

November 1, 2020

I haven't updated my Presidents message for a while so I thought this would be a good time to do so as I have much to report. As you may be aware, we have taken over the entire building at Akenac Park for our museum. The Library has closed, moved out and we have received our building permit. Our Board is very excited and Ted Parsell and I, along with other Society members, have begun renovations on the interior. When completed, this will double the museum size and allow for more extensive displays. There will be a new office, a board room and much more. We hope to have this project completed by Spring 2021.

At our October Board meeting, it was unanimously decided that all members that paid their dues for 2020 will have their membership extended through 2021 without additional dues. Members who failed to pay 2020 dues will need to pay only 2021 dues to maintain their membership. The 2021 season is expected to be an exciting one and will get underway as soon as virus restrictions are lifted! We will be resuming our monthly program schedule; the Museum will be open at least twice a month, on Saturdays, April thru October and free to all members.

I am pleased to announce that progress on the theatre, which is being spearheaded by our Vice President, Dennis Lee, is continuing and it is hoped that it will be completed and in operation for the 2021 season. Dennis presented his first free admission show, a variety show, outdoors on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Akenac Park. This was a professional production, not a high school show. The show headliner was Jim Manfredonia singing Frank Sinatra along with additional singers and dancers. The production, which was produced and directed by Dennis and his associates, was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Just a reminder, this and all future shows will be presented free of charge; these entertainment extravaganzas are funded solely by DONATIONS. Donations can be made through the Historical Society and specified for support of the theater project.

Due to COVID, the normal Christmas program presented by the Township Recreation Committee has been cancelled. However, the Committee will be providing a drive thru lighted holiday display for everyone's enjoyment. Santa will be present and its expected to be a fun time for all that motor thru Akenac Park to experience the joy of the Holiday.

Well I am sure that when my wife reads this message, she will say that I have been rambling and long winded again. I will place a new message on this site in December. I hope to have some pictures of the progress at the Museum to share at that time.

I and the Board members wish you all good health and I hope that you all have a very happy Thanksgiving!