



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 34 NO 11

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

November 2005

Dorothy Henry, Editor, 543-6633
email: hchague@aol.com

Judith Stock, Publisher, 543-6517
email: HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com

OVER 70% VOTER TURNOUT

The November Town elections saw 409 people vote at the Community Center and 70 absentee ballots sent in. With 667 registered voters in Hague that means a resoundingly high percentage (nearly 72%) made their choices known. Dan Belden, who was unopposed, was reelected Supervisor and Edna Frasier, the top vote-getter, and Tom LaPointe were elected to four year terms on the Town Board. Art Steitz was elected to the two year term. Cathy Clark had withdrawn from the race against Steitz when she was appointed Hague ZEO but still garnered several votes. Heather Knott was reelected Town Justice.

The votes were as follows:

Supervisor	Dan Belden	275
Town Board (4 yr)	Edna Frasier	330
	Tom LaPointe	283
	Rudy Meola	123
Town Board (2 yr)	Art Steitz	246
	Cathy Clark	80
Town Justice	Heather Knott	182

For the first time there was no 2 year election for Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent since voters previously approved increasing those offices to four year terms.

The NYS propositions were not supported by a large majority of the Hague voters. On the proposition to amend the constitution in relation to the state budget, which was defeated statewide, the vote was 63 yes and 154 no. On the NYS transportation act, which was passed statewide, the vote was 80 yes and 144 no.



Newcomers to the Town Board
Edna Frasier and Tom LaPointe

HOLIDAY DECORATING AT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Hague Community Center will be decorated from 10 am until 3 pm on Saturday, November 19th. All are invited to help and bring a dish to share.

TINY TIM COMMUNITY CONCERT

Rehearsals begin on Monday, November 21 at 7PM at the Ticonderoga Middle School for the Ticonderoga Community Band. Any area musician who would like to participate in the band is invited to attend the rehearsal. The concert for the benefit of the Tiny Tim program will be held on Friday, December 9 at 7PM at the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga. There is no admission charge but donations will be gratefully accepted for Tiny Tim. The band will be under the direction of Pat Cornell, who has generously devoted her time and energy for the past several years.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

"SHARING OF THE LOAVES", the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in Hague, will be held on Tuesday, November 22 at 7 PM at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

Joel Wright, who recently returned from Sri Lanka, will be the speaker. Joel and his wife, Becky work at Silver Bay Association and spent a year in Sri Lanka as outreach workers for the YMCA. Their experiences during that time, especially during and after the tsunami, will be the topic of his discussion.

All are cordially invited to attend.

CHORALE CONCERT & HOLIDAY MAGIC

The annual Christmas concert of the Champlain Valley Chorale will be held on Sunday, December 4 at 3PM at the First United Methodist Church on Wicker St. in Ticonderoga. The theme of the concert is "We Need a Little Christmas".

Following the concert The Carillon Garden Club will present "Holiday Magic" in the fellowship hall of the church. Garden Club members will display wreaths and other holiday decorations including creches. Members of the club will be serving refreshments.

The public is invited to the concert and then to enjoy the Carillon Garden Club's "Christmas Gift to the Community". Come help us get into the spirit of the "most wonderful time of the year."

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

October's Halloween luncheon produced a full house with several members arriving in disguise which made for the most entertaining costume parade. Judges for this contest were the well known "Center Staff Ladies", Diane Trudeau and Bertha Dunsmore. Their feat of picking three winners from all those goblins was most tricky, but final results reaped: BEST COSTUME to Anita & Wes Masten as "The Colonial Couple". FIRST RUNNER UP to Kay Caldera as "The Flapper" & SECOND RUNNER UP to Dolly Kennedy as "Death Warmed Over". Door prizes were also won by Marguerite West, Ursula Montbriand, Dottie Henry & Joan Steitz.

The first speaker was, Karen Laundree representing the Hague Chamber of Commerce. She introduced her guest from AARP who discussed a new program they would like to establish in Hague. In conjunction with the IRS, AARP would like to run an INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM to aid Seniors in the preparation of their annual income tax filing. They are seeking at least three Hague residents to volunteer to take a training course which will enable them to be 'Income Tax Preparers'. This program would be beneficial to many Hague residents. Anyone interested in more information on this, please give Karen Laundree a call.

Other speakers were this year's political candidates . . . Dan Belden for Supervisor along with Edna Frasier, and Tom La Pointe, both running for Town Board. Rudy Meola and Art Steitz, also running for Town Board were out of town and unavailable to join us and Judge Heather Knott was delayed at a court hearing in Essex County

The NOVEMBER MEETING will be held on TUES., NOV 22nd at 1:30 PM at the Community Center with a SURPRISE GUEST SPEAKER !! You won't want to miss this one! There will also be the election of officers for the Club's 2006 Executive Board. It will be a fun filled afternoon with a few other treats on tap.

