Advocacy for Endangered Properties

This was a year in which we celebrated several important advocacy successes. In August, the rehabilitated 1885 Bow Bridge in Hadley was reopened to the public. This was largely the result of AARCH’s key advocacy role and our work to secure a $1.2 million federal grant for Saratoga County. We were also instrumental in convincing Paul Smiths College not to tear down the historic Harriman Cottage. The plan is now to restore it as the home of the Adirondack Watershed Institute. In November, after a long struggle, the restored 1857 Jay Covered Bridge was reinstalled in its original location over the Ausable River. Thanks to funding from New York State to the Open Space Institute, work began this year to stabilize the McIntyre Furnace and McNaughton Cottage in Newcomb.

The future also looks much brighter, thanks in part to our efforts, for Debar Pond Lodge in Duane and the St. Regis Mountain fire tower. We are also working hard to ensure the preservation of several other regional bridges, including the 1878 Upper Bridge (left) in Keeseville, closed since 2004, and the majestic 1929 Lake Champlain Bridge in Crown Point, the future of which is now being studied.

Major Progress at Camp Santanoni

Thanks to a $365,000 Save America’s Treasures grant to AARCH and matching funds from New York State and the Town of Newcomb, Mercer Construction undertook major exterior restoration work at the Gate Lodge (left) and West Cottage this fall. Both now have new roofs, are stained and painted, and have had their major structural problems corrected. Michael Frenette and crew also nearly completed the restoration of the boathouse at the Main Camp. In 2006, New York State also committed an additional $1 million to Santanoni, use of which will begin in 2007.

Arts-in-Education

For the tenth year in a row, AARCH was part of an innovative program in the Plattsburgh City School District’s 4th grades, where we used the architecture of the Kent Delord House Museum and the surrounding neighborhood to explore local history, culture, change, and building design. In the fall, we took Westport Central School technology students (left) out to explore the Ausable River’s historic bridges as part of their bridge design project. AARCH is also a major supporter of the Adirondack Arts in Education Partnership (www.adkartsined.org), which encourages arts in education in the region through grants, training, networking, and technical assistance.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage …… protecting and preserving the irreplaceable architectural heritage, historic places, and communities of the Adirondack Park
Tours, Workshops, and Special Events

This year AARCH sponsored thirty-one public educational tours and workshops throughout the region. We also offered twenty public tours of White Pine Camp, the 1926 summer White House of Calvin Coolidge, did several dozen public lectures, and held four special events - our annual meeting in Tupper Lake, benefit events at Eagle Nest and Three Star Camp, and an awards luncheon. We also offered, for the first time, a week-long tour of the region’s finest rustic architecture for a group from the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association.

Adirondack Churches

In June we published *Adirondack Churches: A History of Design and Building* by Sally Svenson. Well researched, well written, and profusely illustrated, the book has been enthusiastically received and is selling briskly.

National Register and Survey Work

AARCH staff worked on National Register of Historic Places nominations for The Hedges on Blue Mountain Lake, Cobble Mountain Lodge in Elizabethtown, and a small district in Keene Valley. We also completed a survey of historic places in the Town of Willsboro.

Technical Assistance and Support

We continued to provide helpful assistance to dozens of historic property owners on a range of preservation issues. This included providing support for National Register nominations, distributing information on preservation grants and tax credits, and giving conservation advice. We are particularly excited to be part of the Arto Monaco Historical Society (www.artomonaco.org), which celebrates the work of toymaker and fantasy park designer Arto Monaco of Upper Jay. In August, volunteers at the Land of Makebelieve (left) began the process of stabilizing the Castle.

AARCH Awards

At our eleventh annual awards ceremony at the Ausable Club (left) in St. Hubert’s in September, AARCH recognized six projects, including: Santa’s Workshop in Wilmington, the Split Rock lighthouse in Essex, the Wells House in Pottersville, Twin Pines boathouse on Loon Lake, the 1870 Bed & Breakfast in Indian Lake, and the former Stark Hardware store building in Saranac Lake.

Fire Tower Preservation

We have continued to lend our organizational support to two fire tower preservation projects in the region – the *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine* and the *Friends of Bald Mountain*. Both have succeeded in creating grass roots organizations, restoring and reopening their respective fire towers, and undertaking other educational and trail improvement work. The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine were also instrumental in acquiring an additional 200 acres adjacent to the mountain, through which a new summit trail will be developed.