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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### **SLIGO St. Patrick's Day festivities begin Friday**

SARANAC LAKE – Saranac Lake's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration will kick off at 6 pm. on Friday, March 14, with a cocktail reception in the Hotel Saranac's Great Hall.

Assemblyman Billy Jones generously secured a \$1,000 contribution through the American-Irish Legislators Society of New York, of which he is a member, to support events over the course of the two-day celebration.

"I've enjoyed marching in Saranac Lake's St. Patrick's Day parade many times over the years, and I'm proud to support all the great events that SLIGO puts on in the name of Irish heritage," said Jones.

#### *Irish in the American Revolution*

Through the invaluable assistance of Albany's Irish American Heritage Museum, an exhibit entitled "Irish in the American Revolution" is currently on public display in the Hotel Saranac's Great Hall, where it will remain through the weekend. As much as one third of the Continental Army was composed of soldiers of Irish descent, with at least 16 of the army's generals being Irish born. The American Revolution inspired both France and Ireland in their own pursuits of freedom and Wolfe Tone credited George Washington with inspiring his United Ireland movement.

#### *Traditional Irish Breakfast*

The Blue Moon Café will once again serve a traditional Irish breakfast, beginning Saturday at 8 a.m.

#### *Parade*

SLIGO's St. Patrick's Day parade will step off at 1 p.m. sharp on Saturday, led by 2025 Grand Marshal Tom Finnigan. The parade route begins at the Saranac Lake Post Office

and ends at the Harrietstown Town Hall. The parade will line up on Olive St., next to the post office, beginning at 12:15 p.m.

One signature component of the annual parade is the “Calling of the Clans”. Area families, or “clans,” sign up to march, oftentimes under the banners of their own family crests. A special clan, “The O’Ramblers,” is open to anyone wanting to march on Saturday but lacking a clan of their own. Numerous other community groups and members have also registered for the parade, including the VFW Post 3357 color guard, the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival king and queen, the Lawn Chair Ladies, Soma Beats, the Champlain Valley Irish Dancers, the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, and the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

### *Ceremony*

Immediately following the parade, SLIGO will host a short ceremony in the Harrietstown Town Hall auditorium. Activities will include an Irish blessing by Fr. Martin Cline and a stage performance by the Champlain Valley Irish Dancers. Awards will be presented to parade participants for the following categories: farthest traveled marcher, youngest marcher, oldest marcher, largest clan, best dressed lad (boy), best dressed cailín (girl), and the coveted “Shenanigans” award, honoring the clan that succeeded in causing the most good-natured mischief on the parade route.

### *Live Music*

New this year, live Irish music will be on the menu at Bitters & Bones on Saturday from 3-6 p.m., following the parade and town hall ceremony. Curragh, a traditional Irish acoustic band from Albany, will play downstairs at Bitters, supported by grant funding through the Franklin County Government Office of Economic Development & Tourism. For nearly forty years, Curragh has performed jigs, reels, and comic songs, weaving together Irish bouzoukis, fiddles, uilleann pipes, flutes, whistles, guitars, concertinas, accordions, and vocals to create memorable Irish dance music and songs.

### *Business Sponsorships*

SLIGO business sponsorship opportunities are still available at the rate of \$100 each. Each sponsorship includes social media exposure, listing on an event sponsors’ banner, and a commemorative SLIGO flag. This year’s flag highlights the celebration’s tenth year in Saranac Lake. Additional information can be obtained on the SLIGO Facebook page, or by contacting Ray Scollin ([rscollin@roadrunner.com](mailto:rscollin@roadrunner.com)) or John Muldowney ([johnmuldowney11@gmail.com](mailto:johnmuldowney11@gmail.com)).

Saranac Lake’s St. Patrick’s Day parade and festivities are planned by the Saranac Lake Irish Gaelic Organization (SLIGO), a group of residents dedicated to community service and the promotion and celebration of Irish and Irish-American history. Membership is open to all, regardless of heritage or religion.

This year's events are also generously supported by the Village of Saranac Lake and the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism.