

**2014 Adirondack Park Excellence Awards -- Best Community Events Contest  
Top Awards Announced at Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference  
April 10, 2014**

**Best Historic-Cultural-Educational-Agricultural**

**1st Runner-up: Adirondack Farm to School Initiative -- Ruth Pino, Saranac Lake Central School District**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Seagle Music Colony -- Schroon**

**Accepting Award: Seagle General Director, Tony Kostecki**

Each Seagle performance is truly a one-of-a-kind event, and all together, this nearly 100-year tradition has brought fantastic recognition to Schroon Lake from near and far. Operas and other outstanding musical events are brought to life with immense assistance from hard-working community volunteers, which has served to build community pride, as well as awareness among visitors of everything the beautiful Schroon Lake area has to offer.

**Best In Spring-Fall**

**1st Runner-up: Black Fly Challenge -- Inlet**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Rum Runners Weekend**

**Tri-Lake Business Alliance -- Chestertown, Pottersville and Brant Lake area --**

**Accepting Award: Horicon Councilman, Bob Olsen**

This event portrays the Prohibition Era in the North Country in a creative and fun way with much more than touch of authenticity. Great clothes, cars and themes! Community support for the event is outstanding, and for participants of all ages it makes education fun.

**Best In Winter**

**1st Runner-up: Old Forge Winter Carnival -- Town of Webb**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Inlet's Frozen Fire and Lights**

**Accepting Award: Town of Inlet Supervisor, John Frey**

Most visitors and locals know the Adirondacks are a great three-season destination. What sets this event apart is that it highlights the variety of winter events the area offers through the winter. Showcasing not only outdoor recreation, it also ties in the agriculture of the area with wine tasting and chocolate demonstrations. This event lets both locals and visitors know that the Adirondack Park can be a truly great four-season destination.

**Best In Summer**

**1st Runner-up: Hopkinton Summer Festival -- Hopkinton**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Toughman Tupper Lake Tinman Triathlon**

**Accepting Award: Tupper Lake Town Supervisor, Patricia Littlefield**

The Tinman is a race with a long history in the area, with each year featuring tremendous community involvement and appropriate use of the challenging local terrain. The professional coordination of the event by volunteers helps make it a class act -- one that many local residents enjoy participating in and that attracts visitors to the area.

**Best Adirondack Sporting Challenge**

**1st Runner-up: Tupperpalooza Warrior Run and Music Festival -- Tupper Lake**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Wilmington/Whiteface Bike Festival**

**Accepting Award: Wilmington Town Supervisor, Randy Preston**

Cycling opportunities have recently become a huge draw for the Wilmington area, and events like this are really helping to showcase the Adirondack Park as a world-class cycling destination. Incorporating Whiteface Mountain, our 1980 Winter Olympics venue and a huge year-round attraction, helps make this a unique, invigorating and memorable event.

**Best On Water**

**1st Runner-up: Antique Boat Show and Fulton Chain Rendezvous -- Old Forge**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: One Square Mile of Hope**

**Accepting Award: Town of Inlet Supervisor, John Frey**

One idea...1,900 boats and \$80,000 towards breast cancer research! It is absolutely amazing what inspiration and total community involvement can accomplish. Inlet earns a worthy title for this one.

**Most Authentic Adirondack**

**1st Runner-up: Thurman Maple Days -- Thurman**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Tupper Lake Woodsmen's Days**

**Accepting Award: Tupper Lake Town Supervisor, Patricia Littlefield**

With a history dating back to the 1930's, this long-running event continues to garner extraordinary support of the Tupper Lake community in celebrating the Adirondacks' logging heritage. Through showcasing a variety of traditional logging activities, the skills that were needed to bring the logs to market (and to keep the loggers entertained!) are kept alive.

**Most Adirondack Quirky**

**1st Runner-up: Hobofest -- Saranac Lake**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Adirondack Cardboard Sled Racing Circuit**

**Accepting Award: Long Lake, Director of Tourism Alexandra Roalsvig**

Adirondackers, by necessity, have consistently shown themselves to be an ingenious group of people. Linking this ingenuity with a need to play in the snow and beat the winter doldrums, Long Lake, Indian Lake, Old Forge/Inlet and Oak Mountain ski slope have teamed-up to create a truly quirky, multi-venue Adirondack event. Attendees move throughout much of Hamilton County with their cardboard "flyers" for the event, which in the end amounts to unique and fun cooperative marketing program.

**Special Recognition Award -- Best Community Sponsored Recreational Challenge**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Saranac Lake 6er's**

**Accepting Award: Village of Saranac Lake, Mayor Clyde Rabideau**

The Village of Saranac Lake has always been a gateway to its surrounding mountains and lakes. The "Saranac Lake 6er's" program builds cleverly on this theme, bringing a new appreciation for the community that serves as the heart of this six-mountain climbing challenge. Hikers who ascend McKenzie, Ampersand, St. Regis, Scarface, Haystack, and Baker mountains receive a 6er's patch and certificate. In special recognition of a simple economic development idea from Mayor Clyde Rabideau, which in less than a year has already drawn hikers from fifteen states and five countries, we present the program with an Adirondack Park Excellence Award.

**Special Recognition Award-- Best State/Community Partnership Recreational Challenge**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Award: Adirondack Challenge and Indian Lake's Challenge Festival**

**Accepting Award: Indian Lake Town Supervisor, Brian Wells**

Leveraging the Governor's Adirondack Challenge, the Adirondack Challenge Festival showcased Indian Lake's beauty and amenities to hundreds of visitors, many of whom were visiting the Park for the first time. National eyes were turned toward this Hamilton County community as

media outlets from across the country highlighted both the Governor's Challenge and the festival. Thanks to the hard work of the Town of Indian Lake, the Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce, and Adirondack museum, hundreds of thousands of potential new visitors have learned about Adirondack heritage and recreational opportunities.