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HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

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REASSESSMENT IS TALK OF THE TOWN

As soon as the envelopes from the Town were received, the phones starting ringing. Neighbor calling neighbor, residents calling the Community Center, and some taxpayers calling their lawyers! According to David Martucci, Hague Sole Assessor, the reassessments needed to be done to keep pace with the rising sales prices of homes in Hague - predominately along the 9N corridor. "Hague has now been discovered as the real estate bargain of the Lake George region," he wrote.

As those taxpayers who have been to the Assessor's office for an informational meeting have found out, each property is given an adjusted cost basis and then compared with somewhat similar properties that have been sold to arrive at what is labeled "full assessment value." Much of the number crunching is done by computer but some items are determined locally.

All of the numerical manipulations lead to the comparison of sale prices to assessed values in the Town of Hague by the New York State Board of Real Property Services in order to determine the state equalization rate for Hague. If a town has an equalization rate of 100 it would mean that the assessed value of property and the sale price of that property are the same and the ratio is 1:1 or 100%. Since only some properties are sold during a given year, the state takes a sampling of these properties to fix the rate. Last year Hague had an equalization rate (ER) of 92. For every \$100,000 of assessment on sampled property sold in Hague in 2002, there was a corresponding sale price of \$108,695. The ratio of assessed value to sales price ($\$100,000/\$108,695 = .92$ or 92% or equalization rate (ER) of 92.

What needs to be equalized? The ER is used when comparing towns within the county for the portion of county tax. It is also used for the school tax to determine what portion of the total tax levy will be paid by Hague and what part by Ticonderoga. A decreasing ER will increase county and school taxes. Hague had an ER last year of 92 and Ticonderoga had an ER of 100, which resulted in the fact that Hague paid 53% of the school tax levy and Ticonderoga paid 47%. If there were no change in assessments for Hague for 2003, the ER would go even lower (it is estimated that it might be as low as 76) and Hague would pay an even higher portion of the

school tax.

Hague Town Supervisor Dan Belden said at the March meeting that the Town Board will hold an informational meeting just to address the assessment issue

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NEWS FLASH!!

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2003
1st IN OVER 30 YEARS!

"God Bless America" is the theme of the Memorial Day Parade being sponsored by the Hague Senior Citizens Club. More details next month.

Anyone wishing to participate in any way, please enter your name on the sign-up-sheet at the Community Center. Floats - Costumes - Music - ALL IDEAS WELCOME.

Memorial Day is a time we honor all our service men and women in the military and in the fire and rescue services. If you know of any of Hague's veterans to be honored, please let us know. Let's make it a "Day to Remember". . . Madeline Pelkey, Committee Chairman (518-543-6130)

WE NEED YOU!!!

Now that the winter greens have been disposed of, the hanging baskets are in a nursery, having been planted with colorful flowers and nurtured with TLC in time for the Memorial Day holiday. If the weather cooperates we plan to have them hung before our big parade on May 24. We still need contributions from our residents to pay for these baskets. Most of the baskets have brass name plaques in memory (or in honor) of a person or persons and we will continue in this tradition by placing new plaques on any new donors' baskets. These baskets cost \$25.00 per year and checks should be made payable to The Enhancement Committee, c/o Hague Community Center, Hague, NY 12836. Please be sure to specify the name you would like on the plaque and your name and address. We can't guarantee it, but if you have a preference as to where your special basket should be placed, we will try to fulfill your wishes.

HAS ANYONE SEEN A GHOST?

The author of true ghost stories is seeking information about the ghosts and/or haunting activity at Paine Hall, Silver Bay Association, for possible publication in *Adirondack Ghosts, Volume II*. Any information is appreciated. Please contact Lynda Lee Macken at llmacken@hotmail.com or (609)971-9334. Thank you.

TICONDEROGA FESTIVAL GUILD

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild begins its 24th year with its annual membership drive this month. A mailing has been sent which includes all the dates and events for 2003.

