

# Landmark News & Views



## 2021 CALENDAR

**Monday, June 21**  
Summer Intern  
Arrives

**Saturday, June 26**  
Landmark Society  
Annual Meeting  
&  
Board Elections  
9:30 a.m.  
Gazebo

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**Windows: History &  
Styles of TIP  
Exhibit & Shop  
Open for the Season**  
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 30**  
Chautauqua of the  
North  
*Talk & Walk*  
Walkable Communities  
2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, July 24**  
Illumination Night

**Wednesday, July 28**  
Chautauqua of the  
North  
*Talk & Walk*  
Windows  
2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Aug. 4**  
Celebration of  
Historic Preservation  
Location - TBD  
5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Aug. 11**  
Member Event  
*Comfort Island Tour*  
Details - TBD



## Windows by Steven A. Ris

For as long as humans have needed shelter they have had windows; windows that served as doors, that doubled as sky lights, windows that provided illumination and air. Windows were needed to survey the landscape, to prospect for game or watch for rivals. In cold climates, the sacrifice of heat for light required that windows be small until the advent of coal and architectural design allowed for broader spaces spanned by glass to serve the higher purpose of worship. Industrialization brought a return to the utility of windows, to bring free light into the operation of factories where a view of the world would distract. In literature, Herman Melville's *Bartleby* was the impassive and isolated copyist who peered out through his office window into a brick wall a few feet away. A century later, the painter, Edward Hopper, depicted an office worker who became an icon of alienation, isolated from the world as he looked out his window upon a concrete skyline.

The computer age has given us new ways to be isolated, looking through new windows at each other as we sit alone. "Windows" is the name of a popular operating program we can use to enter through a "portal," and into the very different reality of cyberspace. Computer screens are the new windows, but we have them today because their ancestors helped us go to the moon and allowed Jim Lovell to see through his small window the grandest view of all. He said the earth and everything he's ever known could be obscured by placing his thumb against the tempered glass of his window. What should have been the ultimate view of alienation became instead a beckoning of the human family.

The windows of Thousand Island Park speak to another time, a time of exuberant architectural variety: double and single hung, awning, hopper and Palladian, casement, bay, and gable; windows that are meant to be seen as well as seen through. They convey not only what we see but how we live. Every morning at TIP, we greet the world through a window that reveals only a tiny fraction of the same world Jim Lovell saw. And yet, as small as that view is, my thumb could not begin to conceal it, a framed scene of people and place; an island in the middle of the most unique and beautiful river in North America, populated by a people who hungered for escape and uplift in the early industrial era, and continue to do so today.

## National Register Update Project Nears Completion

We continue to be on track with our project to renew all of the information for Thousand Island Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

Katie Eggers Comeau, our Historic Preservationist, has completed all of the building descriptions needed for the application to the National Register. She is now writing the historical description of the Park, which will include Wellesley Island pre-Thousand Island Park and the years from 1875 to the late 1930's/early 1940s.

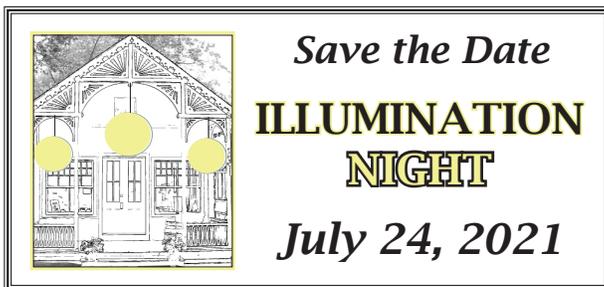
Katie is intending to submit the application to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in May/June for consideration by the **New York State Board for Historic Preservation** in September. (continued on pg. 2)

## President's Message: Through the Glass: Looking Inward - Looking Outward

In many ways we had a fantastic Summer 2020 for Landmark and Historic Preservation despite a pandemic. Regulars of all ages as well as renters and visitors attended scavenger hunts, Crash Courses in Architecture, and Talk & Walks at safe distances. While we chose to only open the Landmark three days a week, the exhibit on Porches of TIP was available on the porch 24/7 as well as the increased presence on Landmark's Instagram with historic images, events announcements, and fun photos. A steady team of volunteers surveyed cottages and boat-houses for the National Register Update Project (NRUP) and completed that portion of the two-year project.

