

MARCH/APRIL 2017

REAL ESTATE GUIDE

ADIRONDACK *Living*

FEATURED

THUNDERSNOW
LODGE p.8

FAMILY FRIENDLY
HIKES p.16

REVIVING A
SUMMER CAMP p.20



LAKE PLACID NEWS

Reviving

A Summer Camp

By Kelly Carroll



The Friends of Eagle Island is moving forward to re-establish the children's summer camp with an anticipated soft opening in summer 2018.

The Santa Clara town board amended the local Land Use Code on Jan. 12 to allow group camping on the island, which opened doors for fund development and partnerships, Executive Director Paula McGovern said.

It would not be a Girl Scout camp, as it was for seven decades until 2008, but would serve as a camp for kids to learn about the Adirondacks and to sail, canoe, swim, climb and camp.

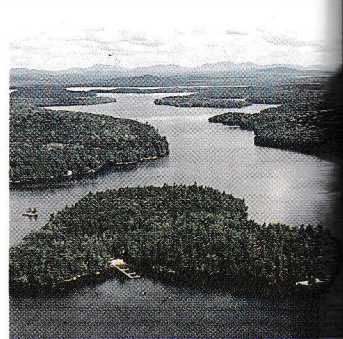
FEI was also recently awarded a \$498,825 grant through the 2016 state Regional Economic Development Awards and a \$10,000 grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns.

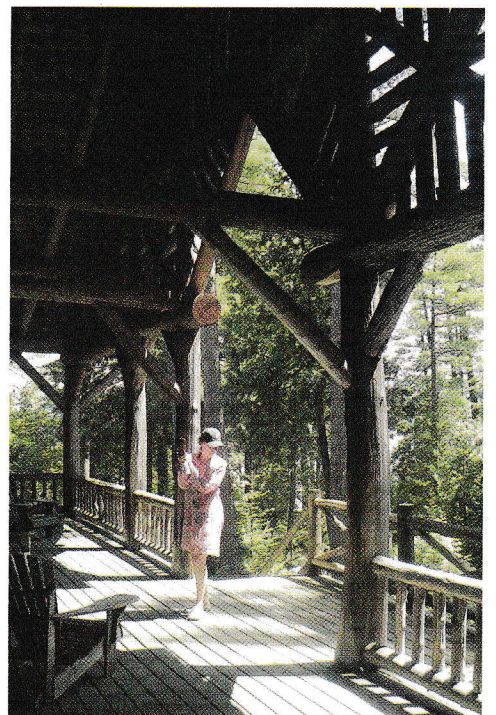
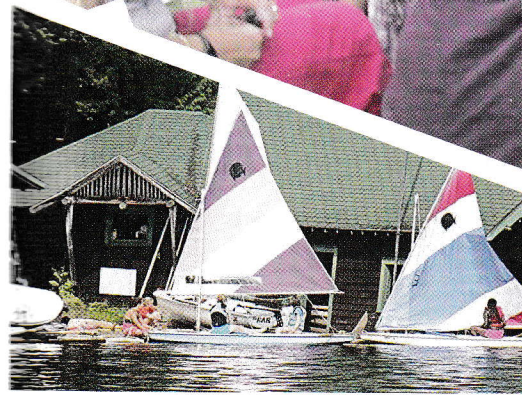
"We've gotten an awful lot accomplished in a little over a year," McGovern said. "We've gotten the land use approval. It's gotten a lot more money through individual donations and through this grant from the state, which is incredible in two ways.



Obviously it's money, a half a million dollars towards the renovations, but of course it also shows the state believes in the value of this island and the historic value of the camps."

It will still take a lot of work to get the camp up and running, including a new water supply system, septic upgrades, a new electric supply, foundation work, new roofs and kitchen upgrades, which will





total approximately \$1.5 million.

“We’re continuing our fundraising, and we’ve got a lot of long-term supporters,” McGovern said. “It’s all good stuff right now. We’re really ready to move forward full speed ahead.”

McGovern said she is looking forward to reopening the camp as it should have many benefits to the community.

“One, it gives the kids the opportunity to learn about the Adirondacks, learn about nature, learn about the environment,” she said. “It will also provide jobs for the local economy. Young people could be staff as counselors and advisors. And also as a National Historic Landmark, it’ll let people be able to see this unique facility with a unique history.”

Eagle Island is a 30-acre property located on Upper Saranac Lake. It was designed in 1903 by architect William Coulter for Levi Morton, former New York governor and U.S. vice president under President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1910, Morton sold the camp to industrialist Henry Graves from Orange, New Jersey, who gifted the property to the Girl Scouts of the Oranges in 1937. Campers used the island from 1938 until 2008, as the local New Jersey Girl Scout council decided to discontinue its use in 2009 and sell the camp in 2010.

The camp was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, and in 2004 the property was named a National Historic Landmark.

FEI purchased the island in November 2015 from the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council for \$2.45 million through the contribution of an anonymous donor.

Photos provided by Paula McGovern, Friends of Eagle Island, and Adirondack Daily Enterprise staff Dan Leonidas & Adam St. Pierre.