

HAGUE MARKET REOPENS FOR BUSINESS

By Ginger Henry Kuenzel



The day we've all been waiting for – for a very long time – has arrived. The Hague Market reopens for business on Friday, January 20, 2012. The store has been closed for several months while the new owners, Jim and Sally Rypkema, completely revamped the space.

I stopped by to talk to them just a few days before *The Hague Chronicle* went to press. They and their team were hard at work, stocking the shelves and refrigeration units and putting the finishing touches on everything as they hustled to get ready for opening day.

I looked around at the immaculate kitchen, all set up and ready for business, the coffee machines – yes, including cappuccino – conveniently placed just inside the front door, and the deli counter waiting for the first customers to arrive.



The January 20 date, I was told, is a 'soft opening.' In the coming weeks, the store will be adding more and more items. There will also be an official ribbon cutting ceremony at a date to be announced in the near future. Be sure to 'like' the Hague Market on Facebook to stay abreast of all the plans.

On January 20, however, here's what customers can expect. The store will stock a wide range of groceries, including organic goods, as well as most dairy items, including cheeses. There will be a variety of baked goods to choose from, such as pies, cupcakes, baguettes and more. A gourmet section is filled with jars and bottles of specialty sauces and jams, as well as many other items.

From 8 - 11:30 am, the deli section will offer breakfast sandwiches and a daily special. Bagels and cream cheese will also be available, along with chocolate and apple croissants. The staff plans to expand the breakfast menu over the coming weeks and months. Starting at 11:30 am each day, lunch items will be offered, including soups, sandwiches, salads and other side items. Each Wednesday, the market will offer a dinner entrée to go. The selection will change each week, and orders need to be placed in advance.

As with any general store worth its salt – no pun intended – the Hague Market has more than just food. You'll find nearly everything you need for your household or for your vacation – from cleaning products, paper products, first aid supplies and survival kits to flashlights and batteries. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, barware and other gift items are also plentiful. In fact, there's just not enough space here to list all that you'll find in the store. The best idea is to simply stop by – and if you don't see what you're looking for, just ask. If Jim and Sally don't have it, chances are pretty good that they can probably get it for you.



Store hours are 8 am – 6 pm Monday through Saturday, and 8 am – 4 pm on Sunday. The phone number is 543-6555. And don't forget to 'like' The Hague Market on Facebook.

HAGUE SENIOR CLUB

Our first regular meeting for the New Year will be on January 24, 2012 at 1:30 pm at the Community Center. We will install our officers, discuss upcoming events and have a game day with snacks and some fun. If you have a game you would like to play bring it along.

On February 9th there will be a Baked Potato Day with all the toppings at 4:30 pm to be followed at 6 pm by a very interesting presentation. Ginger Henry Kuenzel will show her slides on the Lake George Regatta Boat Races so please come out and join us and learn some new things about Hague and who some of the racers were.

On February 16th, weather permitting, we will be taking a trip to see the Saranac Lake Ice Castle and have lunch somewhere in between. The car pools will meet at the Community Center at 9 am.

At the regular Senior Meeting on February 28th we will be playing Senior Bingo. Looking forward to seeing you all for another year of sharing good times. ... Pat Hintze

HVFD TRAINING EFFORTS CONTINUE

Several Hague EMT and Fire personnel are attending an EMS Symposium sponsored by the West Glens Falls EMS. It runs for two full days and covers emergency medical care with various courses offered for all levels of Emergency Medical Technicians. Also, EMS Radio Communication Training will be offered at our Main Station.

The Department recently held a member-wide clean-up and removal of all old, broken, and unusable equipment from the property, in the interest of looking our best during the Winter Weekend. As part of this annual celebration, we will once again host the Firemen's Breakfast on Saturday morning, February 18, 2012 from 7 - 11 am.

There were 12 Fire calls using 50 man hrs. and 9 EMS calls using 281 man hrs. in December.

The HVFD offers these tips for getting through the winter safely: Be sure that stove and fireplace chimney and flues are kept clean. Use good winter tires. Carry an emergency breakdown kit in your car. Don't walk in unplowed roads.

The Department is always looking for new members at any level - supportive, Fire police, EMT or Firefighter. What a great way to start the new year and serve your community in doing so! ... Joe McCranel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS

Members of the Board of Directors of *The Hague Chronicle*, Judy Stock, Bob Whitaker, Pat McDonough, Ginger Kuenzel and Nancy Young met at the Brookside Community Center at the Silver Bay YMCA on January 10, 2012 for their annual business meeting.

Treasurer Bob Whitaker reported a year-end balance of \$7,532.05 in the checking account. The \$5,000 CD will be rolled over for another year. The earnings of \$385.08 will be moved into the checking account to be used towards *The Hague Chronicle*/Dorothy Henry scholarship. The award for 2012 will be \$400.

Judy reviewed her Publisher's report, noting that the 40th Anniversary Celebration, including the Photo Contest, was a big success. She expressed thanks to the Celebration Committee members. The Board agreed to sponsor another Photo Contest for 2012.

2012 PHOTO CONTEST



After a very successful photo contest in 2011 as part of the celebration of our 40th year of publishing, *The Hague Chronicle* has decided to sponsor another contest for 2012. We hope to add to our collection of images of Hague and the surrounding area that can be used in either print or electronic form. All photos should be taken in the Town of Hague, or surrounding Adirondack area during the year from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

There is no entry fee and the contest is open to everyone. Winners will have their entries displayed in an issue of *The Hague Chronicle* and may be used on the website and Facebook page.

There are seven categories: (1) Scenery, (2) People, (3) Animals, (4) Birds, (5) Still-life, (6) Boats/Boating, and (7) Botanicals. Each person may submit up to two (2) entries in each category.

