

SARANAC LAKE TIMELINE

1776-1999

- 1776-1811 A vast wilderness, Indian summer hunting ground
- 1812 War of 1812 - U.S. sent forces over the Old Military Road.
- 1819 Jacob Smith Moody arrives - first settler.
- 1822 Captain Pliny Miller locates on "the river" - opens first store
- 1827 Miller builds first dam at present Village Office site.
- 1838 The first school built near "the pines".
- 1841 Harrietstown formed, Pliny Miller elected supervisor.
- 1847-1848 The first hotel is built by Miller.
- 1850 Paul Smith arrives in Adirondacks
- 1851 Wm. F. Martin opens first "Adirondack Style" hotel, Saranac Lake House.
- 1852-1854 Col. Milote Baker builds hotel and store at Pine Street.
- 1854 Baker has first post office in his store.
- 1856 Population - 15 families, 2 schools and 31 students.
- 1958 Paul Smith's Hotel on St. Regis Lake opens
- 1858 Philosopher's Camp established on Follensby Pond.
- 1861 Post office to Saranac Lake House, 'Lake' is added to 'Saranac' postmark.
- 1876 Dr. E.L. Trudeau begins spending winters in Saranac Lake
- 1879 St. Luke's church is built - first in the Village
- 1880 Franklin County Library is founded at 52 Main Street
- 1881 J.M. Bull opens first drug store.
- 1883 Dr. E.L. Trudeau becomes year-round resident
- 1884 Little Red is built at Trudeau Sanatorium.
- 1885 Forest Commission formed: Adirondacks named Forest Preserve.
- 1887 First phone service provided to Village.
- 1887 Railroad makes first run to village.
- 1887-1888 Robert Louis Stevenson spends the winter.
- 1888 Town Hall built.
- 1891 Adirondack Guide's Association is formed.
- 1892 Saranac Lake becomes first incorporated village in Adirondacks
- 1892 Adirondack Park 'Forever Wild' status established.
- 1892 Adirondack Pioneer becomes Saranac Lake's first newspaper
- 1894 Electricity is introduced to the Village
- 1894 Trudeau Laboratory built.
- 1895 Adirondack Daily Enterprise is published.
- 1896 Pontiac Club is founded
- 1897 Adirondack National Bank is founded.
- 1898 First Winter Carnival is held.
- 1901 First hospital opened as a Reception Cottage
- 1901 Mark Twain summers here.
- 1902 First automobile drove into Village.
- 1902 Ed Lamy, S. L. native, captures the World Champion Amateur Speed Skater title
- 1902 Wm. Morris arrives in Saranac Lake for the cure.
- 1904 Union Depot is erected.
- 1905 Reception Hospital is completed at 5 Franklin Ave.
- 190" Saranac Lake Free Library Association organized
- 1907 Saranac Lake Electric Co. sold to Paul Smith.
- 1908 Fire on Mt. Baker threatened to engulf entire Village.
- 1908 Paul Smith's Power and Electric building is built on Main Street
- 1909 Village Improvement Society (VIS) is formed.
- 1912 First plane flew into Saranac Lake.

1913 Wm. Cooper comes to Saranac Lake to film movies,
1914 Boys Club is built Walter Cluett donor.
1915 Death of E.L. Trudeau.
1922 Present Broadway Bridge is built to replace the old iron bridge.
1924 St. Bernard's School is opened
1925 Will Roger's Hospital opened as National Vaudeville Artists Lodge
1925 New High School built-Petrova Avenue.
1926 Town Hall burns to the ground
1926 Pres. Coolidge holds summer White House at White Pine Camp
1927 First Radio Station.
1927 Saranac Lake High School torn down and replaced by Hotel Saranac.
1927 Paul Smith's Electric Light and Power building completed
1928 New Town Hall completed.
1932 Winter Olympic Games held in Lake Placid.
1937 Riverside Park created through efforts of VIS and Phillip Wolff.
1938 New village dam built.
1943 Bela Bartok summers in Saranac Lake
1946 Paul Smiths College opens for first semester.
1950 "Big Blowdown"
1951 Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Cottage turned over to Village
1954 Trudeau Sanitorium closes
1957 American Management Association moves into Trudeau Sanitorium
complex.
1958 Construction begins on LaPan Highway.
1960 Ground breaking ceremony held for new Armory on Rt. 3.
1964 Dr. Francis B. Trudeau, Jr. opens the Trudeau Institute (Trudeau
Foundation)
1965 Railroad passenger service ends, depot is closed.
1966 Niagara Mohawk acquires Paul Smith's Electric Power and Light
building
1967 General Hospital moved to its present location on Lake Colby Drive.
1967 St. Bernard's church burns down.
1968 North Country Community College (NCCC) opens
1969 William Chapman White Adirondack Room is added to the library.
1969 New High School opens in the fall.
1972 Railroad freight services ends, railway is shut down.
1973 Adirondack Park Agency comes into being.
1974 The first annual Can-Am Rugby Tournament
1975 Will Roger's Hospital closes.
1980 13th Winter Olympic Games held in Lake Placid.
1981 Berkeley Hotel building burns down
1987 North Star Industries established by Citizens Advocates, Inc.
1991 Adirondack Medical Center consolidates services in Tri-Lakes Area
1994 Freak Waterspout occurs in August.
1995 Dr. Francis B. Trudeau, Jr. dies.
1997 New ski lodge at Mt. Pisgah completed.
1998 Ice storm in January devastates the North Country.
1998 Riverwalk, phase I completed.
1998 All America City title awarded to Village
1999 Union Depot train station restoration completed.
1999 Trudeau Laboratory donated to Historic Saranac Lake.