Then on SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD the Seniors will sponsor the "SENIOR CHRISTMAS SHOP" at the Beach from 10 AM to 4 PM during the Holiday in Hague event. Club members will be selling handmade holiday ornaments & decorations, along with gift items and Christmas baked goods. Time to stock up on those cookies, candies & breads. Any non-members out there who enjoy baking, if you would like to volunteer to make & donate goodies to sell, it would be most appreciated. All proceeds from this 'SHOP' go to the Memorial Day Parade Fund. All Baked Goods should be dropped off at the Tourist Building at the Beach between 9 & 10 AM on SAT, DEC 3rd.

The SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH at NOON at the Hague Fire House. This festive celebration with music, carol singing, presents, door prizes and fun galore will include a Holiday Luncheon catered by The Gourmet Gal. Final signup for Seniors will be at the November Meeting. . . mp

TI HOLIDAY PARADE EVENTS

Don't miss Ticonderoga's "Old Fashion Holiday Parade" on Saturday, November 19th. The parade begins at 1:00pm at the Liberty Monument and will proceed down Montcalm Street where WIPS Radio will be broadcasting live from noon until 2:00pm. The parade will end at the Community Building, where all are invited to gather for a continuation of the festivities.

After the parade the Ticonderoga Methodist Church Choir will be on hand singing holiday tunes. Following a brief ceremony and the Official Tree Lighting ceremony, the community is invited to the auditorium for a special musical program of English Dancing presented by Step Lively & "Hill & Hollow Music."

Following the dance program children will have an opportunity to visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, Miss New York State, Kandice Pelletier and local author Rich Strum. Next, a holiday ornament workshop will be hosted by North Country Community College students.

Downstairs in the foyer Tiny Tim Program donations will be accepted by students from North Country Community College. The Black Watch Memorial Library will be selling special mugs. Refreshments donated by Interlakes Health will be served in the foyer after the programs.

Also joining in the festivities, the Montcalm Street merchants will be holding their pre-holiday sales. For more information about the event, contact the Ti Chamber of Commerce at 585-6619

HOLIDAY FAIR AT TI METHODIST CHURCH

The First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga will hold its annual holiday fair on December 3, 2006 from 9AM - 2PM with lunch being served from 11AM - 1PM. Crafts, holiday gifts, silent auction, wreaths, white elephants, do-it-yourself projects, and baked goods will all be available. The Thrift Shop will also be open during the fair.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Festival of Trees Open House will be held on Sunday, December 11 from 1:30 - 4PM at the Hancock House in Ticonderoga. A homemade quilt will be raffled on that day. Tickets for the quilt are available at the Hancock House.

JANUARY SKI TRIP

On Saturday, January 7th from 10AM-3PM the Lake George Land Conservancy will sponsor cross-country skiing at Cat and Thomas Mts. Preserve in Bolton. Led by LGLC volunteer David Thomas-Train, this excursion will lead participants along old logging roads and trails to the summits of Thomas and Cat Mts., with rewarding views of the frozen southern Lake George basin below. The total trail length is approximately 8 miles, round-trip and is for experienced skiers only. Registration is limited to 5 people, so reserve your space on this exciting trip early! Call 518-644-9673, or email ssmall@tnc.org to register.

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the month of October the HVFD responded to 8 fire calls, using a total of 61.5 man hours; and 8 ambulance calls, using a total of 62 man hours.

Chief Chris would like to remind everyone that it is time to check your chimneys and smoke alarms in the interest of winter safety.

If you burn leaves, be careful to do so when conditions are the safest.

We thank everyone who supported us at our Columbus weekend fund raising dinner. . . jmc

HAGUE SENIOR OF THE YEAR

The Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the Hague Senior of the year. The Chamber welcomes any and all names to be submitted for this honor by December 3, 2005. Please write a short resume of your candidate and mail to Sal Santaniello, 14 Braisted Hill Road, Silver Bay, NY 12874. The award will be made at the Senior Citizens Club luncheon on December 13.

SENIOR EXERCISE

The Elementary and Middle Schools is open from 3:30 to 5:30PM for Senior Citizens who want to exercise by walking.

Please enter the building through the Middle School entrance. Room 1 will be available for changing to walking shoes and a place to put coats and hats.

If you are interested in this program, **which is available only during days school is in session**, please register at the Ticonderoga Middle School office at 585-7442, ext.218.

HAGUE COMMUNITY MEMORY TREE

Each year a felt tree is placed in the lobby of the Community Center on which the names of deceased loved ones or those who you would like to honor, are placed. A tree will be lighted in the center of town along the brook on December 3. Donations of \$1.00 per name should be sent to Imogene Frasier, Hague, NY 12836. Checks may be made payable to the Hague Chamber of Commerce. All funds raised are donated to the Hague Emergency Squad by the C.C. A list of honorees will be published in this newspaper.

FREE HOLIDAY PLANT CARE

Are you planning to give a holiday plant to your friends or relatives this year? Cornell Cooperative Extension is offering a free publication on the care and maintenance of holiday plants called "Holiday Plants and Greens." This publication would be a wonderful addition to your gift and it's FREE. If you would like this booklet sent to you call Cornell Cooperative Extension at 518-668-4881 or 623-3291 or stop by the office at 377 Schroon River Road, Warrensburg, NY.

