

N E W H A M P S H I R E BOAT MUSEUM

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For Immediate Release

Ladd family makes a major gift to New Hampshire Boat Museum

Wolfeboro, NH--October 22, 2020--Wanting to preserve the heritage of Lake Winnepesaukee, David Ladd, owner of Lane's End Marina for years, recently donated land from the Ladd Farm to support the New Hampshire Boat Museum's Capital Campaign.

Launched in 2015, the multi-phase Capital Campaign is raising money for the construction portion to build a 10,000 square foot year-round museum facility on 4-acres on Lake Winnepesaukee's Back Bay in Wolfeboro.

"I wanted to help move this project forward," said Ladd, who said he has "a lot of faith" in the museum's Capital Campaign Committee. "This is a wonderful project for the museum and Wolfeboro community, which is fortunate to have a number of museums."

The land, according to New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) Executive Director Martha Cummings, was sold with proceeds supporting the Capital Campaign.

"This is a wonderful gift and one that I hope gets people thinking again about the future and our role in the Lakes Region," she said. "We are so grateful for David's support."

For Ladd, his support of NHBM reflects an interest and involvement in the local community and a love for Lake Winnepesaukee that has defined his family across 4 generations since the 1800's.

"The frozen lake under good conditions provided a highway for my grandfather to skate to Brewster Academy during the school year and endless family fishing, swimming and boating adventures during the summer," he said.

He said his grandfather's love of the lake resulted from his experiences as a boy when he would row from Melvin Village to his family's camp in Alton. In 1926, this enthusiasm for the water resulted in his grandfather's purchase of a Chris-Craft from Irwin Marine, one of the oldest marina's on Lake Winnepesaukee.

"He even constructed a boat house just for the Christ-Craft," added Ladd, who said this boat is in his possession and will be restored this winter. "I look forward to sharing our family history on Lake Winnepesaukee by displaying my grandfather's Chris-Craft at the museum."

In looking to the future, he said he hopes Lake Winnepesaukee continues "to fill hearts with memories."

“Capturing its history for future generations is the greatest legacy we can leave our children,” he said.

Having donated boats for previous NHBM boat auction fundraisers while allowing the museum to store some of its boats at Lane’s End Marina, Ladd said he hopes his gift will encourage others.

“I hope my story and support of the museum will encourage others to join in the effort to preserve the heritage of Lake Winnepesaukee,” he said.

Jaime Laurent, Co-Chair of NHBM's Capital Campaign, said she is "sincerely grateful for the significant and generous contribution of the Ladd Family to the future New Hampshire Boat Museum.”

"There is no doubt that the boat museum's mission of preserving and celebrating our lake life history is aligned with David Ladd's passion and pride of his own family's rich experiences on the waters of New Hampshire," she said. "His family's donation will have a lasting impact on the future work of the museum."

Cummings agreed and said NHBM is continuing to build support for its vision of a year-round museum facility.

“Our role is to not just act as good historic stewards, but interpreters of boating and lake culture, she said. “There is an ecological component to what we do, too... The gift by the Ladds is an investment in this future, our future.”

Founded in 1992 by antique and classic boating enthusiasts, NHBM is committed to inspire people of all ages with an understanding of, and appreciation for, the boating heritage of New Hampshire's fresh waterways.

To learn more, visit nhbm.org.

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