Special events include a concert by the Syracuse Symphony on May 17, a Fashion Show and Lunch on June 7, the Gospel Sing under the tent (date to be announced), Community Band Concert and Picnic, Open Mike Night under the Tent on August 12 and a House Tour on September 7.

The Opening Night Celebration of the Tuesday evening summer concerts will feature the band, Flashback, the traditional finger-food buffet, and dancing for those who wish to make the most of the music. Following the opening night on July 1, will be James Gordon, a folk singer from Ontario; the Stylings of Rosemary Clooney and Peggy Lee; Upstate New York, a country trio; Martha Gallagher, the Adirondack Harper; and for the final evening, North Country Preservation Jazz Band. There is a charge for these concerts.

Arts Trek is presented free to the children of the area on Wednesday mornings. It is this series that contributes most support and the programs are always well attended, with usually three to four hundred children and adults under and around the tent. This year's schedule features "It's Magic!" with Bob Shelley, Folk Music with James Gordon, Story Time with "Hans Christian Anderson" appearing on stage, Computers and Music with Sonic Boom, the "Adirondack Kids" presentation by two teachers; and "Songs of the World We Live In" by the Swing Peepers.

Anyone wishing a list of programs and/or membership information may call 585-6716 or email tfguild@capital.net

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB by Christine Ianson

Thanks to Doug Zeyak and Nelson Waters for the music that added much enjoyment to our Pot Luck Lunch in February. Thanks also to Gerry Boyd for checking out and fixing the problem with our VCR.

Reminders for the March 25 meeting: We will have more to tell you about the Memorial Day Parade. Things are swinging! After the meeting, we'll have some laughs. So please bring that photo of your younger self - we want to guess who's behind that cute

little baby face. Also bring a wrapped white elephant. It can be anything you already own that you don't want any more. Just don't put your name on it. Mine's gonna be something ugly. Or silly. Or maybe not. But the most important thing to remember is to bring yourself! We want you! Please come.

A BIT OF HAGUE HISTORY by Ethel Andrus, Hague Historian

He built a sumptuous summer home on one of the Waltonian Islands (sometimes known as the Island Harbor Islands), but the State of New York didn't like his taking over one of its islands and made him move it. This was accomplished on the ice in mid-winter and was turned into the Island Harbor Hotel. I have been told that it was moved in two sections across the ice, and then re-assembled on the point, where it still stands.

He also owned an extensive farm just north of the present Silver Bay Post Office. He was known as Colonel Mann. He really was a colonel, having served valiantly in the Federal cause during the Civil War.

One might wonder how he came by the money to so indulge himself. . . he was a blackmailerhe printed in New York City a paper entitled TOWN TOPICS. The folks of high society were anxious to keep the dirty linen from being laundered in print and willingly anteed up whatever the Colonel was asking, to withhold his "information."

Andy Logan wrote a biography of the old leech. It is entitled THE MAN WHO ROBBED THE ROBBER BARONS. There is a copy of this book in the West Historical Museum in the Community Center and I would gladly lend it to anyone who would be interested. It is regrettable that there is nothing about Hague in it. As town historian I would welcome any information, real, or twice-told tales about this colorful personality or any other interesting Hague personalities or events.

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Your fire department answered one call, expending 6 man hours. There was also a controlled burn using 52 man hours.

The ambulances made 5 runs (two were transports), A-740 used 278 miles. A-741, the new ambulance, has had drivers training on it.

The Hague Volunteer Fire Dept. would like to thank everyone who helped in supporting our winter weekend breakfast, which was very successful.



SPRING ARRIVES
MARCH 21ST!

HAGUE PLANNING BOARD - 3/6/03

The Planning Board met with members Rolly Allen, Nancy Harrigan, Dick Gladu and chairman Dave Swanson in attendance. John Brown and Peter Foster were out of town. Tim Costello took the minutes in the absence of a clerk.

A site review was held on the Laundree property (25.02-1-29) and the application was approved 4-0.

