

WE ARE ON THE INTERNET



In addition to continuing the update of our website <www.thehaguechronicle.org>, we now have a Facebook Page – The Hague Chronicle – for those of you who use this social media.

We have posted, in color, some of the pictures that have appeared in print in black and white. The album, called “From the 2010 pages of The Hague Chronicle,” will be updated each month.

Also there is an album of Hague landscape and lakescape, called “Photos of Hague, New York - the Lake and Land” and another album, “People who live and play in Hague, NY.” Check it out – you might find yourself there.

Become a fan of our page and upload your own photos.

REMINDER TO OUR READERS

The date in the upper left-hand corner of your label is when we hope to hear from you. If it is in red – you are way overdue in letting us know you want to continue to receive *The Hague Chronicle*.

Please help us keep our mailing list up to date and respond in a timely manner. If you are sending a gift donation, please remember to include the name and address of the recipient.

Also please remember to update your seasonal address changes.

FORT TICONDEROGA GHOSTS



Screen Capture SYFY Channel

Many workers and visitors to Fort Ticonderoga over the years have reported unexplained sights and/or sounds. The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS) visited Fort Ticonderoga recently and the results of their investigation were shown on the SyFy Channel on March 9, 2010. If you missed it and would like to see a rerun of the program, you can go to <<http://www.hulu.com/watch/133991/ghost-hunters-fort-ticonderoga>>.

PROTECTIONIST IDEALISM

The *Adirondack Explorer* [Vol 12 No 1 Jan/Feb 2010] recently published a letter written by our Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward <<http://www.adirondackexplorer.org/letters-and-editorials/letters-jan10.php>> and an editorial response <<http://www.adirondackexplorer.org/letters-and-editorials/editorial-jan10.php>>. This exchange prompted Richard Wray of Ticonderoga to send a letter to the *Adirondack Explorer* and a copy to us. Some of his comments follow.

There have been too many instances where the genuine financial needs of Adirondack residents have been ignored in the name of what I would call "protectionist idealism".

I consider myself an environmentalist and supporter of policies to protect our beautiful Adirondacks. I used to support the Adirondack Park Agency until I saw them almost derail the effort to get Lowes to locate a store in Ticonderoga - all over the size of the sign outside the store in a built-up business area!

Today, thank goodness, the Lowes store is open and the sign tastefully erected and modest in size. The fact that the APA almost blocked this important economic development in Ticonderoga over a trivial sign seems to be forgotten by many - but not by those of us who saw it happen.

Fellow environmentalists who support the APA, the "Adirondack Explorer", "Protect the Adirondacks", the "Adirondack Council", or other representative groups would do well to consider the negative impact of "protectionist idealism" on the people who live and work here and the way in which it undermines support for the very environmental initiatives they promote!
... Richard Wray

NC TRIATHLON PLANNING



NORTH COUNTRY TRIATHLON

The 2010 Sprint and Olympic distance races of the North Country Triathlon will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010. The early registration, for a savings of 15%, ends Sunday, March 21, 2010. There are some slots still open but they limit the number to 400.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can join over 100 like minded people (from just about every age group) in helping make the race a success. They are still looking for energetic, talented, and fun people to help put this race on.

For additional information, see <www.northcountrytri.com> or join the North Country Triathlon page on Facebook.

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

The next regular meeting of the Hague Senior Club will be at 1:30 pm on March 23, 2010 at the Community Center. We'll be bringing back a Club favorite - an afternoon of Bingo. Each participant should bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift to be used for prizes. There will be more information on a possible outing to Saratoga Casino. Come on out and see what the Seniors are doing!

The Hague Town Board has approved the Senior Club's use of the Visitor Center during *Americade* (June 6-13, 2010) to sell food and drinks at our "Senior View Café." This activity will occur just a week after the Memorial Day Parade and volunteers are needed. To volunteer, call Pat Hintze, Club President, at 543-6502. ... Christine Ianson

HVFD APPRECIATES A QUIET MONTH

Except for the positive service of providing standby support for the Fred LaPann Memorial Run and the Winter Weekend events - Polar Bear Plunge, Saturday Breakfast and Chili Cook-Off, it was a fairly quiet month for the Department. There were a total of 7 Fire calls using a total of 28 man hours and 3 Ambulance calls using 41.5 man hours.

On April 23, 2010 our Fire and EMS squads will conduct a property-wide drill at Silver Bay Association. Since the property is so vast, it is important for new members of the Department to be familiar with all areas of the property. Also in April, the Upstate Fire Police Association will be holding an all day training event in Gansevoort, NY. Several members of our squad plan to attend.

With ice just out, or nearly out, early boaters are advised as usual to look out for floating debris, and to wear a life vest. ... Joe McCrannels

HAGUE FISH & GAME CLUB

The clubhouse is presently undergoing a complete kitchen renovation. The old kitchen has been completely gutted, support pole replaced by gluelam header for opening up more interior space, the counter top has been removed and pocket doors have been installed to secure the opening. A pine bar is being installed which looks great. Once the kitchen walls are painted and the floor resealed, stainless steel sinks and tables will be installed. Work should be completed by the end of the month. You can stop in, pick up a hammer to help or just check it out as we move forward.