Each digital entry must be accompanied by specific information (see rules) and submitted on or before July 15, 2012. Please do not send us an image without all the required information. For complete rules check out our Facebook page, email us at <haguechronicle@nycap.rr.com> or get copies at the Community Center. The rules will soon be on our website also.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is mailed out by volunteers on the Wednesday after the third Tuesday of each month. The News deadline is five days earlier. Please send news or address corrections to the Publisher, Judy Stock at <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com>.

The Hague Chronicle is supported by its readers and you may send your yearly (check your label for due date) tax deductible contribution, made out to **The Hague Chronicle** to:

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE
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Hague, NY 12836-0748

Editor/Publisher: Judy Stock (518-543-6517)
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Photography: Ginger Kuenzel, Judy Stock

Treasurer: Bob Whitaker
Layout Editor: Jim Henderson
Database Manager: Jan Whitaker



2011 HAGUE MEMORY TREE



DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN MEMORY OF, OR IN HONOR OF, THE FOLLOWING:

My Golden (95-08)"Admiral", Jo Arata, Byron Armstrong, Cassie Balcom, Ralph Balcom, James A. Balcom, Olive P. Balcom, Harvey T. Balcom, Barbara and Bud Baldwin, Donald Barber, Sr., Gladys Barber, Andrew N. Barnaby, Jr., Barnaby Family, Joseph Barnett Family, Mary Beadnell, Julia Beaty, Jim Belden, Esther Belden, Maud Belden, Mabel Belden, Joan Belden, Joe Belden, Morgan Belden, Howard Belden, Geraldine Belden, Charlie Belden, Della Robbins Bennett, LeRoy Bennett, Sr., Letha Decker Bennett, John E. Bennett, Mary C. Beste, Kate Bingham, Sally Bingham, Winifred Blair, William Blair, James N. Bly, Bob Bolton, Doris Bolton, Jack Bolton, Gerry Boyd, Jody Braisted, John Braisted, John and Betty Braisted, Catherine Brock, Charlotte Brock, Louis Brock, Margaret Broderick, James Broderick, John Brown, Betty Brown, Punky Brunsell, Bob Bryant, Paul and Jean Buck, Irene Calden, Frank Carney, Rosemary Carney, Jane Carpenter, John Carpenter, John Carpenter, Jr., Richard S. Carpenter, Zella Carpenter, George Carter, Ruth Carter, Roland Carter, Adelaide I. Cartwright, William Case Family, J. Edsal Case, Edward F. Cassidy, Betty Chamberlain, Harold Chamberlain, Sr., Peggy Chamberlain, Harold Chamberlain, Jr., Jack Cherubini, Mario Cherubini, Edna Christiansen, Walter Clifton, Wallace Conlon, Eleanor Conlon, Jim "Doc" Corscaden, John M. Costello, John B. Costello, John "B. Good" Costello, Lucille Costello, Bertha Rieff Crabbs, David Dent Crabbs, Edward Hamilton Crabbs, Edward Hubley Crabbs, Eliza Hamilton Crabbs, John David Crabbs, Marie Shattuck Creson,

Roland Dame, Deek Decker, Clifford Decker, Betty Decker, Emerson Decker, Mary Decker, Wilbert Decker, Anthony DeFranco, Margaret DelSignore, Bernard "Buck" Denno, Anna Robbins Denno, Robert Denno, Eugene Denno, Marion Denno, Joe Denno, Robert C. Denno, Geneva May Denno, Mabel Rock Denno, Ralph Denno, Jim Denno, Delmar Dhein, Ryan Dickson, Jennifer Henderson DiSarcina, Ben DiSarcina, Sebastian Remy DiSarcina, Bertha Doyle, Thelma and Ken Drake, Jay R. Earl, Jayne Earl, Mildred Eddy, A.C. Elthorpe, Myra Elethorpe, Asel Elethorpe, Anna Elethorpe, Earl Elethorpe, Gladys Elethorpe, Nathan Elethorpe, Norman Elethorpe, Cecil Elethorpe, Elwin Elethorpe, Kay and Ken Engler, Dottie Engler, Howie Engler, John Fadding, Bub Fadding, Herm Fish, Floyd Fish, Charlie Fish, Jane Fitzgerald, Martha Fitzgerald, Sean Forsyth, Charles Fort, Gary Fox, Bea Robbins Frasier, Clifford Frasier, Mary Frasier, Chet Frasier, Dale Frasier, Mitchel Frasier, Imogene Frasier, Frasier Family, Samuel R. Frasier, Slip Frasier, Geraldine Frasier, Carl Frasier, Veril Frasier, Marion Frasier, Merrill Frazier, Valeda Frazier, William Frasier, Laura Robbins Fricke, Colleen Fuller,

Theresa Gautreau, Thomas E. Girard, James Girard, Perry L. Girard, Sr., Ron Graser, Charlie Goss, Patrick Guerrieri, Robert Guerrieri, Gracie Guerrieri, Patsy Guerrieri, George and Blanche Hanna, Blanche Hanna, Toby Hatfield, Sara G. Robinson Henderson, Charles Henderson, Capt. Charles Henderson, Jr., Virginia Henderson, Capt. James W. Henderson, Chad Henderson, Matt Henderson, Dan Henderson, Donald Henderson, Robert Henderson, Gert Herrick, Archie Herrick, Jim Herrick, Debbie Bly Hicks, George and Dorothy Hirakawa, Patricia Hocking, Ada Hoyt, Bob Hoyt, George and Marion Hudler, Ron Hudler, George Ianson, Frank J. Igoe, Sr., Adelaide K. Igoe, Louis and Bessie Johnson, "Mam" and "Pap" Jordon, Margaret Jordon, Curtis Jordon, Gramp Jordon, Inza Jordon, John F. Kennedy, Alice Lambert, Betty Lambert, Florence (Topsy) Lambert, Harold Lambert, John Lambert, William (Beach) Lambert, Bob Larter, Marg Larter, Ted Larter, Jason Laundree, Georgina Lindquist, Evert Lindquist, Cliff Lund, Dorothy Luyster, Albert Luyster,