The site review was held on the Whisher property but the project is a Class A regional project and the applicant must apply to the APA for approval.

The Reingold site visit has been delayed so the Reingolds can be present.

An application for a permit for an addition had previously been submitted by Andrea (26.14-1-5) and been denied by ZEO Costello as a non-conforming lot. However, Mr. Costello was made aware of the large common area in Friends Point and reversed his decision. The application has therefore been reinstated and a site plan review will be held.

Frank Carney appeared on behalf of his daughter for a permit to build an additional house on the lot (93.16-3-20). Maps and deeds are to be submitted in order to help determine if it is possible to build on that site.

Nelson Waters wants to relocate a mobile home across the street from his residence to a 1.19 acre part of his existing lot (25.14-1-18). A site review will be held.

Frank Fowler, Jr. has asked to place a modular home on a 95 acre parcel (12-1-14). It is located in resource/conservation zoning and requires a Type II site plan review which will be done.

The Board then discussed proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Those suggested by the APA will be sent to the Town Board for approval. These proposals deal with definitions of shoreline setbacks and square footage.

There was additional discussion concerning the method of measuring the height of a building and it was felt necessary to wait for the full board to approve these suggestions.

The Board approved a motion to have Chairman Dave Swanson draft a resolution honoring the retirement of Jim Hotaling from the APA. Jim served many years and was helpful to the local boards in dealing with the APA's intricacies. . . js

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 3/11/03

The meeting began at 6:30 PM with all members present. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held for Sue Beattie (Mrs. Alan).

Mike Swan, the Warren County Director of Real Property Services, handed out a letter from Hague Assessor David Martucci. Mr. Martucci will be out of his office for approximately one month for medical reasons and Mr. Swan is handling the appointments with taxpayers. Out of town taxpayers can call the office

(518-543-6517) for a phone appointment. In the letter Mr. Martucci outlined the reasons for the townwide revaluation. 2002 sale prices of property in Hague have exceeded the assessed values and to maintain the state equalization rate it has been necessary to revalue all properties to reach the state required 100% valuation. Mr. Swan noted that sale prices in 2003 are already ahead of the new assessments.

A question was asked as to why some commercial properties weren't being assessed at the higher rates of residential property since those properties could be sold and turned into residences. Mr. Swan responded that case law states that commercial properties must be assessed according to their actual use on March 1 rather than the "highest and best use". Commercial properties have a limit on their resale value, and therefore assessed value, depending on the income they can produce.

Mr. Swan explained that much of the figures for the assessments are generated by the computer programs. However, he did acknowledge that some factors are determined locally - neighborhood delineations, per front foot values on the lake, and properties used for comparables for example.

Mr. Swan discussed the process by which the state sets up market areas to see how assessments relate to sales and thereby set the equalization rate. He presented charts and examples on the equalization rate. He suggested that if Hague didn't reassess properties that the State would set the equalization rate at about 76% which would mean that Hague would pay a much greater portion of the tax levy for school taxes. He noted that the process by which the state seeks local input "may or may not be effective." A rate complaint can be filed by a municipality.

Supervisor Belden thanked Mr. Swan for his report. He noted that the Town Board can make recommendations to the Assessor but can not change assessments. The Town Board will set up a public hearing to discuss just the assessment issue.

During public comments, Nelson Waters asked the Board members if they felt that there is a conflict of interest if one spouse is on the Zoning Board of Appeals and another on the Planning Board. Councilman Meola did not, since taking that approach deprives independent, separate people of rights to serve on a board. Councilman Steitz did feel it was a conflict, Councilman Hourigan felt it should be spread out, Councilman Megow felt uncomfortable with it and Supervisor Belden thought while it probably is a conflict that there are conflicts in a small town so they should look at individuals first.

Also in public comments, Barbara Andrea asked for a correction of the minutes from last month with regard to statements made by Councilman Hourigan, who apologized for having incorrect information.

Cont. on page 4 Town Board.

