

# The Information Window

## President's Message

By Bob Meagher, WPS President



On Saturday, May 18th the Wantagh Preservation Society held its annual Arts and Crafts/ Yard Sale. Mother nature smiled on us that day and held off with the rain until the last 30 minutes of the fair. There was a good variety of vendors offering many items for sale and our trustees did their usual splendid job running the kitchen. We opened the Jamaica parlor car that day and quite a few curious fairgoers took a peek inside.

Since the last web post we have been making progress on our various projects. County and state workers cleared away numerous fallen trees from the path connecting the museum park to the Wantagh Parkway bike path. Once again the people of Wantagh have their access through the woodlands that run along the parkway and the twin lakes watershed. The paths are clear but there are still damaged areas that also need attending. We hope that enough prodding by us will get the state to take care of their responsibilities to Wantagh.

In addition to the pathway clearing, a concrete base has been set for our new lamp post and materials have been assembled for the completion of the post office interior. Progress is slow but steady. Inquiries are being made to what our options are for replacing the train retaining wall, the sooner this is done the better.

Inside the train station museum new wall display boards have been hung while the members decide the best way to secure and arrange our photographs of old Wantagh. Much careful thought will go into this endeavor as we strive to find the best way to present our collection. The effort to organize our archive room is a work in progress.

May 28th was our last general meeting until the autumn. That night was a "show and tell" program. Everyone was encouraged to bring a personal item or heirloom to share with the group. It was a very interesting and memorable night! 📖

*Many enjoyed the WPS annual Arts and Crafts Yard Sale. Bargains galore, good snacks and the weather held up! Thanks to all the volunteers that made this year's event a big success!*



## Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)  
PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)  
Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

[museum.wantagh.li](http://museum.wantagh.li)

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, June 4 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum.
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, July 2 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum.
- ◆ The Mystery Tour, August 3 at 1:00 PM at Wantagh Museum.  
*(more on page 2)*
- ◆ Please Note: There are no general meetings until October.

# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Officers

*President:* Bob Meagher  
*1st Vice President:* Karen Chowske  
*2nd Vice President:* Bob Cook  
*Recording Secretary:* Tom Watson  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Elaine Yarris  
*Treasurer:* Wayne Wagner  
*Curator:* Carol Poulos  
*Newsletter Editor:* Jim Colotti

## Trustees

Ellen Cook  
Joan Mallon  
Claire Reisert  
Joshua Soren  
Mary Wagner  
Wayne Wagner  
Elaine Yarris

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!*

[wps@wantagh.li](mailto:wps@wantagh.li)



*Trustee Mary Wagner conducts a tour of the Museum grounds for Girl Scout Troop 3015 (full story on page 3)*



***Museum is now  
open on  
Sundays  
2 PM - 4 PM***



***More renovations are  
underway!***

***The Mystery Tour  
A Beatles Tribute Band  
August 3rd, 1:00-2:30 PM  
(rain date August 4th)***



*The Friends of the Wantagh Public Library is sponsoring a Beatles Tribute Band – The Mystery Tour. This group faithfully reproduces the look and the sounds of Beatlemania with authentic sounds and costumes. This is free of charge. It will be held on the Wantagh Preservation Society grounds at 1700 Wantagh Avenue. Bring a chair. Light refreshments following the concert will be served by the Wantagh Preservation Society. The Museum will be open as well. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon in the community*

## Girl Scout Troop 3015 Visits Museum

By Mary Wagner, WPS Trustee

On Thursday, April 17 Girl Scout Troop 3015 and their leaders Debra DeRupo and Dana McCann accompanied by several parents visited the Wantagh Preservation Society Museum. In past years, even as Brownies, the troop had made generous donations to the Wantagh Preservation Society. They were very interested in seeing the museum, learning about the history of Wantagh and seeing the progress of the restoration of the train.

Several trustees were on hand to host their visit. A highlight was Ellen McGee Cook, a Wantagh Preservation Society Trustee and lifelong Wantagh resident, who brought her Girl Scout sash from her Troop 72 and talked about her days in Scouting. The girls were particularly interested in the old girl scout sash adorned with badges earned when Ellen was a girl.

The Troop returned on May 18 and participated in the Wantagh Preservation Society's yard sale, where they made additional contributions to the Society.

The Wantagh Preservation Society again thanks Girl Scout Troop 3015 and their leaders for their generous donations to help keep Wantagh's history alive. The Wantagh Preservation Society has been the recipient of donations from many scout groups and it is certainly appreciated. Especially appreciated is the recognition of our museum's importance to Wantagh's rich history. 

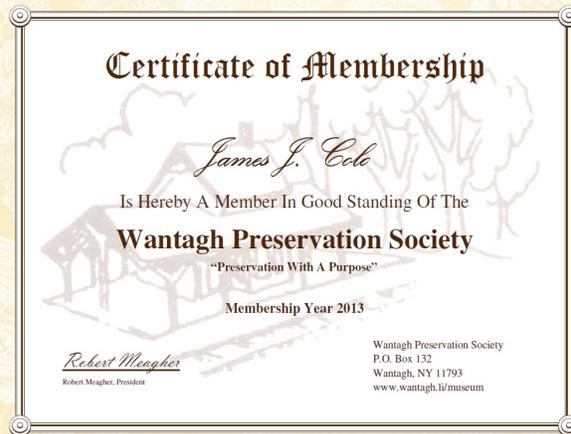


WPS Trustee and life-long resident Ellen Cook shows the girl scouts her girl scout sash adorned with badges earned when Ellen was a girl.

## Did You Get Your Certificate?

As a "Thank You" for support of the Wantagh Preservation Society, a 2013 membership certificate was emailed to all WPS members that provided an email address. If you're a member in good standing and did not receive your certificate, please email our membership chairperson, Mary Wagner at [wuwagner@optonline.net](mailto:wuwagner@optonline.net).

The Wantagh Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. 



\*\*\* Membership drive is in full swing. Renew your membership today for 2013! \*\*\*



### We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew   
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help with:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting       | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting planning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |   |

Check Membership Level:  Individual. \$10  Family \$20  Friend \$30  Patron \$50  Fellow \$100

Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793

*“Preservation with a Purpose.”*

## Wantagh Elementary School’s History Research Group Visits the Wantagh Museum

*By Karen Chowske, First Vice President*

The Wantagh Elementary School History Research Group, a group of fourth and fifth grade students led by Dr. Rebecca Chowske, Elementary Supervisor and Mr. Nick Spiegler, Wantagh Elementary’s Permanent Substitute teacher, are participating in the twenty-third annual Student Research Awards program sponsored by the New York State Archives. The fourth graders have chosen famous aviators who are connected to Long Island as their research topic. The fifth graders are creating a walking tour of historical Wantagh. The Group contacted the Wantagh Preservation Society for assistance with their projects.

On Thursday, April 18th, the students took a field trip to the Museum. Accompanied by their faculty advisors and parent chaperones, the students made the short walk from their school across Wantagh Avenue to the Museum. They were greeted by Wayne Wagner, Mary Wagner, Carol Poulos, Bob Meagher and myself, all Wantagh Preservation Society Trustees, and divided into small groups for tours of the Museum housed in the Wantagh Station, the “Jamaica” Railroad Car and the Post Office.

The students were all very excited to be able to go into the “Jamaica”. Due to its renovations, the “Jamaica” hasn’t been open to visitors so none of the students had been inside prior to this trip. They saw the solarium, the galley kitchen and the small bunks where passengers slept. The students were surprised to learn that when the “Jamaica” was in service 100 years ago it had an ice-cooled air conditioning system!

The children enjoyed looking at the old pictures in the Museum and looking on the maps to see if the streets they live on existed 100 years ago. They learned about Emma Whitmore, the first woman ticket agent at the Wantagh Station. They also learned that the Station was moved from its original location near Sunrise Highway to the Museum grounds when the LIRR elevated the railroad tracks in 1966. They tried to guess what the small building at the rear corner of the Station was and laughed when they found out it’s the old outhouse.

The Post Office, which is just beginning to be restored, made the students really use their imagination. When asked why they thought the Post Office was so small compared to our current Post Office, the students came up with some really interesting answers, including that there were not as many people living in Wantagh back then.

The Trustees of the Wantagh Preservation Society really enjoyed having the students come visit the Museum and hope they learned something about Wantagh. The Museum is open every Sunday from 2-4pm from mid-April through mid-November and also by special appointment. We hope to see some of the students and their families come back to visit soon! 📖



*Bob Meagher, WPS President, giving a tour of the “Jamaica” to fourth and fifth graders from Wantagh Elementary School’s History Research Group*