Bernice MacGregor, George Maggiolo, Irene Middleton Main, Mike Manning, Ada May, Gary May, Gordon (HubCap) May, Kyle May, Harry May, Cindy McCranell, Roy Meeker, Gladys Meeker, Paul Meeker, Norma Megow, Irene Megow, Ludolf J. Megow, Graham Michael, Petey Michael, Aaron Middleton, Alvin Middleton, Walt Middleton, Bea "Midge" Middleton, Leonard Middleton, Emma Middleton, Ray Middleton, Curly Monroe, Raymond H. Monroe, Albert E. Monroe, Sr., Gertrude Monroe, Jeremiah Monroe, Robert Monroe, Albert Monroe, Jr., Evelyn F. Monroe-Girard, Pat Morgan, Jessy Morgan, Nicholas Mosca, Andrew Neil, Bob Nelson, Juanita Robbins Nestor, Elizabeth Elethorpe Ormsby, Grace Patchett, Nelson Patchett, Jackie Perkins, Duke Peters, Henry Phillips, Terry Pinchin, Camille Pomponio, Louise A. Prentiss,

Bill Randall, Barbara Rawson, George Reynolds, Martha Kuck Rieff, Bertha Spaulding Robbins, Benajah Robbins, Ernest Robbins, Paul Robbins, Harvey Robbins, John Roman Family, Wesley Ross, Esther Ryther, Bonnie Ryther, Glenna Ryther, Lucy and Ted Santaniello, Sierra Rose Santaniello, Harry Saum, Sr., George Savage, Leroy Scott, Sarah Scott, Dale Scripture, Adra Seerup, Emil Seerup, David Shattuck, Virginia Shattuck, Glenn Shattuck, Rose Shattuck, Ed Shattuck, Kay Shattuck, Forrest Shattuck, Alison Silvestri, Mable B. Smith, Edith Shattuck Smith, Uncle Jim Smith, Louis Spellman, Sr., Sharon Steuart, Richard Stormer, Sr., Leona Robbins Stratton, Carl Sunderland, Edna Robbins Tilton, Trudeau Family, Virginia Tumbarello, Mildred Tuminsky, Anna Turano, Nick Turano, Purvie Turner, Bud and June Van Kleeck, William and Anna Van Kleeck, Marion Van Kleeck, Hatch Van Kleeck, Betty Vargo, Henry and Lucille Vickerson, John and Julie Vickerson, Chris Warner, Marguerite West, Jim Whitaker, Ed Whitaker, Herb Wilen, Ruth Hudler Woody.

The Hague Memory Tree began in 1987 when Imogene Frasier approached the Hague Chamber of Commerce to sponsor her in requesting donations for the Hague Ambulance Fund in memory of her son, Dale. She continued the Memory Tree for the next 23 years to help the HVFD purchase equipment for the ambulances. Since Imogene died in 2009, her daughter, Diane Trudeau, continues the tradition in memory of both her brother and mother. The names of those for whom donations have been made are put on a "Memory Tree" at the Community Center and are published in The Hague Chronicle.

TOWN BOARD MEETING – 12/29/2011

Supervisor Belden and Board members Frasier, Meola, Gladu and Martucci were all present for the year-end meeting at 4 pm.

A moment of silence was held for Jack Bolton.

The Board:

Discussed the Forest Bay Property Owners request to waive the penalty fee for removing their property (tax map 26.6 -1-26) out of the Fisher Act. They voted to send a letter to the Forest Bay Property Owners stating that the Town Board is not in favor of waiving the penalty fee.

Agreed that elected officials should be able to attend the Association of Towns meeting in NYC if money has been budgeted.

Agreed to open the Visitor Center on February 25 - 26, 2012, for the Hague Fish & Game Fishing Tournament.

Authorized Supervisor Belden to sign the agreement with Warren County for maintenance of snowmobile trails.

Accepted the resignation of Edna Frasier from the Town Board, effective 12/31/11.

Discussed with Graham Bailey the function of the Oktoberfest Committee and agreed to have the Attorney for the Town draw up a contract.

Hired Richard Stormer Jr. as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Attendant, effective 1/1/2012 with a rate of pay of \$12 per hour for a 90 day probationary period after which the pay will increase to \$12.50 per hour.

On behalf of the Town Board, Supervisor Belden presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Richard Gladu for his eight years of service to the Town Board.

[Ed note: Since I was out of town at the time, the notes above are taken from the official minutes.]

TOWN BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1/3/12

Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Rudy Meola, Mark Martucci and newly elected Steve Ramant were all present. There was one vacancy due to the resignation of Mrs. Frasier as Board Member.

Mark Martucci, representing the Republican Committee, recommended Martin Fitzgerald II to fill the vacancy with a term to expire on 12/31/12. Rudy Meola, representing the Democratic Committee, recommended A. Graham Bailey. Councilman Ramant made, and Supervisor Frasier seconded, a motion to appoint Martin Fitzgerald II to the Board which was passed with one dissension vote by Meola.

Supervisor Frasier summarized the projects that had been completed in 2011 including completion of Sewer District #2, installation of the cell tower, dedication of Veterans Memorial Park, new playground equipment, dedication of "Peggy's Point" and receipt of a \$44,000 grant for parking lots and boat dock enhancements. She also noted that Lakeshore Garage and Trout House Village celebrated 40 years in business.