Cont. from page 3 - Town Board

A motion was approved to pay the General Highway Claims. \$4800 had to be used out of the contingency to pay a surveyor for services relating to a lawsuit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assessor/Justice - Supervisor Belden noted that as of March 1st it is required that the Town Justice must turn in fine money to the town.

Buildings & Grounds/CC - Damage has been done to the Town Beach by the ice. The Town will need a DEC permit to work on repairs there. Supervisor Belden mentioned to the audience, "If you touch the shoreline you will need a DEC permit. If your dock is damaged you will need a LGPC permit also." These permit applications can be picked up at the Community Center by anyone who has had damage to either docks or shoreline.

Insurance - Councilman Meola reported that they have received the required notice from the insurance company that the insurance premiums due on May 1st will go up at least 10%.

Museum & Historian - Councilman Meola read the report from Museum Director Ethel Andrus who has been researching information on the first Memorial Day celebrated in Hague in conjunction with the plans of the Senior Citizens to sponsor a parade this year. It was also noted that a suggestion has been made from the curator of the Adirondack Museum that original photos be scanned and then framed and the originals preserved in an archival manner.

Personnel - There has been a good response for positions on the Zoning and Planning Boards. The Personnel Committee has interviewed all but 2 of the candidates. They will continue the interviews and should have recommendations soon. They also had a good response to candidates for the Sewer Plant Trainee position.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Site plan visits have been made to the Laundree and Carney sites; the site plan review for Reingold is on hold until the owners can be present and the site plan review for Whisher is on hold until the application has gone through the APA. Supervisor Belden said another meeting was held on the stormwater issue which included Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky and they have DEC permits for the retaining wall for the brook. There is a commitment from the LGA relative to funding.

Recreation/Promotion - Councilman Meola reported that money is slowly coming in for summer baskets. He also was pleased that the Senior Citizen Club's new leadership has taken an active role in promoting the town. They have formed a committee, chaired by Madeline Pelkey and including Emily Cobb, Ethel Andrus, Dottie Henry and President Chris Ianson, which has planned a Memorial Day Parade for the afternoon of Saturday, May 24th. Chris stated that they will have floats, the Fire Department will have a chicken barbecue, there will be hot dogs and hamburgers after the parade and local clergy will hold a Memorial Service. All local

organizations will be asked to participate and anyone is welcome to suggest their ideas to the committee. Supervisor Belden has already applied for the necessary DOT permit so that a banner may be hung up in the town and has checked on insurance coverage. Flyers will be posted with further information.

Sewer District 1 - The sewer bills will be going out this week and are due in April and will be payable twice per year. Contractors must obtain permits for installation of the residential pumps although the fee has been waived for 2003. Zoning Enforcement Officer Tim Costello will do all the paper work for the permits. George Farinick is on the Town payroll and will do all the necessary inspections. Supervisor Belden said the plant could be running by mid-April. The Federal government, through the grant, is buying \$100,000 worth of equipment including a 3/4 ton heavy duty truck for town. All bills go through Warren County which administers the grant. The Supervisor clarified that the \$25,000 transferred into the sewer account will be reimbursed to the general fund.

Transfer and Recycling - Last month's income was \$1309.50 and \$238 was received from scrap metal disposal.

Youth - The 2-day Storytelling Workshop - open to adults as well as children - will be held July 14 and 15 from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Community Center. Registration is required and it is hoped that many people will join it. Call 543-6161 to register. The dates for Music in the Park are being set and any ideas for community youth should be directed to Councilman Meola.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board received the Casella proposal to take over the land fill. The Town needs to cut costs but as resident Dick Gladu noted, "I would hate to give up control on a key piece of infrastructure." The Board voted to keep the current system but raise the cost of the bags from \$1 to \$2 and from \$2 to \$3 effective May 1st.

