

# *News from The Red Schoolhouse*

## *Spring 2018*

### **The Grindstone Island Research and Heritage Center**

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### **GIRHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Dear Friends of the Red Schoolhouse:

Here we are again in countdown looking forward to the summer on Grindstone. I'm sure that like me you're all making your lists of projects for the summer and setting up your plans for arrival. It's a special time of year with so much to look forward to!

We at the Research and Heritage Center are excited to welcome our many friends and families back for the summer to enjoy our events at the Schoolhouse. We are also looking forward to putting the finishing touches on the schoolhouse restoration and hope you will stop in and take a look. Your participation in our events and fundraiser is very important to us, and we hope we continue to bring fun and fulfilling events to the community.

Your support through membership, donations and purchases at our picnic/auction fundraiser is crucial to our continuing support for our scholarships and our summer program, as well as building and maintaining a historical library of island written and oral histories. In fact, we have one more piece of restoration, which is to improve the outside of the schoolhouse with a new fence similar to the old and a restored lawn around the building. We hope that you will come be a part of all our activities.

Our Scholarships are a special benefit to Grindstone. Each year we are able to support the advanced education of two to four children of island families whether they be descendants of original island families or long established summer families.

The summer program for children will continue this season with a look to our original mission. The classes will provide the kids with historic knowledge of island traditions including gardening, cheese making, crafts of times past and much more. And if this sounds too educational, just ask the kids--they have a lot of fun doing all kinds of crazy kid stuff!

**So please fill out your enclosed membership envelope today to support the Grindstone schoolhouse.** Thank you all for being part of this wonderful community and for your generous support.

Warm Regards,  
Roxane C. Pratten  
Chair, GIRHC

### **GIRHC 2018 Calendar of Activities at the Schoolhouse**

June 30 Boating Safety Class

July 2 Schoolhouse Summer Program Begins M-Th Weekly, except July 4.

**July 4 Mule Parade/Picnic begins 11 a.m**

July 27 Co-Ed Coffee and Historical Presentations 9:00 a.m.

\*August 3/10 Summer Program Last Day

**August 12 Picnic/Auction Schoolhouse 11 a.m.**

August 23 Clayton Town Council annual meeting on Grindstone

Sept 8 Annual Meeting, Schoolhouse Board 10 a.m.

CPR classes are being held once again at Dodge Hall in 2018, schedule TBD

\*Final day of classes TBD by Board

## Ken Deedy Joins the Board

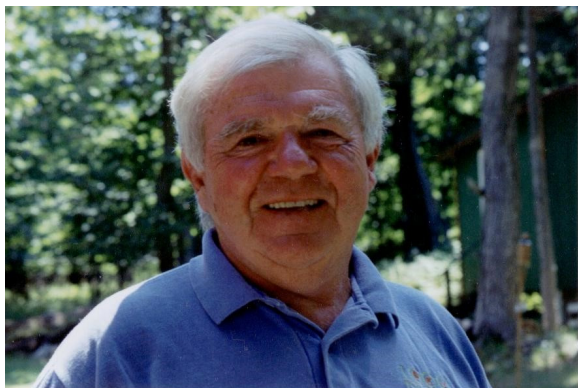


Photo by Susie Wood

The Schoolhouse Board is very pleased to welcome Ken Deedy to our board of directors. Ken needs no introduction to anyone on Grindstone, and we are delighted that he has agreed to share his many great skills with us. Ken expressed his strong support of the work that GIRHC has done to preserve island heritage and noted that there is a lot more to do, which he would like to encourage and assist.

Ken first came to Grindstone in 1963 or 64. He was an early supporter in the 1970s of establishing an organization to protect the schoolhouse and gather Grindstone's rich heritage, which became GIRHC. Ken is best known for the many properties on Grindstone that the Thousand Island Land Trust brought under easement or acquired through his efforts—the incredible Potters Beach, the Rusho Farm, Mid-River Farm, Howard-Smith prop-

erty and others. All of these will be kept in farming and open space in perpetuity. Ken has also been Treasurer of the GI United Methodist Church for 12 years, where his financial skills have been a great asset.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> the Great Parade

Decorate your favorite vehicle and yourself and join in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade that begins at the Schoolhouse at 11:30 a.m. Bring a picnic for an old fashioned get together on the schoolhouse lawn starting at 12:30.



## Schoolhouse Picnic and Auction Save the Date, Sunday August 12!

We hope to see you at our annual fundraiser. Bring a salad or dessert--and your check book--and we'll provide hot dogs, drinks and a lot of wonderful auction items. Last year the Cummings family joined us for a big family reunion at the picnic and shared a lot of family history with us.



The Cummings family at the picnic

## Children's Program Opens July 2<sup>nd</sup>



**Making fairy houses**

turning for the summer 2018 program. Jane brings with her 20+ years of teaching experience. She enjoys running, cooking, music and interpretive yodeling in her spare time. (We are really looking forward to that!)

The summer program will be four days a week, Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. This summer the themes will focus on animal habitats, island survival skills, cooking the old-fashioned island way, and island history. In late May we will clean out the garden next to the schoolhouse and plant vegetables and flowers that attract butterflies for the summer. Last summer the children really enjoyed harvesting and eating the vegetables they had grown in the garden.

Our program is available to children ages three and up, but we ask that an adult accompany any child under the age of five. It is free to families who are members of GIRHC, with a charge of \$5 a day for non-members. It is very important that first time parents fill out a registration form so that GIRHC has emergency contact numbers for families.

