



Turning Point! FORT TICONDEROGA

AMERICA'S FORT



Trustees, I have witnessed, and indeed experienced, a number of marvelous turning points: a turning point in the quality and scope of the our educational programs; a turning point in the sheer magnitude and meticulous authenticity of the living experience that we afford our visitors; a turning point in the celebration of centuries of preservation, restoration, agriculture and horticulture that

now define Fort Ticonderoga as much as its natural beauty and its eighteenth-century military history; a turning point in the mission to interpret and display our unparalleled collections; and a turning point in our ability to earn the enthusiasm and pride of our growing family of generous supporters, without whom the other transformations could not occur.

We are now planning to implement a bold new vision to make Fort Ticonderoga a must-see destination for guests eager to understand our history and experience the past. Our turning points have been orchestrated by many people: our generous donors and supporters who provide the life blood of the organization, our visitors who spread the word, our Board of Trustees, which I am honored to chair, our talented staff under the exceptional leadership of our President and CEO, Beth Hill, and our many volunteers and community supporters.

Sandy Morhums—

Sanford W. Morhouse Chairman, Board of Trustees



The mission of Fort Ticonderoga is to ensure that present and future generations learn from the struggles, sacrifices, and victories that shaped the nations of North America and changed world history. We serve this mission by preserving and enhancing our historic structures, collections, gardens, and landscapes, and by educating and inspiring the public as it learns about the history of Fort Ticonderoga and the diverse peoples who met here in war and in peace.



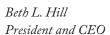
hen I arrived at Fort Ticonderoga in 2010, the organization was at a critical turning point. It made me think of our American soldiers at Ticonderoga in the fall of 1776. Although the crisis and impending disaster they faced was much more consequential, I couldn't help but think that we needed to take action as they once had. Just as it took an army of 13,000 men to fortify the great camp Ticonderoga, so too, our organizational turning point relied upon thousands of supporters and volunteers who rallied to our cause.

Work continues each day here at Fort Ticonderoga, and our inspiration remains the dedication and determination of

those soldiers, who 240 years ago, risked everything in the name of liberty to create our nation. We owe it to them to preserve this site so that we can continue to educate our visitors about the principles of our republic and the ongoing sacrifices that our soldiers make today in order to protect our way of life.

We are now at the threshold of a new turning point. Fort Ticonderoga is financially strong, welcoming over 70,000 visitors a year and becoming well known throughout the country. We deliver first-class educational programs and are nationally acclaimed for our research and authentic interpretation. From the youngest field trip visitors, to the overnight youth group students, to our Graduate Fellows who launch their careers right here at the museum, to the educators who find new ideas and motivation at our residential summer teacher programs – we are making a difference in people's lives. Through collections, exhibitions, horticulture, maritime programs, historic interpretation and all of our educational programs, our goal is to engage a growing audience about the importance of Fort Ticonderoga and the founding of our nation.

Thank you for helping make that possible!







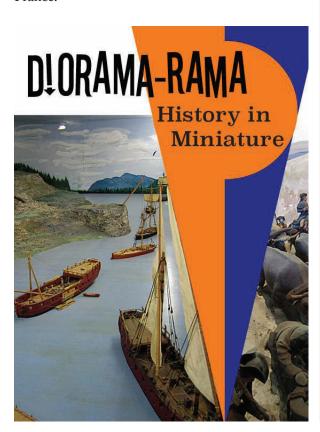
Top: Fort Ticonderoga is spectacular during the long winter months! Bottom: Students learn about the daily life of soldiers during Fort Ticonderoga outreach programs.



New growth in staff, resources, educational experiences!

2015 saw exciting growth in our museum departments including collections management, exhibition fabrication, education, horticulture, maritime programs, and historic interpretation. Increased resources helped us grow in capacity and impact.

Four new exhibits emerged, refreshing several spaces for the first time in over 50 years! Visitors enjoyed our "Diorama - Rama: History in Miniature," "Object Lessons: Perspectives on Material Culture," "Iron & Stone: Building Fort Carillon" and "1756: the Front Line of the New France."





A 60-foot touring boat, Vessel Carillon, offered daily waterway tours, maritime educational programs, and charters. Funding for its purchase was provided by generous donor support and a grant from Empire State Development for a the expansion of the Heritage Breeds program. waterway transportation and recreation system.



