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## **NEW FRENCH TRANSLATIONS HIGHLIGHT UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM'S 5TH YEAR Opening May 2**

AUSABLE CHASM, NY -- French translations highlight the North Star Underground Railroad Museum 5th year, which begins on Saturday, May 2.

"We are very excited to be offering French language translations, because a significant number of our visitors come from Quebec every year, some with limited English," said Jacqueline Madison, president of the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association. Also, she noted, many people escaping from slavery before the Civil War sought their freedom in Canada.

The North Star Museum will be open from 9 am to 4 pm, seven days a week, right next door to the Ausable Chasm.

It traces the stories of people who escaped from slavery along the Champlain Line of the Underground Railroad, and the local citizens who helped them on their way to freedom. It is a nationally recognized Network to Freedom site certified by the National Park Service.

The French translations, among the first in the Northern New York museum community, were made possible by the volunteer efforts of Annie Rochon and her French class at Paul Smith's College. Rochon, who lives in Peru and teaches at Paul Smith's, outside Saranac Lake, assigned her class the project and used the exercise to teach them complexities of translating from one language to another. Her class translated the exhibits in the Museum.

"This is a fantastic contribution, and a wonderful collaboration between Paul Smith's and the North Star Museum," said Ms. Madison. "We are tremendously grateful."

In addition, local French teachers Miriam Worthington from Ausable Valley Central School and Marie-Helene Hyacinthe from Seton Catholic Central, and their French classes, also assisted on this project.

Miriam is a high school French teacher and French club advisor and lives in the Ausable Valley area. The Ausable Valley group was responsible for translating sections of the Museum's internet material and the promotional brochure.

Marie-Helene teaches French and is active as a mentor, Middle States internal coordinator and Key Club advisor. She resides in the Plattsburgh area. The Seton Catholic team translated the historical Underground Railroad internet information related to Canada.

"The entire translation project will offer hundreds of Canadian visitors a new chance to more fully appreciate the history of the Underground Railroad and to relate it to their country. This is a tremendous contribution from all three teachers and their students. The North Star Museum will forever recognize their contribution to our organization," said Ms. Madison.

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