

On the road . . .

The Route 20 Association of New York State embarks on its 21st year of existence in 2020. Some of the highlights of the past year include the following:

- Three new historic road side markers were installed in the Route 20 Corridor thanks to the generous grant program offered by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. A new marker was erected in Richfield Springs noting the spot that's thought to be where Revolutionary War hero Adam Helmer likely crossed present day Route 20 on his way to warn of Chief Joseph Brant's impending attack, saving the lives of some 200 settlers. Also in June a new marker was installed in Burlington Flats recognizing the birthplace of William Hulbert, a founder of baseball's National League. A proclamation from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was part of that ceremony. In September,

Everett Holmes was recognized in Bridgewater for having been elected as Mayor, one of the first African-Americans in New York State to hold such office. Sites being considered for applications in the coming year include the Bridgewater train station, Western Star Lodge, also in Bridgewater, and Nine Mile Swamp, hideout of the notorious Loomis Gang in Sangerfield.

- The Route 20 Road Challenge celebrated its 20th year with over 20 running events including the first ever Scenic Byway relay run. Over 50 runners took part in running portions of the entire Scenic Byway starting from Lafayette and Duaneburg and meeting in West Winfield. That event is scheduled to be repeated in 2020. Director Craig North and Co-Director Bill Kosina can be contacted through the Association's website below.

- The Town of Duaneburg received the Association's first ever municipal mini-grant. The presentation of the \$600 check and "One for the Road" award was made at the Association's Annual Dinner held November 10, 2019. The competitive grant awarded by the Association was for a landscaping project designed to enhance visitor experience in one of the Byway's gateway communities. 2020 grant submissions are due April 1.

- Once again, the Association's Map and Guide proved a big hit with thousands of copies distributed, highlighting attractions and businesses within the corridor.



Shown with the marker in Richfield Springs commemorating Adam Helmer's Run are Association Director Harry Lenz, NYS Assemblyman John Salka, Richfield Springs Mayor Rbin Mosher, Association President Phil Durkin, and Administrator Bill Kwasniewski.



Participants in the first ever Route 20 Scenic Byway Relay.



Representing Duaneburg in accepting their grant were Deborah Peters and Jean Frisbee.



The Route 20 Association of New York State is a 501c(3) volunteer and membership organization formed in 1999 to promote and preserve the unique and historic character of the Route 20 corridor and its many communities. It also serves as stewards of the NYS Route 20 Scenic Byway that extends 108 miles from Duaneburg (I-88) to LaFayette (I-81). More about the Route 20 Association and its activities and membership opportunities may be found at www.nyroute20.com and on Facebook.