



# Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

*A non-profit 501(c)3 Local Development Corporation whose mission is to restore economic prosperity in the Ticonderoga region by serving as a catalyst for innovative ideas and resources, and for public-private partnerships and investment opportunities.*

Issue #9 July 2019

## Building Blocks

*There's a new energy in the Ticonderoga Area. Can you feel it? Everyday more people are participating in the discussion, volunteering to help, and investing in the community. It's an exciting time.*

In our last issue we talked about the need for economic infrastructure to realize our community vision. These have proven to be issues of interest for a large number of our citizens and community leaders, and it has broadened the conversation about economic development.

In the first half of the year Ti-Alliance has helped move some of those infrastructure projects along, and begun developing some *building blocks* that are fundamental to realizing our vision of the Ticonderoga Area as a regional business and cultural hub.

### **These building blocks include:**

- A vibrant, *year-round* tourism economy, with lodging, services, restaurants, and new recreational offerings to support it. Read more about [leveraging our tourism assets](#) at our blog.
- Non-tourism based businesses that can provide year-round employment to a young working population.

- New housing options that can support mid-level housing for working professionals.
- Education options in the trade and service industries so that people can live, work, and have a good standard of living here in our area.
- And a vibrant downtown area that supports our citizens, workers, and visitors in new and exciting ways.



## *This Just In.....*

### **Ti High School to Get \$95,000 Tuition Support for CV-TEC Students**

Ti-Alliance has just received word from US Department of Agriculture Rural Development that we will be receiving a grant that will help pay the tuitions for Ticonderoga High School junior and senior students attending vocational training at CV-TEC (a BOCES program) in Mineville. This grant represents the first major federal grant received by Ti-Alliance and will provide approximately \$95,000 to the Ticonderoga school budget.

Ti-Alliance wrote this grant as part of a continuing partnership with the school to engage our community with trade education. Read "[Tackling Trade Education](#)" below to see other aspects of our Trade Education Campaign. We will continue to seek out ways to support our students with education and ready jobs. Our next trade funding initiative will focus on building a scholarship fund for students seeking seeking trade education after high school. See page 5 for details.

## FROM THE BOARD

*The first half of 2019 has been one of increased pace and focus for Ti-Alliance. Donna Wotton became our full-time paid Executive Director on January 1 and challenges us every day to be thinking about economic development and opportunities for Ticonderoga.*

*In 2018 we were able to revitalize the possibility of delivering new trade education in Ticonderoga through North Country Community College. Ultimately NCCC decided that it was not feasible for them to pursue a new school in this area. The news was disappointing, but sent us in a new direction to fulfill this need in our community. Read on to see how we are addressing trade education needs in a new, and creative way through increased enrollment.*

*We continue to work on ways to support housing needs in the area. The Zombie and Abandoned Properties project (ZAP) will establish a revolving loan fund that could enable revitalization of mid-market housing, and several downtown developments are under discussion that could provide downtown housing options for a young working population.*

*Ti-Alliance is also working to build a presence in the regional economic development discussions. We have been attending statewide meetings for Empire State Development (the econ dev arm of NY State), and the Regional Economic Development Councils to bring Ticonderoga's opportunities to the forefront of discussions.*

*In addition, we've been meeting with town supervisors and economic developers throughout the area to tour their towns and learn from their challenges and successes.*

*We're now in the NY State "CFA Grant Writing Season" - that time of year when we develop grant proposals for state economic development funding. A stronger presence with these funders has piqued new interest at the state level for the projects that are developing in downtown Ticonderoga.*

*We are well positioned to show them that we can be a great partner for the state, and can help bring the private and public sectors together to build our economy.*

*More people in our community are joining the conversation every day. Each new voice brings new ideas, opportunities and better solutions.*

## Share Your Ideas.

### Ti-Alliance Board of Directors

Sandy Morhouse, *Vice Chairman*

Pat Ida, *Chief Financial Officer*

Nancy Archer

Lance Clark

Scott Hearburg

Chris Mallon

Pam Nolan

Bobby Porter

Peter Reale

Joe Giordano, *Supervisor, Town of Ticonderoga (ex-officio)*



## Have you seen our new website?

On June 3rd we launched our new Ti-Alliance website. Now you can see the latest news and stories about our projects, thought-provoking blogs about economic development in rural towns, financial and business data, profiles of our board members and staff, and the many ways you can join in the economic development effort. Visit us at [www.ticonderoga-alliance.org](http://www.ticonderoga-alliance.org) for the latest.

*Special thanks to **Chris Quinn** for doing all the heavy lifting on the new website design. If you see her around tell her how great it looks.*

***We are forever in her debt!***

## Become a Sustaining Donor & Make an Impact

**Giving is easy when you make a monthly contribution to Ti-Alliance.**

Our goal is to add 25 sustaining donors in our summer donor drive. Think of it as giving to your community in lieu of dining out one night a month. Even the cost of a coffee can help defer our monthly expenses. Any amount is appreciated.

