having received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from SUNY Plattsburgh. Chris also taught secondary social studies at Peru Central School prior to taking a position at the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown.

**Caleb Mihill** joined the staff last summer as our part-time *Oral History Project Coordinator*. His duties have recently been expanded to include serving as our *Digital Media Specialist*. He will be managing and producing social media content for the Society. Caleb is the fourth generation in his family to be born and raised in Lake Placid. He is currently studying *Digital Media and Communication* while also building a local video advertising business, CTM Productions. He is passionate about local history and is excited to be working with the Historical Society.

**Kathleen Thomas** joined the Society in January 2023 as an independent contractor. She is serving part time as our bookkeeper. We are appreciative of her meticulous attention to detail and know our account books are in good hands. While Kathleen is a bookkeeper by day, she is also a book writer by night and is currently working on a manuscript about Robert Louis Stevenson.

## Adirondack Rail Trail is Now Open from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake

After many years of planning and two years of construction, the Adirondack Rail Trail (ART) between Lake Placid and Saranac Lake opened in early November. Work on the section from Saranac Lake to Floodwood is expected to be completed in 2024, the final section to Tupper Lake in 2025. Upon completion, a spectacular 34-mile recreation path will be available to residents and visitors year round.

The northern terminus of the ART on Station Street will be on a 1.77 acre lot soon to be sold by the Historical Society and owned and maintained by the Village of Lake Placid. Developed in conjunction with the Open Space Institute (OSI), the trailhead will offer parking, rest rooms and signage including historical interpretation. Parking for snowmobiles and trailers will be provided in the snow storage lot on Old Military Road behind the Fire Station. Historical and natural history interpretation will be included in signage the entire length of the ART.



Entrance to the Adirondack Rail Trail on Station Street in Lake Placid. *Photo courtesy of Peter Roland.*

The ART represents an opportunity to tell “our story” to a greatly expanded audience of residents and visitors. Historical interpretation at the trailhead will provide some Lake Placid history and will direct users to *The History Museum* to learn more. We look forward to welcoming Adirondack Rail Trail users and fulfilling our mission to “preserve and present our community’s history in ways that are educational and enriching for residents and visitors.”

*Article Submitted by Peter Roland*

## Adirondack Rail Trail Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

On Friday, December 1, 2023, Perry Babcock and Chris Malmgren attended the Fowler Crossing ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Adirondack Rail Trail from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake. The ceremony included state and local officials and employees who were on hand to speak about the challenges of creating the trail and highlight the future benefits to local communities along the trail.



*Above:* State Senator, Daniel Stec, speaks to those gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fowler’s Crossing in Saranac Lake. *Below:* Officials get ready to cut the ribbon along the completed first phase of the Adirondack Rail Trail. *Photos courtesy of*



### Stay Tuned for More in 2024

The Society is beginning the process of updating and freshening the appearance and content of our newsletter, website, social media feeds, membership program and even our museum space. Thank you in advance for your patience and support as we do some “remodeling” here at the Society.

**WORK  
ZONE**

## Adirondack Rail Trail is Now Open from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake

After many years of planning and two years of construction, the Adirondack Rail Trail (ART) between Lake Placid and Saranac Lake opened in early November. Work on the section from Saranac Lake to Floodwood is expected to be completed in 2024, the final section to Tupper Lake in 2025. Upon completion, a spectacular 34-mile recreation path will be available to residents and visitors year round.

The northern terminus of the ART on Station Street will be on a 1.77 acre lot soon to be sold by the Historical Society and owned and maintained by the Village of Lake Placid. Developed in conjunction with the Open Space Institute (OSI), the trailhead will offer parking, rest rooms and signage including historical interpretation. Parking for snowmobiles and trailers will be provided in the snow storage lot on Old Military Road behind the Fire Station. Historical and natural history interpretation will be included in signage the entire length of the ART.



Entrance to the Adirondack Rail Trail on Station Street in Lake Placid. *Photo courtesy of Peter Roland.*

The ART represents an opportunity to tell “our story” to a greatly expanded audience of residents and visitors. Historical interpretation at the trailhead will provide some Lake Placid history and will direct users to *The History Museum* to learn more. We look forward to welcoming Adirondack Rail Trail users and fulfilling our mission to “preserve and present our community’s history in ways that are educational and enriching for residents and visitors.”

*Article Submitted by Peter Roland*

## Adirondack Rail Trail Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

On Friday, December 1, 2023, Perry Babcock and Chris Malmgren attended the Fowler Crossing ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Adirondack Rail Trail from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake. The ceremony included state and local officials and employees who were on hand to speak about the challenges of creating the trail and highlight the future benefits to local communities along the trail.



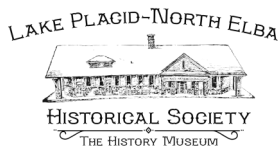
*Above:* State Senator, Daniel Stec, speaks to those gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fowler’s Crossing in Saranac Lake. *Below:* Officials get ready to cut the ribbon along the completed first phase of the Adirondack Rail Trail. *Photos courtesy of*



### Stay Tuned for More in 2024

The Society is beginning the process of updating and freshening the appearance and content of our newsletter, website, social media feeds, membership program and even our museum space. Thank you in advance for your patience and support as we do some “remodeling” here at the Society.

WORK  
ZONE



242 Station Street, PO Box 189  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank you for supporting the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society through our Annual Appeal.  
There's still time to show your support if you haven't had a chance to do so. *Donations are tax deductible.*

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE HISTORY MUSEUM  
Annual Appeal 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities.

Annual Appeal Donation

- ☐ - \$1,000  
☐ - \$500  
☐ - \$250  
☐ - \$100  
☐ - \$50  
☐ Other Amount - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Check enclosed payable to **The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society.**  
☐ Please charge my credit card.

Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**

Donations are tax deductible according to the Internal Revenue Service laws and regulations.