The Supervisor reported on a special Town Board Meeting held on February 25th. The Board met with the DEC meeting and the property owners with regard to the oil contamination on land on the east side of Route 9N just north of the Hague Brook. The problem occurred years ago and the Board is now trying to find a way to resolve the problem. The DEC will continue to monitor the situation as to the responsibilities of the property owners and the construction company doing work on the sewer project. The DEC representative told the Board that the progress achieved will be measurable within 6 months.

In additional matters before the Board at the special meeting, they authorized the Town Board, Town Clerk and Zoning Enforcement Officer to attend the March 20 & 21 conference on Local Government in Lake Placid. They also approved a salary for the Attorney for the Town and made some changes to the sewer EDU list. - Cont. on p 4 Town Board 3/03

Cont. from p. 4 Town Board
Communications & Petitions:

Requests were approved for Senior Citizens to sanction Memorial Day parade.

Use of Community Center July 18-20 for Antique Show.

Justice Heather Knott to attend Judge School on April 5.

NEW BUSINESS - The Board approved:

To meet with Liza Nagel, planner, about the downtown area.

To advertise sale of an old safe and a computer.

Resolution #48 in connection with "the Bridge Replacement of Route 8 over Sucker Creek" which will provide for improved sidewalks along Route 8 from the West bend to the end. (The State may call it "Sucker Creek" but we know it best as "Hague Brook"!)

Resolution #47 in support of the Town of Schroon management plans for Dix and Giant Mountains and of Senator Little's Property Tax Reform Package.

Resolution #46 supporting a request to the NYS DEC to allow the continuation of residents feeding the deer population during the winter.

Request from Linda Benway to attend Animal Control Academy (approved 4-1).

A public hearing scheduled for 5:30PM on Tuesday, April 8th concerning a revised definition of "Shoreline Building Setback" and on the local junk laws.

The appointment of Tim Costello to the Soil & Water Conservation Board.

Authorization for Debbie Manning to collect taxes on sewer.

Councilman Meola asked if the Ticonderoga Superintendent of Schools has ever answered the Supervisor's letter with questions about the parking lot. He has not and Supervisor Belden will pursue the matter.

Bob Patchett requested that the Town Board ask the APA about what has happened with the Comprehensive Plan submitted to them. Planning Board Chairman Swanson stated that he hoped the Town Board will consider the comments from the Planning Board before final approval.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Belden reported that \$21 million needs to be raised by the county. The county taxes are related to our equalization rate and Hague's share of the County budget went up 47%. ...js

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING - 3/13/03

The Town Board met at 2pm on Thursday, March 13 for a special meeting. All members were present except Councilman Hourigan who was working. Lisa Nagle, Principal with Elan Planning and Design, Inc., Saratoga Springs, heard the Board's requirements for a master plan for the downtown area. She will present a plan for the Board's consideration as soon as possible. Ms Nagle

will consult with the DOT and DEC and work with Hague's Enhancement Committee.

The Personnel Committee reported that they had interviewed two applicants for the opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals and unanimously recommended Bill Pittman to fill the unexpired term to December 2004. They were able to interview 3 candidates for the Planning Board and unanimously recommended Cathy Clark to fill that unexpired term to December 2004. Both candidates were approved 4-0.

INTER-LAKES HEALTH - APRIL CLINICS

- 4/1 Dr. Bradbury Fuller - General Surgery
- 4/3 Dr. Surendra K. Nevatia - Pulmonary/Sleep Apnea
- 4/7 Dr. Rup Tandan - Neurology
- 4/7 Dr. Roger Biss - Oncology
- 4/7 Dr. Paul Danielson - Oral Surgery
- 4/9 Dr. Jamie Allpert - Dermatology
- 4/11 Dr. David Thompson - General Surgery
- 4.15 Dr. Arthur Levy - Cardiology
- 4/18 Dr. Bradbury Fuller - General Surgery
- 4/21 Dr. Roger Biss - Oncology
- 4/22 Dr. Harold Kirkpatrick - Plastic Surgery, Hand Surgery, ENT
- 4/25 Dr. Bruce Herold - Podiatry
- 4/25 Dr. David Thompson - General Surgery
- Tuesdays - Dr. Douglas Kirkpatrick - Orthopedic
- Wednesdays - Dr. Raymond Maddocks at Stafford Center for Urology. For appts. call 585-6708
- Wednesdays - Blood Pressure - 1-2PM
- Fridays - Lisa Riley, P.A. - Orthopedic
- By appointment - Dr. Paul Boerman - Oral Surgery
- By appointment - Dr. Michael Ricci - Vascular Surgery
- By appointment - Dr. Ronald Malseptic - Nephrology
- By appointment - Bone Density & Mammograms
- For information call 585-2831, x137
- To make appointments for van transportation to doctors' appointments, call 1-877-586-7250 as early as possible.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - APRIL 6TH -5:30 - 6:30PM