**If you share the vision, help us meet the goal.**

# Talk of the Town

**The Talk of the Town is currently about something called the DRI** - the Downtown Revitalization Initiative - a program funded by the state economic development agency that provides a large grant each year to one town in the North Country to realize it's vision for downtown revitalization. In May, the Town of Ticonderoga, in a joint effort led by John Bartlett and PRIDE, submitted a DRI application to the state.

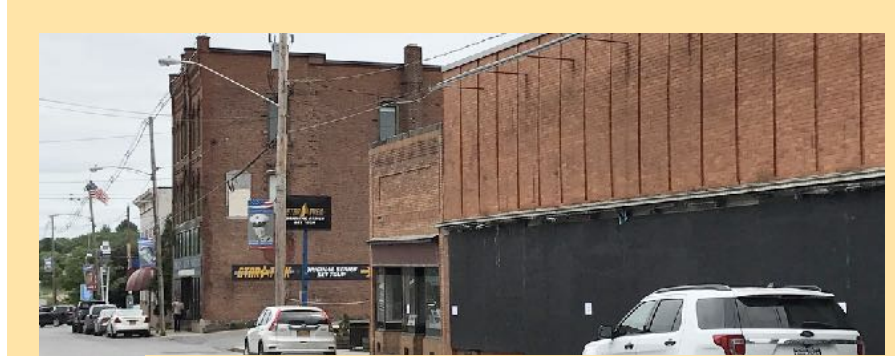
Eight other towns have submitted applications, and for many of those towns, it is not their first year of application. However strong our application is, we might have to wait a couple of years for "our turn". But there are two things that are especially exciting about this.

1. All our civic and non-profit groups are able to work together on a cohesive vision and proposal for the benefit of the community, and
2. When we take inventory of the active projects that are poised to become reality in the Ti Area, we can see the vision coming alive, and it is powerfully motivating.

Below is a list of projects included in the DRI application, as well as a few others that are in more preliminary stages.

- Development of the Cobbler's Bench buildings in downtown Ticonderoga (a private investment project).
- Creation of a micro-enterprise Entrepreneur's Fund to help start-up and small businesses (a Ti-Alliance project).
- Development of a multipurpose arts pavilion along the LaChute River (a Festival Guild Project).
- The Star Trek Original Series Studio Tour expansion (a STOSST project).
- Recreation of an 18th Century Saw Mill near the LaChute River falls in downtown Ti (a PRIDE project).
- Expansion of the Moses Ludington Health Campus to include a new primary care facility (a Hudson Headwaters and UVM Health Networks project).
- Renovation of the Pell Pavilion at Fort Ticonderoga (a Fort Ti project).
- Development of the Burleigh House and Hacker Building properties (private investment projects - preliminary discussions)

If you have an interest in becoming a potential investor or business owner in Ticonderoga, reach out to Ti-Alliance. There are so many ways to become a partner in revitalization.



## Entrepreneur's Fund

*It's time to put some significant money into our Entrepreneur's Fund. With the downtown development moving forward, we need to be able to support the start-up of some key new businesses in downtown Ti.*

The goal of the Ticonderoga Fund for Entrepreneurship and Revitalization (or Entrepreneur's Fund) is to stimulate economic growth and opportunity through gap financing to new and existing micro and small businesses that will create jobs in the Ticonderoga area.

Here's how it works. Monies from various sources, including private individuals and local businesses, provide a vehicle to lend or grant monies for small business development and expansion. Once we raise a base of \$50,000 from local sources we become eligible for both matched and unmatched funds from a variety of other state and federal economic development resources. They *want* to help! But we have to have some local "skin in the game". If we put together a small fund, they will help to make it a much bigger fund.

This is a really key asset to have in our bag as we work on downtown revitalization. Let's get this funded!

For more information and the methodology of the Entrepreneurs Fund go to:

<http://ticonderoga-alliance.org/support/volunteer.html>.

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.** Visit <http://ti-alliance.org/support/volunteer.html> and click the DONATE button to contribute online.



## A Renewed Grant for ZAP The Derelict Buildings Project

Due to the excellent results produced in Round 1 of the project, we were invited by the New York State Attorney General's Office to submit a proposal for Round II funding. The proposal was submitted on March 8 for \$50,000, the maximum allowed for small towns in this round of funding, and the new grant was awarded to us at the end of July.

Nancy Archer and Lance Clark (Ti-Alliance) and Allan Hipps (HAPEC) collaborated with the Code Enforcement Office and Town Supervisor to write the Round II grant. 101 vacant properties were identified for inclusion in this round of the project including single-family homes and multi-family residential buildings.

