

CELEBRATION AT NORTH STAR MUSEUM

A recording-breaking 2012 season was cause for celebration Sunday evening, Oct. 28, for friends and members of the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association.

The North Star Underground Railroad Museum, site of the reception, hosted well over 5,000 visitors in its second year of operation, and won special recognition from the National Park Service as part of the Network to Freedom. The Museum makes a "significant contribution to the understanding of the Underground Railroad in American history," according to the Park Service.

Jackie Madison, the Association's new president, paid special tribute to out-going President Don Papson and his wife Vivian, who initiated the research that led to the Museum. They were honored for their leadership role in research and in building community support for the creation of the museum at the restored stone house on the grounds of Ausable Chasm.

Town of Chesterfield Supervisor Gerald Morrow, who, along with the Association and the Ausable Chasm Company, formed the public-private partnership that helped make the museum and the Town of Chesterfield Heritage Center a reality, also praised the Papsons for their untiring dedication to the project.

The late Frank Kinnelly was remembered for his many contributions to the Association and to the development of the museum. A special garden area on the lawn of the museum with two benches will form part of a memorial to his work and dedication.

Fund-raising is necessarily part of the association's agenda and throughout this past year raffle tickets were sold on a scenic painting of Lake Champlain by Louise Patinelli. Don Papson won the painting. Proceeds were dedicated to the handling of the Association's growing number of collections.

In addition to more than 5,000 visitors during the May-October season, the museum also hosted special tours for local schools, community groups and special service organizations, as well as for groups of students from West Africa, and service clubs from Montreal. Tours can be arranged from October to May by special appointment. Call 518-834-8150.

[See Event Photos](#)