The Hague Town Board is holding public hearings on proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance and on the proposed junk yard law. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

The regular Board meeting will follow at 6:30PM.

WEATHER NEWS

Our weather reporter went south like so many others but those of us still here are happy to report that snow and ice are melting and we should be in full mud season soon. 3/03

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO
VOLUNTARILY SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING
HAGUE BOARDS.

PLANNING BOARD: David Swanson, Chair, Rolly Allen, John Brown Jr., Peter Foster, Dick Gladu, Nancy Harrigan, Cathy Clark

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Robert Goetsch, Chair., Jennifer Behr, Bruce Clark, Mary Lou Doulin, Tina King, Nelson Waters, Bill Pittman

TOWN PARK COMMITTEE: Joan Belden, Martin Brown, Dottie Henry

FOOD PANTRY - Georgina Lindquist, assisted by Janet Hoffay

TOWN NATURALIST - David DeFranco

TOWN ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE: Dan Belden, Kay Barton, John Brown, Jr., Diane Farinick, Art Hatfield, Dottie Henry, Diane Martino, Rudy Meola, Jim O'Toole.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Ethel Andrus, Dan Belden, John Brown, Jr., Bertha Dunsmore, Diane Farinick, Art Hatfield, Judy Stock

The following are elected by voters of the town. They are paid for their services.

Town Board: Dan Belden, Supervisor, Richard Hourigan, Lu Megow, Rudy Meola, Art Steitz.

Town Justice - Heather Knott

Town Highway Supervisor - Bill Bothe,

Town Clerk - Debbie Manning

The following members of the Board of Assessment Review are appointed by the Town Board and receive a stipend for their services: Barbara Belden, Ron Graser, Mary Jo Keeler, Frank Koenig, Georgina Lindquist

The following are employees hired by the town: Diane Trudeau, Secretary; Bertha Dunsmore, Clerk; Dave Martucci, Sole Assessor; Ann Johns, Clerk for Assessor's office; Carlie Patch, clerk for the Justice; Mike Manning, Custodian; George Farinick, Wastewater Plant Operator; Linda Benway, Animal Control officer; Tim Costello, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Joanne Trudeau, Transfer Station; Rick Myers, Transfer Station.

The following are employees of the Highway Department: Chester Frasier, Jerry Frasier, Lee Frasier, Don Smith, Dan Steitz

NATURE NEWS
by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

The stately White Pine is the largest conifer in the eastern forest reaching up to 160' in height and up to 5' in diameter. This majestic pine is also very long lived and can survive for up to 400 years! It is very rare to find one of that age since by the mid 1800s most trees of that size had been harvested - the tallest and straightest are

taken for ship masts. In 1811 alone, 23,000 masts were loaded onto schooners bound for England from Quebec, then the largest timber port in the world. We have some enormous specimens locally and can only imagine their true potential for growth. Their soft needles are bluish-green bushy bundles of 5, the cones up to 7" long take two years to mature and provide a good seed crop every 3-5 years. Over 20 songbirds eat white pine seeds with the most dependent being the red crossbill whose diet is two-thirds pine seeds. White pine also provides a home for many birds and mammals. Eagles and ospreys will construct their nests in these tall trees overlooking water, inland we find that large old hollow trees provide dens for black bears, raccoons and large birds like the pileated woodpecker and barred owl. Native people used it extensively as a medicine by boiling the inner bark and needles as an expectorant for coughs and related lung problems. I've used it this way and love to collect the fresh green needles in the winter and boil them up for an aromatic tea and extremely effective expectorant for those stubborn winter colds. The resin can be added to salves or ointments to keep wounds from becoming infected just as the sap protects a wounded tree from infection with its antibacterial/anti-fungal properties.