Our proposal included a range of actions including:

- Strengthened computer tools to help increase the capacity of the code enforcement office.
- Funding for increased legal actions to press for repairs of properties of concern.
- A one-day workshop to share the systems and processes developed by this project with Code Enforcement Officers in other towns in the area.

### An Exciting Next Step

This next round of funding will also include an exciting new phase of this program. It will begin to look at ways to acquire, rehab, resell or repurpose a number of vacant houses with significant structural or other problems but that don't need to be demolished.

The grant will include a \$13,500 revolving loan fund, matched with \$10,000 by the Town of Ticonderoga to provide gap funding to address repairs needed to residential properties in preparation for resale. Each time a property is rehabbed and sold using such a loan, the loan and interest will go back into the fund for continuation of the program.

The process would bring these houses back up to code and put them productively back on the tax rolls.

### Integrating Projects for Maximum Impact

*In addition to removing the blight of these derelict buildings from our community, this program also supports our goal to increase the supply of low and middle income housing for working families - a key component of our building block approach to economic development.*

*This project is a great example of how a modest amount of funding can be multiplied in terms of actions and outcomes for our community.*

*It's a win/win!*

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.** Visit <http://ti-alliance.org/support/volunteer.html> and click the DONATE button to contribute online.

# Tackling Trade Education

## Ti-Alliance and Ti-High Partner to Promote Opportunities

Though North Country Community College has decided not to move forward with the School of Applied Technology, trade education is still a vital need for the Ticonderoga Area. At Ti-Alliance, its still on the top of our priority list, and there are other ways that we can work to make this education accessible to our residents.

This spring Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance partnered with the school counselors at Ticonderoga High School on a new program to promote careers in the trades. The program consists of a new brochure entitled Quick Reference Guide to Trade Education Programs and a summer intern program to connect students interested in the trades with employers in our area.



The new Quick Reference Guide is designed to help counselors, students, and parents sort out all the training options available and figure out how to connect with them. It outlines training available to high school juniors and seniors through BOCES/CV-TEC, and training available at regional schools at the college-level. The brochure made its debut at the Ticonderoga Career Fair on March 27, and is available on the counter in the front hall of Hague and Ticonderoga Community Centers.

Ticonderoga school counselor Eric Heckman said, “Our partnership with the Ti-Alliance has been nothing but positive. With their help, we’ve been able to deploy this Quick Reference Guide in a very short time. Now we have all of the important information on one page to help our students pursue careers in the trades. As school counselors, we are very excited to have this invaluable additional resource. We look forward to continued collaborations with Ti-Alliance.

### Something New!

## A Community Project for the 2019-2020 School Year

Plans are currently underway with Ti-High Technology teacher Mike Uchal to design a new curriculum for his course that would utilize a community-based project to lead students through their skills training. We're calling it *Contractors in the Classroom*.

Ti-Alliance, the town, and Ti-High would partner to design a project that would ultimately be deployed for a useful purpose in the town. It might be a small shelter to mark the new Ticonderoga trail head for the Empire Bike Trail, or bike racks throughout town. Think of it like an Eagle Scout project for the Technology classes.

The program will invite local engineers and contractors to work with the students in the classroom on each phase of design, building, utilities, aesthetics, finish work, and finally deployment into the community. In addition to creating a stellar community project, the program will allow students to connect with many trade disciplines and work side by side with great mentors (and potential future employers) in our area.

*If you have a great idea for a Contractors in the Classroom project, or would like to participate in any way, contact Donna Wotton at [donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org](mailto:donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org).*

## We Need a Scholarship Fund

There are students in our community that want to go to college-level trade school but can't afford it, and don't qualify for loans. The state will pay tuition, but since all the schools are at significant distance, they need to live at campus. This creates a financial barrier that has prevented some from attending college. We need a scholarship fund to help these students. If you can help us establish this fund, contact Donna Wotton at 518-543-6782 or [donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org](mailto:donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org)

Let's send everyone to college that wants to go!

# Summer Interns at Ti-Alliance

## Working on Key Initiatives

We are pleased to have two great summer interns working for Ti-Alliance in 2019. Kayla Barbour joins us this summer researching ways that we can leverage our excellent tourism assets to bolster our year-round economy. The EPA has a new initiative to help rural towns expand their recreation economies. Kayla's work supports this strategy and will lay a foundation for future work with EPA and other agencies to expand our area's recreational economy while at the same time protecting our beautiful lakes and mountains.

Hope Farrar worked for the Alliance last summer developing our Grant Matrix and sorting out all the funding sources available for projects in our area. She continues that work this summer with an eye toward downtown development and school budget relief. As Ti-Alliance expands its capacity in the coming year, these funding sources - federal, state, corporate and private foundations - will become more critical in funding specific projects, and knowing where to find these resources is ever more important.



