



Friends of Eagle Island, Inc.

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saranac Lake, NY (January 16, 2017) — Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. (FEI) is excited to announce that it was recently awarded a **\$498,825** Grant through the 2016 Regional Economic Development Awards from the State of New York for the ***Preservation and Restoration of Eagle Island Camp***, that is located on Upper Saranac Lake. This is one of the 77 projects totaling \$61.4 million within The North Country Economic Development Council.

This matching grant enables FEI to make significant strides towards meeting its substantial capital goal required to reopen this historic youth camp. The capital needs are projected to be \$1.5-2M and include a new water supply system, septic upgrades, a new electrical supply, foundations, roofs, and kitchen upgrades.

History of Eagle Island

Eagle Island is a 30-acre property located on the majestic Upper Saranac Lake in Santa Clara, New York. It was designed in 1903 by preeminent Adirondack architect William Coulter for Levi Morton, who served as both New York Governor and United States Vice President. Eagle Island has been described as a quintessential and highly intact example of an American Adirondack Camp and as perhaps the finest example of Coulter's work.

In 1910, Morton sold the camp to Henry Graves, an industrialist from Orange, New Jersey. In 1937 Henry and his wife, Florence, graciously gifted the property to the Girl Scouts of the Oranges in memory of their sons, with the intention that Eagle Island be "a place to keep the spirit of childhood alive." From 1938-2008, the island was the summer home for generations of young campers. Regrettably, the local New Jersey Girl Scout council discontinued use of the island in 2009 and decided to sell the camp in 2010.

Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. (FEI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity that was incorporated in April 2011 for the purpose of acquiring Eagle Island and returning it to use as a youth camp. FEI purchased Eagle Island in November 2015 for \$2.45 million through the generous contribution of an anonymous donor.

The vision for Eagle Island is threefold: (1) to provide an environmentally responsible and economically sustainable summer camp accessible to youth of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, (2) to conserve and preserve Eagle Island's natural and historic character, and (3) to facilitate Historic tours that promote public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of Adirondack heritage.

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