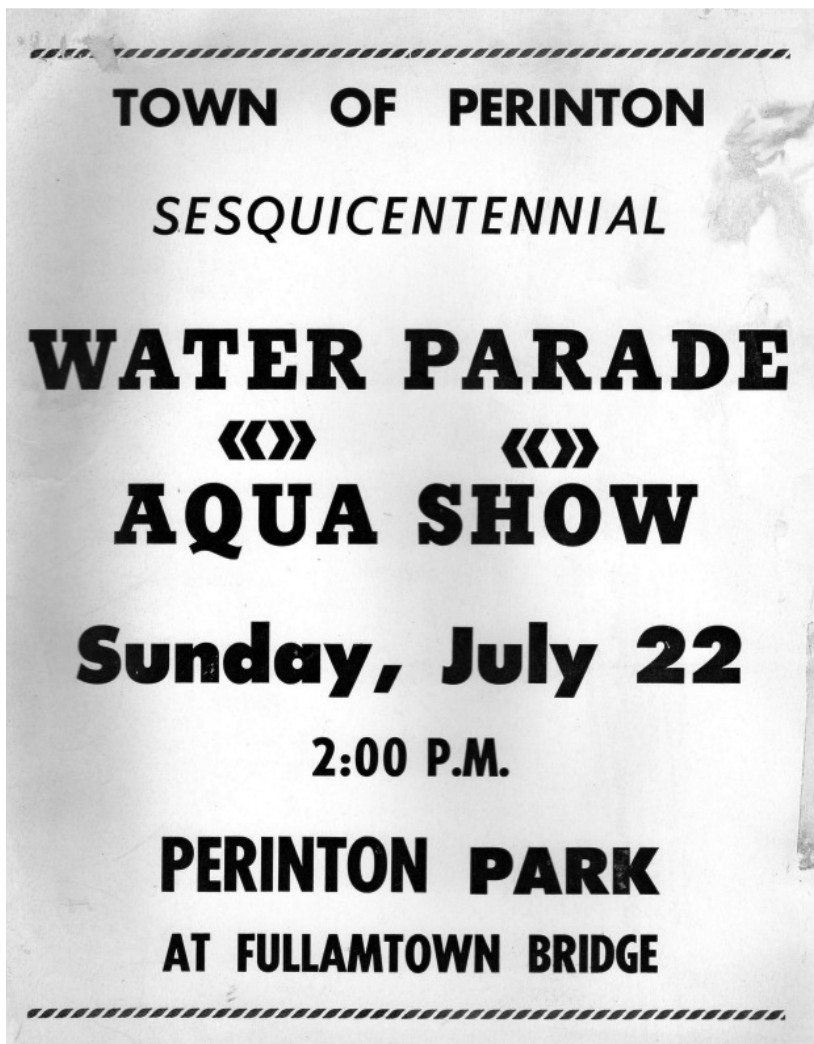


The Perinton Sesquicentennial Aqua Parade

July 22, 1962

By Patrick L. and Frank N. Pittinaro

In 1962 Perinton celebrated its sesquicentennial. A centerpiece of the festivities included an Aqua Parade on the canal. Our father, Francis (Frank) P. Pittinaro, was chairman of the event.



On the 54th anniversary of this event, we decided to share our recollections of the events surrounding the Aqua Parade. Sources include articles found in the Fairport Herald of July 25, 1962, census data from Wikipedia and mementoes found in the scrapbooks of our father.

The Concept: The idea for the Aqua Parade came from Seneca Falls, New York. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Seneca Falls had an Aqua Parade on the canal every July. We had relatives there and attended the parades each year. Our father was impressed with the floats and crowds so he suggested it to the Perinton Sesquicentennial Committee. They thought it was a good idea as long as our father was willing to chair the event and put together an organization. Not knowing exactly what he was getting into, Dad accepted. This would have been the fall of 1960 or spring of 1961. Realizing this would be a monumental task, Dad enlisted the help of the San Sebastian Society. Nearly two years of planning culminated on July 22, 1962 in one of the most successful parts of the Sesquicentennial.

