



Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

A non-profit local development corporation whose mission it is to restore economic prosperity in the Ticonderoga region by serving as a clearinghouse for innovative ideas and resources, and a catalyst for public-private partnerships and investment opportunities.

Issue #1 October 2012

The Downtown Gallery
We've transformed an empty storefront on Montcalm Street into an inviting and vibrant art gallery. **Pages 1&2**



PRIDE wins Saw Mill Grant
PRIDE grant to plan Saw Mill in Bicentennial Park. **Page 3**



Aubuchon Hardware Expansion
Increased inventory, displays, and storage planned for 2013 season. **Page 3**



CFA Grant for Montcalm Street
TRA has applied for a CFA Grant from NY State for revitalization of buildings. **Page 2**



North Country Community College
Expansion will bring new students and curriculum to Ticonderoga. **Page 3**



Inter-Lakes Health
Work begins on old Hospital for new residential center in 2014. **Page 4**

It's Happening

Ticonderoga can be a vital town, the cultural and business hub of the eastern Adirondacks. We live in a place of unparalleled natural beauty and national historical significance. We have amazing year-round recreational opportunities, great schools, and wonderful community. We can turn our local economy around by working together and working creatively.

The Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance is doing just that. We're structuring high impact projects and fostering the partnerships required to bring them to fruition. We are bringing all the players to the table including key area businesses, local and state government, local investors, our schools and colleges, and the community. It's about arts, businesses, jobs, education, tourism, and quality of life.

What we do - and don't do.

The Ti-Alliance is a non-profit organization designed to be a clearinghouse for innovative ideas.



Through the support of interns and volunteers, the new TRA Downtown Gallery is open three days each week showcasing the work of 30 North Country artists.

Our board and steering board members represent varied interests, businesses, and governmental organizations that have the influence and energy to turn ideas into accomplishments.

As an entity, Ti-Alliance does not fund or manage these projects. But we bring the parties together that can make them happen. We help to find appropriate funding, we identify and move projects past obstacles, and we provide the communications hub to keep the partners and community involved.

The New Downtown Gallery

Two key initiatives of the Ti-Alliance are to revitalize the downtown corridor and create a cultural arts destination, so we thought a community arts project would be a great first effort.

We identified a suitable storefront owned by the Reale family who generously agreed that everyone would be better served by an attractive tenant than the empty building. Our TRA summer interns and volunteers went to work renovating the space and contacting artists.

In just two months, this project went from an idea to completion and is now a bright spot in downtown Ti. Stop by to see the gallery and to talk about how you can participate and read more about the gallery in the following pages

Be Part of the Solution.

TRA needs your support. Here's how you can help.

- Support the operations of the TRA with a donation by check or online via PayPal at our website.
- Lend your professional skills to the Ti-Alliance
- Volunteer to help in the office or the gallery
- Become an investor in Ticonderoga. Talk to a Board Member.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. Visit <http://ti-alliance.org/support/volunteer.html> and click the **DONATE** button to contribute online via PayPal, or return the enclosed coupon with your check.

FROM THE BOARD

As the Chairman of the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance Board of Directors, and as a person who is heavily invested in revitalizing the Ticonderoga area, I'm just thrilled by the outpouring of support from business leaders, private individuals, professionals, political leaders, and our neighbors.

We believe that this revitalization is about more than just Ticonderoga. It's about our region. Our outreach to the folks of Hague, Crown Point, and Putnam has received just as wonderful and positive a response. Together we can rebuild our area to be the business and cultural hub of the eastern Adirondacks.

Our team of partners and volunteers continues to grow. North Country Community College, International Paper, National Grid, Ticonderoga High School, Inter-Lakes Health, Bridge Point Communications, the Town of Ti, PRIDE, TACC, TMSP, the county, and others are excited participants and will continue to add their input for our growth and further success.

These are exciting times. Just look at the list of partners, board members, and steering board participants on the last page of this newsletter. All the players are at the table.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has helped out, and an invitation to everyone in our extended community to join our efforts to restore economic prosperity, jobs, and culture to our community.

It's Happening!

Jim Major

Jim Major



Spend time in the Downtown Gallery

Shop the Downtown Gallery - Purchases support the artists and the gallery.

The Downtown Gallery is YOUR space. It features the art of your neighbors, friends, and children. Come down to Montcalm Street to see what great talent we have in our community. Almost all the works are for sale too. Don't forget, art makes great Christmas gifts.

Be a TRA Volunteer

Now that the TRA interns are gone, we need to grow our team of volunteers to staff the gallery. It takes just a few hours a month to help out and artists can work there during the open hours. Imagine reading your latest book, meeting new neighbors, and being an ambassador to tourists as they pass through our community - all in a nice quiet artful environment.

New Exhibits in the Gallery

We want the Downtown Gallery to be an exciting place that art lovers will want to visit regularly. We'll keep things fresh by rehanging the gallery about every six weeks featuring local artists and students. You'll be able to see some of your favorite pieces currently in the gallery, as well as discover new material on a regular basis.

The Downtown Gallery is currently assembling the next gallery show which will open on October 25. Local artists are encouraged to participate. Beginning October 15, the Downtown Gallery will change its procedures for artists. To volunteer or request an application to show your art, contact Jill Cunningham at lakehouse77077@yahoo.com, or call Chattie at 593-9093.

The gallery will remain open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays throughout the season.

Gallery - Suite 2 Available for You

New space to host more art, classes, yoga, and events.

With the success of the Downtown Gallery, the Reale Family has made the other side of the Montcalm Street building available to Ti-Alliance to extend the cultural activities of our mission. Additional art will grace some of the walls, but the space will also be available to TRA and the public for other uses.

The community is invited to utilize the space for events, classes, workshops, performances, or holiday parties. Donations to help cover the cost of heat and electricity will be gratefully accepted. Contact Jill Cunningham or Chattie Van Wert for more information.

Lake Placid Sinfonietta performs in Ticonderoga

With the support of several sponsors and the Festival Guild, TRA brought the Lake Placid Sinfonietta to St. Mary's Church.



If you were walking down Father Joques Place on a warm summer evening in the first week of August, you might have heard Poncielli's "Dance of the Hours" wafting through the air. It was the sound of the Lake Placid Sinfonietta. At the urging and sponsorship of TRA, and with the generous support of St. Mary's Church, the Ticonderoga Festival Guild and others, the Sinfonietta performance was one for the memory books. More than 250 people attended the performance on August 3rd and demonstrated that support for the performance arts is alive and well in Ticonderoga.

TRA Supports Arts and Culture for Ti

Look for new opportunities to enjoy both the visual and performance arts this year as the Cultural Arts Initiative, under the new direction of Vincent Smith, works to expand the arts throughout the Ticonderoga region. TRA is an enthusiastic supporter of the Ti Cultural Arts Initiative.

CFA Grant Update

TRA hoping for CFA grant for downtown buildings.

Over the summer the Ti-Alliance applied for a Consolidated Funding Application Grant from the State of New York that could provide up to \$450,000 in funding to renovate some of the buildings along the Montcalm Street corridor. If we are successful in our bid for the grant, the funds will be used to turn several buildings into new retail space, apartments, and a theater.

Response from the state is expected late in 2012.

Receive TRA news via email. Visit our web page and click on CONTACT
<http://ti-alliance.org/contact.html>.

It's happening.....

Ti-Alliance partners gave exciting updates on their economic development projects at the Steering Board meeting. Here's what they are working on.

North Country Community College Projects

There's a big new NCCC sign on the hill just to the east of Downtown Ti. The sign is thanks to the efforts of the NCCC Board of Directors and some generous donors, but it announces more than the college location. NCCC President Dr. Steve Tyrell says the college is ready to collaborate in building public-private partnerships in the Ticonderoga community.



NCCC has continued to expand programs and increase enrollment at its 3 campuses over the past five years. Tyrell says, "Although we have been successful, our future is contingent upon integrating our students' experience with the downtown experience in Ticonderoga. We want faculty, staff, and students, retailers and residents to all play a role in advancing Ticonderoga as a destination location for learning, recreation, historical relevance, health, and workforce development."

Tyrell states that his first focus will be developing housing opportunities for students in Ticonderoga.

The Cobbler's Bench, Dollar Store, and Huestis buildings, owned by Jasama LLC and Jim Major lend themselves to NCCC's 3 residence/1 common room format that allows students to live and study in a shared environment. Dr. Tyrell says that the Ti campus has the capacity to enroll up to 300 students. With current attendance at 150, NCCC has room to grow. He sees a public-private partnership as a viable way to provide college-sponsored housing that could begin with 30-40 rooms and increase annually, eventually housing as many as 150 residents in years to come.

TRA has been coordinating discussions between NCCC and area employers over the past few weeks to develop curriculum that would prepare NCCC

students to live and work in the area. With the help of key players like International Paper and National Grid, NCCC is developing curriculum that will prepare graduates for good paying jobs right here in Ti.

