

Landmark News & Views



2020 CALENDAR

*The Plan
Subject to Change*

Monday, June 15
Summer Intern
Arrives

Friday, June 26
Volunteer Training
*National Register
Survey
Chapel*
12:00-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 27
Landmark Society
Annual Meeting
&
Board Elections
9:30 a.m.
Tabernacle

Porches, Verandas,
Piazas
*Exhibit Opening
&
Landmark
Open for the Season*
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

July Afternoon
Chautauqua of the North
Talk & Walk
Porches & Community
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Aug 13
Member Event
*Comfort Island:
Preservation*

August Afternoon
Chautauqua of the North
Talk & Walk
Porches & Community
2:00-4:00 p.m.



Porches at TIP *by Steven A. Ris*

On a bright day in July as the river breeze freshens the air, when the sun glints off ripples in the limpid waters of the St. Lawrence, where children's voices can be heard a block away and the conversation of passers-by is unintentionally shared, where your morning crossword and coffee becomes an invitation to greet the world; that is where you want to be.

As ancient as the concept of home itself, the porch remains a defining architectural feature of Thousand Island Park. While it would be thousands of years before the porch could take physical shape, paleolithic *Homo sapiens* lived much of their lives in that liminal space between the sanctuary of home at one's back, and the hopes and fears that lay in the outlook beyond. In 1975, the late British geographer Jay Appleton was the first to propose this idea of refuge and prospect, combining the security of shelter and the opportunities of the outside world. One hundred years before Appleton's published ideas, the Park's early summer residences were canvas tents on wooden platforms with porch extensions, opening to the community experience.

Unlike our earliest predecessors, taking one's place on the threshold of prospect is no longer fraught with uncertainty and threat, but is a call to community. While Appleton spoke of this transitional space as a place to hide while spying the world, we take it as a place to welcome in the world. Each of us brings our own particular privacy needs to TIP in the summer, but our legacy is one of interconnection, not isolation. A porch is a place to be both private and public, to both see and be seen, an intersection of people and place. This is why we like a "room with a view," why location is important, and why we value porch life at TIP.

Remembering Peg

Peg Hoysler passed away last December. She was an active member of the Landmark Society for many years. Peg accepted a request to join us with the "shop" and soon became an active board member for six years. She even continued with her Shop Manager and Docent Volunteer roles after completing her term on the board. Peg was full of energy, good cheer, and desire to make the shop a place for Parkers and visitors to stop in to learn more about TIP, and perhaps to make a purchase. Peg enjoyed meeting vendors and designing merchandise that would highlight Landmark, the Park's architecture, or memorabilia of summer in TIP. We will miss her cheerful, "Hello Doll!", special \$5 Table, and constant giving spirit and willingness to pitch in. We encourage you to stop in and share some of your Peg-Landmark memories this summer.



National Register Update Project: A Plan in Action

As the days are getting longer and warmer, I'm happy to count myself among those looking forward to spending time at Thousand Island Park again this summer! It was a delight to meet many of you last year, and I can't wait to spend even more time in the Park this year as our resurvey and National Register project move ahead. During the "off season," (continued on pg. 2)

President's Message

(continued from pg. 2)

Now available through Landmark are Madeline Brown's watercolor cottage portraits, another way to preserve the character of our historic built environment.

Every year we welcome you to take part in our collective preservation efforts. Scanning of old photographs continues, as well as usage of materials in the Resource Center. You might just stop by to learn something about your cottage, or find that you would like to donate some time as a docent, special events volunteer, or a board member. We look forward to seeing you as we begin this new decade together.

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 the largest member and volunteer-supported not-for-profit organization in TI 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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thousandislandparklandmarksociety.org
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Landmark: Resource Center, Exhibit & Sales

Season Opening - Saturday, June 27nd

Hours: Monday-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.



*Porches, Verandas, and Piazzas:
History & Architecture*

will open as a new exhibit in June.

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

Come meet the summer preservation intern, London Hainsworth, a current historic preservation graduate student of the School of Art Institute of Chicago.

London'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 27th at 9:30 a.m. at the Tabernacle. 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: Marjorie Snelling

Co-Treasurers: Doug Schongalla, Jean Ris

Directors: Regan Brown, Barbara Coon, Richard Glass,
Marylin Shaikh

Advisors: Dick Greene, Alison Ross

PDE and National Register Update Chair: Julie Mathien

President's Message: The 20s: Past and Present

How will this decade compare to the twenties of one hundred years ago? While we have images of speak-easies, a booming stock market, and summer retreat along the St. Lawrence, the decade had its share of cultural conflict. Appendix B of *Thousand Island Park: One Hundred Years, and Then Some*, by Jacox and Kleinhans, offers a glimpse of the businesses in the Park in the 1920s. It appears that one could get a shoeshine, see a movie, find a contractor, and rent a room. Today, we have access to some of the same activities in the Park, while we face conflict in politics, experience a booming development in artificial intelligence, learn to live with social distancing connected with Covid-19, and meet ever-present challenges associated with understanding the stewardship responsibilities of preservation of an historic district.