Reproduced at left is an actual Aqua Parade poster, which measured about 16 x 20 inches

Continued on page 4



~ Bob Hunt ~

Comments from your President

August 14, 2016:

Greetings. It is Sunday afternoon, another hot, muggy summer day, too many of which we have had to endure this year. The lack of rainfall is taking its toll on the many farms in this area. We currently are more than six inches behind in the amount

of rain from the norm of 20.74 inches, year to date. In the winter, I generally mention degree heating days as a measure of how cold the winter is compared to normal. In the summer, I monitor the cooling degree day's information found on the back page of the D&C sports section. It is an index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature is above 65 degrees for the day. At this temperature, many air conditioners are used for cooling. This year to date, the cooling degree days is at 681 compared to a normal year of 391. Of course one does not need to check the newspaper to know that this year has been above normal, heat wise, with more than twenty days of 90 degrees or over. It has been a good summer to enjoy a rocking chair in a cool spot.

The Old Rocking Chair

By James M. Vines

On the porch of a weather worn house, sits a creaky old rocking chair. It moves slightly when a good breeze blows and you can hear it speaking ever so slowly. It tells a tale of aged grandparents rocking a new born babe. It tells of many a night spent staring at the stars, while holding someone you love close. The chair is a silent witness to many a time that have gone by. For the good or the bad, it is a place still that brings me home and reminds me of what home is to me.

It was during a visit to the Dundee Historical Museum (DHM) in my old hometown that I stole the idea for a rocking chair on the portico of our museum. One of the first things I observed when visiting DHM was a couple of rocking chairs outside. On inquiring of the docent that day about their use, I was informed that they are used all the time by visitors just wanting to rock and relax, or rock while enjoying their latest reading material. Eureka, the light bulb went on: We should have a rocking chair or two for PHS. Checking them out at local stores I found them in the \$100 range, which wasn't in the budget this year.

However, coming home one day, I spotted a rocking chair put out to the curb for trash pickup. I asked Cindy to take a look at it, when on her walk, to see if it was repairable. As it turned out, it had a broken rung and a broken arm. After some tough love talk to the chair, I managed to get it into the car, and it took a bit more tough love to get it out of the car again and into my wood shop. The rung was repaired and a new arm installed and "trala," the rocking chair I was looking for was ready. I have already observed its use for similar purposes as mentioned above at DHM. My two favorite chairs at home are the rocking chair on the front porch and the bent hickory rocker in our back room. Now I have another favorite at the museum.

A big thanks to Fairport Public Works Superintendent Paul Feeley for contracting the painting of the museum. The museum is almost eighty years old and I do not know when it was last painted, but it certainly was needed. At the top in front, the blue around the book was refreshed and I had not noticed before but there is lettering around the book stating "Fairport Public Library." This was painted in gold to make it more visible. With the Greenbrier Garden Club maintaining the gardens beautifully and the landscaping work completed by our appointed volunteer, the place is looking mighty fine.

On a final note, we just returned from a few days relaxing and bicycling along Pine Creek, PA. We stay at Cedar Run Inn, a place we have been going to for over forty years. The biking is along the old railroad bed, converted to a nice riding trail. From Cedar Run you can ride about thirty miles in each direction. There is lots of wildlife, including bear, eagles, deer, and eastern diamondback rattlesnakes. With no ambient light at night, one can easily see the Milky Way, along with a zillion stars. There is no phone or internet service, so you are really on vacation.

Thanks for your continued support and we will chat again next month.

Bob Hunt, President

585-415-7053, rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



HISTORIGRAM

*Published nine months per year by the
Perinton Historical Society*

Editor: Bill Poray Art Director: Keith Boas
Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless
Proofreading: Irene Poray

Upcoming Events

A Moo-ving History of Fairport's Dairies

Exhibit runs July 2th–September 11th during regular museum hours

**Tuesday, September 20th
at 7:00 p.m. at the museum**

North Side Stories

Presenter: 2016 House Tour Committee

**Sunday, October 9th
from 1:00–5:00 p.m.**

2016 House Tour–*North Side Stories*

Members will receive free tickets and a brochure in the mail, listing locations of the homes and exhibit area. For information on purchasing additional tickets, see the “Critters” article on page 7 of this newsletter.