For 2012, Supervisor Frasier said that work will continue on solar panels for the Community Center and Highway Department building. She also will have a citizens' committee look at some specific parts of the Comprehensive Plan. There are new procedures for Town Board meetings. Anyone wishing to address the Board needs to have a written request in by the Friday before the regular meeting stating what they wish to discuss.

Other items of note:

The regular meeting of the Town Board will be held at 6 pm at the Community Center on the second Tuesday of each month with review of claims at the beginning of the meeting.

The mileage rate for reimbursement is 51 cents per mile and travel vouchers must be submitted.

The Supervisor is empowered to invest surplus funds to draw interest for the accounts from which the funds were drawn.

Contracts for maximum financial support were approved. \$300 for the American Legion for Memorial Day, \$337,305 for the Hague Volunteer Fire Department, \$200 for housing seized animals to Dr. Mack, \$2,500 to the Hague Senior club, \$1,000 to the Hague Sno-goers for maintenance of cross country ski trails, \$9,000 to the Sno-goers for maintenance of the snowmobile trails [funding will come from Warren County], \$2,000 for Senior Citizen Bus to Glens Falls once per month and \$8,000 to the Hague Chamber of Commerce.

The following appointments were made: Edna Frasier – Budget Officer, Deborah Manning – Records Management Officer, Tax Collector and Registrar of Vital Statistics, Dominick Viscardi – Attorney for the Town, Mark Martucci – Deputy Supervisor, Richard Myers – Deputy Highway Superintendent, Bertha Dunsmore – Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics and Community Center Coordinator, William Pittman – Zoning Board, EJ Siwek – Planning Board Chairman with Richard Frasier - Deputy, Robert Goetsch – Zoning Board Chairman with Jon Hanna – Deputy, David DeFranco – Town Naturalist, Lindsay Mydlarz – Care Program Officer with Bertha Dunsmore as Deputy, Daniel Steitz – Animal and Dog Control Officer.

Salaries for Town Employees are listed in the official Board minutes of this meeting. Also listed are the Board Committees whose members are usually identified in the Town Board meeting report in this paper.

The Board adopted a Procurement Policy [also available in the minutes] which they agreed to adhere to carefully.

TOWN BOARD MEETING – 1/10/12

Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Marty Fitzgerald, Steve Ramant, Rudy Meola and Mark Martucci were present.

The meeting opened at 6:20 pm as soon as the Board was finished with auditing the bills.

Councilman Meola discussed the wording of the contract with the Attorney for the Town which said that no written ac-

countability was necessary. The Board will change some of the wording and Supervisor Frasier will check with Councilman Meola about the final text.

Committee reports (new committee members noted):

Assessor & Justice (Meola/Ramant): It was reported that Assessor Dave Martucci will have a proposal for the Board next month on the request by the Forest Bay Property Owners Association.

Buildings & Grounds/Community Center/Enhancement (Fitzgerald/Martucci): Councilman Fitzgerald discussed getting information on solar panels and will meet with the health department next week on the water issue in the kitchen.

Finance & Insurance (Meola/Martucci): Councilman Meola said they are looking at current rates of interest which are pretty low. The Secretary for the Budget Office, Diane Trudeau, is still working on the end-of-year report. Councilman Martucci doesn't think the Town will be able to get a better insurance rate.

Fire Department (Martucci/Fitzgerald): Reports were given on repairs and training. Councilman Fitzgerald noted that the company still needs volunteers.

Highway (Martucci/Fitzgerald): An overhead door opener will be installed so that there won't be a loss of heat when the doors are opened. The HVFD trucks will be used to wash the Town trucks each Friday to clean them of salt, etc.

Museum & Historian (Frasier/Ramant): Supervisor Frasier reported that the Historical Society is working on their next research project on markets.

Personnel (Fitzgerald/Meola): No report given.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater (Meola/Fitzgerald):

ZEO Clark noted that she contacts the Attorney for the Town when there is a questionable issue. She said the regulatory agencies will ask her, "What does your attorney say?" so she gets the opinion from Attorney Viscardi.

The ZEO gave a written report to the Board which included summaries for 2011. County and Town Certificates of Occupancy and Completion were issued for 23 sheds, decks and small additions; 8 for substantial additions or total house renovations; 6 for large two story garages some with plumbing; and 6 new homes or total rebuilds.

There were 57 permits issued for Land Use Development; 8 for Site Plan Review; 3 for Subdivisions; 13 Variances; 4 for Wastewater and 1 for Wastewater Variances.

The ZEO requested permission to attend the Association of Towns meeting. Councilman Meola pointed out that she had gone \$11 over her budget last year but the Board approved her request. Meola also noted that the Board has not acted on the recommendations made by former Councilman Gladu on attendance at meetings by elected and appointed officials.

Recreation, Promotion & Youth (Ramant/Meola): Councilman Ramant reported that the Hague Chamber of Commerce is working on a new brochure. Ramant is also working on the Music in the Park and cell service. He noted that anyone inter-

ested in working at the Town Park this summer should apply at the Community Center.

Sewer Districts #1 and #2 (Frasier/Meola): With a new employee to help, it was reported that Paul Belden is looking forward to working on necessary maintenance.

Town Park & Beautification (Ramant/Meola): No additional report

Transfer Station/Recycling Center (Meola/Ramant): Problem at Transfer Station will be fixed by the operator, Casella.

Other Business:

1. The Town Board will audit books by January 20, 2012.

2. Supervisor Frasier will attend the Association of Towns meeting as the voting delegate. Deputy Supervisor Martucci is the alternate. Councilman Fitzgerald will also attend the meeting in New York City. Councilman Ramant will get training in another venue.

