



VOLUME 36 NO 9

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

September 2007

\$23.8 MILLION BOND ISSUE

The Ticonderoga School Board will hold a vote on September 25, 2007 from noon to 8 pm at the Hague Community Center for approving a \$23,872,700 (20 year) bond to be used to update facilities in the district. The September 5th informational meeting was well attended with approximately 70 people who heard the presentation from School Superintendent John McDonald. He spoke about the need for the bond issue (fix and improve current structures as well as provide for essential security and safety) and what the money would be used for (including Middle School improvements and a new wing for needed space for technology, art and music at the High School). This Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from the home page of the Town website <townofhague.org> under "TCS Update."

In terms of the cost, the expected tax levy, for a \$100,000 home is approximately \$126 a year for 20 years. This base cost is without any STAR relief and assumes no additional year to year levy increase. Three current bonds will be retired during the life of the new bond.

STAR TAX REBATES

Did you get a form in the mail from the NYS tax department? Information on the new tax reform, intended to give relief to middle income homeowners, has been mailed to homeowners that currently receive basic Star exemption. The application can be filled out and mailed back or submitted quickly online at <www.nystax.gov> and is due by November 30th. In Warren County the rebates range from \$116.47 to \$232.93.

To keep updated on tax reforms and status of tax initiatives, check "Tax Update" on the Town of Hague home page, <townofhague.org>, which contains the articles posted by Councilman Gladu.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTE CARDS

The Hague Historical Society has note cards for sale with a view painted by Robert Decker which looks south from the Hague beach.

Robert M. Decker was a noted landscape artist who spent many summers painting in Hague. He resided high above the Lake on Holman Hill.

One of his paintings has been reproduced on note cards for the Hague Historical Society. If you're interested in supporting the Society, the cards are available at Juniper's in Hague and at the Silver Bay General Store.

HAGUE MENTION

Alerted by my daughter, Catherine, who lives in California, I found the online Travel section of the August 29, 2007 LA Times which featured Lake George. Hague was mentioned briefly along with pictures of the Trout House Village and the Town Beach with lifeguard stand. The article stated, "(Going to Ft. Ticonderoga) you pass the tempting tiny town of Hague and the log cabins and docks of semi-rustic resorts like the old Trout House, one of the few year-round lodgings on the lake." The article was a good promotion of our area in the fall when "the lakes and leaves sparkle." ...js

HENRY SCHOLARSHIP

The Hague Chronicle Board of Directors has established a scholarship for a Hague graduate of Ticonderoga High School to be known as the Dorothy Henry/ Hague Chronicle Scholarship. The scholarship was established in recognition of the years of service by Hague Chronicle editor Dorothy Henry to the people of Hague, the Hague Chronicle and the Ticonderoga Mentoring Program.

The first recipient of the scholarship was Stephanie Nast, of Hague, a 2007 graduate of THS. ...js

2007 CROP WALK

Do you know that about 800 million people in the developing world are chronically undernourished? That number is almost three times the population of the U.S. You can help alleviate the number of hungry people by participating in the CWS/CROP Walk and get exercise, too.

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, at 1:30 pm, the Ticonderoga region will again hold a Church World Service CROP Walk to benefit hungry people around the world, with at least 20% of the funds raised going back into the local community. Registration and the Walk will begin at the entrance of Bicentennial Park, near the Heritage Museum, on the corner of Montcalm St. and Tower Ave., Ticonderoga. In case of rain, registration will be held upstairs in the Elks Lodge across the street (Tower Ave.). The Walk will be a 4 mile walk through Ticonderoga, with a 1 or 2 mile shorter route option.

Walkers are asked to get sponsors ahead of time for donations for their walk; and/or the walkers may sponsor themselves. Church World Service sponsorship/donation forms should be filled out ahead of time. To get the forms or more information, contact Beverly Sann at (518) 543-6299 or <bbsann@nycap.rr.com>. ..bs

Everyone had a great time at the annual picnic held in August at the Fire House. Our chefs, Diane & Ray Snyder, kept the platter of burgers & franks plentiful. The drawing for the Senior Raffle Party Basket was held and the big winner was Anita Masten. Special thanks to Shirley Smith who personally made the beautiful afghan.