**Tuesday, October 18th
at 7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Psychic Highway: How the Erie Canal Changed America

Presenter: Michael T. Keene

**Tuesday, November 15th
from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the museum**

PHS Yuletide Traditions

Opening bids accepted for silent auction items

**Tuesday, November 15th
at 7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Who Moved my House? Our town's amazing history of relocated structures

Presenter: Bill Poray, Town Historian and Trustee, Perinton Historical Society

**Tuesday, December 13th
from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the museum**

PHS Yuletide Traditions

Final bids accepted for silent auction items

Silent auction winners announced at the conclusion of the evening's program

**Tuesday, December 13th
at 7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Annual Holiday Party & Program: *White Christmas*

Presenter: Michael Lasser

Please bring a dessert to pass.

Check the October *Historigram* for additional special events occurring during our *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser!

What is *Yuletide Traditions*?

At this time of the year, the phrase “Yuletide Traditions” is bandied about in our newsletter, on our Facebook page, at the museum and in the media. What does it mean? Yuletide Traditions (YT) is the Perinton Historical Society's (PHS) annual fundraiser.

During a three-week period in November and December, visitors to the museum have the opportunity to bid on beautiful Christmas trees, wreaths and gift baskets, which have been donated for silent auctions by members of our community, organizations and businesses. All proceeds from the silent auctions benefit the PHS and help fund the operation of the museum, pay honorariums for invited speakers, and assist in the acquisition of new artifacts for the museum. The proceeds are also used to allay costs associated with the printing of the newsletter and other general office expenses.

In its first two years, more than 100 items were donated by the community for silent auctions, resulting in proceeds exceeding \$3,300. The PHS sincerely appreciates the efforts of those who donated items for auction, purchased auction items and assisted with running the *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser. We look forward to our third YT event coming this fall.

Additional information about *Yuletide Traditions 2016* will appear in the October issue of the *Historigram* and on the Perinton Historical Society Facebook page and website, www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org, in late September.

Hey, Brother! Can You Spare a Dime? Er, Some Time?

The Property Committee could use some extra help at the museum this fall. There are many small jobs to be done: leaf raking, lawn reseeding, mulching, and some cleanup inside. These are one-time tasks and require a time commitment of only a few hours. We operate these tasks as ‘work parties’ so it is always a team effort. We notify helpers a week or so in advance that a work party will be needed on x date to do x job. You just have to show up and roll up your sleeves.

We also have several large, wood folding tables that we would like to donate. Please contact us if you know of an organization that could use them.

Also, the Technology Committee is looking for a volunteer familiar with video production, editing etc. There are several projects we want to develop but need technical help to run the program.

If you would like to help with any of these projects, just leave a message for Catherine Angevine at the museum (tel 223-3989) with your name and phone number or email Catherine at info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org.

The Planning: As the saying goes, "The devil is in the details." In the initial stages of the planning, Dad heard about an Aqua-Sno Ski Club headquartered at the Bayview Hotel on Irondequoit Bay. One Sunday we went to see a performance and the following week there was a meeting to see if they would like to perform after the Aqua Parade. Dad figured this would "one-up" the Seneca Falls events. The skiers, while not professionals, were excellent performers who gave frequent expeditions for many years on Irondequoit Bay. Performing on the canal, however, presented a whole set of challenges and required modifications to their routines. Fortunately, they accepted the invitation.

To put it mildly, logistics were a nightmare! Early in the planning process Frank learned that you just don't do whatever you want without getting government approvals. You don't just hold a parade and water ski on the Erie Canal one Sunday in July. There were speed limits on the canal and erosion issues to contend with plus the normal canal traffic that had to be shut down (for example, locks to the east and west were instructed to stop boat traffic from 10 AM to 6 PM the day of the event). For brevity's sake, let us just say this wasn't easy but it was all accomplished. There certainly was less red tape in 1962 than there would be today. With that in mind, it is easy to say that this was a "once in a lifetime event". There wasn't one before it and there will probably never be another.

