

From the Desk of...

The Grindstone Island Schoolhouse

The Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center

41591 Cross Island Road, Grindstone Island, Clayton, New York 13624



Important Dates:

- ⇒ *Children's Program:* Children's summer programs for all ages will run for 7 weeks beginning on Tuesday July 7th through Thursday August 20th from 10 am until noon.
- ⇒ *Young Adult Program:* Young adult workshop sessions will be held from 10 am until noon on Monday July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3. These programs are designed for middle and high school students age 11-15 years. Students will explore the natural and historical sites of the island and are asked to meet at the Schoolhouse with four wheeler transportation. If transportation is needed call Urch at 686-2642.
- ⇒ *Picnic/Auction:* The Schoolhouse picnic and auction are on Sunday August 9, 2009 right after church.
- ⇒ *Annual Meeting:* The Schoolhouse's Annual Meeting is on August 21st, 10:00 am at the schoolhouse. All members are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

The Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center is dependent on the support of our members and friends. Your membership provides for the many programs and activities of the schoolhouse. Most importantly your membership helps us to preserve the culture and heritage of the island. You can help by becoming a member (renewing your membership), making a donation, contributing to the scholarship fund or by doing all three! **Please note our address: Billie Downey, Treasurer; 220 Cartier Drive, Clayton, NY 13624.**

Scholarship Program

The Schoolhouse scholarship program is administered by The Thousand Islands Foundation (TIF). Candidates for the Grindstone Island Scholarship must be direct lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived year round on the Island, and must live within a 35 mile radius of Grindstone. Scholarships are intended for post high school, college or vocational programs. Applications are available from the high school guidance counselors at Thousand Island, LaFargeville, Alexandra Bay, and Lime Central schools. You also may obtain an application by contacting Ms. Nancy Taylor-Schmitt at the TIF @ (315) 686- 5594, ext. 1000; PO Box 1000, Clayton NY 13624 or phone (315) 686-3258.

We congratulate our 2008 scholarship recipients: Lyndi Marie Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hall who is attending St. John Fisher and majoring in Accounting. She is a descendent of Emmet Dodge and her grandparents are Larry & Kathy Reinbeck Ingerson and Gerald & Mildred Hall. Her great grand-parents are Earl & Mary Dodge Ingerson.

Alexis Holloway is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Roland Holloway. Alexis' grandparents are Lewis & Louise Calhoun Burns and Bill & Wawa Lashomb Holloway. Her Great grandmother was Sis Matthews. She is attending SUNY-Potsdam and is a psychology major.

We wish the very best to these fine young people as they represent Grindstone Island in the academic world.

Lending Library Open

Do you need a book for some rainy day reading? The lending library, where Islanders can borrow or trade books will be open this summer. There are a variety of titles; however, most of the books are fiction. The building is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am until 4 pm.

SUMMER PICNIC and AUCTION

The annual Schoolhouse pot luck picnic and silent auction will be held on Sunday, August 9, 2009, after the church service. This is the Schoolhouse's big annual fundraiser so mark your calendar and don't miss this terrific Grindstone event.

Transportation from Clayton to the Upper Town Landing at Aunt Jane's Bay will be provided. Transportation to and from the church and the Schoolhouse will also be provided for the event. Watch for more details in the TI Sun.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Children's Classes

Age 5-10: The summer children's program for ages 5-10 will be better than ever. Plan to reserve Tuesdays and Thursdays for Schoolhouse fun. Classes are from 10:00 am until 12 noon from Tuesday July 7th through Thursday August 20th at the Schoolhouse. Activities will include crafts, music, gardening, games, cooking and other creative projects. Additional information on activities will be available in the church bulletin or by calling Urch Slate at 686-2642.

Young Adult Workshops

Age 11-15: The program for older students is based on a workshop style setting titled "The Exploration of Grindstone" with field trips to island locations. Young adult workshop sessions will be held from 10 am until noon on Monday July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3. Each Monday session is an independent workshop on a specific island topic or activity. Participants are asked to meet at the Schoolhouse with four wheeler transportation. If transportation is needed, call Urch Slate at 686-2642. Additional information on activities for the young adult workshops will be available in the Church bulletin or by calling Urch.

The GIRHC Has Lost a Valued and Beloved Friend

This past November, 2008 Schoolhouse board member Mary Lou Rusho passed away. Mary Lou was one of the original trustees for the charter to create the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center as a museum with the State of New York and she served on the board continually until her death. Mary Lou worked tirelessly to organize the Schoolhouse's yearly silent auction fundraiser and was a devoted advocate of the Scholarship program she helped to develop.

Born in Clayton on June 7, 1935 Mary Lou was the daughter of Clarence and Marian Nunn. She graduated from Clayton High School and later Rollins College, Winter Park,

Florida. She was a retired Seminole County elementary teacher. Mary Lou was married 53 years to Manley Leon Rusho. Following their marriage, the couple resided in Alexandria Bay until they relocated to Sanford, FL with their four daughters in 1969. The couple spent summers on Grindstone Island. During the last several summers Manley and Mary Lou worked to restore the 1880 lower schoolhouse on their property.

Mary Lou will be deeply missed by all who knew her and her legacy will be the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center and the students she helped through the scholarship fund.

Community Programs for 2009

Boater Safety: We are offering the boater safety certification class on Friday August 14th from 10 AM 'til 5 PM. at the Schoolhouse.