"A critical problem in this area of the North Country is that there are no jobs available for recent graduates and they are forced to move away to find work" says Chattie Van Wert, TRA Director. "We need to find innovative ways to keep these young contributors in our own community."

The Ti-Alliance convened the first meeting of NCCC and the TRA area partners on October 5 to further develop the new curriculum to funnel graduates back into the Ti Area workforce.

Aubuchon Hardware Set to Expand Operations



If you have been in the Ticonderoga Aubuchon Hardware store lately you've noticed some changes evolving. With the departure of Lowe's from our community last year, Aubuchon has seen a resurgence towards pre-Lowe's sales figures. In response, the company has recommitted energies, capital, and inventory to support the needs of the local region. They have also been contributing financially as a Ti-Alliance partner this year.

According to Bill Drummond, District Manager for Aubuchon Hardware, the Ticonderoga store is in the process of expanding the retail foot print into an area formerly dedicated to warehouse space. In addition, they will be breaking ground in the near future on an expansion of the building for more warehouse space into the vacant lot adjoining their property. "It made absolute sense not to abandon a downtown landmark that has served the town and our company very well over the past 45 years." With the expansion, remodel, and continued

positive sales growth, Aubuchon hopes to add employees in 2013. Presently they employ four full time and three part time Ticonderoga area residents.

Ticonderoga PRIDE is Awarded Grant for Saw Mill Project

Sharon Reynolds, Executive Director, announced at our meeting that PRIDE has received a grant for \$44,760 to advance the reconstruction of the 18th Century French Sawmill built in 1756. The original mill stood on the site now occupied by the Bicentennial Falls in downtown Ticonderoga and will eventually be located near there again.



The grant will fund the design and interpretive plan components of the sawmill and the research that is essential to replicating a centuries-old structure.

Reynolds says, "The archeological studies have been completed by Landmark Archeology at the proposed site of the sawmill and after the design and research is complete we will begin to submit the required applications to the APA, DEC and the Army Corp of Engineers."

The New Meat Processing Plant

Long-time area businessman Peter Ward attended the TRA Steering Board meeting and reported on the progress of the Adirondack Meat Company processing plant in Ticonderoga. The plant will be located to the east of Tractor Supply Company and will occupy almost 22 acres including grounds and plant.

This state-of-the-art facility will be built to the most modern and green standards. Through the help of NYSEDA, the plant will achieve several power initiatives. The heat expelled from the refrigeration compressors is recycled to create steam and the hot water supply used in the manufacturing process.

In addition the latest technology allows a dramatic reduction in the required machinery with a net result of only five pieces of equipment required on the processing floor. This creates the most minimal energy and carbon foot print possible.

According to Ward, "I might have been the last guy to build a green industrial plant a few years ago. But with the technology today, there's no reason to build it any other way." Ward expects to break ground in the coming months and currently estimates the project to be operational around mid-2013. The Adirondack Meat Company is expected to bring 10-15 jobs to the area.



Inter-Lakes Health Renovation Update

Chip Holmes, President and CEO of Inter-Lakes Health in Ticonderoga provided an update to the TRA meeting attendees on several key areas of focus for Inter-Lakes.

Working with their partner and developer at Liberty Affordable Housing, renovation of the old Moses-Ludington hospital is underway with a planned opening by early 2014. Holmes said the 31-unit Moses Circle Senior Apartments Project will provide housing to area senior and disabled residents. They are currently working on the demolition of the old laundry building, asbestos abatement, and structural challenges associated with the 100+ year old hospital.

Inter-Lakes is always working to meet the community's medical needs too. They recently announced that Dr. Samuel Gottesman, a Urologist from Glens Falls Hospital, has started seeing patients at Inter-Lakes, and they are currently recruiting a full-time emergency medicine physician who will also serve as Medical Director of the facility.

Finally, the annual Inter-Lakes Health Fair is scheduled for October 24th from 2-6 pm in the Crowne Terrace of the Heritage Commons Residential Facility. Over 30 exhibitors from the community, county, and Inter-Lakes will be there.

Inter-Lakes is an important economic engine within Ticonderoga, employing more than 280 people with over \$12.2 million in salaries, wages, and benefits. In addition, they provide health insurance to more than 300 people in our community. Their goal is one of service to and for our community.