Thank you for your support of The Northern Lake George Ice Fishing Tournament. With such poor ice conditions at the end of February, cancelling the contest for safety reasons was the only choice. We'll see you all at next year's contest.

... Steve Ramant

MEMORIAL DAY 2010

The Parade Committee is very enthusiastic with lots of new ideas to pursue for the Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 29, 2010. We anticipate having another great all day celebration in Hague consisting of the Family Funfest, "GOD BLESS AMERICA" Parade and Memorial Service. The events will then be capped off with the Fire Department's Annual Chicken Barbecue. So mark your calendars and start planning.

For the Funfest we will be seeking crafters, food concessions, setups of interest, etc. For the Parade, anyone can enter - family groups, youth friends, clubs, organizations, businesses, single individuals, clowns, pets, classics/antique vehicles, etc. Don't forget, to enter you must sign up in advance to receive a Unit #. Prize Categories are: 1) BEST IN PARADE, 2) MOST CREATIVE, 3) MOST PATRIOTIC, 4) BEST ADIRONDACK, 5) MOST HUMOROUS, 6) BEST YOUTH, 7) HONORABLE MENTION ADULT, 8) HONORABLE MENTION YOUTH

The Committee meets every Monday at the Community Center at 9 am. Anyone interested in joining the planning process is welcome. Senior Club membership is not required. For further information call Madeline Pelkey at 543-6130.

DONATIONS are always welcome! For the past seven years with the help of your generosity, we have managed to cover all the Memorial Day expenses. The truth is, YOU make this event possible and we thank you for it. All checks should be made out to: Hague Senior Citizens Club Parade Account and mailed to us at the Hague Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY, 12836. ... Madeline Pelkey

FIRE DAMAGE

On March 7, 2010 an accidental fire damaged the interior of the Wind Chill Factory in Ticonderoga - a summer outdoor staple for meeting friends and enjoying delicious burgers and ice-cream. Plans are to rebuild.

And in Warrensburg, Oscars, a favorite Smokehouse, has reopened in grand style after being destroyed by fire last fall.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is mailed out by volunteers on the Thursday after the third Tuesday of each month. The News deadline is six 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:

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ALBANY AIRPORT ART ABOUNDS

The Albany Airport features many small exhibits throughout the building. They also have an art gallery with a large-scale exhibit. Currently being presented until June 20, 2010 is *Material Witness*, an exhibition in collaboration with the Rensselaer Schools of Architecture, and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

According to their press release, some of the attractions include: "A shimmering, nearly transparent work composed of acrylic, monofilament and lead weights hovers over the stairwell to the Gallery; a complex geometric wall drawing greets visitors as they enter the exhibition. Another sculptural work perches on a narrow window ledge, its linear steel and wire body appearing to cling to the panes of glass that surround the security checkpoint."

You don't have to be going on a flight – the Gallery, on the third floor, outside the security area, is open to visitors picking up passengers, also. The Gallery hours are 7 am to 11 pm daily.

APA BOATHOUSE/DOCK REGULATIONS

A March 3, 2010 memorandum from Adirondack Park Agency (APA) counsel John Banta to APA Executive Director Terry Martino indicates the current status of the "Proposed Revisions to the Definition of 'Boathouse' and 'Dock.'"

According to Banta, "The definitions of 'boathouse' and 'dock' are necessary to implement the exemption for such structures from shoreline setback standards found in Section 806 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act. The proposed revisions are intended to clarify existing definitions."

The Agency has held meetings and received statements from residents and local representatives which are summarized in the report. Changes can be made to the original proposal without going through the public process again "so long as they are not 'substantial.'"

Regarding boathouses, some comments suggested that the size limitation (900 square feet) was too limiting and could lead to "shoreline clutter" (racks for canoes, kayaks, etc).

To read the full report see: <www.apa.state.ny.us/Mailing/2010/03/Legal/BoathouseDockMemo030310.pdf>

[Note that on page 5 in that document a URL is given for a website blog. A correct web address for that article in Towns and Trails is <<http://www.townsandtrails.com/boathouses-and-adirondack-drama>>.]

ANCA TRADESHOW

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) is featuring farm wineries from upstate New York at its 24th annual Buyer Days, the region's only gift tradeshow. One-fourth of the exhibitors at the show are specialty food producers. It will be held at the Saratoga Springs City Center on March 31 and April 1, 2010.

NUISANCE WATERFOWL WORKSHOP

The Lake George Association will offer a Nuisance Waterfowl Workshop on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Hague Community Center, and again on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the LGA office in Lake George. A growing population of Canada geese on the Lake is causing significant problems for property owners, with negative impacts for both people and the Lake's sensitive eco-system.

Staff from the USDA's Wildlife Services department will make a presentation and demonstrate techniques, such as egg oiling, that can be used during nesting season to manage the area's over-population of geese. The workshop is free, and will last approximately one-hour with questions and answers afterward. Reservations are not required.

Damage on Lake George from both Canada geese and double-crested cormorants has already been seen. The droppings from these birds add nutrients to the Lake that can lead to increased algal growth and can contain harmful bacteria such as E. coli, making swimmers sick and contaminating the drinking water provided by the Lake. The presence of geese is also related to swimmer's itch.

