

Movement FOREST AND FINNS

Relocating a Finnish-American Log Cabin to *Salolampi*
Finnish Language Village, Concordia Language Villages

Concordia Language Villages and the *Salolampi* Foundation are soliciting funds to move a Finnish-American log cabin from its current location in Osage, Minn. to Turtle River Lake outside Bemidji, the site of the Finnish Language Village.



The Osage Cabin exterior, with *Salolampi* Volunteer

The cabin dates to 1900 and is considered one of the best examples of its type in the United States. It is a 24'x30' two-story building set on a fieldstone foundation, displaying masterful execution of the hewn-log style with dovetail corners that is characteristic of Finnish-American immigrant buildings of the period. The cabin was a family residence until 1964, but is no longer in use. The cabin's current owners are collaborating with Concordia Language Villages to move the structure to *Salolampi*. The full cost of the project is estimated at \$70,000.

For over 40 years, *Salolampi* has immersed learners of all ages in Finnish language and culture in a residential setting. Since 1993, the Village program has been housed on a 40-acre site on Turtle River Lake with architecturally authentic buildings. The Village site includes a main dining hall/administrative building and two cabins built in a Finnish style, three cabins and a sauna shipped from Finland, an outdoor dance pavilion and a *kota* (traditional Sami portable home). The log cabin will be placed at the south end of the soccer field, with two sides facing the forest.

As the centerpiece of the 'Movement – Forest and Finns' project, the log cabin will be used as a classroom and activity space, highlighting the history and experiences of Finnish American immigrants. Villagers will also learn about the cultural threads of Indigenous peoples and land use before the immigrant days, forest and environmental sustainability, and current and future social justice opportunities. The curriculum will encourage discovery of the past, our current reality, and potential for the future.

The cabin will be positioned at the far end of the soccer field which is framed on the other end by an outdoor dance pavilion, a space for activities, presentations, and outdoor meals.

