

**Town of Smithtown Conservation Board**  
**Acquisition and Management of the Harned Sawmill Preserve**  
**2005 Special Project Award**

The historic Harned Sawmill, originally constructed in 1840, is the only operational circular-saw sawmill on Long Island. The 7.7 acre site was acquired by the Town of Smithtown in 2001 through a donation by PJ Venture Land Developers, as part of a transfer of development rights agreement. The Town of Smithtown Conservation Board took on the role of management of the preserve subsequent to the donation.

The Conservation Board is charged with protecting and restoring the historic character of the site, preserving the open space values of the property and managing the preserve on a self-supporting basis. In order to accomplish this, the existing house on the property is currently rented to a private resident. The rental fees are placed in an account, managed by the Conservation Board, and dedicated to any needed repairs or preservation work. Any such work is subject to approval by, and done under the supervision of, the Conservation Board. In February 2004 the asphalt shingle roof on the Harned House was replaced with a more historically correct cedar shingle roof. Most recently, the roofs on two sheds were also replaced with cedar shingles to match the existing house roof. These two projects were completed under the supervision of the Conservation Board and were funded solely by rental fees at a cost of \$22,000.

Quarterly inspections of the Harned Sawmill Preserve are conducted by the Town of Smithtown Department of Environment and Waterways to ensure that all existing structures are in good condition. These inspection reports are reviewed by the Conservation Board at their regular meetings. The entire property is photographed once a year regardless of any identified issues or problems.

This project resulted in the preservation of a historic property and allowed for the continued historical usage of the property as an operational sawmill in perpetuity. Doug Harned currently operates the mill and will retain the right to do so for the rest of his lifetime. Subsequently, the operation of the mill will become the responsibility of the Town of Smithtown under the continued supervision of the Conservation Board.

For further information contact Charles Eggleton, Conservation Board Chair, at 124 West Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787.