

It's a Beautiful Day in This Neighborhood!

... as the Save the Lyon Commission accepts the donation of the 1923 section of the former Haverling Elementary - High School (originally Haverling Academy).

At long last, the entire school building and grounds are property of the Save the Lyon Commission. Many people are to be congratulated for their roles in this success story.



The Save the Lyon Commission Inc. has achieved its longstanding goal of obtaining title to the former Dana Lyon School in the Village of Bath, located at the corner of Liberty and East Washington Streets. The School property was donated by Liberty East Washington LLC, which is owned by Buffalo developer Peter Krog.

In addition, the Commission has settled a lawsuit over title to the School property against Liberty and the Bath Central School District. The Commission was represented by Rochester attorney Alan J. Knauf. Pursuant to an Order from Acting Supreme Court Justice Marianne Furfure dated March 22, 2010, the Commission had already obtained title to a portion of the School on the corner of Liberty and Elm Streets known as the "Primary Annex." That parcel was donated to the Commission from the heirs of Ira Davenport. In 1899, Mr. Davenport had donated the Primary Annex parcel to the School District, but title reverted to his heirs because the School closed.

The Commission is a non-for-profit organization formed to promote, preserve and beautify the former Dana Lyon School property, and develop a Center for the Arts in the former Primary Annex building. Walter Longwell, Treasurer of the Commission, said: "We are very pleased that Mr. Krog and the School District have joined the Commission in a resolution that will benefit the Bath community and preserve this historic landmark."

"We also want to thank the heirs of Ira Davenport, who have supported us in our efforts to gain title to the School, and without whose generosity this could have never happened. We hope that the School will serve as a permanent monument to honor the contribution that Mr. Davenport and his heirs have made to this community."

The Commission now plans to turn its attention to developing the Center for the Arts, as well as preserving and utilizing the balance of the School building. It welcomes donations of time and treasure from the community.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from the Save the Lyon Commission and the Waterman Center for the Arts.

Progress was steady in 2011, culminating in the acquisition of the 1923 section of the school. We expect that 2012 will bring great progress as well.

In the first quarter of 2011, we worked with the NYS Dept of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to finalize a grant contract for \$75,000. We have updated all of the paperwork requirements with New York State, and are hopeful that this grant money will be forthcoming shortly. This money will have to be matched by the Save the Lyon Commission, so watch for some creative and interesting fundraising drives this year. For our supporters who are computer-savvy, we hope to make use of Facebook for social networking to spread the fundraising challenges throughout our loyal band of Haverling alumni. For those who are not computer users, the old-fashioned paper or telephone communication system will still be fully operational.

MEMBER DONATION

One of our members generously donated funds to cover the printing costs of our fundraiser cookbook, *Health Eating From Depression to Recession*. Sales of this special little cookbook enabled us to meet our limited financial obligations and pay down our legal fees. We still have a few copies available.

SCHOOL IS ANCHOR FOR VILLAGE

In March, Mr. Jack Benjamin, of Three Rivers Development Corporation spoke to our group about a variety of issues that we will want to consider as we plan for the future of the Primary Annex, The Waterman Center for the Arts, and the 1923 section of the school, which we have just acquired. His presentation was important because he recognizes the Dana Lyon School site as being an anchor for the Village of Bath, as well as a very highly visible, potential attraction for tourist trade. Imagine Bath becoming a destination for tourists, rather than a village to be passed through on the way to tourist attractions.

ARTS OPEN MEETING

In April, the ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes hosted an open meeting between the Save the Lyon Commission and members of the arts community in our area. This brainstorming session was very stimulating and positive, and we are beginning to establish the presence of the Waterman Center for the Arts in our community.

COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL

On Saturday, 9/10/11, thanks to the creative effort of several local artists, and a grant from the ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes, The Waterman Center for the Arts hosted its first Community Arts Festival on the grounds of the Primary Annex. The weather was just perfect, with kids and adults enjoying hands-on art activities. There was something for everyone as artists shared their abilities in photography, felting, ironwork, paper craft, cookie decorating, clay exploration, home-made percussion instruments, and splatter painting from atop a ladder. Everyone enjoyed socializing in a relaxed and interesting atmosphere. Throughout the day, and into the evening, a 9/11 memorial was created as people walked the small spiral labyrinth to place their own hand-made token on one of the two columns, which represented the twin towers.



MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

YARD SALE SUCCESS

Our annual August yard sale was successful once again, thanks to the volunteers who priced items for sale, set up the tables and took responsibility for cashiering. We were blessed with donations once again, not only for items to be sold, but also by a local businessman who gave us a generous discount on the rental of a large tent, as well the set-up/take-down work.

CREATE YOUR OWN HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

In November, our group of artists received a small grant from the ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes, and offered a "Creating Your Own Holiday" workshop series at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church and the Fred and Harriet Taylor Library in Hammondsport. The artists are most anxious to begin to use the Primary Annex for their own workspace, as well as public events, and have offered to go in and do some clean-up and minor repairs in an effort to speed things along. Along this same line, we did receive a very gracious donation of time and materials from a local electrical contractor, who installed a basic service so that the lights could once again be on inside the building. Amazingly, most of the existing light bulbs were still working!

NEW WEBSITE

We received a donation of time and talent from a local graphic artist who built our new website, www.watermancenterforthearts.org. Please be sure to take a look at it as we will be posting pictures of our events and news of our progress. There is a special page for Haverling alumni on the website. We also have a new Facebook page, Save the Lyon/Waterman Center for the Arts, and have just begun to contact alumni over the past 3 weeks. For most of us in the Save the Lyon Commission, when it comes to computers, learning really is a lifelong pursuit.

We Need Your Support!

It is our hope that all of our supporters will find a way to contribute financially in this coming year, so that the necessary repairs can begin, insurance coverage can be afforded, and the doors can open for all to enjoy the Waterman Center for the Arts. Please consider a financial gift of any size, along with a membership, to bring this completely new and different place, in the heart of the Village of Bath, into being. If a financial gift is not possible, please consider a donation of your time, talents or materials.



In these days of limited incomes and tight budgets, why not indulge in the creative arts, wherever you are living? You may find that it is a satisfying diversion from the stress.

We offer our best wishes to all of you, and expect to have ongoing positive news for you in 2012.

Thank you for your support.

Curt Hopkins, President
Rosalie Niemczyk, Vice-President
Walt Longwell, Treasurer
Patty Gurecki, Secretary