DONATE YOUR DEER

Thanks to N.Y. State's generous sportsmen, over one million servings of venison were donated to those in need over the last five years! Successful hunters in the Warren and Washington County region can donate their deer to the Venison Donation Coalition by contacting Frank Hohman in Fort Ann (629-5207) or John Rozell in Whitehall (499-0423). Call either processor to arrange for free processing of your donated deer. All donated deer must be properly field-dressed and legally tagged. Questions about the venison donation program can be directed to the Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council at 623-3090.

CONSERVATION CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lake George Association and the Lake George Fishing Alliance have announced jointly that the organizations will be sponsoring four (4) students to attend the NYS DEC "Conservation Camp" next summer. The week-long camp will be held at DEC's Camp Colby on Lake Colby, near Saranac Lake.

The scholarships, which cover the \$250 tuition, are available to students 12 to 14 years old, who have an interest in outdoor recreation and environmental activities. Applicants will have to submit a 250-300 word essay on why they want to attend the camp, and provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher.

According to Karin Badey, the LGA's Education Coordinator and LGFA Secretary, the traditional measure of a student's classroom performance will not be the determining factor for awarding the scholarships. "Some students might not do well in a structured classroom setting, but might excel doing hands-on, environmental activities outdoors," said Badey.

The DEC camp program consists of workshops and activities that are designed to help the campers become more aware of the environment around them and, stimulate their desire to participate in the sound management of our natural resources. Conducted outdoors, the activities and workshops are a blend of learning and recreation. Additionally, campers choose from a variety of optional activities including fishing, canoeing, archery and overnight camping trips.

Applications should be sent to LGFA, P.O. Box 108, Lake George, NY 12845. They must be received by December 16, 2005 to be considered eligible.

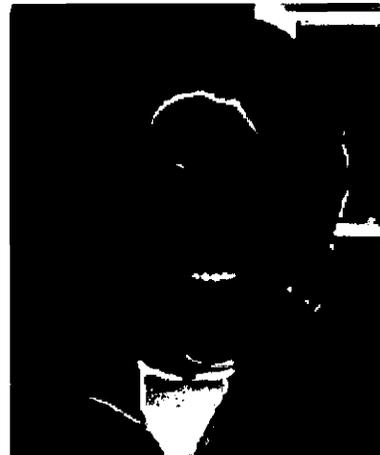
For more information, contact Karin Badey at 518-668-3558 or by emailing kbadey@lakegeorgeassociation.org.



MORE CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

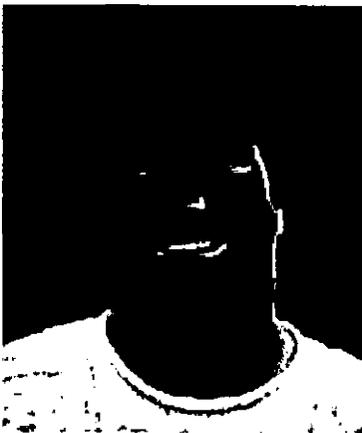
Three new positions have been filled recently on town boards. Martin Fitzgerald and Lindsay Mydlarz have been appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Katy Wells has been appointed to the Planning Board. All are lifelong Hague residents and graduated from Ticonderoga High School. They all feel these positions are a way to show their concern for, and a way to give back to, their community.

Martin Fitzgerald, a Delhi graduate, is the Housing Cost Coordinator for the Warren County Planning Department and is the son of Blacky and Martha Fitzgerald. Marty and his wife, Heidi have 2 children and live in Sabbath Day Point.



Lindsay Frasier Mydlarz is a 2002 graduate of Siena College with a degree in marketing. She works for International Paper in the Human Resources Department. Lindsay, daughter of Dick and Edna Frasier, lives with her husband, Mike in Graphite.

Katy Laundree Wells is a 1984 graduate of Adirondack Community College and has worked for International Paper for 17 years. Katy and her husband, Bill, live in West Hague.



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 10/27/05

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Goetsch with George Ianson, Lindsay Mydlarz, Bill Pittman, Tina King, Mary Lou Doulin and Martin Fitzgerald all present.

The HVFD request for retroactive approval was tabled until the next meeting.

The Board looked over plans for the construction of a new home by the Beatys and will need more information before they can accept the application as complete.

The Board also discussed the continuing issue of the definition of square footage as it relates to the 25% allowable increase in a structure.

The November meeting will be on the 17th due to Thanksgiving.

PLANNING BOARD - 11/3/05

The meeting was called to order by Rolly Allen with John Brown, Tim Costello, Pam Peterson and Peter Foster also present. Chairman Dave Swanson and Katy Wells were absent.

RAGOT (42.20-1-6), Lakeshore Drive, TR-2

With reference to this subdivision request, the Board requested that ZEO Cathy Clark write another letter to Mr. Ragot indicating exactly what additional information was needed including road and lot placement and the drainage of the lots.

KOSTIDES (26.17-2-2), 8 Lakeshore Terrace, TR-1

The Board scheduled a site visit to this proposed subdivision.