Tamarack or Larch is the only conifer to annually shed its needles. The soft pale green needles form clusters of 15-30 that turn a buttery yellow in the fall before they are shed. The Red Pine has 6" long straight, dark green needles in bundles of two, the cones are 1-2.5 inches long and lack a spine on each scale. Seeds provide over half the diet for several songbirds such as pine siskins, crossbills and chipping sparrows. Tall, straight trunks up to 100 feet tall make them perfect for cabin logs, and telephone poles. Balsam Fir has shiny dark green needles that are fragrant when crushed. The cones are 2-3" long and point upwards on the upper branches distinguishing it from other conifers whose cones hang down. Balsam fir is "the" Christmas tree, its fragrance unforgettable, its shape symmetrical and the stiff branches able to hold all those lights and ornaments. One of the most graceful trees we have is the Eastern Hemlock. Its needles are small (1/3 - 2/3"), dark green, glossy and flat. The cones are small as well, approximately 2/3" long hanging on the branch tips. Those are the only small things about this tree though. It grows to 80' tall, 36" in diameter and can live 400-600 years!

To learn more about our local trees, there is a nice article on conifers in the February issue of the NY State Conservationist magazine and a wonderful book by Glen Blouin, "An Eclectic Guide to Trees East of the Rockies".

Ed: Nancy can be reached by e-mail



SOUNDINGS

DIED: Sue Beattie, 69, 15 Bass Bay Road and Key Largo, FL, on February 15, 2003. She is survived by her husband Alan G. Beattie, two sons, Brad and Eric (Beth) and one grandson. Her son Craig preceded her in death. Mrs. Beattie has been a long-time summer resident of Silver Bay. She was a senior vice-president of TIB Bank from which position she retired in 1998. She and her husband were active in the Boy Scouts of America.

PROMOTED: Daniel Belden, of the Fayetteville, NC Police Department, son of Supervisor Dan and Janice Belden of Hague, has been promoted from Officer to Specialist and in addition to his regular duties he is in charge of training for new recruits.

BESTE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Beste Steering Committee would like to thank the following people who so generously sent donations to the Beste Scholarship Fund in response to our Hague Chronicle fundraising appeal, or who may have helped in another special way over Scholarship Weekend. We sincerely appreciate your support!

Mrs. Jacqueline Ambra, John and Ann Barber, Dan and Janice Belden, John and Joanne Brown, Robert and Shirley Bryant, Ed and Mary Crabbs, Margaret Darrin, Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Davis, David and Joanne DeFranco, Kemp Dwenger, Jerry Fisher, Frank and Ann Fowler, Tim and Shelly Gautreau, Henry and Ann Geils, John and Ginny Geils, Jules and Gale Halm, Stu and Mary Ann Harmon, Dottie Henry, Tom James, Mr. & Mrs. C. Robert Kostides, Phil and Norma Mann, Dan and Ann McGowen, Lu Megow, John and Jean Miller, The Munson Group, Chris and Anne Parlin, Mrs. R. Parmley, Mrs. Henry M. Rowan, Sal and Kathy Santaniello, Richard and Mary Sharp, Judith R. Stock, Lynn and Pat Stote, Howard and Donna Ticknor, Kathleen M. (Hudak) Torrey, Trout House Village, Ray and Sue Valade, Larry and Rosy Zinn.