We welcome back Lindsey Bogasz this summer to lead the children's program. She will be joined by Jane Ritt, a long-time Grindstoner, as co-teacher. Jane has been coming to the south shore of Grindstone Island for as long as she can remember as a member of the extended Brown Family. Her children Sian and Margo have been regulars at the Schoolhouse program. Jane first taught at the Schoolhouse a decade ago, and is thrilled to be re-



**Hanging pine cone bird feeders**

## Schoolhouse Restoration Almost Finished



**Chris Badour painting schoolhouse grates**

We are pleased to report that the restoration of the Schoolhouse in concert with the Town of Clayton is finally about to be done. The Town has budgeted money each of the last 5 years for specific projects that move us closer to restoring the building back to its original condition.

Last season we completed the restoration of the original hardwood floor. When the original floor was discovered in very good shape under vinyl tiles, the Town paid for cleaning and finishing the floors with a durable oil/poly product that most resembles the original matte wax finish.

Last summer board members painted the closets (no small task) and the hallway at the entrance. New apartment cabinets were built and installed by members of the town crew. This spring they will complete a few remaining small items. With that completed we will be adding the final touches to the apartment including the bed, a dresser, a small table and chair and a braided rug to finish it off.

This season we will work with the town to add a fence to the front of the Schoolhouse similar to the fence shown in archived pictures. Please come visit the Schoolhouse and see our progress. Let us know if you would like a tour or step inside during the July 4<sup>th</sup> Mule Parade and Picnic.

## Schoolhouse Scholarship Winners 2017

*Please let family members know that high school seniors who would like to apply for a GIRHC advanced degree scholarship must have the application in to the Thousand Island Foundation by May 13, 2018.*



**Tom Davison presents award to  
Mallory Cooley**

The GIRHC's scholarships are administered by the Thousand Islands Foundation, an affiliate of the Northern New York Community Foundation. Students may apply through the high school counseling office in northern New York high schools, or they can access the application through our web site at [www.grindstoneisland.org](http://www.grindstoneisland.org). Anyone seeking further information may call Brenda Patch, Chairman of the GIRHC Scholarship Committee, at 315-523-0672.

Last year two students received our Heritage Scholarship, which requires that the recipient be a descendant of one of the long-time permanent families of Grindstone. Mallory Cooley, a descendant of the Bazinets, Turcottes and Slates, came to the Schoolhouse picnic in August with her family to receive her certificate. Our other Heritage Scholarship winner was Morgan Timerman, a descendant of the Carlisle and Bogenschultz families. The Mary Lou Nunn Rusho scholarship, which is open to long-time summer families as well, went to Emma Turcotte.

## The Carolyn Project 2017-2018

Last year we undertook an island cooperative project called the Carolyn Project involving GIUMC, GIRHC, and Dodge Memorial Hall, and in conjunction with TIERS, our river emergency medical group in Clayton. This project was developed in memory of Carolyn Bazinet to endeavor to make the island a safer home for everyone who may experience medical challenges during the year.

In 2017 we successfully raised funds (thanks to the Winery) to purchase two new AEDs (defibrillators) and distributed these and existing ones around the island. We donated a new one to Dodge Memorial Hall (thanks to Lauren at The Kove) and distributed others at locations strategically placed around the island for accessibility to all. Locations are: Dodge Memorial Hall, Red Schoolhouse, Winery, and Matthews Barn at Town Landing.

We educated many people last summer on the use of these AED units through our First Aid/CPR courses held at Dodge Hall and led by TIERS. Thirty-nine people were certified, making it possible that your neighbor will be of great help in case of an emergency. If you missed the classes last year, check the calendar for the date this summer and sign up on the form enclosed.

Last year we purchased a Shock Alert as well, which is used to check for stray current in the water around our docks. Unnoticed this can be a deadly hazard for adults, children and dogs swimming around the docks. Last season several homes discovered stray current and were able to remedy the situation before any accidents occurred. If you are interested in using the device please contact Betsy Fitter at the Church Council to sign up. ([elfitter@comcast.net](mailto:elfitter@comcast.net))

In 2018 we will begin developing a GPS locator list for TIERS use. This locator of family names and their GPS will help TIERS get to your home more efficiently in case of emergency.

## Grindstone Island Briefs by Mrs. Lewis Calhoun (correspondent) circa 1945

A fire destroyed a barn owned by David Garnsey last week, including several pieces of machinery stored there. \*\* Leon Dano recently purchased a new truck and had it delivered on the island. \*\* The Merry Grindstone Islanders 4-H Club have been busy making articles to sell and raise funds for the club. \*\* The Grindstone Home Bureau will meet May 6 at the home of Sue Garnsey. The project will be making cotton dresses. \*\*

A number of patrons of the Island Cheese Factory are making necessary improvements and repairs to the building. The factory will soon be making the famous Grindstone Island cheese. \*\* Mrs. Fanny Hutchinson, teacher in the lower school, has moved from her winter home with Leon Dano, to the small residence near the school. \*\* Mrs. Grace Slate is visiting in West Virginia with her niece Mrs. Joe Wright and family, of Watertown. \*\* Elmer Calhoun celebrated a birthday Saturday. Card games and a social evening were enjoyed by about 30 friends. Mrs. James Dodge made a special birthday cake.