BELDEN (24.-1-48), Graphite Mountain Rd, TR-3

The Board unanimously approved an application for a 6 foot stockade fence.

ICKE (16.14-1-16), 39 Waltonian Road, Friends Pt.

The applicant wishes to demolish and rebuild the existing house. The Board approved the conceptual plans to date but will need to see the firm plans as well as the septic and stormwater plans.

HVFD (25.5-1-16), West Hague Rd, OC-1

Another adjournment was requested by the lawyer for the HVFD. The Board wants a completion date for correction of the stormwater problems and removal of the macadam from over the leach field before a recommendation to the Zoning Board.

BEATY (26.18-1-1.2), 9250 Lakeshore Drive, TR-1

The applicant wishes to replace a current summer home with a year-round residence. The house would be within 50 feet of the Lake and the percentage of increase of living space would be more than 25%. The Board discussed the relation of this request to the restrictions placed on the property when it was created by the Island Harbor subdivision. Additional information will be needed before a recommendation can be made to the Zoning Board.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 11/9/05

Supervisor Dan Belden and Councilmen Dick Gladu, Lu Megow and Rudy Meola were present and Councilman Bob Patchett was absent.

After the Public Hearing on the Budget, the privilege of the floor was extended to residents. Karen Laundree said that the computer at the visitor center, which had been funded by bed tax money, had been very helpful during the summer season to respond for information about the community. The Chamber of Commerce was looking for a way to use the computer off-season and have found a tax-aid program sponsored by AARP and the IRS. They will train local volunteers to be tax counselors and then offer free tax preparation help to seniors and low income families. Since the closest place currently for this service is Glens Falls, it would be a "huge benefit for the community". The returns are filled electronically and the IRS knows that the returns are coming from a volunteer tax site so there are no legal issues for the preparer to worry about. They hope to do 35 returns the first year. Anyone interested in volunteering for this program should contact Karen.

The Board approved \$1600 for the Chamber for promotion of the Winter Carnival and approved use of the Visitor Center for the Holiday in Hague and Winter Carnival weekends.

Bruce Clark mentioned the current hearing being held in Ticonderoga, as well as another to be held on November 20th in Middlebury, on the proposed tire burning by the IP mill. He said there is a period during which comments will be accepted and urged that the resolution that the Town Board passed in support of the tire burning be sent in.

Nelson Waters asked if there will be public input prior to final decisions on the construction for the West Museum. Supervisor Belden stated that, "When we get a final plan there will definitely be public input." The Town Board has reserved \$270,000 in a fund toward the museum expansion.

Jerry Crammond, member of the Museum Board of Trustees, noted that a public meeting was held prior to the current planning. He reported that they had three proposals for where to place it and there were enormous construction costs. He stated, "We are all citizens of Hague and don't want to overspend." He mentioned a proposal to get grants for a museum and library - with the library being an enticement for grant money. He said the current focus is to work on a budget and to use money which has been raised to properly store the artifacts they already have.

Committee Report Highlights:

Fire - Councilman Gladu mentioned the emergency and safety problem related to the ongoing power outage situation which the Town and Fire Department should jointly focus on. He has scheduled a meeting with Bill Johnson from National Grid (former Niagara Mohawk) to find out what is going on.

Highway - Councilman Megow said they are working on proposals for the salt shed. Highway Superintendent Don Smith said the trucks are all set up for winter storm. Individuals can still go to the Town shed area to get sand for personal use. The Board approved \$4940 for a boiler for the Town shed.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - ZEO Cathy Clark gave her report and noted that a new deputy chairman for the ZBA was needed. The Board appointed Martin Fitzgerald. Justice Knott agreed to an extension to February 2006 for cleanup of the Art Belden property.

Recreation/Promotion - The Chamber of Commerce will be holding the annual Town Christmas party on December 3rd during the daytime. In conjunction with the Holiday in Hague there will be rides, wreath decorating and many other activities. The announcement of the Hague Senior of the Year Award will be made at the Senior Club luncheon on December 13th. Nominations for this award can be submitted to the Chamber.

Under unfinished business, the Board:

1. Acknowledged a response from Superintendent John McDonald with regard to the possibility of paying school taxes in installments which he will look into further.
2. Approved payment of a total of \$150 to Luke Jackson who had a contract to use the Community Center which the Town cancelled because of work on the floor.
3. Approved the 2006 Town budget.

Under new business, the Board:

1. Approved resolution #64 authorizing the receipt of \$30,000 from the County from 2005 occupancy tax money.
2. Approved resolution #65 which amended certain sections of the 2004 agreement.
3. Approved use of the Visitor Center by the Senior Club on December 3rd.
4. Declined to make any commitment now for hiring summer staff through the student connection program.
5. Acknowledged a letter from Bob Patchett with reference to the museum.
6. As the Board of Health, approved having the highway department clean up the Swain property on Overbrook Road. There is a health and safety issue with garbage bags left out and a temporary lid over a cesspool. The bill for the work will be sent to the homeowner.
6. Approved resolution #66 authorizing additional sales tax monies earmarked for the reduction of Hague's portion of the county tax.
8. Approved conference attendance for new Board members.