Landmark continues to develop programs to strengthen preservation efforts. This summer marks the second year of the National Register Survey Update with an emphasis on boat houses. New this summer will be an exhibit and Talk and Walk, each featuring porches, as well as a Member Event on the St. Lawrence to see restoration in progress on Comfort Island. During the 1920s, the commercial block built after the fire of 1912 remained an integral part of the summer community and continued to be so until the fire of 2014. This summer, *The Ballad of the Guzzle Fire*, a poem by Paul McGrath with illustrations by Madeline Brown, will be Landmark's newest publication available for purchase. You may remember the wonderful painted wooden "cut-outs" by Marty Pierce that were available at Landmark over the past ten years. (continued on pg. 4)

NRUP: A Plan in Action (continued from pg. 1)

I've been reviewing last year's forms, working on the narrative sections of the new nomination, and organizing all the material that last summer's survey team collected.

For those of you who may be new to the project, a quick recap: Thousand Island Park has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a district since 1982, a status that is mostly honorary but also enables building owners to take advantage of tax credits for rehabilitation. All cottages in Thousand Island Park are already part of the existing National Register district, so there will be no change in status; boathouses were excluded, but will now be brought into the district in recognition of their importance to the social history of the Park. The main reasons to update the district nomination are to recognize any changes since the original nomination and to bring it up to current National Register standards, which have become considerably more demanding since the 1980s.

Last summer we embarked upon the first round of survey work; you may have seen people out in the Park recording information and taking photographs on tablets. Thanks to the dedication of this wonderful group of volunteers and our excellent intern MacKenzie Carroll, all of whom braved the challenges of a new-to-some technology and a new-to-all (myself included) coordination process, our survey work is on track, with over 60 percent of cottages documented. This year's survey team will primarily focus on the more challenging areas of the Park, where reality doesn't always match the nineteenth-century maps! Meanwhile, I will be spending part of my time surveying the boathouses from the water, with Dick Greene as my boat captain.

The project also includes completion of the initial stages of tax-credit application work for four buildings in the Park: the Chapel, Tabernacle, Pavilion, and Library. Completing this paperwork establishes that these buildings contribute to the historic district and therefore are eligible to take advantage of tax credits for rehabilitation if such a project were to be proposed. This past year, we submitted forms for the Chapel and Tabernacle; in 2020 we will complete the other two.

If you helped with the project last year, thank you, and I hope you'll be back again this year for however much survey work you'd like to do! If you haven't been involved in the project yet but would like to be, please get in touch with me at kcomeau@beroarchitecture.com, and I will add you to my list to receive information about upcoming training sessions as well as regular project updates as the summer progresses.

Condensed Article - Visit Landmark's website for the complete version.

Katie Eggers Comeau, Architectural Historian, Bero Architecture of Rochester, NY

Preservation Corner

In the world of historic preservation language, there is a term “character defining features.” In the world of Thousand Island Park, our National Register Historic District, that language describes the “porches of TI Park.” The second half of the 19th century was the golden era of porches across our country, and in the Park. Often highly embellished with decorative elements or simply a shelter from the weather, our “outdoor” living rooms are a true extension of our cottages into the landscape, where social interaction dominates, “hi neighbor.” It is very important to preserve the historic parts of our porches and our Code does not allow porch enclosures as these “outdoor rooms” are our historic signature to the world.

Source for further information, US Department of the Interior, [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov). **Preservation Brief 45 Preserving Historic Wood Porches**

Trude Fitelson

Chautauqua of the North **TALK & WALK**

PORCHES & COMMUNITY

Thousand Island Park, NY

A July & August Afternoon

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tabernacle Community Association
& Landmark Society

*More details
will be
available
about this
cosponsored
event after
we return to
the Park.*



Along the River - Member Event

Thursday, August 13th

*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 years, and as work nears completion, TIPLS members will be the first to

view the property, meet the owner and contractor and tour the home before it opens to the general public. We hope you will join us and come see this exceptional restoration project and view the beautifully restored home on August 13, 2020. Transportation will be provided by antique wooden boat both to and from the Island. You won't want to miss this event! More information will be available by the end of June.

Volunteer Opportunities

Historic Preservation relies on a variety of support from all ages.

**Volunteer
Appreciation Program**

Earn levels of
recognition through
your service.

**Scanning
Wednesdays**

Share your photographs
to enhance the archives of
TIP's history.

**Youth
Community Service**

Work toward credit hours
preserving our
summer community.

Visit the website, or stop into Landmark to learn more.

thousandislandparklandmarksociety.org

Visit

thousandislandparklandmarksociety.org

**for information on
historic preservation,
volunteer opportunities,
and Landmark events.**