One distinct story stands out very vividly in our minds. The festivities were originally planned to take place in downtown Fairport but that changed the first day the Aqua Skiers tried to practice. One of their acts was a human pyramid on skies. They began to practice from the Parker Street Bridge. As the last woman was getting into place, someone yelled—"LOOK OUT—JUMP!!! The pyramid collapsed just as the woman was about to hit the Main Street bridge! For those who don't know it, there is a very low clearance between the water and the steel bridge on Main Street. The woman was shook up and the water skiers told Frank that they needed to move the location or they could not perform. After several days of thought the ski club agreed to perform by the area now known as Perinton Park (the bridge on West Church Street had a much higher clearance).

Booking the ski act was a coup but there was also the issue of finding floats. Here our memories and sources are sketchy but we are certain there were many phone calls and arms twisted over the year prior to the parade. This wasn't the Rose Bowl Parade, so people had to buy into the idea. Eventually, 28 floats were registered (we still have the original mimeograph sheets). Since the newspapers estimated 40 floats participated we have to believe a few "floaters" forgot to register and just showed up.

As the event drew near, stress levels in our house increased daily. Frank and his group from the San Sebastian

Society had a lot of time and effort tied up in this endeavor. Frank was chair and the thoughts running through his head ran from "What if you throw a party and nobody shows up?" to "What if it rains" (there was no contingency plan....the show had to go on Sunday July 23, 1962 at 2 PM).

The Event: All parade participants were sent a mimeographed list of instructions along with the float order. We still have a dozen of the mimeograph sheets left plus several official Sesquicentennial envelopes. If anyone reading this forgot to pick up their sheet, let us know. (The instruction sheet has been reproduced in this issue on page 6.)

In the next issue of the *Historigram*, the authors, Patrick L. and Frank N. Pittinaro, will share their personal recollections of the 1962 Sesquicentennial Aqua Parade, along with other facts and trivia related to the one-of-a-kind event.



Francis "Frank" Pittinaro,
Chairman of the Aqua Parade



Above:

Part of the enormous crowd, estimated to be as many as 30,000 at Perinton Park, to watch the Aqua Parade.

Right:

The tour boat "Venera" passes the judge's stand at Perinton Park.



PERINTON SESQUICENTENNIAL AQUACADE

July 22, 1962

2:00 O'clock Sharp

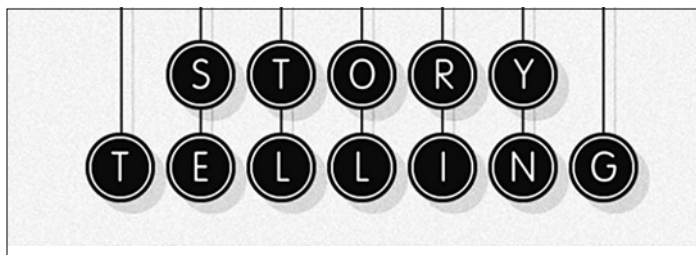
NOTICE TO BOAT OWNERS: BOATS WILL KEEP A DISTANCE OF 200 feet AND THE SPEED WILL BE LIMITED TO 6 TO 8 MILES PER HOUR. BOATS WILL FORM AT THE FAIRPORT MARINA, NEAR DUDLEY'S LUMBER YARD; PROPEL TO THE OXBOW; TURN AROUND AND END UP AT THE STARTING POINT, FAIRPORT MARINA.

Ski Show to follow the Boat Parade, preceded by canoe display.