3. The Supervisor announced that reports from the Board Committees should be written and given to Town Clerk Manning before the meeting. There are new rules for the way the Board will conduct the meetings which were read by Supervisor Frasier.

4. The Board will discuss the revised Employee Manual on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 4 pm in the small Board meeting room.

5. Additional work is needed for setting up a contract for Oktoberfest.

6. Joan Clark has notified the Town that she is in Sewer District #2 and has been paying the sewer fees but is located where she cannot hook up. She is requesting to be exempted from the fees. The matter will be referred to Paul Belden at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Attorney Viscardi.

7. The Board passed a resolution for authority to open accounts and deposit and withdraw funds.

8. The new travel voucher form needs to be submitted monthly for mileage reimbursements or payment will not be made.

9. The Board approved a request by Dave Decker to appoint Dan Belden as designee to represent the Town on the Lake George Watershed Coalition for 2012.

10. The Board passed a resolution in support of NYS Senate bill 4856-2011 proposed by Senator Betty Little that will allow volunteer fire departments to charge for services.

11. Supervisor Frasier reported that she will be serving on several County Committees.

12. Supervisor Frasier said that there will be a reception for retired Supervisor Dan Belden on Saturday, February 18, 2012 during Winter Weekend. It will be held at the Community Center from noon to 3 pm.

13. Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky asked for support for a LGPC study to evaluate mandatory clean boats. Boat users would bear the expense. He noted that they have traveled to Lake Tahoe where every boat is decontaminated. He is working on a report which will go to the Town.

14. Phil Smith indicated his disappointment that the request made for a fee waiver by Forest Bay had been decided before the regular meeting. He requested that they reconsider. Supervisor Frasier said that they will revisit it by having the Assessment Committee (Councilmen Ramant and Meola) meet with Mr. Smith.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS

The Zoning Board meeting of December 15, 2011 was reported in our December issue. The Planning Board meeting of January 5, 2012 was cancelled due to lack of applications.

BOARD WAIVERS ON WAIVER

Forest Bay Property Owners Association [FBPOA] President Phil Smith, was surprised to learn at the January regular meeting of the Town Board that at the December 29, 2011 meeting, the Board approved a motion that they would send a letter to the FBPOA stating they “were not in favor of waiving the penalty fee.” Mr. Smith had not received any information from the Town by January 10, 2012.

On October 20, 2011, Mr. Smith wrote a letter to Supervisor Belden explaining that the FBPOA was considering removing their forested lot from the Fisher Act. He submitted information indicating that the property had been over-assessed for years and they had been paying taxes based on this inflated assessment. In order to withdraw from the Fisher Act, it is necessary to pay a penalty of 6% of the value of the timber. They contracted with a forest professional who determined that the total liquidation value of all the timber on the property would be \$16,704. The penalty tax to the Town then would be \$1,002.24. FBPOA requested only that this penalty be waived in light of having already paid excessive taxes. They were not asking for any reconsideration of the taxes that had already been paid to the Town since 1974.

The request was placed on the agenda for the November 2011 Town Board meeting and Mr. Smith appeared and presented the details of the issue. The Board indicated they would table it until December and contact their attorney.

Mr. Smith appeared again at the December 2011 Town Board meeting and asked for a timely action so that they could finish their legal arrangements before the March assessment process [when the lot would have an assessment of \$20,300 according to a letter from Assessor Dave Martucci]. He was told that the Town Board had not yet heard from their attorney and declined to act until then.

Mr. Smith then came to the January 10, 2012 Board meeting expecting to hear the recommendation from the attorney and to clarify any questions. But he read on the printed copy of the minutes for the end-of-the year Board meeting on December 29, 2011 that a decision had already been made. Mr. Smith questioned if there could be any reconsideration so that he would have an opportunity to discuss it with them.

When contacted about the reason behind the waiver decision, Supervisor Edna Fraiser said that there has been some confusion about this issue. Councilman Rudy Meola of the Board’s Assessor & Justice Committee will set up a meeting to

discuss the waiver request. Meola and Councilman Steve Ramant, the other Board member on the Committee, are to meet with Phil Smith, Attorney Dominick Viscardi and Assessor Dave Martucci. Presumably the Committee will then have a recommendation for the full Board in February.

HAGUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber had their “after the holidays” dinner party on January 6, 2012 at the Hague Fire Department with 34 members and guests. The food, catered by Katy Wells, Linda Mury and Bobbi-Jean Fish, was tremendous and a good time was had by all.

The Chamber is currently working on a new and updated brochure. We also are redesigning the website so visitors can easily have access to all of our events. There will also be a scrolling picture guide of events and businesses in Hague.

We are planning the Hague Winter Weekend which will be on February 17 – 19, 2012. All the event info is in the flyer attached to this issue. The highlight of the weekend is the Polar Bear Plunge which raises money for the Vermont Children’s Hospital through WOKO 98.9 radio station’s “big change roundup.” Last year almost \$3,000 was raised by plungers, generous donations by folks from all over who attended the Winter Weekend and some local organizations. If you would like to volunteer for any weekend activities or “take The Plunge”, please contact Meg Haskell at 518-585-9890 or email her at <mhaskell14@yahoo.com>. ...Tom Haskell, HCC President

HAGUE SNO-GOERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB



It’s snowing outside now with 6+ inches on the ground as I write this report. The Club has been working on opening up a new trail 8C which will run through the landfill station up into the woods and come out at the Old Mill Road. The other 8C route will remain open and will be marked to avoid any confusion.

Please stay on designated trails and respect landowners. We also would like to thank Paul Belden, Sr. for allowing us to use his land. The club has all the trails ready to ride when we get enough snow to open them and they are deemed safe for everyone to ride. Please take the time to register and insure all your snowmobiles.

