



# The Guide

*Town of Duane Newsletter  
September 2011  
Vol. 3 No.3*

## Meet Your Candidates for Town Board



Laura Paquin

Election Day is November 8<sup>th</sup>. This year the Town of Duane will have only two positions on the ballot. Both positions will be seats on the Town Board.

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, thirteen people attended the Town of Duane Republican Caucus. The group nominated Laura Paquin and Carmella Teeple to seek election to the Town Board. Both individuals asked the Democratic Party to support their candidacy. Their request was granted at their caucus.

Carmella is seeking re-election after serving four years on the board. Laura is a retired nurse. She has lived in Duane for 36 years and is seeking her first term as a member of the Town Board.



Carmella Teeple

## Park Line Deli Opens for Business



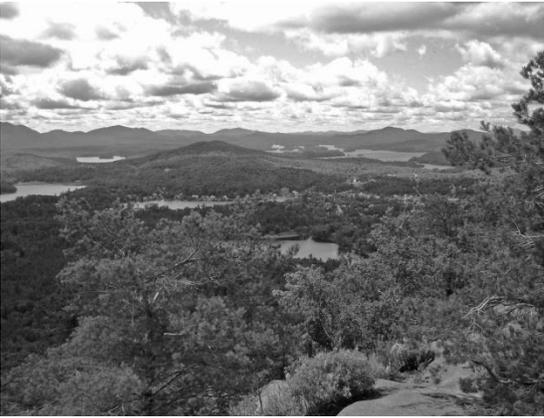
William and Becky Duryea



Dick Sorell and Joanne Cring enjoy a cup of coffee

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the **Park Line Deli and Grocery** opened for business. The store is located on Rt. 30 just north of where the old Tamarack was located. Owner William Duryea had to overcome many hurdles to reach opening day. Bill and daughter Becky have been busy serving up food at the deli. You can order breakfast sandwiches, subs, wraps, pizza, and deli salads. Each day they have a lunch special. Soon they expect to be serving soups, stews and chili. There is plenty of seating inside or out. Next spring they hope to have a gas pump and be serving soft ice cream. In a conversation I had with Bill he expressed his gratitude to the community for all of its support. The number to reach Park Line is 518-483-2071. Welcome to Duane!!

## My Favorite Fall Hikes



As we approach the sunny cool days of fall I thought I would share with you some of my favorite fall hikes. (1) If you want to stay close to home and have only a short amount of time to hike, the Nature Trail behind the church on Rt 26 is ideal. The trail leads to a viewing stand overlooking a pond. It's level and from start to finish will take less than an hour. (2) The "Pinnacle" near Santa Clara offers some outstanding views for the small amount of effort required to climb it. The maple forest surrounding it provides a beautiful fall view. The hike up to the summit is 0.7 of a mile. The climb is relatively easy due to the switchbacks in the trail. To get there, go down Rt 30 and turn right on Rt 458. Travel 9.4 miles and look for Conger Rd on your right. It's a dirt road with a state sign located a short distance from Rt 458. Travel down Conger Rd 1.5 miles to the trailhead parking area. (3) The VIC Center offers some great hiking trails. They have elevated viewing stands, foot bridges, lean-tos, waterfalls, and a picnic area near the parking lot. (4) My favorite, Baker Mt. in the village of Saranac Lake. This is a more difficult climb than the previous three hikes mentioned. In my opinion this mountain offers some of the best views in the Adirondacks for the least amount of climbing effort. The view and colors are just spectacular in the fall. I took the photo above from a ledge near the summit of Baker Mt. From the trailhead to the top of Baker Mt it is 0.9 of a mile. To get there travel to the village of Saranac Lake. Ask directions or use your GPS to get to Forest Hill Avenue. Stay on Forest Hill until you come to Moody Pond. Park next to the pond and the trail is across the road.

## Repairs to Town Garage



**Roof pitch before construction**

You will recall from the last issue of *The Guide* the heavy snowfall from last winter caused much structural damage to our town garage roof. It was decided that the pitch of the roof should be steeper and the roof trusses reinforced to hold a heavier load. At a special Town Board meeting held on August 24<sup>th</sup> the board accepted the bid of \$91,982.00 from Tim Leahy Construction. The project will be completed this fall.

## Garage Sale A Success

The town wide garage sale held early in June proved to be very successful. The Duane Angels organized the two day event as a way to raise funds for the Duane Fire Department. Spokesperson, Pam LeMieux, expressed her appreciation to all town residents who help to make it a success. The town wide garage sale is an every other year event. Raffle tickets are still available for the wooden glider donated by Bill Brunelle.

# **Town of Duane Historical Notes**

**Prepared by: Gloria Gori, Town Historian**

## **“Bear On Fire” “Bear On Fire”**

“ Fairly early in the spring of 1901,” so says Orman Doty of Rainbow Lake, “my cousin, Seymore Doty, and I decided to do a little trapping. So we went onto the side of Loon Lake Mountain, and beyond, until we found a good spot for building a trapper’s camp in an area where we found plentiful signs of animal game.”

Mr. Doty said that in those days most of the trapping camps were made from pieced spruce poles, with those for walls standing up-right, they, and the poles for rafters, being spaced about two feet apart. Then slabs of spruce bark were used to cover walls and roof to make it fairly secure against the weather. As they wandered around they remembered that they had been told by “old Mr. James Wardner” that near the end of one of the heavy-wooded hills, in this very area there was a cave where bears always denned up for the winter. They remembered that he had told them that he, Jim and his brother Seth, had killed five bears, in that one cave one fall.

As Mr. Doty continued his story to me, he said “We weren’t really looking for the cave but ran into it accidentally. It was just a big dark spot, partly hidden, in the side of a hill. We could see only darkness as we got down and looked into it. We hadn’t looked for it, but seeing we found it we were bound to explore it before leaving, so we hunted around for some good pitchy pine roots. We set fire to a couple of them and so had a pair of good torches, though a little smoky, that would burn for hours.

“We had to get down low and crawl into the hole, torch in hand, but when we were in about fifty feet or so the channel opened up into an enlarged uncomfortably fair-sized room. We had already decided we were in the right cave for the smell of bear almost smothered us.”

“We were inching along, and looking around in the light from our torches, when we saw a second hole in one side of the room. I was ahead of Seymore when we were startled from a roar that echoed, and re-echoed in our underground chamber. Startled I looked around and there was a big black bear just coming out of the other hole of the cave, and Seymore hung tight to his torch, meaning to put up a fight if he had to. When the bear passed by him, heading straight for the outside, Seymore almost automatically reached out and gave a quick swipe with the torch along the bear’s back. The bear hastened his half-awake gait that he had been using, growling and roaring continuously, lumbered out of the cave. Seymore and I suddenly decided we had explored enough and we got down and crawled out too, as fast as we could manage it.” “By the time we were outside the bear was some distance down the mountain—rolling, running, and tumbling, looking like a big ball of fire, growling and roaring all the way. Hayes Brook was near the foot of the mountain about a mile below us and the bear seemed to know it as well as we did for he was heading there with all speed. As we stood and watched we saw a very frightening thing happening, for the bear was leaving a trail

of fire behind him as he went. "It happened that "old Lyme DeBar" was fishing in the brook when he heard an amazing amount of snarling and growling. He looked around and saw a big ball of fire coming right at him. His eyes nearly popped out. He threw his string of fish one way and his pole another and RAN. McCollum's Hotel was almost two miles away, but the old man headed in that direction as fast as he could go. When he smashed through the door he fell in a dead faint. When the folks got him brought to, all he could say was "Bear on fire, Bear on fire!" It was several hours before he could tell them anything more. Of course he didn't have much more to tell for he hadn't seen us, and he had no way of knowing how the bear caught fire."

"The wind was blowing some and every little fire the bear had started soon all joined together and become a big one. I tell you we were two scared young fellows. We didn't dare go back home from Onchiota for we would have been traveling the same direction the fire was. Also if anyone knew we had been out there they might get the notion we had set it. So we started up-wind, circled around and came out two days later at Jones Pond."

"For several years we never told anyone about seeing the bear, and then not about catching it on fire; and of course we never finished our camp."

"After the fire some of the people from McCollum's found the carcass of the bear near the brook with the most of the meat burned off from it."

Oh if our forest could speak, what stories they could tell. Now 'Old Lyme Debar grew up on the shores of Debar Pond. In tribute to the Debar family, Debar Mountain was named. Tammy Plawecki of E. Hampstead, NH, a descendant niece of the Debars, passed this story onto me. This story was found in one of the early Saranac Lake papers.

Gloria Gori, Town Historian



## Cell Tower Is Up But Not Operational

Installation of the cell tower behind the fire station is complete. The tower and substation are fenced in for security reasons. At this point in time the tower is not operational. Verizon has not indicated as to when the tower may begin supplying service to our area. The APA would only allow a height of 80 feet. Many concerns have been expressed as to how far the signal will travel. As you can see in the photograph the tower is not much higher than the tree tops. So if you were wondering, I didn't cut the top of the tower off when I shot this photograph!

## **Highlights from Town Board Meetings**

### **June 22nd meeting:**

*Absent:* None

John Carr, Engineer, shared with the board his drawings and plans for options to repair the town garage roof. The roof nearly collapsed last winter as a result of the heavy snow fall. The current pitch of 3/12 would be replaced by a 5/12 pitch roof. Two options were shared with the board. The first option carrying an approximate cost of \$35,000 and the second a cost of \$80,000. The board decided to put both options up for bid. Bids will be opened on July 13<sup>th</sup>. At the July 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting the town board will review and discuss the bids.

Highway Superintendent, Ned LeMieux, would like to use this year's CHIPS money (\$28,128) making improvements to the Ayers Road and Studley Hill Road. He currently is securing estimates for the paving.

### **July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

*Absent:* Carmella Teeple

John Carr, Engineer, addressed the board in regards to the roof construction project at the town barn. The previous bids did not include new roofing. It was thought that the old roofing could be reused and monies could be saved. After conversations with contractors he suggested doing the bidding process over again with new metal roofing included. The new bids will be opened on August 10<sup>th</sup>, with the board taking action at the August 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

### **August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

*Absent:* Michelle Asselin

Supervisor, Ned LeMieux, stated that work will begin on the 2012 budget. He expects it will be very difficult to develop a budget under a 2% increase due to the increase in health insurance.

The board passed a resolution accepting the Franklin County Highway Department contract for ice and snow removal.

John Carr addressed the board on the re-bidding of the roof repairs necessary for the town garage.

He shared with the board the various bids as well as background information on the various contractors. A brief discussion followed and a vote was taken. The vote indicated a two-two tie. A meeting will be scheduled in the very near future in which all members will be able to attend so the tie can be broken.

### ***August 24<sup>th</sup> - Special Meeting Was Called***

A special meeting of the Town Board was called to discuss the bids and vote to award the bid to a contractor. The bid of \$91,982 was approved by the board with the contract going to Tim Leahy.

### **September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

*Absent:* Mark Young

Supervisor, Ned LeMieux Sr., announced a budget workshop will be planned for the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>. He anticipates a final budget for 2012 will be adopted at the October board meeting.

Highway Superintendent, Ned LeMieux Jr., informed the board that construction on the garage roof started earlier in the day.

John Carr reported that construction materials for the roof repair would be delivered on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

November 16<sup>th</sup> – Town Board meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

December 21<sup>ST</sup> – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

January 18<sup>th</sup> – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

Next issue of *The Guide* to be mailed out at the end of January 2012.

*All comments and suggestions concerning the newsletter should be directed to Gary Cring, 483-2611.*

### Just A Reminder!

The next newsletter is scheduled to be mailed out at the end of January 2012. Before that date the Duane Angels will be sponsoring two community events. The first being the Halloween Party in October and the second being our annual Christmas Party. Both are fun filled events which provide an opportunity for members of our community to get together. Watch for your mailing with the dates and time.

Duane Fire Chief Ned LeMieux Jr. would like to remind home owners who burn wood to remember to get your chimney cleaned and inspected before the upcoming heating season.

## Summer Repairs Made to Studly Hill and Ayers Road



Resurfacing on Studly Hill Road.

Your highway department has been very busy this past summer making repairs to Studly Hill and Ayers Road. The drainage ditches were cleaned and graded, pot holes were filled, a drainage culvert installed and the roads were resurfaced with sealer and stone.