

# Annual Report

## The Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society, Inc.

For the Year 2016

Created by:  
Tom Reynolds  
President

# Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society, Inc	3
<b>Accomplishments for the Year 2016</b>	<b>5</b>
Detailed Events of 2016	9
<b>Financials</b>	<b>12</b>

## Summary

# Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society, Inc

**Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society, Inc**

*a 501(c)3 New Jersey nonprofit corporation*

EIN: 45-3761196

NJ Charities Registration number: CH3901600

When we created the Raritan River Chapter of the NRHS back in April 2011, we always had the intent to become a non-profit. So in late 2011 we incorporated “The Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society Inc.” in the state of New Jersey as a 501(c)3 corporation. We did this to keep things separate from our NRHS activities. Since the focus of our non-profit was specifically directed to only **preserving the history and artifacts of the Raritan River Railroad**, it was a straightforward approach towards becoming a non-profit.

We are incorporated in the State of New Jersey as a 501(c)3 non profit corporation, we filed our IRS Form 1023, and received our exemption letter from the IRS on September 4th 2015 to finally finish and be a recognized non-profit.

The year of 2016 marks our first full year as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation registered in New Jersey. There was almost no income received into the non-profit this year, as most of our efforts were directed at fund raising on existing commitments and relationships with the Milltown Historical Society.

As our official mission is listed in our charter as “**preserving the history and artifacts of the Raritan River Railroad,**” the Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society’s primary goal at this time is to move and restore the last remaining freight station of the Raritan River Railroad located in Milltown, New Jersey.

The owner of the station is willing to sell it to the town of Milltown, with the stipulation that it gets moved off his property. Milltown is willing to accept the station, if funding can be secured to get it moved. Milltown is also willing to work with Middlesex County to allow the station to be placed in Open Space property.

The Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society’s main objectives are to now help raise funds, apply for grants, and help facilitate the move of the station onto County Property.

To facilitate this, our efforts in 2016 were directed mostly at Outreach events, and Fundraising, which included identifying and completing Grant Applications from the State of NJ, and soliciting support from neighboring Historical Groups and other organizations.

The rest of our time was spent working with Milltown Borough, and getting the project to move the Milltown Freight Station officially sanctioned and approved. This has now led to the Borough working with the County to get the Open Space Agreements worked out.

# Accomplishments for the Year 2016

The Raritan River Railroad Historical Society, Inc. did not bring in any significant income in 2016, nor did they spend any significant money.

We did have a very productive meeting with Milltown's Borough Council, and got the process started to get the Station Move sanctioned and approved by the Borough. The Borough is now working with the County on the details of the station move.

Most of the accomplishments fall under the categories of Fundraising and Outreach.

- Tom Reynolds gave a presentation to the New Brunswick Historical Society.
- Ken Durrua gave a presentation to the Jersey Central Chapter of the NRHS
- The MMS Project Charter was updated and submitted to Milltown Borough Council
- Applied for the NJ Transportation Alternatives Grant
- Table at Mother Seton Train Show (hosted by JC Chapter NRHS)
- Attended Middlesex County History Day
- Al Baumann gave a presentation at the Historical Society of South Amboy
- Updated quote for the foundation was received from Brown & Glynn
- Updated balance of \$19,387.49 in the joint MHS\RR Ch NRHS Station move acct
- Received a front page write up in the Sentinel Newspaper.
- Minor repairs made to the side door due to vandalism
- Registered with NJ Division of Consumer Affairs and received a NJ Charities ID #.

Notes from the meeting with Milltown Boro Council April 11, 2016:

Mike McClelland (Milltown Council's engineer) gave a brief summary on the county property site and the station's inclusion on it. He stated that the property is owned by Middlesex County under the state Green Acres program. There is currently a proposal to plant trees on the property that are required to be planted as replacements to those cut down for the Borough's electrical substation. They do not necessarily need to be planted on this property, however it is a good opportunity for Milltown to benefit from those trees being planted within the Borough. As part of the proposed landscaping plan, the station has been included as there a basic agreement to allow the station to be put on County property. A formal agreement between the County and the Borough is needed which would include the terms in which the station would be relocated and operated by the Borough. Mike added that the County hinted that they may be able to fund the foundation. The agreement will need to be reviewed and formulated by Milltown's Borough Attorney. Accessibility, historical and use issues would need to be discussed. It was agreed by the Council to authorize the Borough Attorney to begin discussions with the County.

Once Milltown works out the agreement with Middlesex County, we can get started on future fundraising goals as well as getting the foundation work started.