Contact Tom Haskell if you would like to join the club and save money on your registration. The club just purchased a 2009 Yamaha Viking utility sled for trail grooming. Please ride responsibly and have a great snowmobile season.

...Tom Haskell, Sno-goers President



HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It's a quieter time of year here for the Historical Society, but never fear, the wheels continue to turn. With the addition of a new scanner to our office equipment, Kathi Ramant, our



Reuben Davis' Gravesite, Photo by Bruce DeLarm, 8/2009



archivist, has begun the long and tedious task of scanning the many old photos in frames and albums that are in our collection. Now that the scanning process is underway, the next step will be to get the photos into archival-quality, acid free photo sleeves and albums. This is a task we've been hoping to begin for a long time and it's very exciting to have Kathi getting it started. The pictures in the collection will now be protected from the deterioration that comes with age, and they will be "backed-up" electronically.

Have you ever noticed, as you come down Tongue Mountain and near Sabbath Day Point, that there's a stone-wall-enclosed gravesite set off in the woods to your right? The stone reads "Reuben Davis, died June 8, 1857, AE 74." It's a peaceful spot in the heart of rattlesnake country, perhaps carefully chosen for a man who spent his days hunting the reptiles. On November 8, 1888, the New York Times ran this piece with the headline "The Rattlesnake Exterminator":

"The Albany Journal's Lake George correspondent writes: Isaac Davis of Hague, who in four years has killed upward of 1400 rattlesnakes, and who last Fall at the county fairs of this vicinity was the first to handle rattlesnakes in public exhibitions, recently killed four monster rattlesnakes near Sabbath Day Point. This year he has killed upward of 400 for which he has been paid a bounty of 25 cents per snake. He makes rattlesnake hunting, catching, and exhibiting his whole business, and is paid \$50 a month during the season by property owners about Hague for killing snakes in aid of their extermination. He is believed to be the only man in the world following this occupation. He is an intelligent man, fond of reading, of quiet demeanor and gentle disposition. His friends apprehend that he will meet his death some day in handling these reptiles, but the business seems to have a fascination outside of the remuneration it affords him. He always carries with him a remedy in case he should be bitten, but does not feel any special confidence in its efficacy. He is a man of 45 and killed his first snake before he was 6 years old, but never went into regular snake hunting until four years ago. His father before him was the famous snake hunter, 'Mint' Davis, who used to kill them for the oil to sell to druggists. The old man is said to have been bitten several times by snakes and to have cured himself by use of 'rattlesnake weed.' It used to be a standing joke about the lake that when a rattlesnake bit old 'Mint' Davis it was the snake that was poisoned to death. The old man certainly seemed to have no more fear of a rattlesnake than a child had of a kitten."

I can only wonder whether Reuben Davis had the nickname "Mint"; the dates seem to fit with that conclusion. What do you think?
...Pat McDonough

We had our first "Markets" research team meeting this month and have laid out our plans. Many folks have responded to our plea for input; we've gotten some great stories so far. We want to ask you to "keep your cards and letters" coming. We are especially interested in the Uptown Building (once the taxidermist and other things as well), the Hague Market, the IGA on Route 9N, the Silver Bay General Store, the "Store" at the Silver Bay YMCA, Leach's store at the Steamboat Dock, and the Village Market (Fitzgerald's) next door to the Hague Market.

In addition to gathering information for our records and preparing a program to share with the public, we also do the exhibit in the showcase of the Community Center lobby. If you have any memorabilia items from the markets (hats, matchbooks, photos, anything with the store name on it), they would make great additions to the exhibit. They would be kept safely locked, noted with your name and returned when the exhibit is taken down. Take a look in your closet! You can contact us at <haguehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com>. Thank you.
... Pat McDonough

WEAPONS OF THE 18TH-CENTURY

On February 12, 2012, Fort Ticonderoga Curator of Collections Chris Fox will present the second program in the "Fort Fever Series." *The Roar of Musketry and Cracking of Rifles: An Introduction to Weapons of the 18th-century* will take place at 2 pm in the Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center. Fox will examine several original 18th-century weapons from the Fort's extensive historic weapons collection. In this unique session, participants will have the opportunity to handle several muskets, swords, and pistols used in the French & Indian War and American Revolution. The cost is \$10 per person or free for members of the Friends of Fort Ticonderoga.

~SOUNDINGS~

BORN: Fiona Porter Duback, daughter of Alison and Andy Duback of Williston, VT on December 8, 2011. She joins her big sister Evelyn. Grandparents are Craig and Diane LaCourse of Hague, Steven Duback of Milwaukee, WI and Sally Duback of Mequon, WI.

SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL GUILD FUNDRAISER

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild held a successful fundraiser on Twelfth Night for their summer programs. Prizes were awarded just prior to the musical program in which area choirs and groups presented Christmas music as the season drew to its close.

The summer quilt crafted by Marge Costello went to Mike Stipo. Shirley Cunningham took home the Trout House get-away. A certificate from Frenchman's Restaurant was claimed by Seddon Beaty of Lexington, Mass. Steve and Sylvia Boyce will enjoy a basket donated by Julie's Beauty Shoppe.

A basket of novelties from Ti Paint was delivered to Darlene Treadway.

For the first time, two prizes were won by the same person. Beth Nadeau claimed the gift certificate from Adam's Rib and the winter treat basket donated by Alexander Shmulsky. The ceramic pitcher created by Jerry Cooper and packaged in a basket with wine, wine glasses and chocolate went to Julie Cook of Hague. The two one-month fitness memberships donated by Best Western were claimed by Sal Santaniello of Silver Bay and R. Barry of Naples, Florida.

