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# Refurbished Belmont Bandstand to be celebrated

BELMONT — It's taken a year, but the downtown bandstand's restoration is complete, and the people who helped achieve the restoration will celebrate Sunday.

Local leaders, state officials and members of the state's preservation community will salute the restoration at 1:30 p.m. at the bandstand, in a ceremony that is open to the public.

Among them, Second District Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern, Plymouth State University faculty member and retired state architectural historian James Garvin are among participants, with representatives from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, said Linda Frawley of the Belmont Heritage Commission.

The bandstand was, 100 years ago or so, a place for local performers to sing and play for the town's enjoyment once a week. It is now located a few feet from where it was built in 1908.

The restoration effort has cost about \$60,000, Frawley said. About \$20,000 of that came from town funds, and the rest has come through grants, such as the \$15,000 grant received last week from the state's Land and Community Heritage Investment Project.

Restoration began last October and continued this year, with funding for repainting and a new cedar shake roof supported by an LCHIP matching grant. Historical restoration specialist J.R. Graton of Northfield, painter John Thompson of Alexandria and architectural conservator Brian Powell of Building Conservation Associates worked on the restoration.

The traditional stonewall builder Kevin Fife of Canterbury, with initial help from Cullen Concrete of Tilton and Busby Contractors of Atkinson, comprised the rest of the team.

"It was a first-rate team for the project," Frawley said.

The free event Sunday will feature combined choruses of the Canterbury Elementary and Belmont Middle schools directed by Carlos Martinez, with seasonal refreshments, including specialties from the Student Hospitality Club of Lakes Region Community College Culinary Arts Program.

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