



PRIDE of Ticonderoga

Preserve, Revitalize, Implement, Direct & Effect Community Development

Annual Membership

September 2011

Trestle Conversion Extends LaChute Trail



The Ticonderoga Train Trestle conversion and the expansion of the LaChute River Trail has been a vision of many residents for many years.

“Ever since public access to the Lake George outlet was closed, and this was many years ago, I have bemoaned the loss of one of our community’s most important and visually attractive locations. What small view was to be had from Lord Howe Street was soon blocked by vegetation,” stated George Singer, PRIDE member. “Our prior Town Supervisor was sympathetic when I wrote a couple of years ago but pleaded lack of funds...it never occurred to me that grant funds might be available, nor did the plan to utilize the old

rail bridge as a pedestrian connector between Lake George and Alexandria Avenues. Both brilliant ideas. The three gates, the spillway and the power company penstock are all now readily available through a nicely lighted path.”

As in most instances when a major project is undertaken and completed, there are many people who have contributed to the vision and to the execution. This was one of those projects. “Organizations and volunteers have worked hard to pave the way for PRIDE to move this project forward and we are fortunate to have had their wisdom and support,” says Sharon Reynolds, Executive Director.

The \$325,000 grant to the Town of Ticonderoga was awarded in 2009 for the trestle conversion and was identified as a shovel-ready project

by the NYS DOT and given full funding. The grant originally required a 20% match which the Town would have had to fulfill. The final piece of the project; replacement of the existing sidewalk on the north side of Alexandria Avenue, will be completed this month.

A celebration of the pathway will take place this fall.



Above, Margarita Alarcon, PRIDE intern in 2009, was one of the authors of the original trestle grant application along with Kristi Mars and Sharon Reynolds.



Left, the entire trestle pathway above the waters of Lake George as they enter the ‘chute’.



What an exciting year this has been for PRIDE. The office staff and the Board of Directors have been great. People have been commenting on the WOW factor when they visit Montcalm Street. The commercial establishments are showing a renewed energy. PRIDE's success in acquiring and administering hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants, matched by building owners, shows positive results.

We are proud to have been a part of the Frazier Bridge restoration along with so many other community organizations and individuals who contributed in saving a true historic treasure. Thanks to the many residents and public officials who participated in the Frazier Bridge Dedication in July.

A bright light for us this year has been the transformation of the historic train trestle into a walking and biking path. Our partnership with the Town of Ticonderoga on this project is an example of how a community can work together toward the goal of providing a safe, healthy, and vibrant place to live for our residents.

Sharon Reynolds, our Executive Director is all over the map promoting PRIDE of Ticonderoga. And, PRIDE's HOME, RESTORE, and Manufactured Home Replacement programs continue to assist low-income residents of Essex and Washington Counties with much needed renovations that they otherwise could not afford. Hundreds of families have been helped since its founding in 1984. PRIDE is the difference-maker!

Doug Feick, President

Profiling New Board Members— Kathy Liddell & Jim Major



Kathy Liddell has been a resident of Ticonderoga for over 25 years. She is a Registered Nurse and is employed by North Country Home Services, a not-for-profit home health care agency serving Ticonderoga and surrounding communities. She is a member of New York State Health Care Providers and serves on the BOD of their educational affiliate, Community

Health Care Services Foundation, Inc. Kathy is an avid golfer. When she is not playing golf she enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends and reading. "As a past member of the PRIDE Board of Directors I recognize the wonderful contributions PRIDE has made to the area and I am happy to once again be serving on the board", says Kathy.

Jim Major has been a resident of Ticonderoga since July of 2004. As a summer resident since his birth, he has developed a love for the area which was shared by his mom. Upon her death she bequeathed a substantial sum to the library which allowed them to complete the recent addition. Though Jim will say he is retired, it sure doesn't seem to be the case. His desire to see Ticonderoga grow

and prosper is clearly evident in his actions. The transformation of the long vacant Arthur's Drug into the Two Brother's Market is an amazing addition to Montcalm Street's new look. Jim's current project at 92 Montcalm Street, the "white elephant" as many long time residents have called this very important wood frame Italianate commercial structure, one of a few remaining in Ticonderoga, we know will be an eye-catcher.

Jim brings to the PRIDE Board his passion for the Town, his determination to forge ahead no matter the obstacles, and his personal and financial commitment to the residents and vitality of the Ticonderoga community.



A State in Transition

It seems when there are economic challenges all around us – in our community, our state and in our personal lives – we look a bit closer at the way we do business. Sometimes this comes in the form of major changes and often it comes in many smaller tweaks.

Recently, Governor Cuomo created the Regional Economic Development Councils, a community-based approach that is designed to emphasize regional unique assets and empowers each region to set their own plans and priorities.

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC) will serve as a point of contact for economic activity in our region of the state and up to \$1 billion in state resources will be accessible to eligible economic development projects through existing program grants and tax credits. For more information on

the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, go to www.nyworks.ny.gov.

In the months ahead, PRIDE will be staying up to date on the work of the NCREDC through the appointed members. Donna Wadsworth, Communications Director at IP, James McKenna, President and CEO of the Lake Placid Convention and Visitors Bureau, Garry Douglas, President of the North Country Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Co-Chair of the Council, and Cali Brooks, Executive Director of the Adirondack Community Trust. These are four of the nineteen members appointed who are the most familiar with the revitalization efforts in Ticonderoga.

Cali Brooks has been appointed as the Chair of the Community Development Committee and has asked PRIDE to be at the table for these important discussions. Though it is still unclear as to the impact the

Council will have on how PRIDE's current grants and submissions will be managed, we continue to research and identify funding for housing, downtown revitalization, and community development, and also continue to reach out to other organizations for the purpose of creating strong partnerships. I strongly believe these are the key to successful projects.

As we begin this fall to develop our own three-year strategic plan, it will look much different than past plans with more outreach into our neighboring communities and more creative partnerships around the region while staying true to our purpose of preserving, revitalizing, implementing, directing and effecting community development.

Sharon Reynolds
Executive Director

Montcalm Street's New 'Face'

Thanks to the business owners who have stepped forward and matched NYS Main Street funding of \$300,000 to upgrade their buildings. They, together with PRIDE, provide work for local contractors and add much to the community.



Along with the tower went rotting sills and constant water problems.



The Pub sports an upscale façade with new windows, door and, inside, fresh carpeting.



Mountain Time Furniture's fresh new look.



The renovation done on the former Arthur Drug Store—now the home of Two Brothers' Market.

New windows all 'round and fresh paint make even the back of Burleigh's Luncheonette look great!

Community Dedicates Frazier Bridge

The historic Frazier Bridge was formally dedicated on July 8th with Senator Betty Little and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward both in attendance. Both officials praised the restoration project and thanked PRIDE and all the members of the community who helped make it a reality.

Sheridan Burleigh, Vice President of PRIDE of Ticonderoga, introduced many members of the audience including Steven Englehart, Executive Director of the Adirondack Architectural Heritage Society who spoke to the gathering about the bridge's significance. The Frazier Bridge was originally built in 1894 replacing an iron bridge that only lasted ten years. It is a compression-style bridge and one of the very few double-arched stone bridges of this type in existence.

Specifically recognized for their vision and contribution to saving the bridge were Tony Reale and Reale Construction Company. Mr. Reale spoke about the important part the bridge played to the community long before International Paper was built in the area west of the bridge. Former Supervisor Bob Dedrick added "If this renovation had not been done I am certain we would have lost the bridge in the high water this past spring".



Shown clockwise are Deb Malaney, Town Supervisor, with Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward; Lynne & Peter Reale; Sharon Reynolds and Sherrie Burleigh; Tony and Wilburta Reale; Supervisor Malaney with Steven Englehart of AARCH; Senator Betty Little and Jim Kneeshaw, Anne McDonald and Carolyn Malaney; and Bob Dedrick, Former Town Supervisor.



**PRIDE of Ticonderoga
PO Box 348
Ticonderoga, NY 12883**

**A donation to PRIDE
means support for a
vibrant community!**