

Friends of Eagle Island, Inc.

Eagle Island - Where History Meets The Future



Issue 3

November 2011

Adjusting Our Sails

It was a busy summer for the FEI— visits to Eagle Island, pledge work, business plans, outreach to perspective partners and an offer to purchase submitted to the Girl Scouts Heart of N.J. Sometimes it seems that we are making little progress, but there are still many opportunities to pursue in achieving our goal to own and operate Eagle Island for future generations. And so, we anticipate a busy winter and spring.

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey has not been responsive to our offer, but the listing agent assures us that GSHNJ has received it. We are unaware of any other offers pending and suspect that we will not hear from the Council until late spring. Many advisors have said that this is not unusual given the weak market conditions. While we are not pleased with the lack of direct communication, we believe this is a potential benefit to FEI, giving us more time to solidify our financing options, which include conversations with successful non-profit fundraisers and consultants.

The Board of FEI is very grateful for the continued enthusiasm and hard work that all our volunteers and supporters have given over the last nine months. As always, we welcome your ideas and comments, and we look forward to celebrating a successful outcome.

Take-A-Hike for Eagle Island—A Huge Success

More than 170 participants took part in “Take a Hike for Eagle Island” fundraisers from May through July, raising \$26,257 for the Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. (FEI). This first major fundraising effort drew alumnae and staff, their families, friends, kids hoping to be future Eagle Island campers, and community supporters. Hikes took place across the United States—in Maplewood and other New Jersey towns, the Midwest (to view an eagle’s nest), Los Angeles, and points in between—and further afield, like London and Australia. Individual organizers set their own locations and pace. This year’s organizers urge you to start planning your 2012 hike now. Don’t wait for the spring rush. If you participated this year, we want to see you again. And everyone who couldn’t make it—we look forward to welcoming you in ‘12. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors. You can have it your way—jog, bike, walk, roller blade, skip or crawl. More hikes mean more money for our beloved camp.

Chapel Isle, Six Nations Indian Museum and Eagle Island - OH MY!

-Contributed by Chris Hildebrand, FEI Communications Coordinator

GINNY, Mariana and I spent a week at Doctor’s Out on Upper Saranac the end of August, where we were able to do a number of things to increase awareness and make new friends for FOEI .



When we attended Chapel Isle services on Sunday, I was invited by the pastor Dr. Newton W. Greiner Sr. to say a few words at the opening of the service about the Friends of Eagle Island and our mission to acquire and save our camp. There was a wonderful response from the congregation which included many people who were unaware of the status of the Island.

We visited the Six Nations Indian Museum and got to spend time with the Mohawk family that founded and



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operate this amazing place. We remain in contact and they will be a great resource for historical information and friendship with our campers.

Judy Meagher, granddaughter and daughter of the Morton's and Graves caretakers invited us to her beautiful home at Gilpin bay and we shared stories and photo albums of Eagle Island from the Graves era and the first year of Eagle Island. We had a luncheon for Buz Graves, great grandson of Henry Graves, Jr. at Doctor's Out. Dart Emerson (legacy camper 1938 and former EIC Director), and Connie Garbutt, (Program Director early 1950s) attended along with other EIC alums in the area. Buz Graves is actively engaged in trying to save Eagle Island.

Ginny and I visited Eagle Island, along with Mary and Jim Hotaling and Howard Kirschenbaum, experts in Adirondack historical preservation and architecture. We all had assignments to inventory the property and its current condition for reopening as a camp, if we can acquire it. The inspection was very thorough and reports have been sent to FEI Board of Directors.



*Pictured from left to right are:
Henry D. Graves, Jr. (Buz), Chris, Ginny, Dart Emerson, Connie Garbutt*

Pledge Support for FEI Going Strong

In August and September a dedicated group of volunteers set out to confirm financial pledges for the acquisition and future operations of Friends of Eagle Island. Nearly 400 people were contacted by phone or e-mail to confirm their pledges from 2010 surveys. The group focused primarily on potential donors of \$500 or more. Chris Hildebrand developed two e-mail blasts to people who had never pledged, and those who were not assigned to a call group. The results were overwhelmingly positive. Of those contacted, nearly 100% confirmed and many increased their pledges, representing \$290k or 87% of previously pledged dollars. We will continue our efforts to reach the remaining 13% over the next few months.

If you have already pledged to this campaign, either verbally or online, we want to sincerely thank you. If you have not pledged or have not been contacted to confirm your pledge, please contact Chris Hildebrand at 908-687-9180 or childebrand@friendsofeagleisland.org. You can also go to www.friendsofeagleisland.org and make a pledge. You are pledging to make a future donation to Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. FEI is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

*"You can't control the wind -- you can only adjust your sails"
...Well, we have adjusted ours...please help by joining today!*