Our Heritage Breeds program brought cattle and chickens to the garrison grounds in 2015 helping to enliven Fort Ticonderoga's rich history. 2016 will see



Young visitors picked up needle and thread to make their own French Toques, worn by soldiers in 1756, during our Summer Family Program in 2015.



New and updated gardens in 2015 highlighted Fort Ticonderoga's multi-century horticultural history, including the 1756 Soldier's Garden, the Pell Perennial Garden, the King's Garden, farm to table garden, and the Native Garden.



Well-behaved women seldom make history

Our Interpretive Department developed programs in 2015 featuring women who often served next to their husbands at Ticonderoga, but rarely appeared in the historical narrative. This new interpretation was featured in several living history events including the Brown's Raid Reenactment.

"All of the female interpretive staff have found this extremely empowering, making us better at our jobs by enfranchising us more deeply in the history we're interpreting. This new focus on women's history is also playing a major role in the larger military living history community. I'm really proud to think we're a significant part of that."

Eliza West (center), Fort Ticonderoga Costumer



Increased access to our collections

We hired the museum's first Collections Manager in 2015 whose role is to document, organize, preserve, and open access to our vast collections.

Accessibility to our collections has been dramatically increased for our staff and other researchers. Our weekly "Collections Speed Dating" program provided an opportunity for an in-depth look at portions of our collections for the entire staff. As a result, new sources of information supported groundbreaking interpretation. 2016 will usher in new collections management projects including a heavy focus on the hundreds of thousands of archeological items held by the museum as well the expansion of collection storage space. From powder horns to uniforms, oil paintings to manuscripts, Fort Ticonderoga's collections are extensive and represent the best of their kind in North America.





Experiential Learning for All Ages!

ur youth programs experienced tremendous growth in 2015 as Fort Ticonderoga increased its reach across the United States. Nearly a thousand students in New York and Vermont benefitted from dynamic outreach offerings during the winter months; scouts from more than 10 states participated in immersive and unforgettable overnight experiences; and Fort Ticonderoga sponsored National History Day for New York's North Country students.



Unforgettable Expeditions!

Nearly 6,000 students participated in educational field trips to Fort Ticonderoga in 2015, taking part in the "Soldier's Life." We expect 2016 attendance to increase by 35%! Our outreach is funded in part by grants from the Walter Cerf Community Fund and the Lake Placid Education Foundation.



Every year is a new learning experience ... every day an event!

Port Ticonderoga is the only historic site in the world that tells a new story annually by spotlighting a specific year and group of soldiers with dynamic historic interpretation. 2015 highlighted the French Languedoc Regiment at Fort Carillon in 1756. 2016 features the year 1777, depicting the vast networks of defenses created by the Americans and captured by the British. Visitors will enjoy soldier's life programs, historic trades, military music, special events, and living history weekends.











Pell Graduate Fellowship Program Launched

Your support enabled us to launch the Edward W. Pell Graduate Fellowship Program in 2015, a new initiative that engages the next generation of museum professionals. Four Fellows (Rick Tomczak, Heather Haley, Matthew Schlicksup, and Catherine Davis) were selected to focus on education, interpretation, collections, and exhibitions. The next class of Pell Fellows will begin in June 2016. Donor support also made possible the restoration of our Black Watch House, which provided an on-site residence!

"In March, I interviewed for an adjunct position with the History Department at SUNY Old Westbury. I expected to discuss teaching philosophy, classroom experience, and their course catalogue. Instead, we focused on my summer experience at Fort Ticonderoga and how I could bring interactive, "living" history into the classroom. I am now moving toward my lifelong goal of becoming a professor of history. The Pell Fellowship at Fort Ticonderoga was the defining moment of my life. The research that I conducted had an invaluable impact on my career, my dissertation, a chance to travel to Turin, Italy, and to be published. The Fort Ticonderoga staff, now my lifelong friends, have such a passion and dedication to history. With their help, I received the chance to live history, to absorb history, to be a part of history."

Rick Tomczak, second from left, Pell Graduate Fellow



Dynamic Teacher and Graduate Study Programs Expand

his summer we will offer three one-week long residential workshops, two of which are National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Programs and the third, our own Fort Ticonderoga Teacher Institute, funded solely through donor support.

