

PRESS RELEASE

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Laconia Historical & Museum Society hopes to win \$25,000

Laconia Historical & Museum Society has entered into a membership challenge that has been extended to all New Hampshire libraries, museums, and historical societies. The Robert & Karin Finlay Foundation is offering \$25,000 to each of the top three institutions who increase their membership the most in 2008. The criteria for winning this award is determined by both an increase in the total number of new members and the percent of increase. The challenge began November 1, 2007 and will end October 31, 2008.

"LHMS is certainly motivated to win this unique membership drive in the category of historical societies. We are actively seeking new members through public awareness, high quality programming and exhibitions, and special enticements", says Executive Director Jennifer Carroll-Plante. In February 2008, LHMS will launch *Laconia Ancestry*, an online genealogy database for LHMS silver and gold level members. The new exhibit *Je t'aime Laconia*, celebrating French Canadian culture in honor of Quebec City's 400th anniversary, will open on May 21st in the Laconia Public Library. "And many more surprises are planned throughout the year".

"Winning this challenge and receiving these funds would go such a long way to further the great things the Society has undertaken in the past few years." said LHMS President Debbie Frawley Drake. "The new web site and recent exhibits have generated interest about Laconia history throughout New Hampshire and beyond" she added.

Become a member of the Society and help us win an award that can be applied towards the preserving and interpreting local history. Your membership dollars are used to help keep local history alive and to teach future generations about who are and where we've come from. Members receive ten newsletters per year describing upcoming programs, events, exhibits, and showcasing items from the collection. Silver and gold members have their names published in the Laconia Historian newsletter and obtain access to the *Laconia Ancestry* database. Choose from one of these four categories: Individual-\$10, Family-\$15, Silver- \$25, Gold-\$50.

To become a member or for inquiries please contact Jennifer Carroll-Plante, Director of Laconia Historical and Museum Society at 603.527.1278. lhmslpl@metrocast.net. Join LHMS online using Paypal at www.laconiahistorical.org/becomeamember.