Supervisor Belden noted that on the County tax bill there will be a line which will tell how much of the County budget (48%) goes toward social programs.

LAKE GEORGE SWIMMING MARATHON

The following article was written by Ginger Henry several years ago. *The Hague Chronicle* is publishing historical articles on a space available basis, leading up to our big Bicentennial in 2007. Keep tuned!

The year was 1927. Prohibition was in full swing. The Sacco-Vanzetti case was being tried in Boston. Calvin Coolidge was president and the Lake George Swimming Marathon was making headlines. The Lake George Swimming Marathon? Never heard of it? Well, you're in good company. Most people are not aware of this historic event – which is pretty amazing when one considers that it drew 146 competitors from six countries and nearly every state in the U.S., that several of these swimmers were world record holders and that heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey traveled to Hague to fire the starting pistol.

Held under the auspices of the Lake George Post of the American Legion, the July 1927 marathon drew approximately 100,000 spectators, according to newspaper reports of the day. It put Lake George on the map for many across the country who had never even heard of the Adirondacks. As Charles Gelman of the now-defunct Merkel and Gelman Stores of Glens Falls and Lake George noted at the time, "It turned national attention on Lake George."

July 12, the day of the marathon, dawned as a scorcher. An estimated 5,000 spectators rose early, lining the Hague beaches for the start. Among the spectators was Clifton West, former Hague historian. When asked during a recent interview if he remembered the day, he replied, "Of course! That's not something you forget too easily." Mr. West was 18 at the time and was working as a dockboy at the nearby Island Harbor House Hotel. "I left work to go downtown to watch," he recalled. "There were people everywhere, but I think they were more interested in seeing Jack Dempsey than they were in seeing the swimmers."

The dock at the Trout House was a bustle of activity as boats arrived and departed, dropping off contestants, officials and others connected with the race. With each approaching boat, a cry went up from the crowd waiting in anxious anticipation for Jack Dempsey to disembark. When his boat finally arrived, state troopers had their work cut out for them as they cleared the multitudes from the dock to make way for the sports hero. Mr. West remembers that so many people had crowded onto the platform leading out to the pier, that it gave way when Dempsey stepped onto it, sending him and about a dozen of his fans into the ankle-deep water. Dempsey was unscathed, though his fashionable shoes were soaked through. He reportedly grinned and carried on with his business - getting the race started.

Champion swimmer Lotte Schoemmel had traveled by train all the way from California to swim in the marathon. When her train finally arrived at the Lake George station, the boat which was to carry her to Hague had departed. No matter. The determined Schoemmel hitched a ride on an aquatic plane, touching down in Hague with just minutes to spare before the start of the event.

Fortunately for Schoemmel, she didn't require much time to suit up for the race. If the truth be known, she actually required NO time to suit up for the race. For Schoemmel, it seems, was the originator of the "grease bathing suit" which we understand had caused quite a stir

and more than just a few raised eyebrows at several previous events around the globe. According to the official program for the Lake George Swimming Marathon, it had been decided in advance that the grease bathing suit would nevertheless be considered "suit"-able for this race. It was clearly spelled out in Rule #12: "Any class of bathing suit, except that which might cause the swimmer to remain afloat, can be used. Suits can be abolished entirely if swimmer chooses to use a covering only of grease."

The use of the grease was put in question shortly before the event, when Warren County Sanitary Inspector Harry Smith announced that the grease could jeopardize the quality of Lake George's water – which was, after all, used for drinking water. The swimmers, however, rallied at the Lake George Courthouse and were able to convince him that the grease was a natural substance (wool fat or lanolin) and would not harm the lake.

Of those registered for the race, two were local talents. One was Sam Schwartz of Glens Falls. The other was one of the few remaining members of the tribe of Six Nations, the Native Americans who inhabited the area long before the first white man ever laid eyes on Lake George. Her name (could this be pure coincidence?) was Anniwake Swimmer.

The 24-mile course set up for the marathon ran from the Trout House in Hague to the pergola of the Fort William Henry Hotel. Passing by Sabbath Day Point, it continued through the Mother Bunch Islands and the Narrows, past Bolton Landing and on to the head of the lake. Dempsey fired the starting pistol shortly before 9AM and the swimmers were on their way. Ernest Vierkoetter, the German baker who held the record for swimming the English Channel, took an early lead. He was the first to pass the checkpoint at Sabbath Day Point, a feat which would earn him the Bruce Carney trophy. (Carney was the proprietor of the Sabbath Day Point House).

As the race progressed, more and more swimmers were forced to drop out from cramps or exhaustion. George Knapp of Shelving Rock had donated the use of his yacht *Sayonara* as the hospital ship for the race. Dr. Edward C. Gow of Glens Falls was on board as the doctor in charge. Gow and his staff treated 41 contestants on the ship. Fortunately all of the swimmers swiftly recovered from their maladies, though a newspaper report of the day noted that the greased up swimmers did impart some slight damage to the fine furnishings and upholstery of Mr. Knapp's luxury yacht.