New York State's Historic Preservation Office awarded Landmark for our efforts to bring Historic Preservation to the community during a pandemic. This award has boosted our energy to develop new programs. As we plan for this summer, we continue to look for ways that we might reach out to the community to provide educational activities that will pique interest for all ages. This summer there will be a buzz over competitions at the Roque court behind the Library, historic signage that continues to tell the TIP story, and opportunities to support and be supported by a "Salvage" program of reusable cottage materials. With an emphasis on windows, opportunities on Preservation Wednesdays will continue in a variety of activities. A second "Tax Credit Zoom Workshop" is in the works. With safety in mind for all, the biennial Cottage and Garden tour has been postponed until 2022.

We will continue to hold community activities where all will be able to safely participate while feeling that strong sense of community at TIP Illumination Night will return on July 24th. Landmark first led this event in the summer of 1990. The Park will be glowing with porch lanterns filling the streetscapes and luminaria along St. Lawrence Ave. On August 4th, we will host a "Celebration of Historic Preservation" to recognize donors and volunteers of the NRUP and cottage recipients of Historic Preservation Awards. (continued on pg. 4)



*Visit*  
[thousandislandparklandmarksociety.org](http://thousandislandparklandmarksociety.org)  
or contact us  
[tipregistry@gmail.com](mailto:tipregistry@gmail.com)  
for more information



## National Register Update Project Nears Completion (continued from pg. 1)

Scheduling changes at the state level, may delay approval until December. Once approved, our application will be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register for review and signature.

The last two years have been energetic and exciting as we worked to complete the review project. Landmark would like to thank our many volunteers who fanned out across the Park, cellphones and tablets in hand, to record all of the details needed for our National Register update application.

We are also grateful to our donors, who in addition to Landmark, are: the generous residents of TI Park, the Thousand Island Park Foundation, the John Ben Snow Foundation, the Preservation League of New York State and the Northern New York Community Foundation. The Thousand Island Park Corporation supported the project with staff time. And finally, we want to thank Katie Eggers Comeau whose hard work, expertise, encouragement and good cheer were indispensable in so many ways.

*Julie Mathien: Chair of National Register Update Project*

**Preservation Corner** *with Trude Fitelson*

-**Historic Districts** help the environment by retaining and using existing resources.

-**Historic Districts** are a vehicle of education as they are a tangible link to the past and a way to bring meaning to its history and people’s lives.

-**Historic Districts** provide social and psychological benefits. People live in attractive surroundings with a walkable neighborhood; and the galvanizing effect of community based group action.

-**Historic Districts** encourage better quality design. Better design equals a greater sense of cohesiveness, more innovative use of materials and greater public appeal.

-Properties within **historic districts** appreciate at rates greater than the overall markets, which is consistent across the country.

From the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**: “10 Benefits of Establishing a Local Historic District,” by Julia Rocchi

**Chautauqua of the North**  
**TALK & WALK**  
**Thousand Island Park, NY**

June 30<sup>th</sup> - **Walkable Communities**  
 July 28<sup>th</sup> - **Windows: Styles & Repair**  
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
 Tabernacle Community Association  
 & Landmark Society

Join us for  
**Preservation Wednesdays**  
 More details about these  
 cosponsored events  
 will be available  
 when the  
 summer 2021  
 season begins.




*Photo Taken Fall 2020*

**Along the River - Member Event**

**Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

*A Visit to Comfort Island:*

*Historic Preservation on the St. Lawrence*

This summer, members of TIPLS can enjoy a private tour of the grounds and home on Comfort Island. This residence has undergone extensive renovations and reconstruction over the past 6 years. TIPLS members will be the first to view the property, meet the owner and contractor and tour the home. We hope you will join us and come see this exceptional restoration project and view the beautifully restored home. More information available in June.

