

County museum moves to new home: Clinton County museum officially opens at PARC site

Written by JEFF MEYERS, Staff Writer
Friday, April 20, 2007

museum hours

The Clinton County Historical Association museum at 98 Ohio Way on the Old Base is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Group tours are available by appointment.

PLATTSBURGH — The Clinton County Historical Association opened its new home on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base Thursday afternoon. The county museum, situated at the Saily-Warren House on Cumberland Avenue for the past several years, is now in the Four Chimneys Building near the Base Oval and adjacent to the Battle of Plattsburgh Association and Champlain Valley Transportation museums.

"This is a historic day in the evolution of the Clinton County Historical Association," said Roger Harwood, chair of the Board of Directors, as he stood on the steps of the museum and greeted several dozen visitors to the celebration.

Although the enthusiastic group enjoyed the bright sunshine, Harwood invited his guests inside for a formal dedication and to browse the exhibits throughout the three-story structure.

The Historical Association received title to the building nearly six months ago and used the efforts of 40 volunteers to get the facility in shape for opening, Harwood noted.

The building, which served as a post office in the early 1900s and later as the headquarters for the Army band, has been unused since the Air Force left town more than a decade ago.

But volunteers have spent the last few months painting and polishing the interior in preparation for the much-needed move.

"It doesn't mean we're completely finished, but we have a home," Harwood said.

Many of the display cases at the Saily-Warren House have been moved to the new site, though a lot of the artifacts are still in storage.

State Assemblywoman Janet Duprey (R-Peru) praised the volunteers for their efforts to prepare the building for occupancy.

"I'm so pleased and proud to be here today, to participate on this historic day, in this historic building and on this historic property. It doesn't get any better than this."

County Legislator Jackie Walker said the museum will go a long way toward bringing the historical recognition to Clinton County that it deserves, and Mayor Donald Kasprzak called this one of the best days he has had since taking office in January.

Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corp. President Bruce Steadman acknowledged Harwood, noting that he always finishes a job he starts out to do.

"This is truly a precious time," said County Historian Addie Shields, who said the association made the day a success. "We ask for something, and you come through."

In honor of her efforts, the association dedicated the museum's library-research room to the long-time county historian.

After the ceremony, the guests wandered through the displays, including a traveling exhibit on the Valcour Bay Research Project, which will be available for viewing through the spring.

"We've got a lot more to do," Harwood said as he took a moment to reflect on the day. "But I couldn't be more proud of everyone who has helped us get here today."

As the association settles into its new home, efforts will turn toward preparing the Saily-Warren House for sale, he added.

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