



Reuben Smith's Tumblehome Boatshop in Warrensburg.

The Sembrich and Tumblehome Boatshop Receive Adirondack Preservation Awards

By Anthony F. Hall

The Sembrich, the opera museum and performance venue in Bolton Landing, and Reuben Smith's Tumblehome Boatshop in Warrensburg, have been selected to receive Preservation Awards by Adirondack Architectural Heritage.

According to Kate Ritter, AARCH's program director, the awards are presented annually to those who have "undertaken sensitive restorations or rehabilitations and demonstrated long-term stewardship."

The awards will be presented at an awards luncheon to be held on Lake George on September 25 aboard Shoreline Cruises' Horicon.

The annual event is "a celebration of the work and care that individuals and organizations have put into a variety of historic resources throughout the Adirondack region."

The Bolton Landing building that now houses The Sembrich was built in 1924 as a teaching studio for Marcella Sembrich, an internationally known Polish soprano who first sang with the New York Metropolitan Opera in 1883.

The museum opened in 1937, two years after Sembrich's death. Located on a four-acre parcel



The interior of Sembrich's studio, circa 1924. Photo by Fred Thatcher, courtesy of The Sembrich.

carved from Sembrich's fourteen-acre lakeside estate, The Sembrich has been open to the public every summer since then.

"An important part of our mission is to preserve the architectural integrity of the studio and the undeveloped setting, a wooded point on Lake George," said Betty Spinelli, a member of

The Sembrich's Board of Directors and the chairman of its Studio Preservation committee. "The work of preserving and, when necessary, restoring this site never ends, and we thank AARCH for recognizing our efforts."

Reuben Smith's Tumblehome Boatshop now occupies two buildings on Route 28 in Warrensburg.

The first, which opened in 2012, was converted from a massive 1950s industrial building that once served as the garage for Warrensburg's Department of Public Works.

The second is a storage building that was transformed into the showroom where 'El Lagarto,' the 1930s Lake George Gold Cup winner, is currently on display.

"We are very honored to receive this recognition," said Cynde Smith, who owns the company with her husband. "AARCH is an outstanding organization that has previously honored numerous very special projects. We're so pleased to have been able to transform two such highly visible buildings in the Adirondack Park."

Reuben and Cynde Smith credited the architects, designers, builders and landscapers with the success of the two buildings and grounds. Those include: Jeri Cerutti, Williams and Williams, JPK Construction MacMillen Construction & Design, BMJ construction, Marjolaine Arsenault, Wright's Landscaping and Randy Meade.

The Awards Luncheon, which starts at 10am and concludes at 1:30pm, is open to the public. Tickets are \$50 per person. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 518-834-9328.

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Comedy at Lake George's Holiday Inn

The Lake Theatre, formerly Lake George Dinner Theatre, is in residence at the Holiday Inn in Lake George with a production of "The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (Abridged)."

"It's a fast-paced, 'Readers Digest' romp through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays. The production, which is a hilarious, family-friendly send-up of Shakespeare that features three actors attempting to perform all of his plays in just 90 minutes," said Terry Rabine, the Lake Theatre's producing director.

For more information, please call the Lake Theatre Administrative Office at (518) 306-4404.