September's monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 25th at 1:30 pm at the Community Center. Our Guest Speaker will be Carol Gregson, illustrator and author of the book *LEAKY BOOTS*, based on her memories of moving to and living in the Adirondacks. Carol is also known as the "Pottersville Complainer" as well as the "Erma Bombeck of the Adirondacks". Guests are welcome to join us. There is no charge and refreshments will be served. Sept. 25th is also the date of the Ticonderoga School bond issue with voting from noon to 8 pm. So plan to vote early and afterward, stop in at the Senior Club meeting.

Plans are now in place for the Senior Annual Fall Outing on Thursday, October 4th. We will be carpooling to Long Lake, NY where we will visit "Hoss's Country Corner", a complex for Adirondack shopping. We'll then lunch at the old Adirondack Hotel, which is still operating as in the old days, complete with that 'wrap around rocking chair porch' and located on the lake. After lunch, the car pool will motor ten minutes to the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mt. Lake for an afternoon of history browsing. Cost to Club Members is \$8.00 each with final signup at the September 25th meeting.

Any Senior who wishes to participate in our activities is welcome. Membership is only \$5 per year and we meet at the Community Center every 4th Tuesday of the Month at 1:30 pm. If you have any questions, give me a call - Madeline - 543-6130. ... mp

CATHOLIC CHURCH FUNDRAISER

The Hague Creek Cafe is hosting a fundraiser for the Blessed Sacrament Church Steeple Fund on Friday, October 5th.

The menu includes ham, scalloped potatoes, tossed salad, rolls, desserts and tea or coffee for \$13.50 per person. There will be three sittings, 4:00, 5:30 and 7:00 PM.

Tickets will be on sale at Hague Creek Cafe, Blessed Sacrament Church or call Jane Crammond at 543-8054.

Hope to see you there! ...jc

On October 6th the Putnam Presbyterian Church will be hosting their Autumn Fest. At 3 pm delicious treats by church members go on sale including jams, jellies, relishes, preserves, baked goods, garden vegetables and other items to entice you and to satisfy some culinary craving you may have.

Come have a delicious dinner - chicken and biscuit with cranberry sauce, vegetables, cole slaw, beverage and home made pie for dessert. Take outs are available at 4:30 pm and the dinner is from 5 to 7 pm. Travel a little way for a big dinner and satisfaction in homemade treats. ...jb

HVFD DOINGS AND DINNER

Everyone mark your calendars now for our annual Fall Dinner on Sat. Oct. 6, 5-7 pm with adults-\$8.00 and kids-\$4.00. We will be returning to the traditional spaghetti & meatballs, which was always so popular in days past. This will help kick off National Fire Safety Week Oct. 6-13. It also will be the time to have your chimneys checked and put new batteries in all smoke alarms.

The Firemen's Assoc. of N.Y. is distributing free a "Fire Safety Booklet For Older Adults" which is an excellent piece that is available at the Community Center and from the Hague Senior Citizens Club.

There are currently two members engaged in E.M.T. certification training. In August there were 4 fire calls, using 51.5 man hours, and 13 ambulance calls using 132.5 man hours. Five people also provided 20 hours of stand-by service to the Bicentennial fireworks event.

Jim Young and Dave Hoffay have generously assumed the roles of Co-Chiefs through Jan. 1, as the Dept. goes through significant reorganization, with the ultimate goal of better serving the Hague community. You can assist us toward that goal by responding as generously as possible to our recent letter seeking your support. An item of interest; it now costs over \$2,200 for turn out gear for one fireman. ...JMCM,

TAX AIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program is looking for interested persons to assist our current volunteers for the upcoming 2008 tax preparation season.

The Tax-Aide program is the nation's largest, free, volunteer-run counseling and preparation service available to low and middle income individuals and families with special attention to those age 60 and older.

Volunteers are trained in cooperation with the IRS; no prior experience is necessary. To find out more about this exciting, growing volunteer opportunity in Hague, please contact Karen Laundree at 518-543-8841. ...kl

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 questions to <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com> or to the address below.

The Hague Chronicle is supported by its readers and you may send your yearly tax deductible contribution to: THE HAGUE CHRONICLE, PO Box 748, Hague, New York 12836-0748

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Hague Town Park

Dottie Henry

Thanks to
Bill & Char
Fitzgerald
for these
images!



Present and Past Supervisors
Dan Belden & Dick Bolton

Reunion Registration
Community Center Headquarters

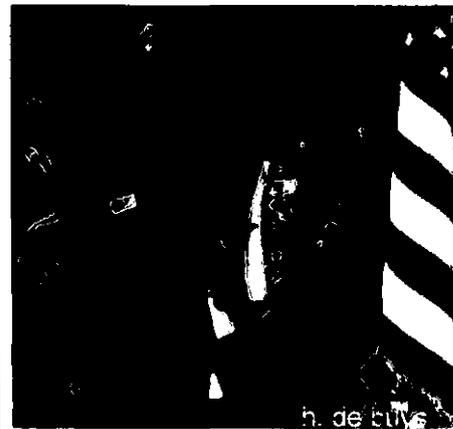
*Scenes from the
Bicentennial Weekend
August 16-19, 2007*



Edna Frasier & Judy Stock



Enid Engler, Rich Strum, Peter & Peggy Carney on Mohican



Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward
& State Senator Betty Little



Jim Bolton
Pete Beadnell
Bonnie Hayford Krajc
John Carney
Bill Fitzgerald

bolton studio



Edited from photos taken by Seddon Beaty



Chairman Robert Goetsch, George Ianson, Martin Fitzgerald, Lindsay Mydlarz and Bill Pittman were present and Donna Charboneau and Glenn McKee were absent.

Hume (26.6-1-9) 34 Forest Bay Rd. N (TR-1R)

The applicant resubmitted his original plans and 2 new plans for a variance for an addition to an existing deck. The original proposal had been denied by the APA due to lack of information in the ZBA original approval. Mr. Hume explained further the need for the deck and the Zoning Board clearly stated its opinion in their approval (4-1 with nay by Mydlarz) .

Brown, (60.5-1-19) 51 Pine Cove Rd. (TR-1R)

The applicant requested reapproval for a variance that had expired for a deck addition to a legal non-conforming structure for additional egress from the house. The shoreline setback to the house is 47 ft. and the proposed deck will be located 40 ft. from the lake. Approved 5-0.

PLANNING BOARD - 9/6/07

Chairman Dave Swanson, Pam Peterson, Rolly Allen, Peter Foster, EJ Siwek and John Brown were present. There is a vacancy on the Board and Mr. Swanson has informed the Board that he will be going to Florida for the winters and will be relinquishing his position creating a second vacancy.

The Board approved both the Hume and Brown applications (see above) with stipulations that were given in the original approvals.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING - 9/6/07

As is frequently the case, *The Hague Chronicle* did not have notification of this meeting so the report is from the minutes.

Board members Belden, Gladu, Steitz and Martucci met with David Hoffay to discuss a request from the HVFD for dry hydrants for the Town Park.

The minutes state: "The Fire Department would like 2 - 8 inch pipes installed by the boat slip. One dry hydrant will be placed behind the guard shack and the second hydrant will be located on the parking lot next to the guard shack. The placement of the shrubs will be moved back to accommodate the backing in of the Fire Trucks if needed."

The Board then approved having Dave Wicks (Warren County Soil and Water) draw up the plans and the highway department will begin work on it as soon as possible. In the meantime the Enhancement project at the park is on hold.

Of interest to note is the fact that at the July Board meeting Councilman Gladu asked them to delay this work because of the request of the Fire Department, but Board members Steitz, Belden and Frasier voted against it. And now the issue reappeared and was approved in a special meeting.

The minutes of this meeting also indicate another item, stating: "(Approval) to send a letter to Harriet Cole notifying her that the Highway Dept. will be up to remove the trailer on September 17, 2007 instead of September 10, 2007 due to the Highway Dept. installing the dry hydrants at the Town Park."

Dan Belden, Art Steitz, Dick Gladu and Mark Martucci were present. Edna Frasier was out of town.

A moment of silence was held for Dick Brattlof, Thornton Penfield, Ernest "Gramp" Jordon, Harold T. Commons, Elizabeth Conant and Joseph Streeter with an extended moment of silence for the victims and families of 9/11/01.

Rudy Meola questioned the Board about the special meeting held on July 17th where a hiring decision was made without following the proper channels. Supervisor Belden stated that it was an emergency situation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the subcontractor only worked 14 1/2 hours. Meola also questioned the appointing of a Board member at that meeting when the deadline for filing a petition was just 2 days after that leaving little time for a prospective candidate to find out about it

Harriet and Hannah Cole questioned the Board about the water with reference to the removal of the trailer, about the legality of other trailers in town and about the turnaround and water on Yaw Road.

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Gladu reminded taxpayers about the STAR rebates (see page 1). He also mentioned the possibility of working with Ticonderoga on the appointment of an assessor since they are currently recruiting. Hague has delayed the appointment of its assessor pending the outcome of discussion with Ticonderoga. An assessor must be appointed by October 1st.

Buildings & Grounds/CC - Councilman Steitz still hopes to get out bids for ramps.

CARE/Enhancement Committee - Rudy Meola told the Board that a meeting of the Enhancement Committee has not been called since May and cited areas (at the Baptist Church and the Welcome signs) where recommended work was not complete.

Finance & Insurance - Councilman Gladu reported that work is underway by the department heads to prepare a tentative budget. [Dan Belden, Town Budget Officer, is supposed to review and prepare the 2008 tentative budget and file it with the Town Clerk by September 30th. The Town Clerk then presents it to the Board on October 5th. The Board will have meetings (to which the public may attend - check Community Center for posted dates) and there will be a public hearing no later than November 15th with the budget adopted by November 20th.]

Fire Dept. - Councilman Martucci, a HVFD member, will be the Board contact with the Fire Department. Supervisor Belden said the the new co-chiefs, Jim Young and Dave Hoffay, would like to meet with the Board.

Con't from page 5 - Town Board

Highway - Councilman Gladu said that the new truck needs painting and is at Christopher's. Highway Superintendent Don Smith will go over the specifications with Dick Frasier who has agreed to help. Bids will be taken on the surplus truck(s) in the spring.

The Town was able to sell the metal collected on the clean up day for \$45 per ton. The Town paid the County \$1100 (compared with the \$8000 to Casella last year) to take the rest of the material.

The highway department has cleaned 3 sedimentation ponds and has taken the sand to the landfill. There is still a problem with the drain basins. Cathy Clark remarked, "For 6 years I have been talking about the basin by the Trout House. The LGA has the vacuum cleaner and the personnel to clean them." Councilman Gladu said he will work with Superintendent Smith to contact the LGA.

Museum & Historian - The Town has had the old payroll book from the American Graphite Mining Co. restored and it is in the Town vault.

Personnel - Councilman Gladu reported that the final draft of the Personnel Manual is complete and he will go over it with each employee on a 1 on 1 basis.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Councilman Gladu said that the Town will need to do the paperwork to certify the training of the Planning and Zoning Board members to comply with the state's January 2007 requirement.

Cell Towers - Councilman Gladu reported that they are still in discussion with someone to put a cell tower in place but it will be necessary to get a provider such as Verizon or Nextel.

Recreation/Promotion & Youth - Councilman Steitz reported that the Town helped 24 children to take advantage of the excellent Silver Bay YMCA summer programs.

Sewer District #1 & #2 - Supervisor Belden hopes to have the bid specs on Sewer District #2 from the engineer by Oct. 1st and then "we will advertise it as soon as we can."

Town Park - Councilman Steitz reported that there were a few problems but everything went pretty well at the park and the use of the parking lot went well. Green trim has been put around the visitor center and guard shack. He has the bathrooms closed during the week but planned to open them on weekends. Rudy Meola stated that the policy had been to keep them open through Columbus Day, and Steitz said he would look into it.

Supervisor Belden said that the Bicentennial activities in the park had gone well and he thanked the committee and Judy Stock.

In other business, the Board:

Accepted with deep regret the resignation of David Swanson from the Planning Board. He served for 15 years and most of them as chairman, doing an outstanding job, always looking at both sides and was always a gentleman. He thanked the Town Board and noted that having our own Planning and Zoning Boards makes the zoning here work better than some other towns.

Extended the cut-off date for Planning Board applications to 9/25.

Thanked Graham Bailey for his report on the Lake George Open swim.

Scheduled a special Board meeting for September 28th at 1:30 pm to discuss the position of assessor and work on the White septic permit application.

Approved the reappointment of Diane Farinick to the Board of Assessment Review.

Approved attendance by Supervisor Belden at a NYS DOT conference where there is a section on Walkways which he wants to attend.

Passed resolution #57 authorizing the Supervisor to execute the agreement with the NYS DOT for payment to the Town for snow and ice removal. (This last item was added after the Friday cut off date for agenda items because it had just been received.)

In his report on County actions, Supervisor Belden said they were starting to work on the County budget and hoped to look across the board at no more than a 2 1/2 % increase. He mentioned that the biggest increase is in 17 - 20% more in health insurance.



Nancy's Edible Mushrooms (see p. 9)

MARRIED: Cindy Kerr and John R. Holub on July 11, 2007 in Las Vegas. Cindy is the daughter of Tom and Karen Kerr of Hamilton Square, NJ. John is the son of Joyce and Jerry Holub of Sarasota, FL and grandson of Dolly Kennedy of Hague. John was a drummer at Fort Ticonderoga for several summers.

MARRIED: Katie Van Voorhis to Evan Chismark on July 28, 2007 in Estes Park, CO. They reside in Golden, CO. Katie is the daughter of Peg and Rudd Van Voorhis of Wevertown and Hague.

DIED: Ambery M. Butcher on August 20, 2007 at the VT Respite House in Williston, after a short illness. He was a retired longtime YMCA camp and conference center director and former executive director of the Silver Bay YMCA. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jean, and three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

DIED: Thornton B. Penfield III, 73, on August 21, 2007 in Albany Medical Center Hospital. "Thorny", as he was known to his friends, was a lifelong summer resident of Silver Bay and also a resident of New Orleans, LA since 1965 where he was an English professor. He is survived by his wife, Diane, a son, Richard Starr, and his wife, Mary and four grandchildren. He also is survived by his sister, Charlotte Penfield Gosselink, her husband Chuck, their three children and four grandchildren, as well as eight first cousins and their families, all of whom enjoy parts of Silver Bay summers in Penfield Cottage.

DIED: Joe Streeter, 71, on August 24, 2007. Joe was raised in Hague on Streeter Hill; was a graduate of Hague Central School and taught there as well as serving on the LGPC patrol boats. He is survived by sons Chris, Mike and Steve and daughter, Tammy and 7 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. He is also survived by his seven sisters, Marge Eberlee, Marion Bailey, Ruth Robbins, Eleanor Finkle, Helen Fairlee, Calista Murray, and Lillian Murray. He was predeceased by his five brothers Charles, Walter, Elmer, Gordon, and Robert.

DIED: Elizabeth (Betty) Conant, 96, widow of H. Weston Conant, Silver Bay artist, on August 28, 2007 at the home of her daughter in Silver Bay. The Conants were longtime summer residents of Silver Bay. She also resided in Madison, NJ. She is survived by a daughter, Joyce and husband Denis Buchanan and son Ted and wife Wini Conant. Also surviving are six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

THANKS: From Peggy Darrin to her friends for the many get-well wishes over the summer. As a result of these gratifying messages she has made great progress and is improving with each day.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Lucas Frasier, son of Edna and Dick Frasier, who graduated from Clarkson University in May 2007 with a BS in mechanical engineering. Lucas has accepted a position with General Dynamics Electric Boat Division in New London, CT.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Cindy Bly Maguire of Jacksonville, FL on her successful project of a Cargo Containment Bag for Centennial Products. This bag went into space on the shuttle Endeavor on August 7th and is a new product to fully contain any items including waste products without any danger of leaks. Cindy is the daughter of Shirley Smith of Hague.

LGLC MACIONIS CENTER

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) celebrated the Grand Opening of its new office building, the Macionis Family Center for Conservation, on Saturday, July 28th, 2007. The Center is located at 4905 Lake Shore Drive, at the site of the former Tavern on the Pond in Bolton Landing.

Named in honor of the Macionis family's outstanding contributions, the Center hosted several hundred guests and invited speakers. The event opened with the LGLC's annual meeting, followed by the building's ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Macionis family lives in Hague during the summer.

The Center offers a special reference library of Lake George and Adirondack books from the collection of Robert F. Hall donated by Tony and Lisa Hall and Euphemia Virden Hall. The conference room is available to LGLC conservation partners as well as other nonprofit organizations and community groups. The public is welcome to stop in and visit the Center for a tour, use its reference library or speak to staff about land conservation.

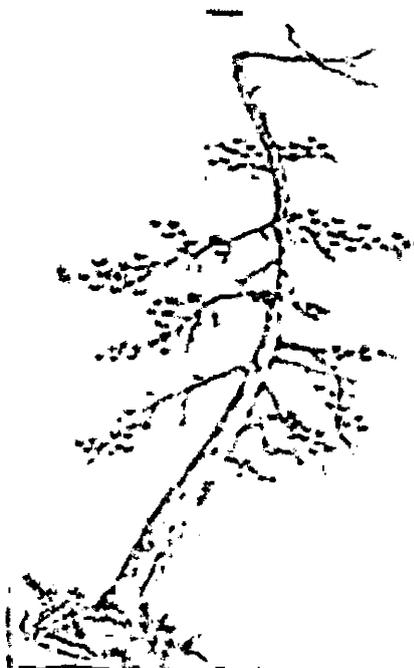
The Lake George Land Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust that has preserved nearly 11,000 acres around the Lake George watershed and 8.6 miles of Lake shoreline.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Each year USA Weekend in partnership with The Points of Life Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network, Paul Newman and Newman's Own Foundation, sponsors Make A Difference Day the fourth Saturday in October. This year the date is October 27. This is the nation's largest day of volunteering. It inspires 3 million or more people to stop what they are doing for themselves for one day and volunteer in some capacity for others. Paul Newman and his foundation are awarding \$10,000 donations to charities selected by each of 10 national honorees. So - get together with some friends, or just think of something you can do alone for someone else, but JUST DO IT.

There are many things you can do for your community. For more information on Make a Difference Day visit makeadifferenceday.com or call 1-800 416-3824 and get some ideas of what you can do.

The Hague Chronicle would like to know what you did to make this day successful. ...dh



GOODBYE TREE
by Ken Engler

On Saturday, September 1st, about thirty folks gathered at a home in Forest Bay to memorialize the loss of a landmark tree. It was the very gnarled red pine that stood distinctively on the large rocky point facing north into Cooks Bay. For years it just barely hung onto a crack in the rocks. It was only about sixteen feet tall, but its shape was very distinctive. It doesn't seem to have grown any larger in all the 60 or so years I've known it. If you passed that point in a boat, you probably noticed the tree.

The point has been owned for thirty-eight years by the Conroys, the Cunninghams and the Gudes. They have always appreciated the unusual tree and have collected many pictures of it including a 1913 postcard showing it almost as large as it was recently. They knew that the tree was weak from rot, insects and woodpeckers, but hoped that it would hang on longer. Tree rings have not yet been counted, but it is possible that it started growing about 1807, making it a true "Bicentennial Tree", and since it blew down the night before the Bicentennial events in Hague, it couldn't just be cut up and hauled away. A proper ceremony was needed.

