INDUCTEES

1. Bill Demong

Born and raised in nearby Vermontville, Bill Demong showed the world what Adirondack determination is in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, where he became the first American to win an Olympic gold medal in a Nordic event.

2. Andrea Kilbourne-Hill

Kilbourne-Hill is a Saranac Lake native whose one assist and one goal helped the U.S. hockey team take second place in the 2002 Winter Olympics. In 2004, she also helped the U.S. team take second in the 4 Nations Cup and the Women's World Ice Hockey Championships.

3. Chris Mazdzer

When Saranac Lake resident Chris Mazdzer became the first non-European to win the silver medal in the men's singles luge in the 2018 Winter Olympics, our entire village cheered. He also finished 13th in the 2010 Winter Olympics and the 2014 Winter Olympics.

4. Béla Bartók

Besides having the coolest name on this list, Béla Bartók was a Romanian-born composer who could play 40 pieces on the piano by the time he was 4. Legend has it Saranac Lake reminded him of Europe, and he wrote some of his last compositions while staying here.



5. Dr. E. L. Trudeau

Trudeau organized the first U.S. laboratory for the study of tuberculosis in Saranac Lake. It was later renamed the Trudeau Institute. One of his first patients was author Robert Louis Stevenson, who is #10 on this list.

6. Christy Mathewson

Mathewson was one of the famous "First Five" inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936. His list of accomplishments is long and impressive — he still leads the National League in total games won and is tied for third place for all of baseball. He moved to Saranac Lake on July 1, 1920 after being diagnosed with tuberculosis.

7. Herb Clark

Back in the day, there were 46 Adirondack peaks believed to be higher than 4,000 feet in elevation, and Herb Clark was the first person documented to have climbed them all. A good humored man, he coined the term "cripplebrush" for the stunted balsam fir forests that are the bane of any high-elevation hiker.

8. Maurice Kenny

Novelist and poet Maurice Kenny never met a flower he didn't like, so it's no small wonder the two-time Pulitzer nominee lived in Saranac Lake. He identified as Mohawk and was an activist on Native American issues in the 1970s. He also taught at two local colleges.

9. Larry Doyle

Larry Doyle's stats as a second baseman are too many to list here, so here's a sample: He had 1,887 total hits, 299 doubles, 123 triples, 2,654 total bases, 496 extra base hits, and 695 double plays. Doyle moved to Saranac Lake to live in Trudeau Sanatorium and was the facility's last resident. He is buried in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

10. Robert Louis Stevenson

Saranac Lake has had its share of foreboding winters, but they aren't all bad. It was during the particularly brutal winter of 1887–88 that Stevenson, author of Treasure Island and Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, penned some of his best essays. His cottage is near the Saranac River and it's open to visitors.

11. Faye Dunaway

Broadway and film star Faye Dunaway earned an Oscar nomination for her role opposite Warren Beatty in Bonnie and Clyde, but before she worked on Broadway in NYC she worked on Broadway here, as a waitress at the Dew Drop Inn in the summers of 1960 and 1961.

12. Philadelphia Eagles

The Eagles held their training camp on the Petrova school field from 1946–1948, but more importantly they won the Super Bowl in 2017, shortly after being inducted to the Saranac Lake Walk of Fame. Coincidence? We think not!

13. Garry Trudeau

Garry Trudeau and Saranac Lake go way back. Not only was the Doonesbury comic creator born here, he is the great-grandson of Dr. E. L. Trudeau and his father and grandfather were prominent doctors who practiced here. Trudeau has designed the pin for Saranac Lake's Winter Carnival each year since 1981.

14. Albert Einstein

The theory of relativity and E=mc2 — maybe you've heard of them? The 1922 Nobel Prize winner was a frequent summer visitor to Lower Saranac Lake. According to records, the brilliant physicist loved sailing, although neither he nor his sister knew how to swim. His love of simplicity took precedence, as he reportedly never had a map, compass, or life preservers on board.

15. William Morris

Morris was a theatrical agent and manager with an impressive talent roster that included Will Rogers and Charlie Chaplin. He first came to Saranac Lake in 1902 for his health, and even though he moved back to NYC he kept returning to the area and eventually played an active role in the community's development.

16. Dr. René Joyeuse

A Swiss-born veteran of WWII, Joyeuse was awarded some of the military's highest awards for parachuting into Nazi-occupied France prior to D-Day to gather intelligence about the German military. He eventually landed in Saranac Lake, where he served as a medical director for the state prison system.

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Saranac Lake WALK OF FAME



Take a Walk

Over the years this small mountain village has attracted a diverse selection of people. That's why we created the Walk of Fame, an ever-expanding list of famous Saranac Lakers who either visited or lived here. Use this map as a guide to explore downtown, and be sure to check back often to learn who was added to this highly coveted list!



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