



Town of Horicon
Historical Society
P.O. Box 51
Brant Lake, NY 12815



July 2013

An update on restoring the historic church into the 1881 Historic Museum in Adirondack, New York

Dear Friends and Supporters of the 1881 Historic Museum in Adirondack:

It has been a while since we reported to you on the status and progress toward creating the exciting and much-needed 1881 Historic Museum in the Hamlet of Adirondack, New York.

Considerable work has been accomplished to restore the church structure in preparation for its use.

Considerable additional work still needs to be done, most urgently, a new roof to prevent water infiltration.

Here is a brief recap of accomplishments to date – and needed next steps.

- We have raised **\$17,739** to date for this project thanks to wonderful supporters like you. Because of the equally wonderful efforts of dedicated volunteers, all of the work described below has been accomplished at an out-of-pocket cost of **\$1,720**, leaving an available fund balance of **\$16,019**;
- The seriously wet basement conditions have been resolved – thanks to efforts of dedicated volunteers and Town of Horicon staff, especially Terry Peters and Gregg Hayes. New sump pumps have been installed and connected to an underground drain line from the church basement to the Town's existing storm drain line running underground in front of the church along Church Street;
- The basement now remains dry through all seasons of the year; the sump pumps are idle but stand ready to operate if needed in any emergency conditions;
- Because of this basement work to date, we have been told by contractors who have recently looked at the site, that the foundation is presently stable and no longer continuing to deteriorate. This was a major concern - now brought into stable condition. Future foundation work likely may be called for but it is no longer the critical item we were facing not too many months ago!
- Again through efforts of dedicated volunteers, including volunteering local contractors, the massive accumulation of trash and debris has been removed from the church and disposed of properly. We are especially grateful to Michael Baker of "Over the Hill Excavating" who, together with his son, cousin and friend, worked tirelessly on oppressively hot, humid days to get this work done;
- These efforts already have enabled periodic use of the church including for weekend indoor 'garage sales' which achieve two objectives: 1) helping to raise funds for the remaining required restoration work; and, 2) enabling residents, neighbors, visitors and you, our wonderful supporters to experience first-hand the 'feel' of the future home of our 1881 Historic Museum in Adirondack;

- Certain electrical work has been done to provide interim safe conditions; considerable further electrical work will be required; plumbing work also will be required including bathroom facilities;
- Under guidance of its President, Tom Johansen, Town of Horicon Historical Society members continue to preserve many rare and irreplaceable historic artifacts of our Adirondack-Brant Lake-Horicon region at the existing Museum building in Brant Lake. But as so many of you know, due to limited space at that venerable location, many of these historic artifacts are unable to be displayed for full viewing and appreciation by residents of our communities, students and visitors.

Indeed, this is one of the compelling reasons for creating the 1881 Historic Museum in Adirondack!

- Historic building elements and contents including the historic 1887 bell [in operating condition], pulpit, pews and other historic artifacts presently are in a stabilized condition. These elements are covered as necessary to prevent any water damage from above – through the aged roof;
- That brings us to the current, most critical, physical improvement now needed: **new roofing**:

Formal bidding documents were prepared for installation of all new roofing but, because the Town of Horicon actually owns the building, we were subsequently informed that all work to be performed under contract bidding must comply with rigorous New York State bidding requirements including prevailing wage rates. We are informed that this could virtually double the cost of the roofing work and any other construction work done under those public bidding requirements. We are examining this situation including possible further use of dedicated volunteer efforts;

- For these cost reasons - and as a priority in our prudent, energized fundraising efforts, we have worked hard to develop and apply for a number of governmental and private foundation grants. These have included detailed applications to multiple New York State sources through the State's Consolidated Funding Application process and from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It saddens us greatly to report, to date, these external fundraising efforts have been unsuccessful.

This is partly due to our 'small town' nature when competing against 'big city' projects with their powerful lobbying capabilities and governmental focus on today's buzzwords of 'jobs creation' and 'economic development' - too often it seems ignoring historic preservation and impacts on small communities. But we are undaunted. We will continue these external fundraising efforts to complement the generous contributions you already have made to our wonderful historic project. We'll reemphasize that, even if 'small in scale,' bringing visitors to local communities like wonderful Adirondack and Brant Lake is, indeed, a vitally important element in sustaining our local economy.

We currently are examining additional external funding possibilities and we welcome any and all suggestions you may have on other potential external funding sources to complete our mission.

If you have fundraising experience, we would truly welcome your participation in these efforts.

We are reminded of the saying, "The wheels of progress grind exceedingly slow but exceedingly fine."

All of us who are working on this noble 1881 Historic Museum in Adirondack constantly remind ourselves of this reality as, each day, we work strenuously toward that day in the not too distant future if not this year, then certainly in 2014, when the Museum's doors open wide to you, our wonderful supporters, residents, neighbors, students, visitors and friends.

It has been hard work on the part of many but, on reflection, we have accomplished a lot so far.

We will keep you up to date on progress in coming months. Know deeply of our gratitude for your support.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Tom Johansen, Edna Trumble, Colleen Murtagh and John Donovan, the Historical Society and all the Folks working toward:

The 1881 Historic Museum in Adirondack