



LORRAINE GOWING

COLTON'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Presentation on January 23, 2020 honoring Lorraine Gowing as the recipient of the Virginia Smith Outstanding Citizen Award given to Colton residents who are active volunteers and who exemplify the adage "neighbors helping neighbors."



Lorraine M. Hollinger
"No one knows what he can do
till he tries."

Lorraine graduated from Norwood-Norfolk Central School. The motto on her graduation picture says, "No one knows what he (or she) can do 'till he (or she) tries." Indeed, Lorraine has found all the wonderful things she could do since high school graduation.

Best Personality



In her yearbook she was voted the girl with the best personality.

All who know or work with her know that she still has that friendly personality.



While involved in many school activities Lorraine worked at the Big N in Potsdam her senior year. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the school band and chorus, the ski team, and was editor of the school yearbook.



Hollinger-Gowing Are Engaged

NORWOOD — Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hollinger, 57 Park St., Norwood, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lorraine, to Gary W. Gowing, of Loxahatchee, Fla., formerly of Potsdam. Mr. Gowing is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Gowing of the Winthrop Road, Potsdam.

Miss Hollinger is a 1976 Norwood-Norfolk Central School graduate and is presently employed at J. C. Penney's in Potsdam as a merchandiser's assistant.

Mr. Gowing is a 1976 Potsdam Central School graduate and is presently employed with John Stalheber, contractor, in Wellington, Fla., as a carpenter.

A late summer wedding is planned.

Miss Hollinger Is Bride

NORWOOD — Miss Lorraine Marion Hollinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde M. Hollinger, 57 Park St., Norwood became the bride of Gary Wayne Gowing, son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn F. Gowing of the Winthrop Road, Potsdam on Aug. 25, 1979.

Rev. John Wiley officiated at the 1 p.m. ceremony in St. Andrew's Church, Norwood. Wedding music was provided by Michael Frost, organist and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Darling, vocalists, accompanied by Miss Ann Stone on the flute. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Miss Nancy Hollinger, sister of the bride was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were the Misses Karen, Kathy and Debra Gowing, sisters of the

bridegroom. Flower girl was Amy Clark, niece of the bride.

Best man was Steven Gowing. Ushers were Charles Merriman, Boyd Dumont and Kevin Murphy.

Following a reception held at The Hut, Colton, the couple left for a wedding trip to Lake Placid.

The bride is a 1976 graduate of Norwood-Norfolk Central School. She is a merchandiser's assistant with J.C. Penney.

The bridegroom is a 1976 graduate of Potsdam Central School. He is employed as a carpenter with Stalheber Construction.

The couple will reside in West Palm Beach, Fla.

After high school graduation she worked at J.C. Penney's in Potsdam. Three years after graduation she and Gary married and moved to Florida where they started their family. After living in West Palm Beach for 7 years Lorraine and Gary with their two children, Blake and Karina, moved to the Colton area in 1986. First they lived on State Highway 68 and a few years ago built a new home on Higley Flow.



In Florida her neighbor's kids were involved in a youth sports program playing T-ball. When her son, Blake, was in second grade at Colton-Pierrepoint she started a T-ball team in Colton involving over 50 kids the first year. That was when she decided to go back to school.





In 1993 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Potsdam and in 1998 received her Masters in Education also from SUNY Potsdam.