The Festival Guild thanks all those who participated in this event.
... Cathie Burdick

TFCU HOSTS CELL PHONE DRIVE

The Ticonderoga Federal Credit Union (TFCU) will host their third annual cell phone drive during January and February. Cell phones donated at TFCU branches will be given to the STOP Domestic Violence Center in Essex County where they will be turned into Emergency 911 phones for domestic violence survivors. Over 200 phones have been collected through TFCU's previous drives.

To participate, simply bring your old cell phones, chargers and accessories in any condition from any provider and drop them in the collection bins at any branch locations during regular business hours. Donations of toiletry items including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, as well as women's clothing and blankets will also be accepted.

Before donating your cell phone, make sure you have terminated your service contract, erased all data on the phone including contacts, texts, photos and removed the SIM card (if it has one). Tips for deleting your cell phone's data can be found at the credit union's website <www.tfcunow.com> in the FAQ section. You may also refer to your user's manual or contact your service provider or phone manufacturer for data removal instructions.

JORDAN KEEPS ON ROLLING

Jordan McKee, a junior at Ticonderoga High School, has added more accomplishments to her stellar bowling records. She recently tied the record for the girls single game high score with a 279 in a CVAC bowling match held at North Bowl Lanes in Plattsburgh. She then continued on to break the series record in big fashion bowling 234, 237 and 279 for a 750 series. Led by McKee the Ticonderoga Sentinels won the match against Beekmantown.

TICONDEROGA MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS

Over 70% of the Hague students attending the Ticonderoga Middle School are on the Honor Roll for the first marking period. Congratulations to these students:

GRADE 6

FIRST HONORS - Gilbert Cox , Kacey Lynn Fish

SECOND HONORS - Caiden Meehan

GRADE 7

FIRST HONORS - Kaylee Coon, Nicholas Fitzgerald,

Samantha Holmberg, Connor Lawrie

SECOND HONORS - Logan Jordon

GRADE 8:

FIRST HONORS - Jamie Cox, Cassandra Martucci,

Cassidy McKee

SECOND HONORS - Curt Fenimore

PUBLIC DINNERS RETURN

A Public Roast Beef Dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of the Masons and Eastern Star, will be served Friday, January 27, 2012, at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will be available from 4:30 - 5 pm and dine-in is 5 - 6:30 pm in the downstairs dining hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under. Parking for this event will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Thomas B. Azer Agency and Hancock House parking lots.

FREE PANCAKE SUPPER

The Episcopal Church of the Cross at 129 Champlain Avenue in Ticonderoga will host it's annual Shrove Tuesday free all you can eat pancake supper on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 from 4 - 6 pm. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce, ice cream, coffee, tea, juice, and milk. All denominations welcome. It's a great way to get out during the winter and catch up with friends and family.

CHORALE RESUMES REHEARSALS

The Champlain Valley Chorale announces resumption of rehearsals for its upcoming Spring concerts. Weekly rehearsals will be held each Tuesday evening at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, Wicker Street, Ticonderoga, beginning January 31, 2012, and continuing to the concert presentations in late Spring. New singers in all sections are welcomed, and no audition is necessary. For further information, please contact Bob Elling at 585-2173.

Nature News by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

The Tree of Peace

There is a Native American story I would like to share about the Tree of Peace. This is a **true** story that takes place in what is now upstate New York. ... As I have heard it, a very long time ago, maybe a thousand years in the past, there lived a holy man. At that time, the people of this land lived as separate nations; rife with conflict, they were always fighting amongst each other. Many wars were fought and many lives were lost, which deeply troubled this holy man. He prayed a lot about this tragic way of life among the People, and was given a vision for a Great Plan of Peace that could bring an end to this fighting. He began a journey that took him to all the nations in the land, and he called to the leaders of each nation to come together and hear his plan if they too, wanted to live in peace. Not all the people accepted his plan, but many did ~ the Onondaga, the Seneca, the Cayuga, the Mohawk and the Oneida people sent their leaders to hear him. Fifty chiefs from these five nations gathered together in a place, near what is now Syracuse, NY to hear his plan. The holy man, Deganawidah, spoke to the people from under a great White Pine tree. He wanted a symbol to remind them of the Plan for Peace and chose the white pine to teach them. He showed them that the needles of the white pine tree are in bundles of five needles joined together at the base – these needles representing each of the five nations present. Then he took a single arrow between his two hands and broke it cleanly in half, telling them that when you are one nation, you are easily broken like this single arrow. Then he took an arrow from each of the five nations and bundled them together. He could not break the bundle and neither could any of the other great chiefs present. This is the strength that comes, he told them, when we are united into one heart, one mind, and one body ~ in Peace. The White Pine, a symbol of that teaching, became known as The Tree of Peace and the five nations formed a system of government that lasted for centuries as the Iroquois Confederation. (Further reading recommended is *Manual for the Peacemaker: An Iroquois Legend to Heal Self & Society* by Jean Houston.)

The story does not end there. Fast forward to the newly formed United States of America when our forefathers were looking for a system of government that would join together the thirteen colonies as one. Benjamin Franklin, well aware of the Iroquois' superior system of government, invited the Iroquois to come before Congress to explain. Subsequently, the U.S. Constitution was written and adopted by our "new" country ~ using the Great Plan of Peace as the model. The glyph of bound-together arrows was copied by the new nation as a symbol of strength. A symbol that still, in this present day, is represented on our currency ~ look on a one dollar bill and you will see an American eagle clasping a bundle of arrows in its talons ~ a show of strength in unity. In 1987, by the combined Houses of Congress, it was officially acknowledged and written as truth that the U. S. Constitution was founded upon the Iroquois Confederacy's system of democracy. (You Tube fans can view a couple of neat explanations of this. One is the white pine story by "Tekaronianeken Jake Swamp – Peacemaker pt 1" and another by "Ken Quiet Hawk" on the constitution's origins.)

