

LE ROY PENNYSAVER & NEWS - MAY 29, 2016  
**Waiting For The Plinth**

by Lynne Belluscio

As most of you know the Statue of Liberty on the creekbank was removed last year and was taken to McKay Lodge Art Conservation Lab in Oberlin, Ohio. She was repaired and refinished and a few weeks ago, I went out to pick her up and bring her back to LeRoy. Thank you to the folks at Orcon, who built a special padded crate for her trip.

The next step is to replace the cement base - - - more properly called a plinth. The original plinth was cast in place by B.R. Dewitt which included the eleven point star at the base. The plinth was carefully measured and drawn. We sent out for bids. Four different cement companies were contacted and Southside Concrete in Buffalo offered the best price.

In the meantime, Bob Lathan at the Village DPW said that they would be able to remove the old plinth. We had no idea what was under it. But as it was lifted up, the whole foundation came with it. What was left was a rather deep

hole, which is great, since a new foundation had to be poured. No problem, Bob made sure the cement was ordered, and a new foundation was poured this last week.

I checked with Southside Concrete and Derrick Monument to make sure we had a plan to set the new plinth on the foundation, and they both suggested using a soft mortar layer. So we know how to set the new plinth when it arrives which I have discovered, may be only a few days before we hope to rededicate the statue on Saturday of Oatka Festival.

In the meantime, the Statue of Liberty was in the land office of the LeRoy House, but I thought she would look better on the second floor in the exhibit room, so I asked the two guys from Stafford Painters, who were here painting the back porch, if they could move the Statue upstairs. Not a problem and up she went. (If you want to stop and have your picture taken with her, LeRoy House is open weekends).



This week we had a group of foreign visitors from England and Australia and I asked them if they had a chance to get to New York City to see the Statue of Liberty. They said no. So I said, I'll

open LeRoy House and you can go up and have your picture taken with our Statue of Liberty. I wish I had taken their picture, but I can tell you they were really excited about their visit to LeRoy, and although they all enjoyed the Jell-O Museum, they will never forget the Statue of Liberty!

Because the new plinth will not be ready soon, I called Bubba's Landscaping and told them, that they could begin the new landscaping. The concern was whether there would be a problem with the equipment needed to lift the new plinth in place, but Bob Lathan told me that there wouldn't be an issue and the DPW could put the plinth in place after the new landscaping. Hopefully, soon, Bubba's will begin the new retaining wall which will expose the eleven point star in the ground. New lighting will be included in the wall so they can remove the ugly old light. The new retaining wall will look much like the landscaping that Bubba is installing in front of his office on Lake Street.

The LeRoy Garden Club, who has maintained the planting around the Statue, has agreed to replant the new area, and Pully's Farm Market has offered free annuals for this summer. The problem is that the flowers can't be planted until July, so Pully's has offered not only to donate the plants, but they will be putting the red, white and blue plants into large planters that can be moved into place just before the dedication. Later, the Garden Club will make plans for perennials.

Right now, the dedication of the Statue is planned for 2 pm on Saturday of the Oatka Festival. That might change, but I will keep you posted. Pat Fussell has agreed to sing the Irving Berlin song, "Give Me Your Tired, Your



Poor." Tom Cox has offered to find the music. Laura and Justin Williams will sing "Here I Stand" which was written by Max Smith. There will be a speech and some special presentations to those folks who have helped with this special project. Later that night, at 6 pm, the LeRoy Old Time Band will play a concert of patriotic music on the creekbank. We hope you will bring your lawn chair and enjoy the evening.

I have to tell you a funny story. I keep telling everyone that they need to add "plinth" to their vocabulary. I told the second grade students about the Statue of Liberty and her "plinth." When I talked to the Rotary Club about the Strengthen the Arm of Liberty project, I told them about the "plinth." I even caught Bob Lathan using the word "plinth." So I'm watching a documentary on television a couple of days ago, about an Egyptian temple, and I nearly jumped off the couch, when the narrator talked about "fourteen plinths" that they discovered. (It doesn't take much to get me to jump off the couch.)

So things are moving right along for our Statue of Liberty and soon she will be back on the creekbank. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed that the plinth will arrive in time.

