



Historical society building space to get artifacts out of cold

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The Keswick Ridge Historical Society is hoping a new building will give it the means to better store and display its more than 2,000 artifacts.

To meet that need, the group has launched a \$25,000 campaign with the intent of raising enough money to pay for the construction of an insulated, heated and properly ventilated storage shed.

Society president Anne Hunt said the new structure will also give the group the ability to make the artifacts more visible to the public.

"We can keep rotating our display, bringing things out from storage and changing up the museum display," Hunt said.

The society's artifacts are currently kept at the old Keswick Ridge Superior School, which it owns, but it's not an ideal location, she said.

"They are things that should not be exposed to humidity and cold," Hunt said. "Since we're not a wealthy club, there is not a lot of heat in there in the winter."

Ground was broken this week for the addition.

The society intends to reproduce a replica of the shed originally attached to the McKeen's Corner Store, now located on its property. The 14x25-foot space will include built-in storage shelves, as well as drawers and cabinets. The upper level of the store will also be upgraded and used as additional storage space.

"Once we are able to move the stored artifacts that are now in the

school house into the shed, we will be able to continue with our plan to have a local museum in the school house and in the front part of the store," Hunt said.

Hunt said the association has many historical pieces, including a land deed from the late 1700s, a handmade log measuring tool, a century-old Holy Bible, and an anchor found in the St. John River. It also has a growing collection of Indigenous baskets.

"Kingsclear has been like an extension of our community," Hunt said. "Our farms used to employ people from Kingsclear. They would also trade with Kingsclear. There is this connection with the Kingsclear First Nation."

People can contribute to the project by going to the society's website.