My personal relationship with White Pine is one of many threads; woven together, their unity creates a strong ally for me among the green nations. From my herbalist's point of view, white pine holds great power for health and healing during the winter months. To be able to go out and harvest FRESH plant material when most plants aboveground are either dead or dry ~ oh...I LOVE this! Fresh herbs in a snowstorm (like right at this very moment!) for coughs, colds and lots of Vitamin C...white pine needles (the green ones) and the sap in the bark of the twigs and small branches contain copious amounts of vitamin C, are anti-septic, anti-microbial and are excellent expectorants for coughs. You can easily make a delicious medicinal tea in just a few minutes. Just head outdoors and snip a few branch tips from a white pine ~ just the needles and a bit of twig (1/4" diameter) to equal about 1 cup when chopped up. Put these into a pot of water, about one quart, and then bring to a simmer. Immediately remove from the heat and cover, letting it steep for about 10 minutes. Then, strain the piney brew into a cup, sweeten with just a bit of maple syrup or honey and let the magic begin!

Mind, body and spirit are all supported and healed with a connection to White Pine. I think of the Peace I feel when I see white pine: in a view of the lake through the silhouetted trunks and branches of the ones that stand along the shore, in a mountain ridgeline where the pines tower above the others ~ I can pick them out from miles away! As I write from the safety and warmth of indoors, I can see them outside in this storm. They hold a strength and presence that negates any feeling of weakness ~ with great green arms tossing about in the gusting wind, throwing off the wet snow clinging to branches, reaching towards a darkening sky ~ a giant bear, a tree-bear, standing in its power.

Weather Report by JoAnne DeFranco

December 17, 2011 to January 13, 2012

At last we have gotten some snow. On January 12, 4" of heavy wet snow blanketed our region. Upper elevations and points north of Hague received up to 6". The snow continued on January 13 mixing with rain but as the temperatures plummeted and the wind picked up, the rain changed to snow but no additional accumulations were noted at press time.

Sunrise is at 7:26 am and sunset at 4:39 pm. There is a gain of about 2 minutes every day in the length of the day. On Thursday, January 12 the length of day was 9 hours and 13 minutes. The next full moon is Feb 7.

It rained on December 21, 22, 27. Most of the days were cloudy but there were a few days with hazy sunshine. The lowest temperature for the period was 4° on January 4. The highest temperature occurred on December 22 with 51°.

I looked into the record books for some interesting statistics and found the following: The record high for a day in December was 68° on 12/7/98. The record low for a December day was -28° on 12/26/68. The record high for a January day was 64° on 1/16/95, while the record low for a January day was -36° on 1/27/94. It was interesting to note that the high and low for January occurred in back-to-back years (1994 and 1995).

HAGUE CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 20 The Hague Market reopens
- 24 1:30 pm Senior Club Meeting
- 26 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals

TRANSFER STATION HOURS
 Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm
 Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

FEBRUARY

- 2 7 pm Planning Board
- 9 4:30 pm Senior Club Baked Potato Day followed by...
- 9 6:00 pm Program – G. Kuenzel – Outboard Marathon
- 14 **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY** 
- 14 6 pm Town Board meeting
- 16 9 am Senior Club trip to Saranac
- 17 News deadline for *The Hague Chronicle*
- 17 – 19 **WINTER WEEKEND**
- 18 noon – 3 pm Reception for Dan Belden
- 21 **PRESIDENTS' DAY**
- 22 February issue is mailed out
- 23 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals

ONGOING EVENTS

- 1st Monday: **Fire Department** (7 pm)
- 2nd Monday: **Senior Bus to Glens Falls** (8:30 am)
- 3rd Monday: **Chamber of Commerce** (7 pm)
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday: **Mohican Crafters** (10 am)
- 3rd Tuesday: **Ticonderoga School Board** (7 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: **Fish & Game Club** (7:30 pm)
- 4th Wednesday: **Extra Helpings Distribution** (noon)
- 3rd Thursday: **Carillon Garden Club** (10 am)
- 1st Friday: **Men's Prayer Breakfast** (7:30 am)
- Every Tuesday: **Rotary Club** (7:30 am)
- Every Thursday: **Kiwanis** (12 pm)

NORTH COUNTRY TRIATHLON REGISTRATION

Early registration is now open for the 6th annual Olympic and Sprint distance race taking place on Saturday, June 30, 2012.

HAGUE HAPPENINGS *by Stan*

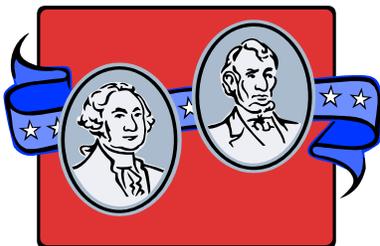
REVISITING THE 5 NATURAL WONDERS OF HAGUE

1. HAGUE ELEPHANT  ON GRAPHITE MT. WHO NEEDS A JUMBO OR A DUMBO?
 2. THE GRAPHITE MINE  WHO NEEDS A USABLE OR HOWE CAVERNS HOME OF 1,000 BATS?
 3. GREAT SPLIT ROCK  WHO NEEDS RUSHMORE OR NATURAL BRIDGE? LOOK AT OUR MYSTERY.
 4. THE INDIAN KETTLES  WHO NEEDS AN APACHE COOKING KITCHEN? CHEF TONTO WAS HERE.
 5. THE LAKE GEORGE  WHO NEEDS "NESSIE" OR EVEN "CHAMPY" (HOAX) MONSTER WHEN "GEORGEY" IS NOW CAUGHT, DISPLAYED IN OUR COMMUNITY BLDG.?
- sb TONGUE MT.? NO!

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