Not all of the problems encountered by the swimmers were of a medical nature. One swimmer, delivered to the hospital ship with cramps, recovered and was transferred to another boat to be taken ashore. However, his clothes and possessions were in the rowboat which had been accompanying him. The rowboat was nowhere in sight. The swimmer, believing that the oarsman had rowed back to Hague, directed the patrol boat to bring him there. After the boat dropped him on the beach and returned to the race, the unlucky swimmer learned that the rowboat had continued on to Lake George, leaving him high and dry – and reportedly quite frustrated -- in Hague.

Another account tells of an official who found two oarsmen rowing down the lake without their swimmer. When asked where the swimmer was, the oarsmen said they had lost him. After three-quarters of an hour of searching, the officials finally found the missing swimmer -- about two miles behind the rowboat which was supposed to be accompanying him!

~SOUNDINGS~

We know that our readers count on this column to keep them informed of milestones. But we can only publish what we know about and have received no notices this month.



Con't from page 6 - Swimming

The water was cold, the waves were high and the course was long. Apparently the swimmers had not anticipated the difficulty of the marathon. In the end, only one contestant crossed the finish line. His name was Edward Keating, a 24-year old swimming instructor from New York City, who completed the race just after 4:30 am on the morning of July 13, after being in the water for almost 19 hours.

A local newspaper reported that upon completion of the race, "Keating went to bed at the Fort William Henry yesterday morning and slept with what was reported as great earnestness." At an awards ceremony the next day, Keating received \$5,000 in prize money, as well as a silver cup and a lot in a Lake George development tract. He vowed to use part of the prize money to give his mother a vacation on Lake George. Although at the time of the prize ceremony he had not yet decided which hotel he would select, he did say that he had a special fondness in his heart for Hague. Keating had trained there for a week before the race and had established many new friendships in the picturesque village at the northern end of the lake.

Ernest Vierkoetter, the German baker who had held a strong lead throughout the first part of the the marathon, said after the race that he had dropped out in Bolton Landing not because of cramps or fatigue but because of indigestion. It seems that his stomach was having difficulty adjusting to that good ole American cuisine after his hearty Germany diet!

Although the marathon was a great success in garnering publicity for the region that summer, it turned out to be a one-time event, never to be staged again. Perhaps it was the frustration on the part of the many competitors who were unable to complete the course, or perhaps the American Legion could not rally enough support for a second running of the marathon. The reasons are not clear. But for a few short weeks, in the summer of 1927, the Lake George Swimming Marathon was certainly the talk of the town.

THS HONOR ROLL

The following students from Hague are listed on the honor roll at Ticonderoga High School for the first marking period of the 2005-2006 school year.

Grade 12:

First Honors - Sarah Bissell,
Second Honors- Jacob Lawrence, Andrew Trombley

Grade 11:

First Honors - John Breitenbach, Kelly McCoy, Kacheena Trudeau
Second Honors - Janine Best, Stephanie Nast, Akashia Swinton

Grade 10:

First Honors- Samantha Abare
Second Honors - Alanna Swinton

Grade 9:

First Honors- Molly Ginn
Second Honors - Shane Graser, Amanda McCoy

TI CHAMBER VOLUNTEERS FETED

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce announced Chamber and Community Volunteer Awards at the October 19th Annual Appreciation Dinner. Hosted by Fort Ticonderoga's Log House Restaurant, over 100 attended the event and received certificates of appreciation.

The 2005 Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Francine Burke, chamber member and proprietor of Country Florists & Gifts located on Mt. Hope Avenue in Ticonderoga. Burke and employee Chrissy Lawrence were chosen for their tireless attention to the Montcalm Street Bridge Flower Project.

Special Community Volunteer Awards were presented to Mike & Sally Hayes for the Ti Alumni Extravaganza, and to Mike Edson of Fort Ti for the National Fife & Drum Corp Muster.

Additional special award recipients were Chamber President Joan Miller, Francis Gregory, Bella Diskin, and Bonnie Akers for their support of the Ti Chamber and to Tim & Carol Whifford and the Champlain Valley Cruisers Car Club for continued efforts on the Antique & Classic Car Show.

Special thanks were given to Nick Westbrook, Kelly Oneil-Teer, Mimi Treadway for hosting the event, the American Legion, to area eateries who donated the entire dinner; Burleigh Luncheonette, Century 21 Adks, Carillon, Eddie's, Emeralds, Fort View Inn, Dave & Carolyn Dunn/Hague Chamber, Happy Star, House of Pizza, Interlakes Health, Lake Champlain Inn B&B, Log House Restaurant, Mario's Deli/Corner Market, Old Mill Café, Subway, Gourmet Gal, Pie Lady's Shoppe, Ti Pi Pizzeria, Two Brothers Market, Wagon Wheel, Wal-Mart, and Shirley Knight.