South River High School's Kenny Cross is ready to uncork a throw during the javelin competition at the Greater Middlesex Conference Track and Field Championships held May 14 in Old Bridge. SCOTT FRIEDMAN

## Rail station on right track to restoration

By KATHY CHANG  
Staff Writer

After many years of discussion, the revival of the last remaining structure of the Raritan River Railroad in Milltown may finally come to fruition.

Tom Reynolds, the president, and Kenneth Durrua, the vice president, of the Raritan River Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society said after six years of raising funds, they believe they have raised enough money to move and restore the Raritan River Freight Station that faces Washington Avenue.

It was originally constructed as a passenger station and station agent office about 100 years ago. The first passenger train reached Milltown in 1891.

"It's significant in the history of the railroad [and] undoubtedly more so [significant] in the history of Milltown," Durrua said.

Durrua and Reynolds appeared before the Milltown Borough Council last month to discuss their plans for the station. They said the hope is by spring 2017, the station would find its permanent home on county land across the street.

"The Raritan River Railroad was an integral part to the commerce and prosperity brought to the town," Durrua said.

He said the development of automobiles and trucks changed the function of the railroad. The passenger service at the station ended in 1938.

The Raritan River Railroad was only 12 miles in length with stations in South Amboy, Parlin, South River, Milltown and New Brunswick.

Milltown at the time was a small and growing industrial town, and with a train station, people and industry could connect with the world.

(Continued on page 26)

## Varied paths to financial independence

By KENNY WALTER  
Staff Writer

Like many Americans, Gina Molinari wonders what she would do if she had \$1 million.

Molinari, a Howell resident, said she would want to travel to places she has not been including Australia, southeast Asia, Italy, Greece and England, as well as take care of her family and friends in any way she could.

"I'd probably buy a house, but not a big house, and then I would take a one-year-long road tour and I would travel," Molinari said. "I don't think I would travel really lavishly.

"I would take care of the people I know who have always taken care of me that are struggling."

Many like Molinari can take stock in their financial situation on May 20, which is dubbed National Be a Millionaire Day, an annual day aimed to honor people who desire to enjoy the power and freedom of financial security.

But for most, who are not millionaires, to achieve that stability will take a combination of hard work and extreme luck.

"You got to have a little luck, you have to come up with the right product or the right business," said Gino Mallamaci, a

Marlboro-based certified public accountant. "It's not easy to be a millionaire, 99 percent of the country makes under \$200,000 a year."

According to Mallamaci, overspending is the main mistake people make that prevents them from maximizing their wealth and achieving the millionaire goal.

"They bite off more than they should chew — they buy a house that they could barely afford," he said. "They pay 20 percent of their balance with interest on their credit card."

(Continued on page 29)

# Restoration

(Continued from page 1)

After passenger service of the station ended, the station building was moved slightly down the tracks and the platform height was raised so that the building could be used for freight service.

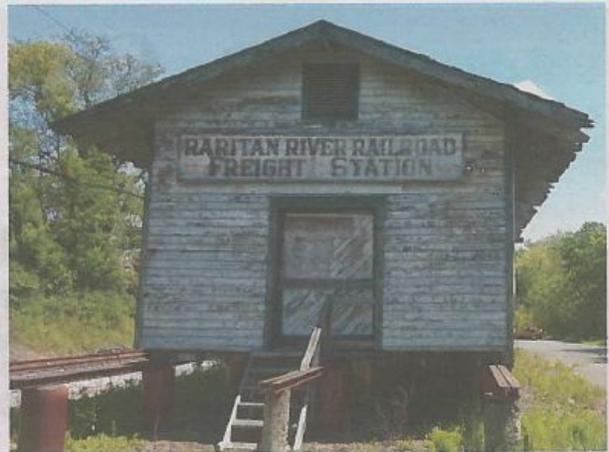
"It remained this way almost to the absorption into Conrail in 1980 and shortly

thereafter, the [property has been in the] hands of private owners, currently Jim Curran," said Durrua.

He said the station is the last remaining structure of the Raritan River Railroad.

"Time is taking its toll on its exterior and this may be the last chance to save it," he said. "The interior however is still in remarkably good condition as it retains most of its original finishing character from its original use as a passenger station."

Reynolds said they have worked with



KATHY CHANG/STAFF

The Raritan River Railroad Freight Station is the last remaining structure of the railroad in Milltown.

the Milltown Historical Society to raise funds to move and restore the station.

"After six years, we believe we are at the point that we have enough money to start the process to move the station," he said.