A very special thanks to *The Hague Chronicle* for letting us piggyback our flyer to the January issue. It isn't too late to give! Please send donations to: Beste Scholarship Fund, c/o Hague Community Center, Hague, NY 12836. Additional donors' names will appear in next month's *Chronicle*.

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first meeting this year of the Hague Historical Society will be a joint meeting with the Ticonderoga Historical Society held on Friday, April 25, at 7PM at the John Hancock Building in Ticonderoga. Refreshments, provided by the Hague Historical Society members, will follow the meeting.

The program, entitled New York Regiments in the

Civil War, will be presented by Brent Vosburg. Vosburg, a native of Ticonderoga, is currently working on a regimental history of the 5th New York Calvary and a biography of Union General Fitz John Porter.

The Hague Historical Society will also meet on Monday, May 19 with the topic "Hague Women Who Served in WWII" and in June on the 23rd. These meetings will be held at the Hague Community Center at 7:30PM. All are cordially invited to attend.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

The ecumenical women's group, facilitated by Sister Fran Hesselbeck and Leah Robinson continues to meet monthly at Brookside Community House on the Silver Bay Association Campus. They discuss the book Only A Sister Away, available for \$13.50 a copy, about women's issues in the Bible. Participants may bring a brown bag lunch and dessert and beverages are provided.

Interested women are invited to attend the next meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 3rd at 12 noon. Further information is available from Jane Crammond, 543-8054.

"BETWEEN TWO LAKES"

Kindergarten through Community Art Fair

In conjunction with National Youth Art Month, art teachers in the Ticonderoga School District are planning an art extravaganza March 28 and 29 to be held at the Elementary-Middle School. Events will include an opening show reception and awards ceremony on Friday evening, March 28, from 7-9PM with refreshments and a chance to meet the artists. On Saturday, March 29, the show will be open from 10AM - 4PM. The day will include not only the display of artwork, but also demonstrations by the artists within the school and the community. Refreshments will be sold throughout the day with the help of PTO and High School Art Club. A small "art store" will make available the purchase of art made by high school and middle school students, and a limited number of T-shirts with the "Between Two Lakes" logo, designed by middle school art teacher Maureen Streeter, will be for sale as well. All proceeds from the event will be placed in a K-12 art fund to be used as needed for art enrichment programs and to fund the annual art fair. Artists of the community are invited to participate in this celebration of the visual arts and should contact the art department in any of the schools for more information. The display and sale of professional artwork will complement the student work showing the progressive development of the visual arts as an integral part of our culture. The art teachers are excited about the event and see it as a culmination of art education in the Ticonderoga School District and community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH/APRIL 2003

- March
- 21 SPRING, GLORIOUS SPRING!!!
 - 25 Senior Citizens Club - 1:30PM Bring baby pictures (p2)
 - 27 Zoning Board of Appeals - 7PM
 - 28-29 Elementary School Art School (p7)
- April
- 1 April Fool's Day
 - 3 Women's Discussion Group - Silver Bay-noon (p7)
 - 3 Planning Board - 7PM
 - 8 Town Board meeting - Public Hearings begin at 5:30PM - (p5)
 - 13 Palm Sunday
 - 16 Blood Pressure Clinic - 1-2PM at Com. Ctr.
 - 17 Carillon Garden Club - 11AM, Com. Ctr.
 - 20 EASTER
 - 25 Joint meeting of Hague and Ti Historical Societies at Hancock House - 7PM (p7)

PHILOSOPHY 101

A philosophy professor stood before his class with some items on the table in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He asked the students again if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes".

The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes".

The professor then produced a glass of wine from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty spaces between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now", said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - things that if everything else was lost and they and only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter - like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Spend time with your partner. There will always be time to go to work, paint the house, work in the yard, fix the plumbing. Take care of the rocks first - the things that matter. The rest of the stuff is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired about what the wine represented. The professor smiled. "I am glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may be, there is always room for a glass of wine." - - - Thanks to Alice Glading for sharing this with our readers.

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THINK SPRING!!

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT