



The century-old, nine-foot-tall gates that formerly graced the entrance of the Lodge were re-installed after rust was removed, pitted areas filled and coats of rust-resistant primer were applied at the Port Chester shop of Westchester Fences and Iron Works.

### Historical feature refurbished, reinstalled at entrance to The Club

Briarcliff Manor village officials are soon expected to be on hand for the formal unveiling of the recently-reinstalled iron gates which graced the main entrance on Scarborough Road to the former Briarcliff Lodge and, in later years, The King's College.

Beginning in 1902—and before it closed in the mid-1930s—Briarcliff Lodge played host to a veritable “Who’s Who” of the rich and famous including Hollywood stars Sarah Bernhardt, Tallulah Bankhead and Johnny Weissmuller (a.k.a. Tarzan—who practiced swimming at the Lodge’s Olympic-size pool when he wasn’t filming at the Croton River); sports greats Babe Ruth, Bill Tilden and Gene Sarazen; and well-known political figures ranging from Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and New York City Mayor Jimmy Walker to Middle East royalty.

In September 2003—nine years after the financially-beleaguered Christian liberal arts college closed the campus and, later in the 1990s, plans for a “world-class” Irish-American cultural center were defeated by local residents and a new village administration—an arson

fire destroyed Briarcliff Lodge.

The two iron gates, which weigh about 1,000 pounds each, were removed and stored for years at the village’s Department of Public Works garage off Buckhout Road amid concerns that, like the long-vacant property itself, they might be vandalized or even stolen.

But the gates were re-installed this week under the direction of Integrated Development Group, the Chicago, Ill.-based developer that plans a 300-plus-unit, luxury CCRC (continuous care retirement community) at the 58-acre grounds. The Club is projected to be ready for first occupancy in 2013. The Tudor-design exterior of The Club’s buildings, and interior accommodations including what is to be known as the Lodge Room, are features of the former hotel that are to be reflected in the next era of the grounds’ history.

An unveiling slated for yesterday (Wednesday) morning was cancelled due to the day’s snowstorm. A rescheduling had not been announced as of press time.