The line of march will be as follows:

1. Leading the parade will be Fairport V.F.W. #8495 Color Guard on an Army Duck, furnished by the 270th National Guard Armoured Field Artillery, Main Street Armory, Rochester, New York.
2. Town of Perinton Sesquicentennial Committee and wives. Boat furnished by Captain Tiupak; Call Simplex Tours, BR1-7731.
3. Aquacade Committee (San Sebastian Society) with Dixieland Band (Larry Channave, Band Leader). Boat furnished by Stephan Marine Yard, John F. Stephan, Lyons, New York. Tour boat arranged by Charlies Marina.
4. Glover Perrin, first white settler of Perinton. Glover will be sitting in front of a teepee, sharing a peace pipe with an indian. This float entered by the San Sebastian Society. Glover Perrin played by Jim Erbland. The indian played by Richie Pomponio. Boat furnished by Earl Spano.
5. New York State Fair Queen, Miss Marge Bruening. Boat furnished by Don Gillespie. Flowers donated by Warren's Florist.
6. Fairport Harvest Queen, Miss Cindy Roberts. Boat furnished by Frank Schoolmaster. Flowers donated by Warren's Florist.
7. Cabin cruiser (Howard P. DeNise).
8. Aqua Sno Skiers from Bayview, Irondequoit Bay.
9. Ragu Spaghetti Sauce Gondola. Anthony Pittinaro, Jr. at the helm.
10. The touch of the good old days, Frank Marra at the accordion. Entered by David Pittinaro.
11. Sesqui Belle Queens boat furnished by Olin Bradey; P. Manisko, L. Linc.
12. Sesqui Belle Queens boat furnished by Les Simmons; C. Pittinaro, N. Martens, D. Schumacker.
13. The Maybell "Happy Birthday" Perinton boat furnished by Neil Moore.
14. Coming from Pennsylvania, Captain Bill Barton. Constructed Float, Paddlewheel Boat, "NUNUNDAH (potato, indian) QUEEN".
15. House Boat from Brighton, New York, by Captain Bruce Teall.
16. Surprise Float (Larry Dodd).
17. Surprise Boat (Lyle Sleeman).
18. Amphib-Car driven by Vince DeZetter, Canandaigua, New York.
19. Surprise Boat (Lyle Sleeman).
20. Charlie Kopp Marina.
21. Barge Canal Bell.
22. Ed Skeates Marina.
23. Charlie Kopp Marina.
24. Explorer Scouts, Post 209 (Ernst Bleir).
25. Carol II, sponsored by Security Trust Company of Rochester.
26. Auburn Squadron from mud locks will display their cruisers and boats. Commander Jerry W. Crocker, S. of the Auburn Squadron.
27. Cabin Cruiser (Paul Turner).
28. New York State Tug "Pittsford" and Scow (Perinton V.F.W. Band). Ed Carney, Captain, Joe Villeareale, Dredge Engineer, John Robinson, Superintendent of Canals this Division, Deckhand and Cook.

2016 House Tour Committee presents *North Side Stories*



Storytelling is the name of the game in this year's House Tour, including the *North Side Stories* program, to be presented at the Fairport Historical Museum on Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. At that time the House Tour Committee will share stories of the development of the village's northeast side. Interviews with residents who grew up on the north side will be included, as well as a sneak preview of the homes open for touring. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about this area's rich history and hear endearing memories of residents.

Critters on Tour—



**And
Some
Special
Homes,
Too!**

The October 9th *North Side Stories House Tour* is fast approaching! In addition to the charming critters in the photo above, attendees will visit five historic homes in the northeast part of Fairport—on East Avenue, East Street and Frank Street. The homes reflect the early settlement of the area by Italian and Irish immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Go to the back page of this newsletter to see a photo of one of the homes on the tour.)