"We would like to prevent the populations from growing out of control before they have irreversible effects on the Lake's water quality, plant life, and landscape," said Emily DeBolt, the LGA's Education Director. "The LGA receives calls and complaints about geese and cormorants all summer from members, so we decided to host these workshops to help address these concerns. We also continue to encourage property owners with large lakeshore lawns to create landscaping buffers, as these can be an effective deterrent."

WCSWCD ANNUAL REPORT

The Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District has published its 2009 Annual Report. It highlights the many accomplishments of the WCSWCD over the past year in their work to "implement projects and programs to improve and protect the lakes, streams, and other natural resources of Warren County." Information is included on the Hague Brook delta. To see the complete report go to:

< <http://www.warrenswcd.org> >.

BOOKSALE

The Warren County Historical Society will hold a Cabin Fever Book Sale on March 20 – 21, 2010 from 10 am to 3 pm. The sale will be held at 195 Sunnyside Road, Oneida Corners in Queensbury.

On Sunday, March 21st, the Society will present readings by local contemporary authors whose work relates to and reflects Warren County and region. These readings will be at Bean's Country Store, kitty-corner to the Society's office at the corner of Ridge Road and Sunnyside Drive. At noon, travel writers Patricia and Robert Foulke will be featured followed by Ruth Lamb who has written about Wardboro at 12:30 pm and Teri Gay, whose research is in women's rights and suffrage, at 1 pm.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 3/9/2010

Members present: Supervisor Dan Belden, Mark Martucci, Rudy Meola and Edna Frasier. Dick Gladu was absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held for Mina Jones, Carmine Fiallo, Mrs. Christiansen, George Maggiolo and Irene Hayes.

Tom Haskell, President of the Hague Chamber of Commerce, read a statement to the Board "to let everyone know" what the Chamber is about.

First and foremost, they represent sixty member business owners in and around the Hague area. Secondly, they represent the town itself in promoting Hague as a place to visit. He listed many of the businesses and organizations in Town and then listed the events they help promote, sponsor and co-sponsor such as the Hague Winter Weekend, Memorial Day parade, music before the July fireworks, North Country Triathlon, Arts and Crafts Fair, Northern Lake George Ice Fishing Tournament, Oktoberfest, Holiday in Hague, The Jason R. Laundree Firefighters Training Fund and the Senior Citizen of the Year award.

The Chamber has been working on a new marketing campaign featuring a DVD, sponsored by businesses and promoting Hague as a great vacation destination. It will be shown at the visitors' center throughout the year and at numerous trade shows within the tri-state area and our local Warren County visitor centers. They also have updated the web site, color brochures and ads with NYS Department of Tourism.

Haskell continued, "These are the reasons we need the Town's support more than ever [and] ... the majority of the work is done by just a few dedicated volunteer chamber members." He noted that the Chamber receives just \$8000 from the Town and the budget was cut by \$2000, although "we still have the same amount of events." He finished by asking the Board to "remember the hard working volunteers of your Hague Chamber of Commerce" when they hear a tourist say he or she is having a great time here.

Chris Navitsky endorsed a plan to charge recreation fees for lots in a major subdivision which had been discussed at the last Planning Board meeting. The zoning code provides for the Town Board charging a fee in lieu of the developer setting aside recreational space.

In questions by Councilman Meola regarding the minutes, the Board clarified that they want to look at the Comprehensive Plan first before any committee of citizens. Supervisor Belden has contacted the DEC on restrictions on the landfill and has looked at the Town property on Dodd Hill Rd. which is all fenced in. He will contact DEC for further information on the Town owned sand pit.

Some of the items from the Committee Reports:

Assessor & Justice:

Assessor Dave Martucci has been working on the special assessment exemptions and also the property inventory data which should be ready for the May 1, 2010 tentative roll.

Buildings & Grounds/Enhancement:

Councilman Martucci plans to set up a workshop for the Board to discuss the vault, space requirements and their vision for the future of the community center. A company will be asked to come in to look at the energy bills to see if money can be saved.

Finance & Insurance:

Councilman Frasier reported that in order to keep within the budget, they will have a Town employee do the watering of the flowers. She also reported that she will continue to work on getting the direct deposit for employees in place. A recommendation was made to put money back into a money market fund when the next CD becomes due since the rate is better.

Highway (Martucci/Gladu):

Superintendent Smith introduced Mike Coffin who is the newest member of the Department. Mike reported that in his opinion everything was "going well up there."

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater:

ZEO Cathy Clark gave highlights of her written report. She noted that the Code Committee has been asked by Councilman Gladu to review and modify Chapter 128 on Property Maintenance [aka "junk law"]. Since this is a local law and the review would be beyond the scope of their work on the Zoning Code, they requested guidance from the Town Board as to their direction. The Board agreed that they should only work on the zoning codes. A CD of the Comprehensive Plan has been requested from the Plan Consultants, the Chazen company. The Board approved attendance by the ZEO at training for Onsite Wastewater Design.

Recreation, Promotion & Youth:

Councilman Meola reported that they are beginning to work on the next Oktoberfest. Supervisor Belden noted that the Town should have a contract with the committee.