Clayton Town Meeting: Each year the Town of Clayton holds a meeting on Grindstone at the Schoolhouse. This is an opportunity to hear from our local officials and get an update on island issues. The meeting date and time will be announced in the church bulletin and the TI Sun.

Adult Fitness Class: Join us for Yoga with Eliza Moore Green. The day and time is yet to be determined so watch for more information in the church bulletin.

Play Ground

Last summer, play ground equipment in the form of a pirate ship was installed at the Schoolhouse. The pirate ship and play ground are available for special occasions such as Birthday parties. If you would like to have a party at the Schoolhouse please contact Urch Slate at 686-2642 to schedule the playground, kitchen and bathrooms.

Community Garden

The Community Garden has really taken off and the garden will continue this summer. Anyone interested should contact Urch. We need a volunteer to till the soil around mid May, if you can help please call Urch at 686-2642.

Heritage Calendar Collection

The photos in the Schoolhouse Calendar not only bring back memories, they paint a picture of the island community few of this generation can imagine

The **Heritage Calendar Project** is an important part of our research. Linda Brown and Brenda Patch have researched photographs that document and record our unique and wonderful island heritage and have given the photographs meaning by identifying the people and places and putting them into a context. **We are in the second year of the three part series on Grindstone Island Industry.** The 2009 calendar was the first in the series and features "The Vanishing Farms of Grindstone". There are about 10 of these calendars left for purchase.

Part II in the Calendar Series is the 2010 calendar, "The Existing Farms of Grindstone Island". This calendar will be available this summer and may be purchased by using the ordering information provided on page four or by purchasing the calendar directly from a board member. The Part III calendar for 2011 will feature "Other Industry through the Ages" and will be available next summer. These calendars not only provide our members with a historical photo collection, they also help to raise the needed funds to continue our programs and research.

A Letter From The President: Janice McPhail

Dear Grindstone Islanders and Friends,

In 1999, after being closed down for 10 years, the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center, also referred to as "The Schoolhouse" opened its doors as a chartered museum by the NYS Board of Regents as a non-profit educational corporation.

Over the last ten years we have made some wonderful accomplishments in the areas of historical and cultural preservation, island and family research, educational programs, scholarships, and community service.

Benefits of "Schoolhouse" Membership include:

Genealogy and family history information
 Island history library and research reports
 Oral history videos
 Newsletters
 Children and youth summer classes
 Adult classes
 Community programs
 Alumni and community picnic
 Scholarship program for post secondary students
 Yearly vintage photo calendar
 Community events information
 Playground
 Recreational reading lending library
 Community garden

We are celebrating our tenth anniversary in 2009. Help us to commemorate the occasion by becoming a member of the "Schoolhouse". Your membership will help us to preserve the culture and heritage of the island. You can become a member (renew your membership), make a donation, contribute to the scholarship fund or do all three! Please fill out the membership form on page four and make checks payable to the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center or GIRHC. Our address for membership and correspondence is: Carrier Bay Business Services, 135 Bay Lane, Clayton, NY 13624.

The mission of the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center is to nurture through educational programs and services the cultural, historical and social aspects of Grindstone Island by collecting, preserving, and teaching regional, island, and family heritage. Thank you for helping to make our mission a reality.

Sincerely,
 Janice B. McPhail

Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center's Board of Directors

James Adamson
 Sylvia Anderson-Shoultes
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 Urch Slate
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 Joan Tolette, Secretary
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Honorary Members

Diana Horning
 Doreen Meeks
 Aleatha Williams

The Grindstone Island Schoolhouse is sponsored by The Grindstone Island Research & Heritage Center, chartered by the NYS Board of Regents as a non-profit educational corporation.



2008 Committees

A list of Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center committees is provided for our membership. If you would like to participate on a committee, or be involved with a project please contact a Board member. You don't have to be on the Board to participate. Members are welcome and encouraged to get involved with any of our exciting projects. Join the fun in preserving Grindstone's heritage!

*Denotes committee chairperson

Education and Community Programs:

* Urch Slate

Heritage and Research Committee:

* Rex Ennis

Oral History Project

*Skip Tolette, Manly Rusho

Schoolhouse Picnic

* Sue Smith

Calendar Committee

*Linda Brown

Finance and Development

*Peter Rossmassler

Publicity

to Debbie Donaldson: *Urch Slate

Newsletter

* Janice McPhail

Heritage Calendar Order Form

Name: _____

Mail to address: _____

Number of 2010 calendars _____ @ \$12 each, plus \$1 per calendar for postage

Number of 2009 calendars _____ @ \$12 each, plus \$1 per calendar for postage

Number of 2008 calendars _____ @ \$5 each, plus \$1 per calendar for postage

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: *Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center*

Place your order by emailing Linda Brown < kmotel@verizon.net >, by phoning her at (315) 686-3380, or by mailing this order form and check to: Linda Brown, 1075 State Street, Clayton, NY 13624

Membership Form

Yes, I would like to become a member and support the work of the Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center.

_____ Individual (\$25)

_____ Family (\$50)

_____ Patron (\$100)

_____ Sustaining (\$500)

_____ Alumni (\$10)

_____ Memorial (\$ _____)

Name _____

Address (winter) _____ (phone) _____

Address (summer) _____ (phone) _____

Email/ fax _____

Please make membership and contribution checks payable to *Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center or GIRHC.*

Our address for membership and correspondence is:

Carrier Bay Business Services

135 Bay Lane

Clayton, NY 13624

Thank you for your support.