



# Centennial

**March 30, 2018**

Dear St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Supporter

2017 was a tremendous year for stewardship on St. Regis Mountain. In partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) of Paul Smith's College (PSC), the Friends of St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower were able to provide eleven days of coverage, eight days with AWI staff and three with volunteers. AWI stewards provided coverage on one or both weekend day(s) throughout all of July, and days in May, June, and August.

Volunteer summit stewards provided an additional three days of coverage. Altogether, the summit stewards reached over 680 visitors.

A tower steward handbook was developed and an on-line calendar for volunteers to sign up to spend a day on the mountain was implemented.

Both these improvements are accessible through our web site.

The Friends hosted two outreach programs in 2017: Board Members gave an informational presentation about the history of the fire tower, the restoration process, stewardship, publicity, operations, and volunteer opportunities on July 10, at Historic Saranac Lake in Saranac Lake. Marty Podskoch spoke on the history of Adirondack fire towers and their restoration at the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths, NY on Sunday, July 23.

An article in Adirondack Explorer and Adirondack Almanack featured a trip by Co-Chair Doug Fitzgerald, and reporter Mike Lynch, in which they skied and hiked to the tower via the Lake Trail, or Teddy Roosevelt Trail. A detailed description of the snowy route as well as information about the tower restoration was featured.

Looking forward to 2018 and remaining reconstruction work, the Friends submitted a 69 page grant to the New York State (NYS) Parks and Trails Partnership Program grant to obtain funding to replace the 24 structural cross braces. Although we were not successful, we continue to seek ways to fund the structural improvements. The Friends are currently submitting a

grant to the Cloudsplitter Foundation in hopes of securing some outside funding to augment donations.

Other projects being pursued and hopefully to be accomplished this year are: enclose the footings, finish the painting, put protective sealer on the steps and clean up the area around the tower. Regarding the Educational aspect of our program, we hope to have a permanent display nearby and are expanding our informational stewardship program (a collaboration with NYS DEC and the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI)) on the mountain. To aid summit interpretation, the Friends are working to create panoramic interpretive panels that will be mounted in the cab above the windows to identify landmarks.

2018 is the Centennial of the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower. Plans are underway for some celebrations of the event. Stay tuned for specific dates to be announced shortly on our Facebook page and our web site (<http://www.friendsofstregis.org>)! New centennial patches designed by Jackie Sullivan Passeti will be available in the near future.

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

*Copyright © 2018 Friends of the St Regis Mountain Fire Tower, All rights reserved.*

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

**Our mailing address is:**

Friends of the St Regis Mountain Fire Tower  
PO Box 73  
Lake Clear, NY 12945