

SARANAC LAKE CIVIC CENTER, INC.

PO BOX 1040, SARANAC LAKE, NY 12983-1040 | 518-637-7401

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saranac Lake Civic Center

11/1/25

Saranac Lake Civic Center Announces New Board Officers and Members

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. – The Saranac Lake Civic Center is pleased to announce the election of its new officers and the addition of two new members to its Board of Directors. The Board now comprises 11 dedicated individuals committed to guiding the future of the Civic Center.

Newly elected officers include Matt Raymond as Treasurer and Ollie Burgess as Secretary. Continuing in their leadership roles, **Victoria Sturgeon has been re-elected as President, and Josh Dann as Vice President.** All officers began their one-year terms effective **October 1, 2025.**

Matt Raymond, a board member since 2024 and owner of MJ Raymond Construction, steps into the Treasurer role, succeeding Nancy Heath, who will remain an active board member.

“As a community business owner, I have been looking to help provide meaningful expertise to an organization that I have roots in,” said **Matt Raymond**. “As Treasurer, I can say that I am confident in the financial health of the Civic Center and will continue to focus on the financial sustainability of the organization.”

Ollie Burgess, former Board President and owner of Specialty Wood Products, returns to an officer role as Secretary after a one-year hiatus as an officer. He previously played a key role in the Civic Center’s major revitalization / capital campaign and renovation but has remained active throughout.

“I continue to be a dedicated board member to the Civic Center and want to help with the next phase of the organization,” said **Ollie Burgess**. “The Board continues to actively discuss the future of the Civic Center to help capitalize on the opportunities it has in the community and beyond.”

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In addition to officer elections, the Civic Center Board welcomes **two new members**:

- **Chris Knight**, Director of Communications at North Country Community College, President of the Saranac Lake Youth Baseball & Softball Association, Board Member of the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and project leader for the planned recreational complex project adjacent to the Civic Center.
- **Clifford “Cliff” Beairsto**, alumni of Saranac Lake High School and Clarkson University, retired engineer and former hockey player who played at the Civic Center under the outgoing Board Member, Mark Gilligan.

The Civic Center also bids farewell to **three long-serving board members**:

- **Mark Gilligan** and **Brian Goetz**, both of whom have contributed countless hours and expertise to the board, step down to pursue other endeavors.
- **Mike Ritchie**, a central, beloved figure in the Civic Center's history, retires after four decades of service.

The Board is incredibly grateful for their years of dedication and service. “While he will no longer be with the Civic Center, Mike Ritchie's influence and spirit will remain a lasting presence,” said Matt Wolter, Manager of the Civic Center. “I’ve had the privilege of working with him for decades, and his mentorship has been truly invaluable.”

The Saranac Lake Civic Center remains a vital hub for recreation, events, and community engagement in the North Country. These leadership changes reflect its continued evolution and dedication to serving the region.

“I want to express gratitude to all of our Board Members and Officers for their unwavering dedication,” expressed **Victoria Sturgeon, Board President**. “Their commitment is invaluable to our organization, which plays a significant role in the community.”

Photo Provided: Long standing Board Member and Civic Center leader, Mike Ritchie, celebrating at the opening ceremony for the World University Games in 2023; the Civic Center was the exclusive host for the Curling events at the games.

About the Saranac Lake Civic Center

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The Saranac Lake Civic Center is a year-round, not-for-profit recreation and events facility, serving the residents and visitors of Saranac Lake and the surrounding Adirondack community. The Saranac Lake Civic Center – which was reimagined and reopened in January 2023 after considerable upgrades throughout the facility – serves residents and visitors from across the region and beyond. Its regular users include Paul Smith's College, high school players from Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Central Schools, the Lake Placid Curling Club and more. Expanded users include tournament users (such as Can-Am Hockey) and exposition organizers to take advantage of the event space. The Civic Center also plays host to learn-to-skate programs, the popular Silver Skaters program and events such as the Touch-A-Truck spectacular each fall.

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