

2018 End of the Year Summary

December 30, 2018

Dear Fire Tower Supporter

2018 - the centennial year for the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower was very busy for the Friends.

Construction - Update: The cross braces were all ready by September, but due to numerous reasons the flight to transport them to the summit could not actually take place until October 31, 2018. Sunday, 11/4/18 – The contractor and crew climbed to the summit and started the replacement project. One set of braces were replaced. The crew camped on the mountain overnight and planned to resume work the next day. Monday, 11/5/18 – The crew woke to freezing rain and wind. They deemed conditions to be unsafe to continue working. All materials were secured and the tower reopened. The brace replacement project has been suspended until May, 2019. Thanks for your patience.

Two interpretive panels have been approved by the DEC and are being prepared for installation next spring.

Tower Stewards - Our tower stewards, provided through Paul Smith's College (PSC) Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) and volunteers, were busy this summer. They've reached over 1000 people through October.

Volunteer stewards are able to sign up on our web site at <http://www.friendsofstregis.org/calendar/>

Centennial Celebration Summary

Thursday, June 21 - Downtown Saranac Lake Art Walk

Thursday, July 19 - Downtown Saranac Lake Art Walk

Saturday, July 28, 2018 - The presentation by noted fire tower historian Marty Podskoch at the [Paul Smith's College VIC](#) Auditorium was educational, interactive and lots of fun.

Wednesday, August 1 - The Paul Smith's College Third Annual St. Regis Neighbor Get-together The lake community members had many stories of

their adventures going up the fire tower over the years. There was a lot of enthusiasm expressed about our restoration efforts.

Sunday, August 5th - Our centennial celebration at the beautiful facility at [Lake Clear Lodge](#) enjoyed warm summer temperatures. Featured speakers were:

- Ernest Hohmeyer of Lake Clear Lodge who spoke of the legend of the Sleeping Lady (St Regis Mountain)
- Assemblyman Billy Jones
- Tom Martin, DEC Region 5 Supervisor of Natural Resources
- Julie Harjung, DEC Forest Ranger
- Joe Rupp, DEC Forest Ranger (retired)
- Laurie Rankin, Director NY Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA)
- The Birch Boys Band who offered up some incredible music
- The many guests who attended to show their support

Tom Martin, DEC Region 5 Supervisor of Natural Resources presented the co-chairs of the Friends with a special plaque of appreciation for the Friends efforts to restore the Tower. There was tasty and healthful food and beverages and live music by the local band "Birch Boys".

Saturday, September 1st – Hardy members of the Friends organization lit up the tower in spectacular fashion for all to see. Lighting of the Tower is part of an effort by many tower groups to light up towers throughout the Adirondacks and Catskills. The [Lake Clear Lodge](#) hosted a "Lighting Party" on their beautiful beach with a great view of the tower through their telescope!

From the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Executive Committee

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You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the restoration of the fire tower on St Regis Mountain.

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