

WINNERS OF 2005 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The winners of the 2005 Historic Preservation Awards for Otsego and Schoharie Counties were announced at a ceremony and reception at the Fly Creek Area Historical Society on May 27. Now in its seventh year, the Historic Preservation Awards program recognizes projects and people that demonstrate excellence in the area of historic preservation and local history projects. The winners in the following award categories are:

Career Achievement

- **Anita Harrison** has been town historian for the Town of Hartwick for nearly twenty years, and has served as President of the Hartwick Historical Society for 15 years. During her long tenure she has written grants to fund Historical Society projects, helped oversee a cultural resource survey for the Town of Hartwick, documented all the Town's cemeteries, and was the editor of *Hartwick: The Heart of Otsego County*, a town history published for Hartwick's bicentennial celebration in 2002.

Rehabilitation

- **Van Patten Hop House**, located in the Town of Middlefield, dates from the 19th century when hops were a major agricultural industry in the region. Owners Ted and Mary Quinn received a grant from the New York State Barns Restoration and Preservation Program for rehabilitation of the hop house. Restoration contractor Jon Edgington used traditional hewing skills to make new sills and joinery to replace posts and beams. Missing or deteriorated building features were repaired or replicated to match the original materials and architectural features.
- **Beardslee Hop House**, built circa 1865, is the last pyramidal roof, draft kiln hop house in the Town of Pittsfield. It is part of the Beardslee Homestead, which was named to the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2000. Rehabilitation of the hop house, completed in 2004, included foundation repair, sill replication and replacement, and restoration of the exterior board and batten siding.

Stewardship

- **Gilbert Lake State Park** was recognized for the ongoing restoration and rehabilitation of cabins and other park features. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has undertaken this work to help preserve the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—the primary engineers and laborers in the Laurens park. Through the preservation of park cabins and buildings, museum exhibits, and educational programs, the Gilbert Lake State Park and OPRHP staff have furthered stewardship of this important period in our nation's history.

Special Nomination

- ***Richmondville Days*** is an hour-long video which chronicles the history of Richmondville through oral narratives by some of its oldest residents, historic film footage, and photographic documentation. The Richmondville Historical Society joined forces with film professional Dennis Shaw to produce the video. The video debuted at the Cobleskill-Richmondville High School in December of 2004.

Honorable Mention

- **J.H. Rushton row-and-sail boat *Felicity*** dates from 1902 and has remained in the Otsego Lake area since that time. Owner Scottie Baker oversaw major restoration of the boat, which was completed in 2003. *Felicity* is currently on display at The Farmers' Museum as part of the exhibit *Mysteries of the Lake: Otsego Lake. . . Past and Present*.
- **The Route 20 Pulse** is a monthly paper published in Richfield Springs. Its regular features include pieces on the local history of towns along the stretch of Route 20 (between Duanesburg and Lafayette) currently under review for New York State Scenic Byway status. The paper has helped bring attention to the revitalization of Route 20 communities and the road's unique history.

The 2005 Historic Preservation Awards ceremony and reception were sponsored by Otsego 2000 and the Fly Creek Area Historical Society. For more information, please contact Otsego 2000 at (607) 547-8881.