

Romulus Historical Society

For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Williams, Romulus Historical Society
Phone: 518-755-4516
Email: 1735james@fairpoint.net

Passengers Please Assemble for Sunken Boats!

The Romulus Historical Society will present a program on exciting explorations and discoveries of this past summer in Seneca Lake. Art Cohn, Director Emeritus of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, will discuss "Shipwrecks - What Lies Beneath? Stories from Lake Champlain and Seneca Lake." The illustrated lecture will take place at the Romulus Town Hall, 1435 Prospect Street, Willard, New York at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 1, 2018. The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Cohn led a team in July and August of researchers in conjunction with the Romulus Historical Society to undertake the first systematic investigation for sunken vessels in Seneca Lake. The Society inspired the team with a search for the canal boat "Frank Bowley" which sank in a storm off the nearby shore in 1869. The boat's interesting history dates to its 1864 construction by the Bowley family. Captained by Mrs. M. A. Bowley, the boat transported lumber between Oswego and Albany and is one of the few canal boats documented as being mastered by a woman. In 1868 Bowley sold the boat to a pair of brothers from Syracuse who then used it to ship coal on Seneca Lake. It was lost in November 1869 while being towed from Watkins Glen. Cohn's presentation will reveal the next chapter in the boat's history.

Arthur B. Cohn of Ferrisburgh, Vermont is a professional diver, historian, educator and advocate for the preservation of historical shipwrecks. He is internationally recognized for his outstanding research on the maritime history of Lake Champlain. He led the efforts for the construction of the replica 1860s sailing canal boat, the "Lois McClure." The educational programs of the "Lois McClure" were highlighted this past season with a statewide voyage as part of the 150th anniversary of Corning Glass, also under Cohn's leadership.

Prior to the presentation, the Romulus Historical Society is offering an open house and tour of its museum at 1368 Main Street in Willard. The museum will open at 3 P.M. on November 1 with the tour beginning at 3:30. The annual meeting of the Society will be held at 4 P.M. Refreshments will be served.

The Romulus Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the Town of Romulus between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Its museum is on the grounds of the former Willard State Hospital.

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