**Membership Incentives**



\*\*\*\*\* **SPECIAL PANDEMIC PROMOTIONAL MEMBERSHIP DEAL** \*\*\*\*\*



- \$10 **Youth** Level: For youth ages 0-18: Free Landmark Sticker
- \$25 **Individual** Level: Each member receives a free Landmark Sticker
- \$50 **Family** Level: Members receive TIPLS *Water-On-’til Water-Off* Calendar and Landmark Sticker
- \$100 **Benefactor** Level: Members receive Illumination Night Lantern, Calendar and Landmark Sticker
- \$150 **Preservationist** Level: A free tour of Member Only Event of Comfort Island, Calendar, Lantern, and Landmark Sticker

*Thank you for your support for **Historic Preservation** in TIP*

## President's Message

(continued from pg. 2)

With all of these activities, we are driven by an underlying commitment to advocacy. We seek to bring greater understanding and support for TIP – to help engage the community about our stewardship of a historic district recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. *We're in it, embrace it, live it!*

As always, we welcome you to join our leadership team, committee work, activities, and membership.

Finally, we remember our friend Roger Reid who was dedicated to Landmark through his service to the board and participation in so many summer programs. *Jean Ris, President.*

## Membership

*The Thousand Island Park Landmark Society, founded in 1976, is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization created to promote the preservation and appreciation of the unique architecture and social heritage of Thousand Island Park. It is a large member and volunteer-supported not-for-profit organization in the Park.*

*Landmark could not exist without our members. They provide us with the support needed to continue our preservation mission and activities through volunteer hours and the funds generated through membership fees, contributions and fundraising. New volunteers are always welcome as resource center/shop docents, committee and Board members. Contact us if you would like to be involved with any activities.*

*When you become a member of TIPLS, you support the organization's work to safeguard the historic architecture in Thousand Island Park and provide educational activities and preservation resources to the community. Your membership also entitles you to discounts for the Cottage and Garden Tour and for member-only events. There will be a member-only event this year in August.*

*Please join Landmark or renew your current membership by completing and returning the enclosed membership envelope by mail or in person to the Landmark Office. Membership runs from May 30 to the following June 1. Contributions are tax deductible.*

## Landmark News & Views

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Thousand Island Park, NY 13692  
thousandislandparklandmarksociety.org  
Newsletter Editor: Jean Ris



## Landmark: Resource Center, Exhibit & Sales

Season Opening - Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

Hours: Wednesday, Friday & Saturday  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Visit Landmark offering educational, archival collection, research, and shopping opportunities*

The "Trude Fitelson Center" is a dedicated area for researching information with access to our library, educational resources, and the 1982 National Register survey documents for each cottage in the Park.

We welcome Park residents and visitors to view our reference materials and to appreciate the continuing efforts of the Landmark Society and the Preservation Board to preserve the uniqueness of TIP.



*Windows: History and Styles of TIP*

Summer 2021 exhibit

*New this season:*

Madeline Brown's prints of "The Ballad of the Guzzle Fire," Pavilion ceramic tray, *Water-On 'til Water-Off* calendar, notecards, and special SALE events.

Landmark continues to provide a selection of books and an array of TIP related items for purchase.

Stop by to meet the summer preservation intern, Gabrielle Perlman, a graduate student at UVM.

Gabrielle's work experience will be shared between Landmark and the Corporation.

This volunteer organization relies on help from those with time and interest. **PLEASE CONTACT US.**

## Annual Meeting

The Thousand Island Park Landmark Society's Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Gazebo. (Weather permitting.) All community members are welcome. Landmark members are eligible to run for and vote in Board elections.

## Landmark Board, Advisors and Chairs

President: Jean Ris

Vice President: Trude Fitelson

Secretary: Regan Brown

Treasurer: Marjorie Snelling

Directors: Gay Claire Hunter, Peggy Cleary, Barbara Coon, Richard Glass, Marylin Shaikh

Advisors: Dick Greene, Alison Ross

National Register Update & Intern Cmtes. Chair: Julie Mathien