

**Program: Steve Engelhart, AARCH, *What to Do With the Crown Point Bridge***



Steve Engelhart

Steven began by pointing out the appropriateness of the Bridge as a Rotary topic for a few reasons. The discussion about its preservation is not only current, but the Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) also tries to be effective advocates and uses opportunities such as this to share important information.

The Crown Point Bridge was first conceived in the 1920's when transportation was really booming. The increase in traffic use inspired the establishment of the bridge at this part of the Lake, which in turn led to the Lake Champlain Bridge Commission. The commission hired a Boston engineering firm to study the project. The location and design evolved through the firm's study, and in the end, the "continuous truss" style prevailed. This bridge was the first of its kind in the U.S., and thousands of people turned out for its opening and the festivities surrounding it.

For 80 years it has served the area well. It becomes more iconic every year and is a sort of symbol for the region. It had been well cared for over the years, in part due to the tolls that were collected to cross it. When that system ended, work to maintain it began to slack.

The Future of the Bridge boils down to a few alternative plans: rehabilitating and restoring the Bridge as it is; replacing it with the same alignment; replacing it with a slightly modified alignment; and rebuilding it altogether somewhere else further south down the Lake.

Where does AARCH fit in? AARCH is concerned with protecting the history of structures in the Adirondacks and is in the process of getting the Bridge designated as a National Historical Landmark by trying to make a case to the public.

AARCH believes restoration of the Bridge will lead to a number of benefits:

- Keeping the bridge preserves the original work of the civil engineers
- It is the most economical option
- It will take the least amount of time and red tape
- It can continue to meet most of the transportation needs
- New York State designated a group of bridges as worthy of protecting and the Crown Point Bridge was on this list. It is therefore consistent with NYS policy.

AARCH hopes this process, though expected to take a couple years, will move forward. The Public Advisory Committee for the Bridge (from both NY and VT) is working hard. Engelhart said, "We will get the word out to the people letting them know that this is an important work of civil engineering that needs to be preserved to protect our heritage."

AARCH's Hope is to some day celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bridge. Engelhart was optimistic about the future. They hope to look back in answering the question, "how much do we care about our history?", and find that wisdom and the drive for preservation prevailed.

**Q:** *First a comment: "Preservation" is an interesting word to use when talking about a bridge since we usually see it used in terms of preserving the environment. My Question: What role do you play with the fire towers?*

**A:** For years, AARCH has advocated to preserve the fire towers. We are involved in raising money and establishing relationships in D.C. to help preserve them. We put the towers on the National Registry of Historic Places. St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain are the hottest towers at the moment, and we're working on preserving those.

**Q:** *How many places in the Adirondacks have the highest number of historic designations?*

**A:** There are individually designated sites as well as designated districts, such as Warrensburg, Keeseville (125 buildings), Saranac Lake (100+) and Essex (70-80). More are designated in Essex County than anywhere else because of the interest there.

**Q:** *Do you have information on tours?*

**A:** AARCH's website, [www.aarch.org](http://www.aarch.org), will have tours posted in May. If you want to know about the tours before the general public does, you can by becoming a member. Pick up a membership brochure and/or feel free to attend some of our events.

**Q:** *You mentioned there were other potential locations for the Bridge. Could you name them?*

**A:** I don't really know what they are. They need



Photograph: Ruth Fremson/The New York Times  
AGELESS SENTRY From an overlook at Crown Point above Lake Champlain, a bronze Samuel de Champlain fixes a gaze on a bridge connecting New York and Vermont.

*"It's a good time to ask ourselves how much we care about preserving our rich history in the Adirondacks."*

- Steve Engelhart, AARCH

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to keep it in the southern end of the Lake, so I think they were all within 20 miles of each other.

**Q:** *There is an amazing lighthouse right underneath the Bridge. What's the status of that?*

**A:** That was originally built as just a lighthouse, but in honor of some Champlain event, it was changed in to a lighthouse/monument. New York State owns it, and has spent a good amount of money restoring it. It will be rededicated during an appropriate celebration this year.

**This Week:** May 2 is the District Assembly in Cornwall and a carpool is being formed. All members are encouraged to attend if possible. Friday, May 29, is the Paul Harris Fellow dinner at the Valcour Conference Center Boathouse. PP Marty Mannix distributed entry forms for the Rotary Golf Outing on Wednesday, June 10 at The Barracks. Prizes are still needed. Highway Cleanup Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 30. Meet at 3:45 p.m. at the Best Western Inn at Smithfield. Howard Lowe asked for any club member who attended Woodstock or know of someone who did, to please contact any Program Committee members. Bob Parks asked anyone willing to share photos of themselves from 1969 to either see him or send them to him.

