

# Latest News on the Restoration

Dear Tower Supporters

Spring 2015:

On November 7, 2014 DEC Commissioner, Joe Martens issued the final Saint Regis Fire Tower Historic Area Management Plan which would allow restoration to proceed. The Friends of the St Regis Fire Tower applied for a Voluntary Stewardship Agreement (VSA) which was approved on January 16, 2015. The Friends are now working closely with DEC on the tower and to develop educational and stewardship programs.

We have some exciting updates to share with you. A very successful public meeting was held March 3, 2015 at the VIC to update interested parties on restoration progress and to recruit team leaders and volunteers. Areas have been divided into 3 main work groups: Construction, Fundraising, (which includes the Web site and Social Media) and Interpretive. Progress with the Work Groups is summarized below:

## **Fundraising:**

- We have a new [web site](#) that is smart phone friendly. Please check it out.
- We have a [Facebook page](#). Please "Like Us" and send us your favorite photos of St. Regis- the more the merrier the view.
- The Friends have partnered with AARCH, a 501(3)c non-profit charitable organization, allowing us to accept donations. Make a [donation on line or download a donation](#) form and mail to us.
- A blog will soon be available.

## **Construction:**

- Our construction leaders have met with DEC officials twice in the last two months and preparations are well underway.
- The tower has been inspected by a state engineer and the reports are in hand. The original Aermot is now available.
- Several possible stockpiles of spare parts have been located and are being investigated.
- Quotes for new parts have been received.
- A letter has been received from the DEC verifying that there are funds for fire tower stewardship including rehabilitation and educational activities. Provisions include purchase of materials and supplies by the Friends of the Tower provided by our Friends organizations.
- A survey for Bicknell's Thrush is being arranged as this will effect when restorations can occur.

### **Education/Interpretive Group**

- Plans for static educational displays on the mountain and at the Paul Smith's College are being developed. One such display would include a mock-up of the tower cab.
- Training programs for Volunteer stewards on the mountain and at the VIC are being planned.
- Handouts to be used by stewards are being planned.

We are still looking for help in our work groups: Construction, Fundraising, (which includes Education / Interpretive. Submit a [volunteer form](#) on line or print and mail to us.

Keep up to date on restoration progress via the website and Facebook page.

From the Friends of St. Regis Mt Fire Tower Steering Committee.