**Kayla Barbour** is a recent graduate of Berea College in Kentucky with a degree in Sustainable Studies (is there a theme here?). Berea College has a unique program that offers free tuition, room, and board to all 1,600 students in exchange for service to the college and the Berea community. In her four years at Berea, Kayla worked on a number of tourism expansion projects similar to the work that Ti-Alliance is doing. She brings a wealth of knowledge, community development skills, and process to her work exploring tourism in Ti.



**Hope Farrar** will be a sophomore at the University of Utah in the fall. Originally from Redwood City, CA, she is a double major in Environmental/Sustainability Studies and Ballet. She serves on the executive board of Dance Marathon at the University of Utah, and works with them on marketing and fundraising for Primary Children's Hospital. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and skiing. Hope is very excited to continue her work on grants for the Alliance this summer.

### Ti-Alliance Successful Past Projects

Ti Arts Gallery  
NLG Paddle  
Workforce Readiness Program  
(at Ti High School)

Downtown Murals  
Trekonderoga  
Star Trek Studio Tours  
(permanent home in Ti)



Notice anything different about the Northern Lake George Paddle logo? They have changed their name and are branching out for even more fun! Now Lake George Paddle and Pickleball, the courts are in their full summer season with more play and players at all levels.

Here's the summer schedule:

**Every Friday from 4-6 pm:** Paddle for all levels followed by Pickleball for those that want to play.

**Every Sunday:**

9:00 am: Warm-up and intro clinic with Patty Hogan, professional paddle player.

9:15 - 10:15 am: Paddle for all levels, beginner through intermediate.

10:15 - 11:15 am: Paddle for advanced players.



Platform tennis, or Paddle as it's often called, continues to thrive in Ticonderoga as a year-round recreational opportunity. The state-of-the-art Lake George Paddle courts on Rt. 9N (by Eddie's Restaurant) have heaters for snow and they are open all year.

The program is spearheaded by former national champion and NPTA Hall of Famer Patty Hogan who is often on hand on Friday afternoons and Sunday mornings to offer clinics and weekly tips and challenges to players at all levels. With help from Sherrie Burleigh, they offer programming throughout the year and encourage everyone, especially beginners, to join the fun. You'll be addicted!

Membership is \$175/year for a single person, \$225/year for a family.

Patty has also teamed up with Jay Wells from Five Nations Golf for the past 4 years to offer Platform for Life, a job training and mentoring program where kids learn work skills, as well as the basics of paddle and golf. What could be better than getting fit and helping teenagers at the same time?

To get on the email list for the weekly play schedule send email to Patty at [pattyhogan8@gmail.com](mailto:pattyhogan8@gmail.com).



# Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

## The Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance plays a unique roll.

As an independent non-profit 501(c)3 organization and Local Development Corporation, we are able to bring all of the relevant partners to the table for projects that vary from building renovation to job creation, education, arts and culture, and business incubation. Our mission is to restore economic prosperity in the Ticonderoga region by serving as a catalyst for innovative ideas and resources, and for public-private partnerships and investment opportunities.. We find resources, help to overcome roadblocks, and keep projects moving through completion. We believe that Ticonderoga and the surrounding area can be the economic and cultural hub of the Eastern Adirondacks and can take its place as a historic, cultural, and business leader in the Northeast.

**Be part of something big. Donate and participate.** The Ti-Alliance can coordinate this revitalization effort, but we need all of the citizens of Ticonderoga, Hague, Crown Point, and Putnam to participate. Our funding priorities for 2019 include:

- **Funding Operating Costs** - It is critical that we continue the funding of a full-time paid Executive Director Position. It is clear that this year we have dramatically increased our capacity and focus by having Donna Wotton in this role. In addition, we have very modest operating costs including our financial audit (as required by law for our 501c3 status), insurance, our web and internet services, our interns, and a few office supplies. Help us do this important work by funding our operating costs. We can do a lot with just a little help.
- **The Entrepreneur's Fund** - As we develop the tourism landscape and our downtown projects, we need to help entrepreneurs develop the businesses that we need to build our economy - businesses that are sustainable for the long term and provide the year-round employment that will grow our economy. They just need a little help from us, as a community to get started. To find out how you can help, contact Donna.

Help build our community's future with a tax-deductible donation to Ti-Alliance today. We can have economic development in the North Country, but we need your support. To donate, contact any board member, donate online by clicking the "DONATE" button below, or send your check to Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance at PO Box 247, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.


[DONATE](#)

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead*

Receive Alliance news via email. Click CONTACT at our web page <http://ti-alliance.org/contact.html>.

I share the vision. Enclosed is my donation for

\$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     Other

OR Donate online using 

Click DONATE at <http://ti-alliance.org/support/volunteer.html>.

I am interested in

- Investment opportunities. Please have a board member call me.
- Supporting the Ti-Alliance effort as a volunteer
- My area of expertise is \_\_\_\_\_

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