In 2015, 72 teachers from 38 states were selected to attend our NEH program. This residency featured "The American Revolution on the Northern Frontier: Fort Ticonderoga and the Road to Saratoga." Participants learned to utilize primary sources, objects, and historic landscapes to teach their students through hands-on, multi-disciplinary projects.



In the Footsteps of Greatness — A Monumental Life Impacts a Monumental Place —

Henry M. Rowan (1923 – 2015)

Henry M. Rowan, passed away on December 9, 2015 at the age of 92. Mr. Rowan, entrepreneur and business owner, benefactor of Rowan University and supporter of many organizations — several on Lake George — has also been a loyal supporter of Fort Ticonderoga through visits to the fort nearly every summer of his life, bringing his children and friends alike and attending Fort-sponsored events. Every year since 2000, when he first created the Henry M. Rowan Family Foundation, he and his family have made substantial gifts to the Fort.

ne of Fort Ticonderoga's most generous donors, Mr. Rowan's first introduction to Lake George, Lake Champlain and Fort Ticonderoga came, as a little boy of 6 or 7 when his mother, Margaret Boyd Rowan, took his two older sisters and younger brother, Bill, camping at a site near Bolton Landing. Later she built a home on the Lake for her family to enjoy.

> Mrs. Rowan was the quintessential teacher who wanted, indeed expected, her children to learn as much as they possibly could about just about every subject one could imagine. Her methods for teaching were experiential—she believed in participating in and experiencing life first hand. Although each

> > child was expected to memorize poems about history, whether it be Hiawatha or Charge of the Light Brigade, she knew that even Robert Lewis Stevenson's book "Ticonderoga," would not give them the kind of immersion into history that seeing, touching and climbing on a cannon would.

Her insistence on immersion and being the "best" you could possibly be was truly embodied in her son, Hank, whom she

affectionately called "Buddy," and later "Bud." Hank Rowan was all about excellence, requiring it from everyone with whom he came in contact . . . requiring it especially for himself.

His drive for achieving excellence was paramount in his life — with the building of a highly successful, international company, in racing his Starboat against champions around the world, by inspiring the creation of an Engineering School at a small state college, later a university. He believed in the unlimited capacity of an individual to achieve great things, as long as he or she endeavored to be the very best he or she could possibly be.

This past year has been a turning point year for all of us at the fort, and we wish to recognize benefactors like Hank Rowan whose support has truly made a difference.

Virginia Rowan Smith, June 2016

Henry, right, with his brother, Bill, at Fort Ticonderoga in 1930.

Thank you to Virginia Rowan Smith, daughter of Henry M. Rowan, for providing the content in this letter. Fort Ticonderoga is extremely grateful to the Rowan family, the Rowan Foundation, and Ginny and Manning Smith for their generous support.



Thank You!

We gratefully acknowledge each of your gifts that continue to advance the mission of Fort Ticonderoga: gifts to the Fort Ticonderoga annual fund (names in bold), which underwrite our education and preservation work; membership gifts (red asterisk); gifts in support of fundraising events; capital gifts; and gifts to our endowment. Finally we are grateful to those donors, listed in blue, who have given consecutively for 10 or more years.

This listing reflects gifts made between January 1-December 31, 2015. Please let us know of any errors or omissions. Thank you!

Thank you for your support!

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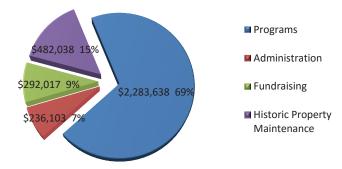


reat progress continued in 2015! We welcomed more than 72,500 guests with paid attendance up nearly 11% since 2011. During that period we also increased admission revenues by 32%, membership support by 73%, and the number of individual donors by 33%. Total operating revenues are up 27% thanks to

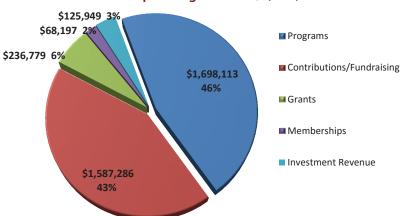
increased program revenue and strong sales in our café and retail store. Fundraising events including the Ticonderoga Ball, the King's Garden Party, the Summer Gala, and the Corbin Benefit Shoot have also seen significant growth over the past few years with total revenues up 140%. Our endowment has also grown by nearly 40% since

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Uses of Operating Funds = \$3,293,798



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