Reynolds said they attended the meeting to look for an understanding and approval from the council to acknowledge and sanc-

tion their plan to move the station onto the county property.

The next steps, Reynolds said, would involve paperwork on agreements of where the station would go on the county property, authorizations, and any legal matters that need to be taken care of.

"It may be a nine-month process to move [the station] across the street," he said.

Borough Engineer Michael McClelland said preliminary legwork has been done on the site where the station will be moved.

"We have met with county [officials] relative to landscaping behind the Ice Cream Depot," he said, adding that on those preliminary plans, the county has conceptually agreed to an area for the location of the train station.

McClelland said in discussion with county officials, they are flexible in where the station is placed on the property.

Durrua said once the station building is moved, the building needs to be restored and hold some type of occupancy.

"We will continue to have fundraisers," once a stabilized goal for the station is set, he said.

Contact Kathy Chang at [kchang@gmnews.com](mailto:kchang@gmnews.com).

## LAG B'OMER PICNIC & BBQ OPEN HOUSE

Join EBJC as we celebrate Lag B'Omer with friends, family and community!

Visit with Rabbi Finkelstein, or chat with Ellen Botwin, our Executive Director. Learn about our EBJC community while enjoying the food and fun! Bring your family and friends!

Pie eating contest, egg relay races, group trivia, outdoor treasure hunt, puzzlemania, giant Jenga & more!

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:30 am - 2:30 PM

RSVP requested, but not required

732-257-7070 - [info@ebjc.org](mailto:info@ebjc.org)



EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

East Brunswick Jewish Center

511 Ryders Lane

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

## Pool Openings & Liner Changes

CHOOSE FROM OVER 30 PATTERNS!

Ask about our FREE 27 mil. upgrade!

\*On selected patterns.

- Weekly Maintenance
- Pool Reservations
- Inground Vinyl Liner Replacement
- Filter Repair
- Pump Repair
- Salt Converters
- Heater Installation
- Leak Detection

**\$200<sup>00</sup> OFF**  
New Inground Liner & FREE Pool Opening  
(Cannot be combined with any other offer)



HAYWARD

### IN-GROUND POOL OPENINGS

SPECIAL DELUXE POOL OPENING **\$20 OFF**

WITH THIS COUPON. Some restrictions apply. Chemicals not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer.



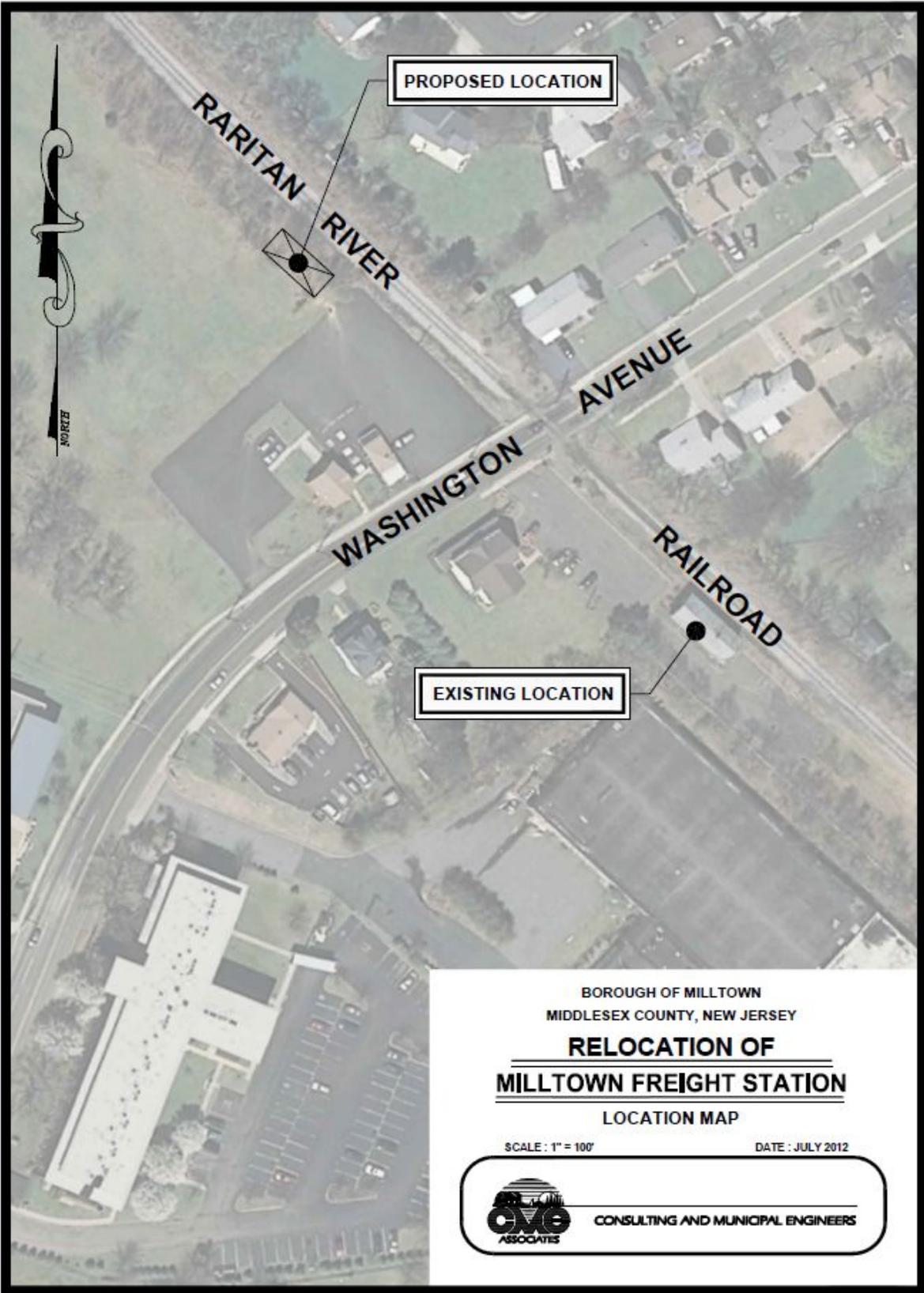
CALL TODAY 732-367-7641

[www.GPPools.com](http://www.GPPools.com)

Fully Insured  
NJ Lic No. 23V902232300

### Puzzle answers

S	T	E	A	M	A	D	S	S	E	R	A	
O	U	T	D	O	L	E	I	C	H	A	O	S
B	R	A	I	D	O	W	N	H	A	R	S	H
F	L	E	E	C	E	C	R	A	W	L	E	Y
U	R	L	S	E	A	L						
B	A	T	N	O	O	K	Y	E	L	L	O	W
A	G	E	D	N	O	I	R	T	E	A	C	H
N	O	N	E	K	H	L	O	E	E	T	U	I
K	R	O	N	A	S	L	A	G	K	E	L	T
S	A	R	T	R	E	E	D	G	Y	D	I	E
M	A	I	D	O	I	L						
T	A	Y	L	O	R	S	O	N	E	A	L	S
I	D	L	E	R	L	S	D	L	Y	O	N	S
P	O	E	S	Y	E	K	E	D	I	C	O	T
I	S	M	S		T	I	S	S	N	O	W	Y



CME presented the highlighted location for the station move to the County

## Detailed Events of 2016

### January / February

Discussion continued in 2016 on different options of how to move forward with the relocation of the Milltown Station, including formally contacting the Milltown Borough Council and/or the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Chapter Vice President Ken Durrue wrote to the Milltown Borough Clerk to request being placed on the agenda at the next Borough Council meeting opportunity to discuss a proposed plan for the Milltown Station. Chapter President Tom Reynolds will look into expanding the proposed plan by contacting the Borough engineering firm CME Associates represented by *Michael McClelland*.

### March

The Raritan River Chapter appeared as an exhibitor at the annual Jersey Central Railway Historical Society Train Show at Mother Seton High School in Clark on March 6th. The chapter received donations from book sales and continued to get the word out about the work of the Raritan River Chapter of the NRHS and our 501c3 entity, the Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society.

### April

At the Milltown Borough Council meeting held on April 11, Ken Durrue gave a brief history of the Raritan River Rail Road along with the efforts of the Chapter to save the last station of the railroad. Tom Reynolds fielded a few questions and emphasized that sufficient funds have been raised (under our partnership with the Milltown Historical Society) to move the station. The Borough engineer, Michael McClelland of CME Associates, indicated that the landscaping plan of the county property included a location for the station and County officials have given a verbal approval of the location. There was discussion that grants may be available and should be pursued. All parties agreed to set a meeting with representatives from the Borough Council, CME, Raritan River Chapter of the NRHS, and the Milltown Historical Society to discuss the specifics of the next steps.

### May

A front page article covering on our appearance at the April Milltown Borough Council meeting appeared in the March 19<sup>th</sup> edition of The Sentinel newspaper. The article was well written, explained our cause, and was very factual with accurate quotes.

Chapter member Al Baumann gave a presentation on the Raritan River Rail Road at The Historical Society of South Amboy's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and Al discussed both the railroad's history and our efforts to preserve that history.

Tom Reynolds reported at our May meeting that the Milltown Borough's engineer has been working with Middlesex County and currently has a draft agreement to allow the station to be put on County property. This agreement will be reviewed and edited by the Borough Council, and sent back to the County for more edits and revisions before it is finalized. The borough engineer suggested that the Chapter and the Milltown Historical Society work with Milltown Council to get a "Use Agreement" created. This document should outline the future use of the building to help the Milltown Council decide and sanction a plan for it. From the Use Agreement document, usage designs can be drafted, which will then allow architectural drawings to be completed.

Milltown Borough Councilwoman Doriann Kerber reported that a meeting was scheduled with the Borough Planning Board which is proceeding with plans. They are working with the Middlesex County Open Space Committee, who will write the protocol to spell out what is required in order to be permitted to be located on Open Space property. The Planning Board is also hoping to find a source or sources of funding. Doriann is pursuing grants and other funding sources. Doriann offered to be the lead point of contact on the council, and is working on a "Letter of Support" to be read before council and voted on at its next meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### June

The Raritan River Chapter appeared as an exhibitor at the annual Middlesex County History Day sponsored by the Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage and held at East Jersey Old Town Village, Johnson Park, Piscataway. The County reported that 400 visitors attended. The chapter received donations from book and pin sales and the exposure helped promote our cause and possibly may lead us to contacts in the County.

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Milltown Borough Council meeting, the borough engineer gave a brief summary on the county property site and the station's inclusion on it. He stated that the property is owned by Middlesex County under the state Green Acres program, and on a currently a proposed landscaping plan the station has been included as there is a basic agreement to allow the station to be put on County property. A formal agreement between the County and the Borough is needed which would include the terms in which the station would be relocated and operated by the Borough. The agreement will need to be reviewed and formulated by Milltown's Borough Attorney. Accessibility and historical and use issues would need to be discussed. It was agreed by the Council to authorize the Borough Attorney to begin discussions with the County. Under a following agenda item, Councilwoman Doriann Kerber stated that she is pursuing funding for a history grant that may provide funding to solicit additional funding from local entities to support the station restoration.

#### July

Chapter members Paul Sommers and John Wolan visited the Milltown Station after learning of some damage there. Paul and John repaired the door and noted that there appeared to be no additional significant deterioration to the interior. Milltown Historical Society member Steve Gragus stopped by and cleaned up landscaping. Steve stops by regularly to keep the area looking good.

#### September

At our September meeting Milltown Borough Councilwoman Doriann Kerber provided some additional information on the grant proposal as well as the addressee for the letters of support. A draft grant proposal narrative was presented and discussed. She needs a minimum of five letters of support submitted with the application from citizens, public officials, local organizations, etc. Chapter members agreed to reach out to various individuals/organizations to seek letters of support (local historical societies, etc.)

#### October

At our October meeting Milltown Borough Councilwoman Doriann Kerber reported the grant application should be done within the week. Doriann is hopeful for a possible Spring 2017 station relocation to the County Open Space property. Doriann has also found another grant opportunity and will continue to solicit additional letters of support.

Tom Reynolds gave a Raritan River Rail Road presentation at the New Brunswick Historical Society and reported it went well. Several chapter members attended.

## December

Tom Reynolds opened a bank account for the Raritan River Railroad Historical Society, separate from that of the Raritan River Chapter NRHS. Tom will be the lead representative on the account.

At our December meeting it was reported that letters of support have been coming in and were provided to Councilwoman Doriann Kerber in recent weeks. Looking forward to 2017, the chapter discussed having a Holiday show in 2017, and again exhibiting at the annual Jersey Central Railway Historical Society Train Show which has now been scheduled.

# Financials

The Raritan River Rail Road Historical Society, Inc. received less than \$500 in income in the year 2016.

## Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Current Assets	\$0
Net Property and Equipment	\$0
Investments and Deposits	\$0
Other Assets	\$0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$0
Net Assets	\$0
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$0</b>

As there is no income for the RRRRHS, Inc at this time, there is no approved budgets.

This situation is expected to change once the agreement between Milltown Boro and Middlesex County work out the agreement for the exact location of the Station. Once this major milestone is achieved, larger fund raising efforts will take place, and work can begin on the foundation for the station move.