

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
LEGISLATOR LESLIE KENNEDY.**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LESLIE KENNEDY TAKES A SUNDAY DRIVE IN THE BLACK BEAST

April 26, 2015 –Legislator Leslie Kennedy led the Lake Ronkonkoma leg of the The Lake Ronkonkoma Heritage Association’s the 5th Annual Motor Parkway "Sunday Drive" from Cunningham Park in Queens to Lake Ronkonkoma in Jo Molinari’s WWII Jeep. Legislator Kennedy also rode in 1909 Alco-6 Racer, nicknamed “the Black Beast,” this was one of the most famous race cars of its era. A two-time winner of the Vanderbilt Cup, a major event in the early years of American motorsport, the car was the favorite to win the first Indianapolis 500-mile race in 1911



(Caption L to R: Howard Kroplick; Owner of the 1909 Alco-6 Racer, Suffolk County Legislator Leslie Kennedy & Jo Molinari)

The morning was filled with festivities; a parade of approximately 100 cars dated from the early 1900’s to the 1930’s; Model A’s, Model T’s, Pierce’s, Hudson’s, Ford Fire Truck etc, started driving

down Vanderbilt Motor Parkway as if it was 100 years ago and the many dressed in clothing date appropriate. All the cars drove this historic road to commemorate the community-oriented celebration of the rich history of Lake Ronkonkoma, spearheaded by Heritage Association member, Ellyn Okvist. Automobiles participating in the parade were from 1948 or prior; and include cars, trucks, military, fire and commercial vehicles

“The reenactment of the Historical Vanderbilt Cup race and dedication of the historical site at Lake Ronkonkoma were both a remembrance of the past and a great engagement for the present and future generations. Seeing so many people gathered at the finish and many vehicles pulling over to watch and video during the trip shows that our history will be preserved. I can’t wait until next year’s run, “said Legislator Kennedy “a special thank you Ellyn Okvist, Jo Molinari and the Suffolk County Police Department for working together on this fantastic event”.



(Caption L to R: Howard Kroplick; Owner of the 1909 Alco-6 Racer and Suffolk County Legislator Leslie Kennedy)

A ceremony was held after the drive at Lake Ronkonkoma dedicating the 10th Historic Landmark of Lake Ronkonkoma at former Site of The Petit Trianon, a first-class dining facility and half-way stop for travelers built after the Long Island Motor Parkway route was completed to Lake Ronkonkoma in 1911. The 1914 menu provided a wide selection of food as expected by the high-clientele of the inn

“In order for us to continue with efforts to rejuvenate Lake Ronkonkoma we have to understand the rich historical past of the Lake” said Ellyn Okvist after the commencement of the event.

For more information regarding this event or future events in or around Lake Ronkonkoma, please feel free to contact our office at 631-854-3735 or at Leslie.kennedy@suffolkcountyny.gov

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