The Tour will take place from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., along with a reception and exhibits at the Church of the Assumption on East Avenue. Ticket/brochures will be mailed to members of the Perinton Historical Society. Memberships can also be purchased at the Fairport Library, Fairport Town Hall and the Perinton Town Hall starting September 9th. Additionally, tickets will be sold at the museum (18 Perrin St.) the day of the tour from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Special Recognition Level Memberships *As of August 15, 2016*

Business (\$100)

Ed Bradford, Liftbridge Financial Advisors
6 North Main Street, Suite 400w, Fairport, NY 14450
Website: <http://liftbridgefinancial.com>

Suzanne Lee Personal Histories
33 Chesham Way, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-267-6189
Website: <http://SLeePersonalHistories.com>

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith
103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-388-0112
Website: <http://www.thefvi.com>

Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty
2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-303-6607
Website: <http://bobruhland.yourkwagent.com>

Forever Financial Advisors, LLC
Annie McQuilkin, MS, CFP®
140 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-598-1377
Website: <http://www.foreverfinancial.com>

Pixos Print
75 Goodway Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-3000
Phone: (585) 500-4600
Website: ReadytoRun@pixosprint.com

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design
3 Railroad Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Website: <http://www.tpsigns.com>

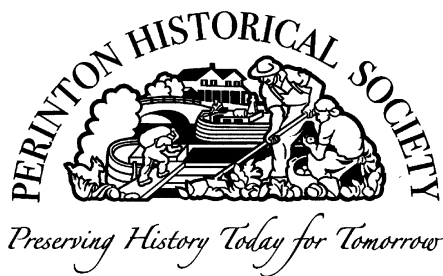
Year-to-date Special Memberships

DeLand (\$100–\$249)

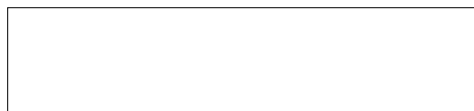
Keith and Carol Anne Boas
James and Barbara Boyle
Richard D. Bulman
Joyce and Charles Cowden
Bill and Pat May
Fritz and Georgia May
Jane Cleveland McComb
Frank and Terry Pittinaro
Robert and Barbara Shaw
Charlie and Suzanne Tholstrup
Janet and Dorn Ulrich
Jim and Karen Unckless

Potter (\$250–\$499)

Norman Horton
Drew and Carol Saum



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 149
Fairport, NY 14450



This lovely home at 71 East Avenue
will be part of our *North Side Stories*
House Tour on October 9th.

Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the hours below:

Saturday 10:00–Noon

Tuesday 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Thursday 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org

Support the Perinton Historical Society with Your Membership

If you haven't already renewed your annual membership in PHS or would like to join for the first time, please fill in the form below and send in now. All memberships renewed before October 5th will include admission to the October 9th house tour. We hope to hear from you soon.

Special Recognition Levels: Our membership form includes special recognition levels of membership authorized by the Board of Trustees. Business memberships will be acknowledged as supporters of the Perinton Historical Society in each issue of the *Historigram*, on the PHS website and at the museum. The DeLand, Potter and Perrin memberships acknowledge greater monetary contributions: These members will be recognized once in the *Historigram* and listed on the website and at the museum, unless they prefer to remain anonymous.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____ *Historigram*: Email () US Mail ()

Please check the level of membership you prefer:

- () Individual\$15
- () Family\$25
- () Sr. Single [65 or older].....\$10
- () Sr. Couple.....\$15
- () Patron\$50
- () Extra Contribution\$_____

Special Recognition Levels:

- () Business\$100
- () DeLand\$100–\$249
- () Potter\$250–\$500
- () Perrin\$500 & above

Our membership year runs from
September 1st to August 31st

The success of PHS depends on your gifts of time and talent.
Consider volunteering by joining a committee.

Check areas of interest:

- () Board of Trustees – governing body for PHS
- () Communications Committee – publicity, writing, graphic design
- () Finance Committee – budgeting, grant writing, gift shop
- () Fundraising – Yuletide Traditions, etc.
- () Education – helping with adult and children's programs
- () Museum Volunteer – 2 hours per month
- () Inventory of Museum Holdings
- () Property Committee – upkeep of the facility
- () *Historigram* – articles, editing, production, distribution
- () Historic Tours – house, cemetery, landmarks
- () Technology Committee – assessment, planning, implementing
- () Seasonal Projects – parades, Canal Days, Scarecrow Festival
- () Other – Give us your ideas _____

Please make checks payable to **Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.**