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### **New Mayor Announce Grant for St. Paul's**

Garden City Mayor Donald Brudie, SPLIA Executive Director Dr. Robert MacKay, and The Garden City Historical Society President Brian Pinnola announced that the Gerry Charitable Trust has pledged a \$100,000 Challenge Grant targeted toward the preservation of St. Paul's School. The grant will be administered by SPLIA, the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, Long Island's regional preservation source.

"This is good news for St. Paul's," says Mayor Brudie. "I'm pleased and appreciative that SPLIA has brought an awareness of St. Paul's to the Gerry Charitable Trust, a preeminent name in preservation. It proves that grant funds can be found even in today's market for the preservation of our Village icon." Village Deputy Mayor John Watras joined the Mayor in commending the Gerry Trust for its recognition of this important historic structure. "This is the time for all of us to step up and come up with creative and innovative ways to see this treasure once again become a vibrant part of our community," said Watras.

"The late Gerry family, based in Roslyn and the force behind the founding of the Roslyn Landmark Society, had looked upon Garden City as the capital of Long Island," notes MacKay. "Over the years, they had always been patient and consistent in their approach to preservation." The Gerry Charitable Trust has asked SPLIA to manage the St. Paul's Challenge Grant. MacKay pledged to work with the Village and/or interested groups on a preservation effort.

The Garden City Historical Society and the Committee to Save St. Paul's teamed up to make an alternative proposal (to demolition) to the Village Board last June. Their "Community First" proposal would stabilize the building with a new roof, as-needed exterior work including masonry repair and window replacement, fire and smoke alarms and a dry sprinkler system throughout the building, hazardous material abatement, and the installation of new heating and air conditioning equipment to service 10,500 square feet of public space on the first floor and in the chapel. The CSSP/Historical Society proposal would seal off upper floors for possible future use. It is in full compliance with all state and village building codes, as reviewed by the firm of Steve Tilly Architect and presented to the Village following the presentation of the proposal.

"The Committee to Save St. Paul's has already received \$350,000 in pledges toward the restoration and rehabilitation of St. Paul's for public use," states Peter Negri, president of the

Committee to Save St. Paul's. "We are confident that with the assistance of the Historical Society and a strong alumni force we can easily match the Gerry Challenge Grant."

According to Brian Pinnola, "Mayor Brudie's firm commitment to saving St. Paul's is a refreshing and encouraging statement from our new Mayor. When contacted about the news of the grant, the Mayor was eager to meet with SPLIA and welcomed their expertise and resourcefulness from their years of assisting with numerous historic projects similar to St. Paul's. As a trustee on SPLIA's Board, I've witnessed first-hand what Dr. MacKay, Director of Preservation Services Alexandra Parsons Wolfe, the SPLIA staff and the Board of Trustees are capable of bringing to the table to help save one of the region's most significant architectural treasures."

MacKay was quick to point out several funding sources and potential grant opportunities to Mayor Brudie, and offered to work toward arranging a top-level meeting with grantors.

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**Caption:**

From left, Historical Society President Brian Pinnola, SPLIA Executive Director Dr. Robert MacKay and Mayor Donald Brudie announce the \$100,000 Gerry Charitable Trust Challenge Grant from the steps of St. Paul's School.