Sewer Districts #1 and #2:

Supervisor Belden reported that the work on Sewer District #2 is about \$440,000 under budget and they also expect to receive \$80,000 from the Watershed grant. He hopes to have the final figures by April. Tim Costello and Bo O'Leary will alternate days to attend a Wastewater Training Convention.

Town Park:

Councilman Meola reported that several violations of the Town Park rules had been given out last summer but most were dismissed by the Town Justice. He requested direction from the Board in the effort to enforce the boat slip regulations. A letter will be sent to Justice Knott asking for her support in this matter.

In other business the Board:

Received information from Time Warner Cable on the costs of extending cable service in the New Hague Road area. The Town does not have enough money in their franchise account to fund the entire project and Town general funds cannot be used. The Board decided to ask Time Warner to install the cable from

where they left off using as much of the franchise account that is available. As more franchise money builds up in the account they will authorize more work. There was concern that some residents who have satellite dishes may not want to sign up for cable service and therefore would not be paying any fees that go toward the franchise account.

Set the user fees for the Sewer Districts with each EDU charged \$450 in Sewer District #1 and \$400 in Sewer District #2 as had been budgeted. Board members Belden, Martucci and Frasier voted to approve the fee structure while Meola was opposed.

Learned that the NYS and Local Employees' Retirement System now requires members who are elected and appointed officials to keep and submit timesheets indicating the time they have actually worked over a three month period. In Hague this requirement applies to Supervisor Belden, Town Clerk Manning, Highway Superintendent Smith and ZEO Clark

Approved attendance by the Town Clerk at a NYSTC conference and DEC training both in April in Saratoga.

Authorized Supervisor Belden to sign a Sno-goers contract with Warren County for \$9000. The money will be received by the Town and passed on to the Sno-goers for maintenance of trails.

Approved up to \$1400 for updating/repairing the central vacuum system in the Community Center.

Approved hiring the following summer staff: Visitor Center - Evelyn Gravelle and Pat Hintze with Ron Hintze as alternate; Park Attendants - Brendan Carberry and David Snow; Lifeguards - Jamie Patchett and John Okrin with Carberry as one of the possible substitutes.

Passed Resolution #41, submitted by a Volunteer Agency in Glens Falls, in which Dan Belden, Supervisor proclaims April 18 - 24, 2010 to be National Volunteer Week in Hague and urges his fellow citizens to volunteer in the community.

Passed Resolution #42 in which the Town Board "implores and demands" that Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility not be closed. Supervisor Belden noted that three Hague residents work at the facility which employs many area workers.

Passed Resolution #43 in which the Town Board declares itself the Lead Agency for the environmental review needed for the proposed revision of the Zoning Map.

In his report the Supervisor noted that no permit is needed to cut a tree on your property. He also stated that the County has lost \$940,000 in revenue this year and the budget problems continue.



PLANNING BOARD – 3/4/2010

Chairman EJ Siwek and members Dick Frasier, Pam Peterson, Bruce Clark and John Brown were in attendance. Mike Cherubini and Martin Fitzgerald, Sr were absent.

PATCHETT (26.17-2-41.1 & 26.17-2-42.11) 9117 Lake Shore Drive (Hamlet)

The applicants are applying for a Lot Line Change of 3485 sq. ft. If approved Lot 1 will go from a 20,038 sq. ft. lot to a 16,553 sq. ft lot and Lot 2 will go from a 21,780 sq. ft. lot to a 25,265 sq. ft. lot. Both lots are within Sewer District #1.

The Board deemed the application complete and scheduled a site visit.

WILSON (25.1-1-17 & 18) Summit Drive & Route 8 (OCI)

The applicant is applying for a Major Subdivision of two parcels equaling 148.8 acres. If approved 10 new residential lots will be created. Due to the fact that on the 2004 proposed subdivision layout two boundary lines crossed into a wetland it was deemed a Class A Regional APA project. Lot lines have been reestablished so that no lot line crosses into or through a wetland and will maintain a 200 ft setback from the wetland. The project should now be classified a Class B regional project and fall under the jurisdiction of the Town of Hague Planning Board. Extensive stormwater prevention is proposed.

The Zoning Code provides for 10 percent of the land in a major subdivision to be set aside for recreational purposes. However, the Planning Board may instead require approval contingent on a fee, set by the Town, that is in lieu of the open space.

The Planning Board will request direction from the Town Board in this matter.

The Planning Board has been asked to review the Comprehensive Plan and want information from the Town Board as to how in-depth the review should be.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – 3/11/10

Chairman Robert Goetsch and Martin Fitzgerald, Jr., Lindsay Mydlarz and George Ianson were present. Bill Pittman, Glenn McKee and Jon Hanna were absent. This meeting had been postponed from February 25, 2010.

JANKOSKI (42.12-1-20) 2 Lake Forest Lane (TR-1)

The applicant applied for an after-the-fact approval for a multi-family dwelling. The owners have made a basement apartment in a single family home on a .33 acre lot in a 1.1 acre TR-1 district.

A public hearing was held and several letters were read opposing the granting of a variance. Serious concerns were expressed that the basement apartment would be rented in violation of the Zoning Code.

The basement apartment has a full kitchen which makes the dwelling multi-family.

The variance was denied 4-0.

Weather Report by JoAnne DeFranco

Hague, February 13 – March 12, 2010

On Sunday, March 7, I heard a flock of geese flying north—a sure sign that spring is coming. The pussy willows are budding out. I picked some forsythia branches to force bloom in the house. In only a week they were in full bloom. There have been sightings of robins and bluebirds. My tulips and daffodils are peeking thru the soil. Yes, spring is coming.

The sun has been rising 2-3 minutes earlier each day and setting 2-3 minutes later. On March 12, the sun rose at 6:12 am. Sunset was at 5:56 pm. There are 48 minutes more of daylight since the last report on Feb 12.

The full moon occurs on March 28. The weather for this reporting period has been most delightful. I cannot usually say that in February or March. There have been more sunny, warm days than cloudy ones. Temperatures for most of the period have been above freezing during the day. Many days were in the 40's and 50's. The snow pack was mostly melted.

We got a big snowfall on 2/24 closing schools. I measured it every few hours as I went out to shovel the paths again. It was 23" of heavy, wet snow much like cement.

Trees were all bent over and power was out most of the day. The following day it rained heavily causing much of the snow to melt. Western New York State got all snow, setting records in accumulation totals. We just missed it again—the story of our winter of 2010.

The Lake remains unfrozen from Hague down to Silver Bay. It was not a good season for the ice fishermen!

VENDORS WANTED FOR ANNUAL ARTS FAIR

Hague's 39th Annual Arts Fair will be held on August 7 - 8, 2010 at the Hague Community Center on Route 8 in Hague. All Vendors of handcrafted items, jewelry, photography, produce and flowers are invited. The cost for the two days is \$ 50 and \$ 40 for one day.

For further information please contact Karen Laundree at <hagueartsfair@yahoo.com> or Judy Schultz at 518-543-6769.

MONTHLY ROAST BEEF DINNER

The monthly Public Roast Beef Dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F.&A.M., and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served Friday, March 26, 2010, 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 \$7 for children (12 years old and under) and will be available both by advanced sale by members of the Masons and the Stars, and at the door.

TFCU HELPS EFFORT TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Ticonderoga Federal Credit Union (TFCU) recently wrapped up their first annual cell phone collection drive, benefiting the STOP Domestic Violence Center of Essex County. A total of 106 cell phones were collected among TFCU's three branch locations throughout January and February.

"The level of participation in this event has exceeded our expectations," said TFCU CEO, Greg Johnson. "We're proud to support an important cause in our community through this charitable event."

All donated cell phones will be given to the STOP Domestic Violence Center of Essex County in Westport, NY where the phones will be turned into emergency 911 help-lines and distributed to local victims of domestic violence free of charge.

Anyone can donate their phone and help victims of domestic violence at anytime by mailing the cell phone with a pre-paid shipping label available at the following website, courtesy of Verizon Wireless.

<<http://www.verizonwireless.com/hopelinemailinglabel/>>

For more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, call Kate Thompson at 518-585-6725 x2303 or email <kthompson@ticonderogafederal.com>.

MEDITATION PROGRAM OFFERED

The Lake George Land Conservancy is hosting "The Art of Stillness" Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 2 pm at the LGLC office at 4905 Lake Shore Drive in Bolton Landing, as part of its Walks & Talks outreach series.

Welcome the first day of spring with a peaceful soul! This program, led by local Reiki Master and massage therapist Helena Holod, is designed to cultivate your ability to relax, learn to cope with stress, increase energy levels and enhance mental clarity and focus. The techniques are simple and easy to use and are appropriate for all age levels.

The program is free, but donations to help support the Walks & Talks programs are appreciated. Space is limited; please RSVP by 5 pm on March 19, 2010. Call Sarah Hoffman at 644-9673 or email <shoffman@lglc.org> to register.

CHORALE WELCOMES NEW SINGERS

The Champlain Valley Chorale has resumed rehearsals for its upcoming Spring concerts scheduled for early June. Weekly rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings in Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 1045 Wicker Street, Ticonderoga, at 7 pm. It is still not too late for new singers to join in. Help in all sections would be welcomed, and no audition is necessary. For further information, please contact Bill Westervelt at 585-6548.



Original Island Harbor House, Hague Historical Museum , Photo Circa 1908

The Ticonderoga Sentinel of September 28, 1933, had this tale to tell:

“Island Harbor House at Hague Completely Razed By Flames Early Today

“The Island House at Hague, one of the most picturesque and famous hotels on Lake George, was completely destroyed by fire shortly before four o’clock this morning. The flames were first discovered in the main hotel building, and they spread with such rapidity that the North and Middle guest cottages, directly across the state highway, were also enveloped and totally razed. A short circuit is believed to have started the blaze.

“The fire is believed to have originated in the lobby of the hotel building, and the flames were first discovered by Mrs. Myron Graves, wife of the assistant manager. The Graves occupy a cottage about 75 yards from the hotel building. She awakened her husband, and they rushed to the doomed building, where they aroused Mrs. M. P. Clifton, owner and proprietor of the property; her son, Bernard, Jr., Miss Claire Igoe, teacher in the Hague schools who boarded at the hotel, and a waitress, Miss Geneva Dannan, all of whom were asleep on the second floor of the wooden structure. With the main stairway to the lobby floor blocked by flames, they escaped down a fire escape in their night clothes a few minutes before their rooms were swept by the spreading flames. Their personal belongings were lost, as there was insufficient time to remove anything from the three razed buildings.

“Because of defective telephone communication – probably due to wires destroyed by the fire – the Ticonderoga fire department was unaware of the blaze until a resident of Hague rushed here in an automobile. Apparatus was immediately dispatched to the scene, and through the efforts of the local firemen, the docks, boathouses and other guests’ and servants’ cottages were saved.

“The Island Harbor House was built in 1883 by Albert Clifton of Hague. Following his death, the ownership and management passed on to his son, Bernard, who died a few years ago. Since that time his wife has been active in the management of the hotel, which has long been one of the most popular resorts on the lake, patronized each year by hundreds of guests, principally from New York City, Albany, and other cities in the Capital District.

“The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Island Harbor House was observed August ninth, when a special program was arranged to celebrate the occasion.”

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hotels . . . hotels . . . hotels . . . that’s where our heads are this winter. To learn more about “The Heyday of Hague’s Hotels,” mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 22, 2010 for the Hague Historical Society’s Annual Meeting and a presentation on the hotels.

We are looking for some items from the older hotels (Island Harbor House, Rising House, Uncas, Mohican House, Bartlett House, Hillside, Iroquois, Rand Hotel, Braisted House, Trout House, Beachside, Sabbath Day Point) that we could borrow and use in the display case at the Community Center. The Hotels Exhibit is to be in place prior to the Annual Meeting. Credit will be given to anyone who lends us an artifact and the items will be in a locked exhibit space. If you have a piece of china, a souvenir spoon, a sign, a room key, a brochure, anything with the hotel name on it that you would share with us, call 543-6725 or email <haguehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com>.

...Pat McDonough

SHARING YOUR COLLECTIONS

Following on the heels of a successful program by the Hague Historical Society, the Ticonderoga Historical Society will present a program “Sharing YOUR Collections” on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Hancock House near the Monument in Ticonderoga.

The Society is inviting local collectors to “gather together your collections, dust them off, bring them in and set them up for display and discussion. So many of you have meaningful and interesting collections of things that have been amassed over the years. This is an opportunity for you to share with others that which is dear to you and in all likelihood will be fascinating to others.”

The ‘collections’ will be exhibited throughout the meeting room, lobby and parlor on the main floor in the Hancock House. Collectors will have the opportunity to speak about their pastime. The Society staff will provide show space and assistance. For those who wish to participate, please contact the THS in advance so they can plan space requirements.

The public is invited to attend this event to view and learn about the projects that their friends and neighbors enjoy. As always, a ‘collection of goodies’ (refreshments) will be served!

For additional information or to participate, contact the Ticonderoga Historical Society at <tihistory@verizon.net> or 585-7868.

~SOUNDINGS~

BORN: A daughter, Courtney Kimberly Krauss, on February 4, 2010 to Jimmy and Kelly Krauss, Morristown NJ. Courtney is the 17th great-grandchild to the late Helen and Erlo Schoder, former summer residents of Hague.

BORN: Max Albert Peterson to Jason Peterson and Courtney Hendrix of Indianapolis, IN on March 3, 2010. Proud grandparents are Maureen and Michael Cherubini of Hague.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Brendan Carberry, a Freshman at Clarkson University, who was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester. Brendan is the son of Lorraine Carberry and grandson of Richard and Jean Feibusch, all of Hague.

DIED: Irene Stephany Hayes, 89, of Clifton Park, on March 5, 2010. Irene and her late husband, Howard L. Hayes, were Hague residents for many years.

She is survived by her son, Dwight Hayes, Honolulu, HI, two daughters, Conny Moore, Clifton Park, NY and April Konoyima in Marion, IN, and one sister, Ruth Becker. She is also survived by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

TICONDEROGA HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to these Ticonderoga students, who are Hague residents, for their academic achievements. It is particularly impressive since more than 67% of Hague's students are on the Honor Roll.

- Grade 12 First Honors: Taylor Denno, Kaley Manning, Jamie Patchett
Second Honors: Nathan Laundree
- Grade 10 First Honors: Corey King, William Lawrie, Harley Trudeau
- Grade 9 First Honors: Grace Ginn, Karney Manning
Second Honors: Jordan McKee
- Grade 8 First Honors: Taylor Coffin, Jeanette Coon, Ty Denno, Sean Lawrie, Kimberly Porter, Rebecca Porter
- Grade 7 First Honors: Ian Lawrie
Second Honors: Stephen Bartlett
- Grade 6 First Honors: Jamie Cox, Cassandra Martucci, Cassidy McKee
Second Honors: Curt Fenimore, Hunter May

BESTE FUND THANKS

The Beste Scholarship Fund Steering Committee would like to sincerely thank the following people/organizations who so generously sent in donations to the Beste Scholarship Fund in response to our recent fundraising appeal through *The Hague Chronicle*. Also included are those who sent in donations after our last list was published in March, 2009, and those who responded to our appeal in the spring edition of *The Raider Review*.

Kathleen Davis Backus, David J. Bartlett, Peter Belden - Belden Property Services, Bruno and Dorothy Brauner, John and Joanne Brown, Edna Elethorpe Middleton Butler - In Memory of Myra Elethorpe, Bruce and Cathy Clark, The Costello Family, C. Davis, Dave and Joanne DeFranco, Jules and Gale Halm, Dorothy J. Henry, Tom James, Virginia B. LaPointe - In Memory of H.G. Burleigh, Deborah Manning, Patricia Middleton Moore - In Memory of Betty Ursell, Northern Lake George Rotary Club, Anne and Chris Parlin, Sal and Kathy Santaniello, Lynn Stanford, Judy Stock, Lynn and Pat Stote, Caroline Clifton Turner, Bob and Jan Whitaker

Your response is greatly appreciated. Thank you. A special thanks to *The Hague Chronicle* who again distributed our flyer with the January issue. It is never too late to send in a donation to: Beste Scholarship Fund, c/o Hague Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY, 12836.

STUDENT POETRY/PROSE CONTEST

The Lake George Community Garden Club and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream are sponsoring a poetry and prose contest with the theme "The Earth Beneath My Feet" in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. The contest is open to all students in grades K - 12 in Warren and Washington counties. Students entering the contest will receive special treat certificates from the Ben and Jerry's Scoop Shop in Lake George. Winning entries will be forwarded to National Garden Clubs, Inc. for additional judging. For complete contest rules and deadlines, see: <<http://www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org/youthprogram.html>>.

RENTAL LISTINGS

As a service to our readers we are listing below, from information provided by the owners, properties available for rent in the Hague area next summer. For complete description, pictures, rates or availability, please contact the owners directly.

Bryant - Pine Cove: The house will sleep 12, has 2 1/2 baths, Lake front with patio, dock and lots of extras. Available the first half of July. Contact Bobbi Taylor at 336-287-3567 or Doug Bryant at 804-323-1504 or Shirley Bryant at <sbryant@surfglobal.net>.

Freud - Putnam: The house is on the Lake in Dark Bay Point in Putnam. It has 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths and many extras. There is a 2 car garage and boathouse. Contact Sally Freud at 856-755-1999 or <swfreud@verizon.net>.

Radke - Hague: The house will sleep 8, has 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, is on a ridge one block from the Lake with many extras. Kayaks and canoe available. Large off-street parking for cars, boats or trailers. Available weekly or monthly. Polite pets considered. Contact <ellen12000@gmail.com> or 518-543-6293.

Sinkway - Silver Bay: The cottage has three kitchens, three bathrooms and 8 bedrooms. The space is divided into three apartments which may be rented separately or as one. Also available during September. Contact Robin Emery at <Robine@optonline.net> or Connie Sinkway at <conniebob424@verizon.net>.

Nature News by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

A Cougar in Hague?



"Has anyone seen this animal in Hague?"

Climbing down the snow bank off the side of the road wasn't an easy task. The last dumping of snow was a week gone by and the rain and thawing that followed had left a deep, soft, corn-snow. I had sunk up to my thighs and when I tried to climb out, ended up sliding ungracefully to the bottom of the embankment on my butt, obliterating the tracks I was following. Though my method of descent was unplanned, it proved to be quick and painless and I was soon back to following tracks in the snow.

Tracking wildlife in the snow had delighted me all winter since the trails around my home seemed to be a thoroughfare for rabbits, squirrels, partridge, deer, turkeys, foxes, mice, a pair of coyotes, and an otter who left traces of playful slides between leaps along the creek. Usually the only other signs were my own footprints or snowshoe tracks and those of my neighbor's dog who accompanies me. But the tracks I was following this day were well worth the ungraceful scramble off the trail because I believed I was following the unbelievable ~ a cougar! ~ in Hague!

Cougars (a.k.a. mountain lion, catamount, panther) once roamed the western hemisphere from Canada to Patagonia. As the New World was settled, these predators were considered dangerous competition for food (deer) and land use. Bounties were imposed and their numbers began a steady decline in the east until the last known cougar in NY State was killed in 1894. By the early 1900s the cougar was gone from the entire eastern United States, except for a small remnant population in Florida where they are federally protected as an Endangered Species. Cougars are still common in wilderness areas of the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia where limited legal harvests are allowed.

Next to the jaguar, it is the largest North American cat. Weighing from 80-225 pounds, with a length from 5-9 feet (includes the 26-32" tail), cougars have long, slender tawny-colored bodies. The muzzle, chin and underparts are a creamy white with black coloring appearing on the tip of the tail, behind the ears and on the sides of the muzzle. This description matches the animal Sally DeLarm-Rypkema had clearly seen crossing the road in front of her car a few weeks earlier. The cat was in pursuit of a deer that ran in front of her husband Jim's truck as they neared their home on Split Rock Road. A week following the sighting, Sally took me for a walk to see if we could find tracks where she had seen the animal. We found the spot and although a week old, the snow still held the indistinct imprints of both the deer and whatever it was that had chased it.

Further up the road we found more evidence where Jim and Sally had seen large tracks several times over the winter. But these tracks were *fresh* and clearly were **BIG** and cat-like with no distinct claw marks. I followed them for a short distance just to convince myself that I was really seeing what I was seeing, because they were *way* bigger than the coyote or bobcat tracks I was familiar with. Unfortunately, I had not brought along my camera or tape measure, admittedly because I wasn't really expecting to find anything ~ so I planned to return the next day to photograph them for evidence. The weather did not cooperate and we got our big snowfall and then the rain, wiping out the tracks and the opportunity to verify the paw size and stride.

Two weeks had passed by the time I returned with my camera and tape measure and ~ I couldn't believe this ~ I went right to the spot where I had last seen the tracks and found a totally fresh trail! And that was what led me to my scramble down the embankment. This animal was making a weekly loop in an area heavily trafficked by deer and rabbits. Cougars will eat about one deer a week and supplement with rabbits. They work an area just like this animal was doing. We followed for about a half hour until the tracks crossed the road in the same place that Sally had seen it ~ and this time I had photos of the paw prints (3") and the stride (22-24") and some scat with a 1" chunk of bone in it!

Our evidence seems to confirm Sally's sighting and although I'm convinced, the DEC is not. They are very skeptical and rightly so. In most instances it is a case of mistaken identity where other cats, fishers or domestic dogs are probably seen. Once in a great while a real cougar is sighted, but they have determined that these have been captive animals intentionally or unintentionally released into the wild. This might be what we have here in Hague. My phone call to the DEC started out with a response that pretty much said, "Well, lady, you probably made a mistake...and we haven't had one here since the early 1900s..." and the rest of the spiel that you can read if you go to their website (which you should do if you are interested because it is a great history – see < <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/44564.html>>). But by the time our conversation was finished and he heard all I had to say, he was very interested and may consider coming out to check it out once he sees the photos of the tracks I will be emailing him shortly. I have heard tell of other sightings in the area and I would like to collect as much information as possible to send off, so if anyone else is willing to come forward and share their experience with me, it would be greatly appreciated. You can call me at 518-585-2106 or email <forestbay@wcvr.com>.

COURT APPEARANCE POSTPONED AGAIN

The February 25th scheduled appearance of Lonnie Swinton before Hague Judge Heather Knott was rescheduled for March 11, 2010. On that date the lawyer for Mr. Swinton did not show up so Judge Knott rescheduled it for March 18, 2010.

Mr. Swinton had been arrested after an investigation by the Warren County Sheriff's Office into a shooting of a dog belonging to Mae Pagan of Hague. SAVIOURS [Supporting Animal Victims In Our Region], an Animal Rights Group from Warrensburg, was again on hand to demonstrate their support for animals who have been abused.

HAGUE CALENDAR

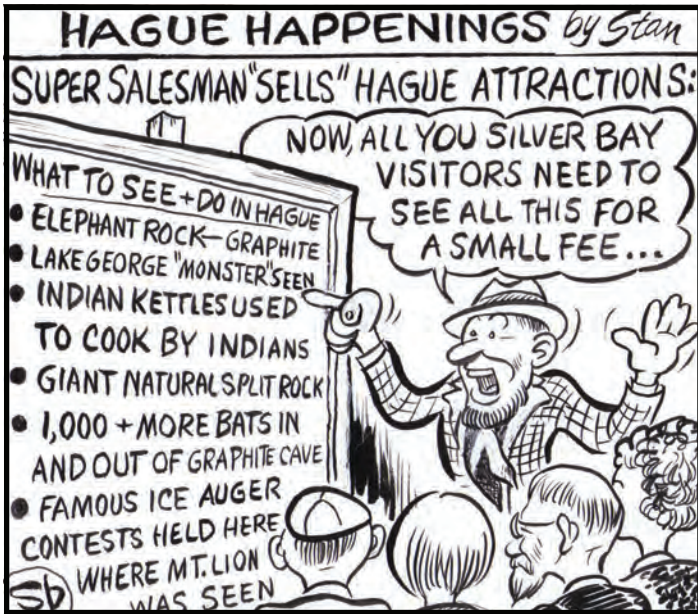
MARCH

- 20 SPRING BEGINS
- 20 7 pm THS Three Act Play - auditorium
- 25 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 29 Passover begins
- 31 7:30 pm Pops Concert – THS auditorium



APRIL

- 1 7 pm Planning Board
- 1 April Fool's Day
- 2 Good Friday – no school
- 4 Easter Day
- 6 7 pm Ticonderoga Board of Ed Budget meeting
- 7 7 pm TMS Sixth Grade Science Fair
- 12 – 16 No School – Spring Break
- 13 6:30 pm Town Board
- 16 News deadline for April issue
- 18 – 24 National Volunteer Week
- 19 Last Date for Petitions Filed for Bd of Ed openings
- 21 7 pm Budget Hearing– THS cafeteria
- 22 7 pm TES School Concert & Art Show —Cafetorium
- 22 *The Hague Chronicle* mailed out



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