International Paper to Participate in NCCC Curriculum Discussions

One of the key initiatives of the Ti-Alliance in the coming months will be to link area employers with North Country Community College to coordinate job opportunities with curriculum. IP is participating in those discussions. New Ti plant manager Chris Mallon expressed IP's need for technically skilled personnel and looks forward to working with the group and exploring possible partnering to support their needs.



Mr. Mallon also mentioned that for the first time in a number of years, IP is encouraged by discussions regarding possibly bringing a natural gas pipeline to the Ti mill. "We are enthusiastic about participating with the Ti-Alliance and other groups to help with the revitalization of the region." The Ticonderoga IP plant employs 620 people and is one of the largest employers in the region.



Ticonderoga Schools Introduce New Programs for 2012/2013 School Year

Ticonderoga Schools sport high achievement numbers and a high number of graduates that head to college. They also struggle with a higher than desired drop out rate. But some new programs are aimed at keeping some of these kids in school through graduation.

John McDonald, Superintendent of Ticonderoga Schools, described a new program in partnership with BOCES that has students from as far away as Bolton traveling to Ti High School on a daily basis to study as marine mechanics. "We did some research and found that the marine industry, both in our community and beyond, is in urgent need of trained mechanics. Our research also found that many of the kids that are dropping out of school do so because they don't feel they can be successful academically. But they are bright kids and interested in applied learning". So far the program looks quite successful.

McDonald said that Ticonderoga Schools will be participating in the curriculum discussions to see how they can partner on creative curriculum to keep more kids in school and prepare Ti students for jobs in the area.

Bridge Point Communication Brings Broadband to Ti

If Ticonderoga is to grow its economy, one of the most important infrastructure elements is a fiber optic broadband pipeline to support extensive Internet use. Businesses such as Inter-Lakes Health and International Paper require reliable broadband service to operate their business systems and to support their communications requirements. Thanks to Bridge Point Communication, Ticonderoga will be able to support the expansion of current businesses and attract new types of businesses targeted by Ti-Alliance.

According to Shana Macey, President of Bridge Point Communication, Phase 1 of the installation of the pipeline from Crown Point Telephone's Central Office to the monument has been completed. Phase 2 should be up and "lit" by year end 2012, and will bring broadband access through downtown Ticonderoga along the Montcalm Street corridor as far as NCCC. Phase 3 will expand coverage into the residential areas, schools, and as far as Fort Ticonderoga. "This entire broadband project should be completed by year end 2013 but our intention is to continue to edge out, bringing broadband to additional rural communities in Upstate NY," Macey said.

Bridge Point Communication is a division of Crown Point Telephone, a locally owned and operated telephone company established in 1896. For information on Bridge Point Communication, visit www.bridgepoint1.com.

Ti-Alliance Website Update

Through the efforts of our talented TRA summer interns, we're sporting a new look at our TRA website. At the site you'll find lots of interesting material about the people and partners participating in the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance, our programs, support for start-up businesses, cultural initiatives, and news on what's happening in and around your community. For all the news and ways to get involved in TRA, or to make a donation online via PayPal, visit our website at <http://ti-alliance.org>.



Like us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ticonderoga-Revitalization-Alliance/410707542318366>

Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

The Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance plays a unique roll.

As an independent non-profit organization we are able to bring all of the relevant partners to the table for projects that vary from building renovation to job creation, the arts, and business incubation. Our mission is to restore economic prosperity in the Ticonderoga Region by serving as a clearinghouse for innovative ideas and resources, and a catalyst for public-private partnerships and investment opportunities. We find resources, help to overcome roadblocks, and keep projects moving through completion. Our board of directors, steering board, and partners are drawn from investors, businesses, government, and individuals that can make it happen. And they are all committed to restoring prosperity to the Ticonderoga Region. We believe that Ticonderoga and the surrounding area can be the economic and cultural hub of the Eastern Adirondacks and can take its place as a historic, cultural, and business leader in the Northeast.

We need you to donate and participate. The Ti-Alliance can coordinate this revitalization effort, but we need all of the citizens of Ticonderoga, Hague, and Putnam to participate to be successful. You can support the effort with a donation, an idea, your time on a committee or at the gallery, investment, or other creative contribution. It all works toward the goal. Contact the Director, Chattie Van Wert to see how you can participate.

Receive TRA news via email. Visit our web page and click on CONTACT <http://ti-alliance.org/contact.html>.

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Chattie Van Wert

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\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other

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Click DONATE at <http://ti-alliance.org/support/volunteer.html>.

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