Francine Burke and Chrissy Lawrence

TAXES, TAXES, NO TAXES

For 2006, Hague is responsible to Warren County for \$1,563,000. However, the Hague Town Board has voted to use \$500,000 of the town's portion of county sales tax revenue to reduce that amount to \$1,063,000.

Other county sales tax money is used as revenue in the Hague general fund budget (\$300,000) and in the highway department budget (\$200,000). Any additional funds received from the county sales tax will be added to the town unexpended balance.

With \$1,124,487 of unexpended balance applied to the Town 2006 budget, there will be no town tax for the second year in a row. There will still be a tax levied (\$199,700) for the special districts (street lights and fire/ambulance). No tax money is used for the operation of the sewer district.

2006 Hague Town Budget				
Fund	Appropriation	Less Revenue	Less Unexper Balance	Amount to be Raised by Tax
General Fund	\$767,518	\$401,375	\$366,143	\$0
Highway Fund	\$509,120	\$479,120	\$30,000	\$0
Capital Fund	\$438,565	\$125,000	\$313,565	\$0
Streetscape	\$390,000	\$1,500	\$388,500	\$0
Occupancy Tax	\$36,000	\$31,070	\$4,930	\$0
Special Districts				
Street Lights	\$7,200	\$50	\$1,500	\$5,650
Fire/Ambulance	\$195,000	\$450	\$500	\$194,050
Sewer	\$131,074	\$111,725	\$19,349	\$0
Totals	\$2,474,477	\$1,150,290	\$1,124,487	\$199,700

CARTOON MUSEUM CLOSSES FOR WINTER

The Ticonderoga Cartoon Museum recently closed its doors for the winter season, announced Stan Burdick, director. It will reopen April 1, 2006.

Many hundreds of visitors attended The Cartoon Museum, formerly located in Hague, was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors during its second season in Ticonderoga. Two rooms with over 600 cartoons are now available.

Next spring the museum will be back on its usual schedule of opening Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2-4PM in the lower floor of the Community Center, Montcalm St., Ticonderoga.



FROM THE TURKEY'S POINT OF VIEW

For Thanksgiving from a turkey's point of view, check out the clever animated greeting at <<http://www.msn.americangreetings.com/>>. Search for "survival song" then click on the turkey.

TI SENTINEL ONLINE

It is interesting to note that Ticonderoga's newspaper "The Ticonderoga Sentinel", which predates "The Times of Ti", has been added to the web site of the Northern New York Historical Newspapers. You can search phrases and download papers from 1874 to 1950. It is fascinating to look through these editions although some of the older papers are difficult to read. Check it out at <<http://news.nnyln.net>>.

HAGUE HAPPENINGS by Stan

2 HISTORIC MOMENTS IN HAGUE HISTORY

HAGUE RESIDENTS AND HUNDREDS OF FOLKS WHO CAME TO SEE SEVERAL HOAX FESTS IN THE LATE '90'S WON'T FORGET THE BIG CELEBRATION OF OUR OWN LAKE GEORGE MONSTER, "GEORGE".

STORIES BY SMITH

NATURE NEWS

by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

A Loon on The Lake

It seemed too soon to be closing up the house for the winter. It was 58 degrees, the sky clear and blue, and the lake calm with little swirls of a south wind spinning across the bay. But the temperature the night before had been only 24 degrees and the geraniums on the back porch were finally ready for the compost, signaling that we had better get on with it while the weather was nice. It was so hard to get motivated though, and we weren't the only ones enjoying the quiet beauty of the protected bay.

A loon cruised back and forth for almost an hour, like a charter boat searching for bait fish. Diving up to 20' deep, he'd stay underwater for a minute or more before he'd pop up several yards away only to disappear below the surface again and again as he fished the shallow water. Loons do not winter here in the Adirondacks, but fly south ~ how far, I wondered?

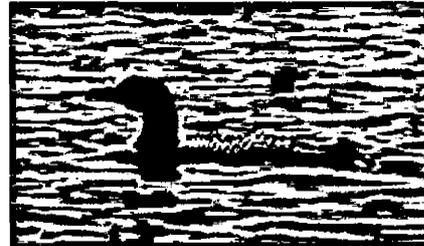
Biologists with the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program wondered the same and in recent years have attached tiny radio transmitters to track two from their summer nesting sites to their winter residences. One from the Old Forge area was tracked to Long Island and then on to Cape May, NJ and the other from Rainbow Lake and Lake Champlain left in late November and flew directly to Cape Cod. I find it interesting that these birds spend the nesting season living and feeding in fresh water and then spend the winter on the ocean adjusting their diet slightly from minnows and perch found in our ponds and lakes to the salt water crabs and flounder of the shallow coastal waters.

Still classified by NY State as a species "of special concern", the Common Loon has been threatened by human impacts on the environment. Loons pick up small pebbles from the lake bottom as grit in their gizzards to help with digestion. Unfortunately the small lead sinkers used in fishing tackle are the perfect size and are ingested by mistake. Sitting in the gizzard, dissolved by digestive juices, the lead enters the bloodstream eventually killing the loon. 20% to 50% of all loon mortalities had been attributed to lead poisoning, prompting a ban on these small lead sinkers in May of 2004. Anglers voluntarily stopped using the lead sinkers before the ban was in effect, helping to restore the loon population.

