

Milton train station receives donations

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Last week, the Wallkill Valley Federal Savings and Loan institution continued its "Year of Giving," in honor of its centennial anniversary, by donating \$1,000 toward the restoration of the Milton Train Station. This was followed by a second, and private, donation of an equal amount given by Marlborough Supervisor Stephen Osborn.

Bank President and CEO Michael Horodyski presented station representative Peter Hoffmann with a check.

"We couldn't be happier to continue to provide to great community foundations and charities doing good work," he said, adding that this is the bank's second time making a donation to the station.

Horodyski said he and the bank board received "a very impassioned" letter about the ongoing rehabilitation of the station.

"It is keeping alive a real gem of the Milton area and certainly an historic building that tells the story of the evolution on how Milton came about with the train," Horodyski said. "The board was again generous and said yes. We're happy to be a part of the Milton community and to show our support of good things happening around our bank."

Hoffmann authored the letter to the bank to solicit financial support for the historic 1883 station, which, he pointed out, is on the National Register of Historic Places. He said volunteers have donated their time and money in an effort to once again make this building a vital part of the community.

The station's next big-ticket item is the replacement of the roof, something Hoffman has been working on with a manufacturer for the past two years. Now that the station is officially registered as a 501 c (3) organization, he said his roof manufacturer may be able to more fully assist them in 2014. Repairs and painting of the outside of the station will have to be professionally done since lead has been detected in the old finish.

Osborn said he has donated to the station over the years and upon learning of the bank's impending donation decided "why not make it a match" by also offering \$1,000 toward the effort.

Osborn said the station is a project that renews people's sense of community spirit.

"It's a great group of people and it's a project that brings the community together," he said. "I really hope the roof project gets done. I want to see this completed."

Osborn said very soon the roadway in front of the station will be moved back and proper drainage installed, which will provide an actual lawn area for the public to enjoy.

"It will really make it that much more attractive," he said.

Mary Beth Maio, vice president of the Wallkill Bank's Milton branch, said they are proud to be a part of the restoration effort.

"I think it's great when people come into the bank and say they have been donating their time and labor efforts to the project," she said. "I find it amazing the amount of hours people have put in every Saturday for years to bring this together."

As a fundraiser, one wall in the freight room contains many stenciled names of families associated with farming in Marlborough: Joseph F. Conroy Farm, George Hallock, John Rusk, Benjamin J. Trapani and Son Fruit Farm, Lyons Overlook Farm, A.L. Moorehead, H.J. Schroeder, Callo Farms and John L. Kaley Farm.

Hoffmann said if anyone wishes to learn more about the station or wants to make a tax-deductible donation, he can be reached at (845) 236-4293.

Joanne Pagnotta assisted in the effort to contact area farmers to spark interest in having their family name stenciled on the inside wall. Her great grandfather's name, H.J. Schroeder, is now on the honorary wall "and I hope to get more."



Mike Horodyski, president and CEO of the Wallkill Valley Federal Savings and Loan institution [second from left], presents Milton Train Station representative Peter Hoffmann with a donation of \$1,000 from the bank, as Stephen Osborn and Mary Beth Maio look on.



Stephen Osborn (L) also presents Hoffmann with his own donation of \$1,000 for the station.



Joanne Pagnotta points to the name of her great grandfather, H. J. Schroeder, who is on the honorary wall inside the station's freight room that was in operation until 1959.