**Auction:** Gil Zahn auctioned a bottle of John Zurlo's home-grown wine for \$25 to Ita Bullard.

**New Member Talk:** — *Roger Van Guilder*

Roger Van Guilder grew up in the Adirondacks in Warren County and was the Branch Manager at a bank in Newcomb. Having grown up in the Adirondacks, Roger had the great opportunity of attending Albany Business College when Vietnam was underway. He was thankful—not for the war—but because it gave him the opportunity to join the Army and to know himself better through those years. When he was discharged, he took a job at Glens Falls National Bank making \$95/week as a teller. Roger bought a new Ford Mustang 351 and felt he had finally *arrived!* He worked his way to where he is now with God's blessing and has wonderful things in his life such as the Boy Scouts, American Legion and March of Dimes. These organizations are important to the community. But so is Rotary. Roger was a member of Chestertown's Rotary Club and aims to live up to the four way test now as he did then.

**Happy Dollars:** Cathy Forget had a dollar for Keith Tyo who, after he won the 50-50 raffle two weeks ago, purchased the special sale item from the Rotary Store. Stan Ransom announced that this Friday at 10:30 a.m., children from the Oak Street Elementary School will be celebrating Arbor Day at the Library with the planting of an Adirondack crabapple tree. He also announced that the Friends of the Library are planning a book sale on Thursday (5-7 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (all day). Peter Ensel had a few dollars for his son who has accepted full room and board stipend to graduate school. His daughter will be attending the University of Albany in the fall. Phil Green had a dollar

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<b>2009</b>	
April 30	Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup
May 2	District 7040 Assembly
May 29	Paul Harris Dinner
June 5-7	24th Annual Fishing Classic
June 10	Rotary Golf Tourney

<b>ON-LINE MAKEUP:</b>		<a href="http://www.rotaryclubone.org">www.rotaryclubone.org</a>
<b>NEARBY MAKE UP LOCATIONS:</b>		
Mon.	Burlington	12:10pm Wyndham Hotel
	Canton	12:15pm Best Western
	Ottawa	12:30pm Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Tues.	Plattsburgh Sunrise	7:30am Elk's Club
	Saranac Lake	7:30am Hotel Saranac
	Massena	12:15pm Elk's Lodge
	St. Albans	12:15pm Masonic Temple
	Montreal	12:30pm Holiday Inn-Pt. Claire
	Grand Isle	6:00pm So Hero Congregational
Wed.	Middlebury	7:15am Rosie's Restaurant
	Albany	12:15pm Wolferts Roost Ctry Club on Van Rensselaer Blvd.
	Tupper Lake	12:15pm Pine Grove Restaurant
	Potsdam	12:15pm Sergi's Banquet Hall
	Watertown	12:15pm Best Western Carriage House
	Chateaugay	6:15pm Leonard's Cherry Knoll Rest.
	AuSable Forks	7:00pm Ambulance Hall (no meal)
Thurs.	Williston	7:15am Will Federated Church
	Lake Placid	7:30am Howard Johnson's
	Watertown AM	7:30am Best Western Carriage House
	South Burlington	7:30am VT National Country Club
	Champlain-Rouses Pt.	7:45am Old Tyme Café
	Malone	Noon Gallagher's
	Colchester-Milton	12:10pm Hampton Inn
	Ogdensburg	12:15pm Gran-View Restaurant
Fri.	Burlington Sunrise	7:15am Ethan Allen Club
	Old Montreal	12:15pm Holiday Inn Select

announcing his daughter has had a little girl. His second daughter announced she is expecting a baby as well. Alice Recore announced that this weekend is Mountain Lake PBS's 25th Anniversary Arts Auction this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. They are honoring former Rotarian and longtime PBS supporter Jane Ashley. PP Marty Mannix jokingly apologized to the club as he was the person who asked for desserts with less calories. Unfortunately their solution to the problem was addressing portion size.

**Guests:** No guests, No Visiting Rotarians this week

**50/50:** The pot is worth \$500 thanks to Keith Tyo who won the raffle two weeks ago. We are now drawing for the Queen of Hearts. Hope Coyer drew the six of spades.

**Upcoming Programs**

- April 29 - Dr. Zachary Clements, Inspirational Speaker, "Chicken Little Need Not Apply"
- May 6 - Phil Brown, "Bob Marshall Book Original 46er"
- May 13 - The Baltimore Consort -- Hill and Hollow program

**Programs/Duty Roster:**

[www.plattsburghrotary.org/plattsburgh/memberduties.asp](http://www.plattsburghrotary.org/plattsburgh/memberduties.asp)



**THE ROTARY CLUB**  
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