However another poison generated by humans still poses problems for the birds. Mercury pollution, which is carried to the Adirondacks from coal-burning power plants in the Midwest, is a major threat. Fed by the acid rain produced by these power plants, the fish in these waters, especially the bottom-feeding fish that make up the loon's diet, get a buildup of mercury in their bodies which is in turn absorbed by the loon. Mercury poisoning reduces reproductive success and considering that loons produce only one to two young per year, this is significant. The mercury poisoning of the fish inadvertently affects the loon in another way by killing the fish that make up the loon's diet, limiting the food supply. In spite of the mercury pollution threatening our fish, lakes, birds and trees, the loon is doing pretty well in the Adirondacks.

A feeling of melancholy sweeps over me as I watch the loon take off and head south, probably just to the next bay today, but out of sight for this year as it heads for the coast. He'll be back in late April when we've opened up the house again, welcoming us with his haunting calls echoing across the bay.

To find out more about the programs surrounding loon recovery you can find it on the web: www.adkscience.org/loons/index.htm.



WEATHER NOTES

By Mary Lou Doulin

After October 7th one could say that the weather for the rest of the month was outrageous. It was the wettest October on record. We received more rain in five days than in the last three months. From October 8th to the 31st we had four beautiful days, two cloudy ones and fifteen rainy days (about 14 inches total).

It was also a peculiar year for foliage color change. Warm temperatures and heavy rains detracted and delayed the event. Actually lakeside the most attractive color occurred in the first week in November when the rich yellows and burnt siennas glistened.

We received our first hard frost lakeside on November 11. Just hours from this writing (11/14) I expect winter to be rearing its head. A cold front is expected to dash with a warm one. We may be getting snow, wet rain, sleet and thunder.

North Country Witticism:

Nothing's so poor but what it's good for something - even if it's only good for nothing.

dea

November- December 2005

November

19 10am-3pm Decorate Community Ctr.(p. 1)
 19 1pm Ti Holiday Parade (p. 2)
 22 1:30pm Senior Citizens Mtg. (p. 2)
 23 1pm Extra Helpings Distributions
 22 7pm Ecumenical Service (p. 1)

24 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

'Twas the night of Thanksgiving and I just couldn't sleep
 I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.
 The leftovers beckoned - the dark meat and white
 But I fought the temptation with all of my might.
 Tossing and turning with anticipation
 The thought of a snack became infatuation

So I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door
 And gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.
 I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
 Pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
 'Til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.
 I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky
 With a mouthful of pudding and a handful of pie.

But I managed to yell as I soared past the trees
 "Happy eating to all - pass the cranberries, please."
 .. anonymous

December

1 7pm Planning Board
 3 All Day HOLIDAY IN HAGUE (flyer)
 3 9am-2pm Holiday Fair (p. 2)
 4 3pm Concert & Displays (p. 1)
 11 1:30-4pm Festival of Trees (p. 2)
 13 noon Senior Party (p. 2)
 13 6:30 pm Town Board
 22 *December Hague Chronicle mailed*
 22 7pm Zoning Board of Appeals

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Labor Day to June 30, 2006:

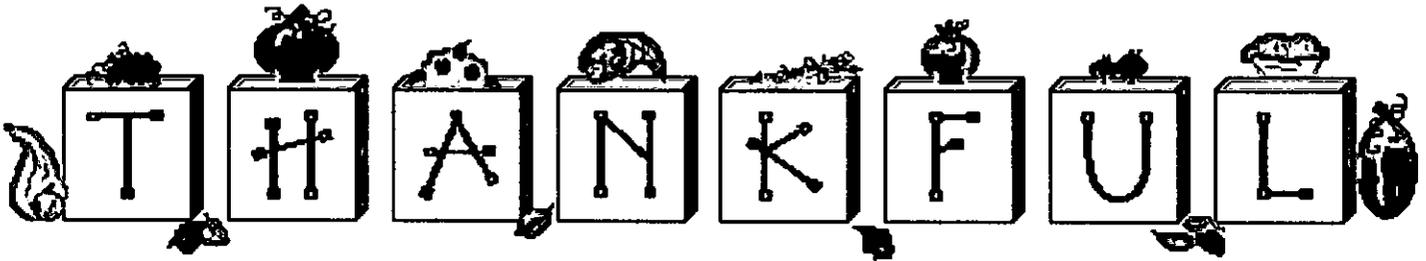
Wednesdays & Saturdays
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closed all other days

FOOD PANTRY

Open every Thursday: 1- 2pm

New Participants Welcome



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is published on or about the 20th of each month by volunteers and supported by its readers. Send news items to Editor Dorothy Henry, 151 New Hague Rd, Hague, NY 12836-2605 by the 12th of each month. Send yearly tax deductible contributions to

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE
 PO Box 748
 Hague, New York 12836-0748

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 3
 HAGUE, NY 12836