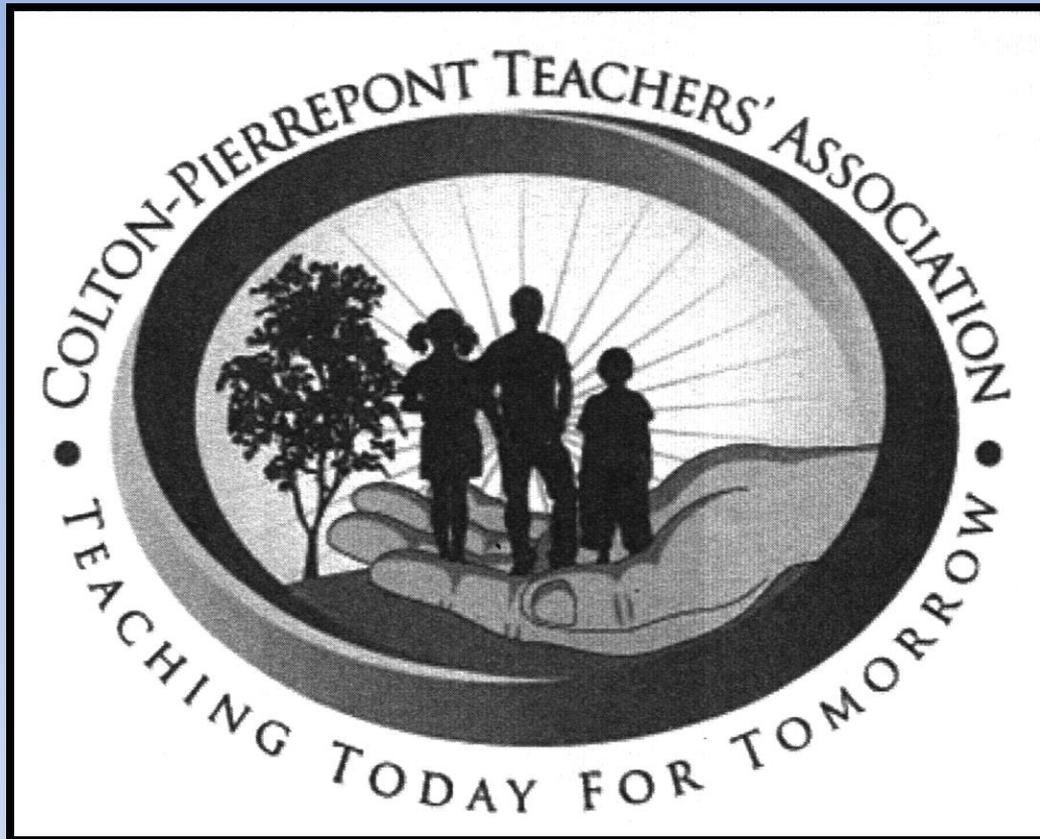


While attending college she began her teaching career at CPCS in 1991 as a Teacher Aide in Pre K. Lorraine also worked as a summer school teacher and long-term substitute at Colton. She was employed full-time at Parishville-Hopkinton where she taught 5th and 6th grade for a couple of years. After receiving her MAED she was appointed full-time at CPCS where she has taught Kindergarten, Grades 1 / 2 Multi-Age, and Second Grade.

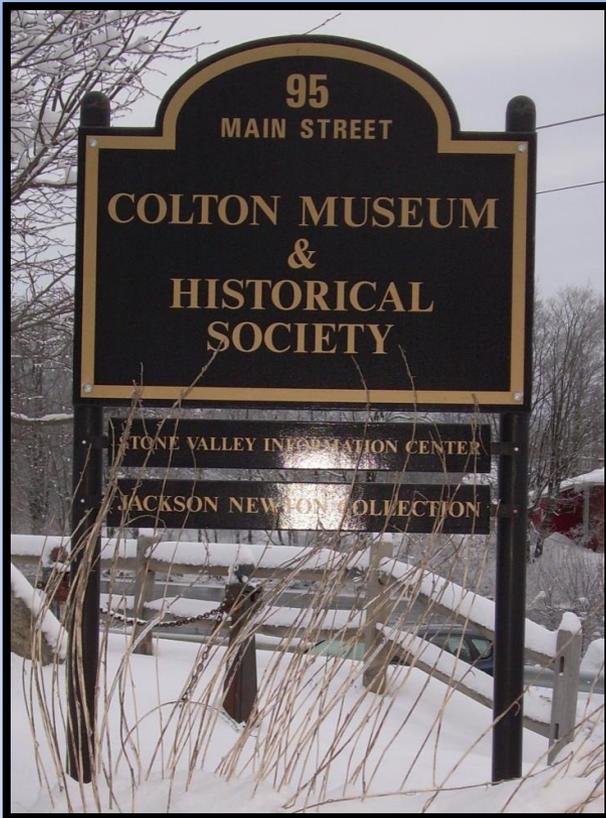


Last year she developed a unit featuring the Raquette River and its dams using materials at the Colton Museum developed as part of the Raquette River Oral History Project with Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY). The students went on a bus trip along the river to view the dams.





At school she is a member of the Colton-Pierrepoint Teachers' Association Public Relations committee and chairs the Annual Charity Drive where CPTA individual members donate to a local organization chosen by the union. She is also involved in the CPTA Trunk or Treat held at The Well on Halloween or at school if it rains.



Lorraine was Class advisor for the Class of 2005 which did spring cleaning at the Colton Museum for many years.



In 2010 the CPCS Class of 2020 and their advisors Lorraine Gowing and Peggy Horton helped with spring cleaning to get the Colton Museum ready for summer opening.



FRIENDS OF COLTON HEPBURN LIBRARY



One of the first organizations she joined was the Friends of the Colton Hepburn Library and has served as a board member and officer for many years. She recalled that her first volunteer project was to type the bylaws on a computer in the early 1990s.

Lorraine thought that the John Stone Nature Trail was an ideal location for a StoryWalk ©. With the assistance of her husband, Gary, she installed a StoryWalk featuring a series of stops where kids read a page of a story. When they finish the walk they have read an entire book.



Visit the
John Stone Nature Trail

StoryWalk®

Pleasant Street/Cty. Rt.58
Colton at the Bike Park

Walk the approximately quarter mile trail stopping to read pages of a story that are located on posts. Visit StoryWalk often because a good book is worth reading more than once!

Story Walk combines the benefits of physical activity, time outdoors in nature, literacy, and family time.

Sponsored by
Friends of Hepburn Library Colton

The StoryWalk™™ Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition (VBPC) and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.



Another project of the Friends is the installation of Little Libraries. She helped install them at Swift Field and the Pierrepont Town Hall. Through her efforts Higley Trails Lodge also now has a shelf of nature-related books for use by Higley Flow State Park visitors.

Perhaps one of her biggest contributions to the Colton Community and its Winterfest celebration was the Annual Quilt Show which she started in 2001 and organized for 15 years. When we say organized, we mean every facet of putting it on was on her shoulders, from signage to recruiting quilters. to having husband Gary build display racks, to staging the quilts.

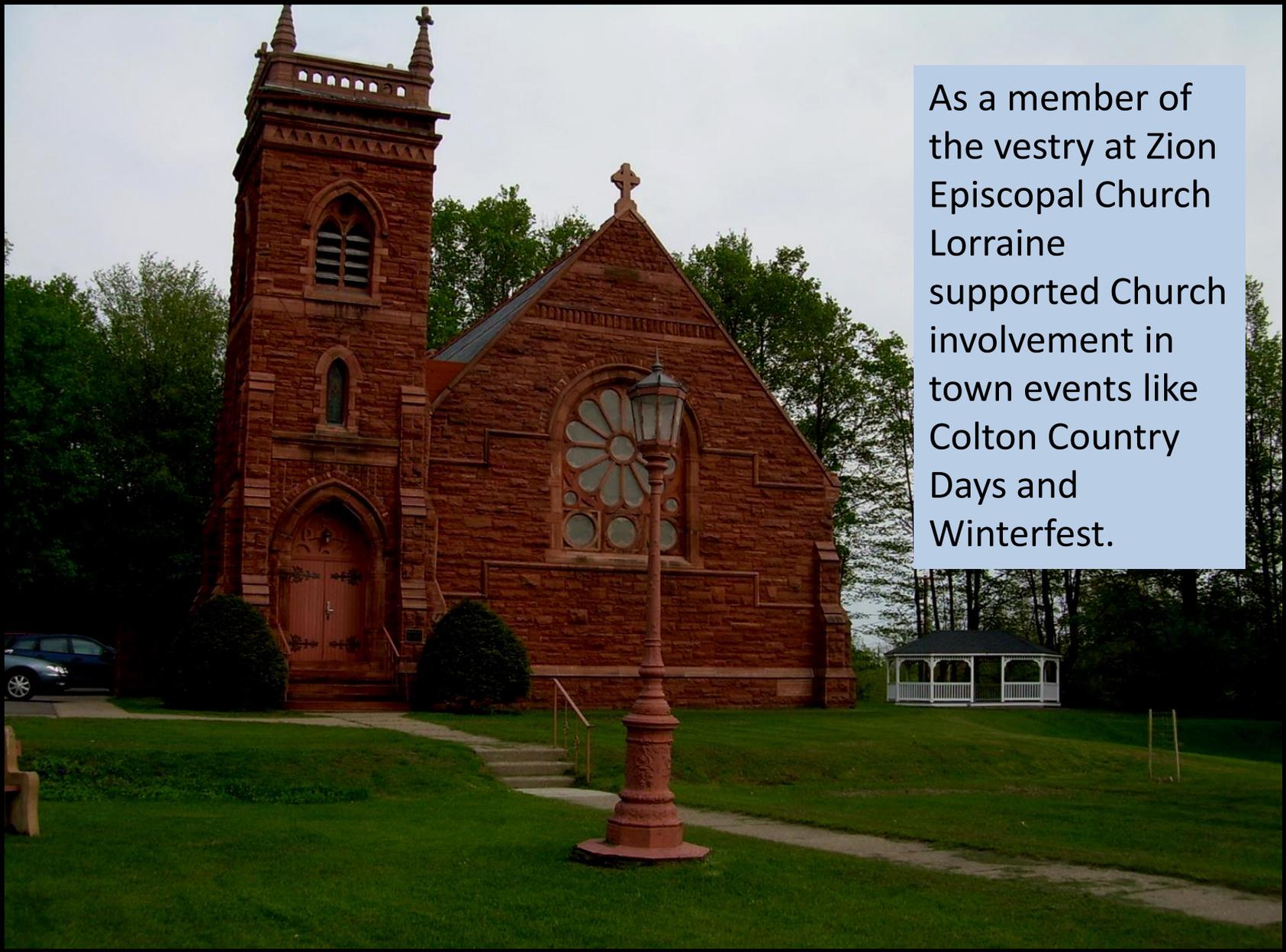
Quilts are important historical artifacts about the lives of people, mostly women, who make them. The making of fabric quilts is still a thriving tradition. Over time the show has grown from about 75 quilts the first year to over 200. Betty Vebber was the first featured master quilter.



This year's quilt show will include a wide array of creations made by women from classic patterns to art quilts created in free flowing ways. It will include painted barn quilts which honor and reflect the tradition of quilting.



Lorraine expanded the quilt show to include Catamount Lodge. Many quilters in the area continue to share their creations by displaying them in venues around town including the Library and the Parish Center. Former locations include Zion Episcopal Church, the Museum, and the Town Hall.



As a member of the vestry at Zion Episcopal Church Lorraine supported Church involvement in town events like Colton Country Days and Winterfest.



The Zion Episcopal Church was a beautiful venue for family memorial quilts.

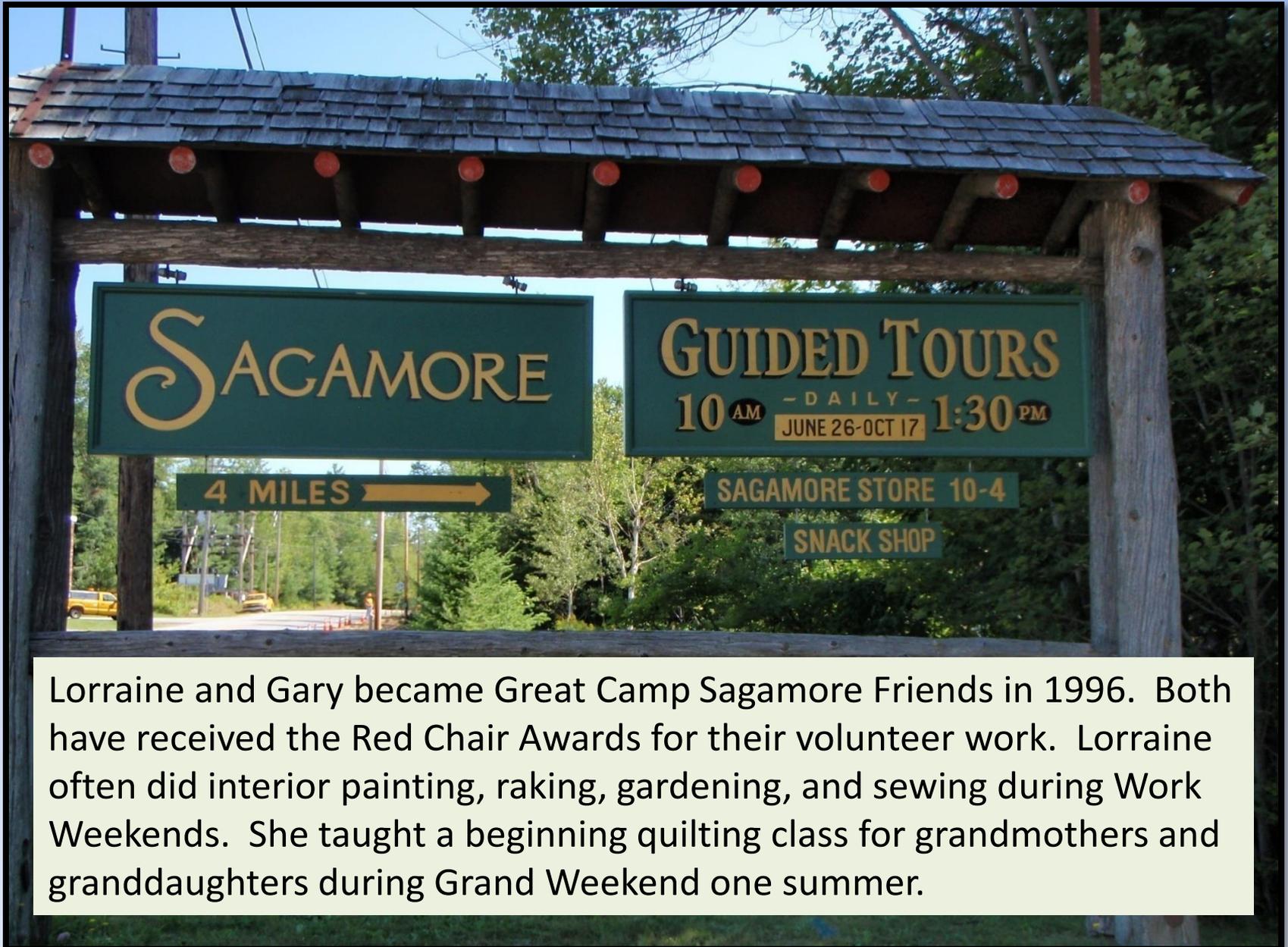
We sincerely appreciate Lorraine's vision in highlighting the tradition of quilting and its many facets and for her hard work to make the Quilt Show such an important part of Winterfest Weekend for residents and visitors.



One year the Town Hall venue featured quilts which were the inspiration for barn quilts.



Lorraine encouraged the Colton Tourism & Beautification Committee to test the idea of holding barn quilt painting classes.



Lorraine and Gary became Great Camp Sagamore Friends in 1996. Both have received the Red Chair Awards for their volunteer work. Lorraine often did interior painting, raking, gardening, and sewing during Work Weekends. She taught a beginning quilting class for grandmothers and granddaughters during Grand Weekend one summer.

Lorraine was one of six volunteers who designed, made, and donated quilts for Sagamore for historic preservation. This was the first quilt they made during a work weekend at Sagamore to be auctioned off at Sagamore's benefit one August.





Since 2006 Lorraine has been a member of the Friends of Higley Flow State Park, serving as a Board member since 2007 and as Treasurer for several years.

**FUTURE SITE OF
HIGLEY TRAILS LODGE**



\$125,000
\$100,000
\$75,000
\$50,000
\$25,000

FRIENDS OF HIGLEY FLOW STATE PARK

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS

DONATION & PLEDGE CARDS LOCATED IN REGISTRATION KIOSK

She was involved in fund raising efforts which went on for a few years to raise money to build Higley Trails Lodge.



Her interest in barn quilts resulted in CPCS art students painting a barn quilt for Higley Flow State Park. During fall 2015 Lorraine and Park staff checked on students finishing the tree design to be installed at Higley Trails Lodge.



The barn quilt was installed on the end of Higley Trails Lodge in view of the popular Easy Trail during December 2015 in time for Winterfest.



At Colton Country Days Lorraine purchased a barn quilt from well-known quilter and barn quilter, Margaret Thomas, and installed it on the Gowing garage on Mud Pond Road in July 2016.

Margaret designed and painted the maple leaf barn quilt.



Peaceful Peaks Bed and Breakfast



While in our home as our guest,
May you find peace and rest.

Hosts, Gary and Lorraine Gowing

484 State Highway 68
Colton, New York 13625

315-379-9392

garygowing@aol.com

www.peacefulpeaksbandb.com

Before moving to Mud Pond Road Lorraine and her husband operated Peaceful Peaks Bed and Breakfast for several years offering visitors a great place to stay in the Colton area.



Lorraine has been a member of the Higley Association for many years. She has served on the Association Board of Trustees for over 10 years. Here she is working with Judy Fuhr and Joann Ferris registering participants in the annual Higley 'Round the Islands canoe race.



Participants are preparing to start the race. Summer 2020 will be the 26th year of the 'Round the Islands Race.

Her daughter, Karina, posted on Facebook that Lorraine loves giving her time, doing for others and being a part of the community. It could be said that one of Lorraine's greatest traits is that she has a hard time saying "no."

If ever you need help with something, or you need something done, ask Lorraine. She might say it is her greatest weakness, but to those of us who look for help with any variety of projects Lorraine is a person we can count on. Lorraine has been a large part of this community for many years.

Thank you, Lorraine for all you have done for the Town of Colton.

