

TWIN-BORO NEWS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRISON FAMILY

Patrick Harrison, center, of Boy Scout Troop 64 in Dumont is honored upon attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, with him at a recent ceremony at Old North Reformed Church are Dumont Police Capt. Michael Conner and Dumont Mayor Jim Kelly.

DUMONT

Scout's bat houses merit rank of Eagle

Patrick Harrison of Dumont, a member of Boy Scout Troop 64 in Dumont, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in a recent ceremony at Old North Reformed Church of Dumont.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest advancement awarded to Scouts by the Boy Scouts of America. Only about 4 percent of all Boy Scouts attain that rank.

Eagle Scout candidates must earn at least 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community service project.

Harrison's project was to erect bat houses to help reduce the number of pest insects. More bats eating insects mean less pesticide

being used.

The bat houses attract bats to the area, which help rid the environment of mosquitoes.

He oversaw the building of 40 bat houses, 10 of which were placed in Dumont parks on 15-foot poles.

Thirty of the houses were donated to the Conserve Wild Life foundation and were given to homeowners, land managers and pest controllers to install where unwanted bat colonies were being evicted from their house roosts.

By that strategy, the bats have a safe place to raise their young, with neighbors less likely to inherit a bat problem, and the commu-

nity benefiting from a free, natural insect control method.

Harrison expressed his appreciation to Scoutmaster Sal Maurice, former Scoutmaster Gary Ungar, troop chairwoman Ginny Riemann, along with Scout from Troop 64 and the members of the community who helped with his project.