

For Immediate Release
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GREENWICH POINT CONSERVANCY BEGINS NEXT PHASE OF RESTORATION OF HISTORIC INNIS ARDEN COTTAGE AT GREENWICH POINT

Work to Include Completion of Exterior of Cottage and Landscaping of the Cottage Area

Also Announces Fifth Annual Beach Ball for July 11, 2009

Greenwich, CT – At a groundbreaking ceremony to be held on Tuesday, April 14th at the historic Innis Arden Cottage at Greenwich Point, the Greenwich Point Conservancy will celebrate the commencement of the next phase of the restoration of the Cottage. Also, the Greenwich Point Conservancy today announced the date and location of the fifth annual Beach Ball, the principal fund-raising effort of the organization, which will be held on July 11, 2009 at Greenwich Point.

The GPC has worked for the past several years for the restoration of the Innis Arden Cottage and the creation of an environmental education center for the residents of Greenwich. The restoration work is being implemented in three phases.

The second of the three phases has just begun — after many months of planning with the town — and is scheduled for completion within the next two to three months. The cost of this second phase, which is fully funded, will be approximately \$300,000, and includes completely finishing the exterior: new windows and doors on the first floor; replacing the foundation and slabs on the two ends of the Cottage and providing additional structural support work to the building's core; enclosing the end of the building closest to the Seaside Center with new custom doors/walls that can be opened in fair weather and closed off-season or after hours; new ground floor lockers on the end of the building closest to the park entrance, closing off that corner and adding an outdoor shower there; installing new siding on the entire building; new sidewalks and entrance; and installing porches on both the cove and beach sides of the Cottage (consistent with the original Cottage design.) When this work is finished, the entire exterior of the building will be complete. Peter Grunow of GroPro Landscaping of Old Greenwich is donating a landscaping plan for the area around the building, and the Friends of Greenwich Point will donate the planting materials for the landscaping plan.

The first phase was completed in 2006, which included rebuilding and replacing the roof and dormers and new second floor windows at the Cottage. This phase was accomplished with a \$305,000 gift from the GPC to fund the work done there. As an additional part of the first phase, the GPC also retained a renowned restoration architect, Mark H. Thompson AIA of Philadelphia, PA, to complete the exterior restoration plan and design the interior of the building to be used as an environmental education facility. The architectural, design and engineering work for the Cottage has cost approximately \$100,000, which has been funded by the GPC.

The third and final phase, which will be done at a future date, will be the restoration and redesign of the interior of the Cottage as an environmental education center. The GPC and several other town organizations have been working with the town to determine how the environmental center will be staffed and used. It is contemplated that The Bruce Museum will serve as the “anchor” at the Cottage, by relocating its Seaside Center at Greenwich Point to the Cottage, and that the

facility will also be open and available to the many other organizations in town that have activities at Greenwich Point. The interior will be completely restored, and is expected to include lab space, an area for a touch tank, lecture space, storage space, a reception area, a handicap lift, an “historical” area, a small kitchenette and bathrooms. It is a simple design that brings the building to the 21st century but is still rooted in its history, and the Cottage will be one of the first public buildings in Connecticut to be Platinum LEED certified (the highest environmental and energy efficiency category).

Work on the third and final phase of the Cottage restoration will begin when the town has completed its plans for operation of the environmental education center, and the GPC has reached its fundraising goal for the work. It is expected that the final phase will cost between \$800,000 and \$1 million. To date, the GPC has funds held in reserve and several outstanding pledges that are expected to cover approximately 20% of this goal, so significant additional fundraising is necessary.

Christopher P. Franco, President of the GPC, said, “We are keenly aware of the many competing demands for financial resources in these difficult times, and we thank the community for its support of the GPC. None of the progress-to-date could have been accomplished without the generosity of our many supporters, and we can only go further with their continued support.”

Mr. Franco continued, “We’re excited at the prospect of completing work at the Cottage, which is re-emerging after decades of neglect to be recognized as one of the most beautiful and historic buildings on Long Island Sound. We remain committed to the restoration of all the historic buildings at Greenwich Point in the future: the Chimes Building, in need of major repair; the historic boathouse on Eagle Pond; the present Seaside Center building, which is the oldest building at the Point; and the other historical buildings there.”

Of the Beach Ball to be held on July 11, Mr. Franco stated, “The Beach Ball will be held, like last year, under a beautiful marquee tent on the high grassy bluff overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 11th. We hope you will be joining us for this memorable evening.”

The Greenwich Point Conservancy is a non-profit organization whose mission is to work for the restoration and preservation of the historic structures and other elements of Greenwich Point. Over the past several years the GPC has raised more than \$750,000, and because the GPC is an all-volunteer organization with no fixed overhead, all contributions go to the restoration work at the Point.