Mattie Engler owned the point from 1945 to 1968, and several members of the Engler family were invited to the ceremony. Jeff Engler brought the feathered head-dress that had played an important role in Engler events held on the point many years ago.

Friends and family gathered on that Saturday to deliver tributes, recite poems, and drink a toast to the fallen tree. Then, with an antique bucksaw, Gene Conroy, Julius Gude and I made the first ceremonial cut to separate the tree from its roots. Sprigs of needles were passed out to several guests. Cuttings and distinctive parts of the tree will be saved for decorative purposes.

When you pass that point in your boat, give a tip of your hat to the loss of that distinctive tree.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Hague Republican Party will be holding its Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 29th at 5:30 at the Northern Lake George Resort.

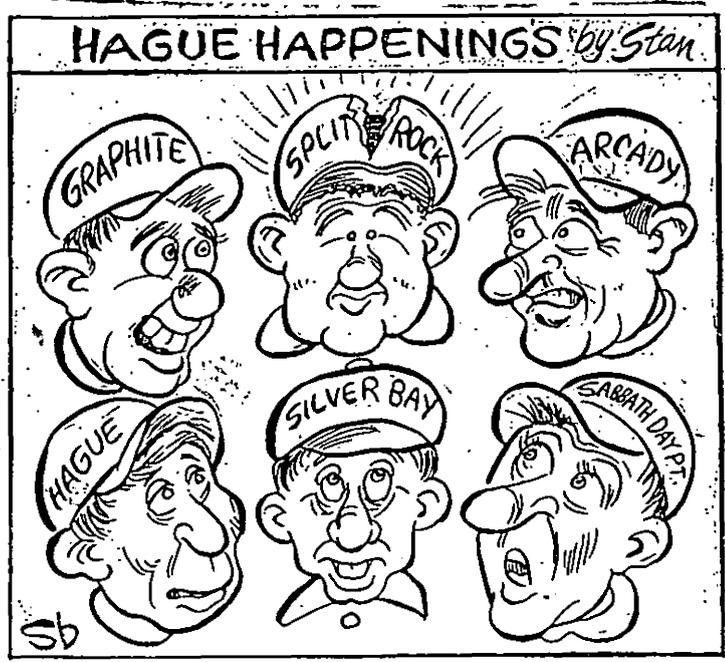
In addition to local Republican candidates Dick Gladu, Art Steitz and Mark Martucci, they will host Senator Betty Little, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, County Clerk Pam Vogel, Sheriff Larry Cleveland and County Budget Officer Nick Caimano, candidate for County Treasurer.

The event is open to the public and the cost is \$14 per person.

CANDIDATES INTERVIEW

The Hague Chronicle Board of Directors will interview the Town Board candidates on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 from 5 to 6 pm just prior to the Town Board meeting. Although no questions will be taken from the audience during this time, any member of the public is welcome to attend the interview. We will summarize our interview in an article in the October issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

In addition, each candidate, along with Supervisor and Town Clerk, will be asked for a statement to be published in the October issue. We will not interview the Supervisor or Town Clerk separately this year since they are running unopposed.



NATURE NEWS

by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

Shaggy Mane, Puffball, Porcini & Oyster

These are not the names of Disney characters, although they could be! Because characters, they are, and starring ones too, in the realm of edible mushrooms. The cooler weather with this little bit of rain is just the right scenario for them to make their appearance and I've been lucky enough to dine on some already.

Look for ivory-colored, gilled oysters growing on dead hardwood trees. Once you find them, you can return to that same tree for several consecutive years because they will probably continue to fruit there until the tree has decomposed to a point where nothing is left to feed them. There is one particular dead beech that presents us with a couple of good baskets full of oyster mushrooms and I just picked my first a week or so ago. And, in a few weeks I'll be checking a certain standing dead elm for fall oysters since I remember they were prolific on that one during hunting season last year.

I find shaggy manes most often in well-drained, grassy areas like the edges of the lawn where they get some shade. They are easy to identify with their egg to bullet-shaped white caps that are covered with white to reddish-brown flaky scales. The caps sit atop hollow white stalks 3" to 10" tall and can be found in the same places for several consecutive years, especially where they are abundant. The shaggy mane is the most common member of the Inky Cap genus of mushrooms, getting its name from the strange method of spore dispersal called "deliquescence": the gills dissolve into a thick black liquid, dripping from the shrinking cap in an inky slime; the spores are then carried by insects or water rather than by the wind.

This one must be picked before any ink appears - while it is firm and white - and must be cooked very soon after picking or it will soon begin its process of autodigestion. Cooking will halt the process and they are perfect for sauces, gravies or my favorite ~ cream of mushroom soup. There are no dangerous look-alikes, but I cannot stress enough that any mushroom that you intend to consume MUST be positively identified. This one is easy if you have a knowledgeable person show you. I highly recommend "Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America, a Field to Kitchen Guide" by David Fischer and Alan Bessette for anyone who wishes to eat wild mushrooms. If I can't find the mushroom in this book, I don't eat it!

Have you ever stepped on one of those crusty brown puffballs and sent a stream of spores flying into the air like a puff of brown smoke? Those were mature puffballs and you just helped spread their spores far and wide! But if you find a round white mushroom the size of a soccer ball, growing in your lawn, then it might just be the delicious giant puffball ready for eating. These grow large (from four inches to two feet wide), are completely round without a stalk, are smooth and white on the outside and are a solid white mass on the inside - no gills, no other colors. If you slice it open and it is dark blackish-purple inside, then you have the poisonous variety, if it is completely white then you have the edible one. It's that simple.



We like to cut these into 1/2" thick slices, dip in flour and then egg batter and fry them in a bit of oil until golden brown. Then we drain them on paper towels and use them like lasagna noodles, stacking them between layers of mozzarella cheese and tomato sauce and baking till bubbly ~ puffball parmesan!

Yesterday I almost stepped on a half dozen beautiful porcini mushrooms growing right in the lawn down near the lake. These prized members of the *boletus* genus have caps that look like the top half of a hamburger bun ~ dry, brown cap whose underside looks like white bread, full of tiny pores instead of the gills we are more familiar with seeing. The stalk is thick and white too, and although these can grow to six inches across, I picked these smaller ones because the slugs were starting to get to them and would finish them off in a day if I left them where they were. These taste best when sliced and dried to intensify their flavor, then reconstituted for an earthy, pungent addition to sauces and gravies or added to rice or pasta dishes for authentic Italian comfort food. There are many non-edible and poisonous members of this genus; so again, proper ID is essential but well rewarded at the dinner table! Happy foraging!

WEATHER NOTES

by JoAnne DeFranco

Weather Notes- August 18 - September 14, 2007

August was a glorious month compared to July. We had a few cool periods but on the whole it was mostly sunny and warm (HOT) with just enough rain to soak down the garden soil.

We started out with a sunny but cool period on Aug. 21 and 22 with highs of 75 and low of 48. The lows were just a reminder of fall. Aug. 23 - 26 we had temperatures in the mid 80's with humidity, peaking out on Saturday, Aug. 25, with 93 degree, hazy, hot, and humid. Thunderstorms rolled in late in the day. Sunday, Aug. 26 was cloudy and breezy but warm 83.

The week of 8/27-9/3 was again sunny and hot (80-85). We hit 90 on 8/29 which was the eighth time this season to reach 90. Usually we reach 90 only 6 times on the average. Aug. 29 was also the day of the earthquake 3.2 magnitude, centered in Tupper Lake at 11:47 pm. Thursday, 8/30 was another warm day, sunny in the morning but by 2 pm a good old Adirondack thunderstorm was rolling in. It lasted several hours, dumping about 3" rain. We really needed the rain as the trees, shrubs, and gardens were drought-stressed. You can still see the effects of the dry conditions on the trees as many are turning colors early and dropping their leaves.

Labor Day weekend was a real reward. Weather forecasters predicted rain but here in Hague it was mostly sunny and warm. Tuesday and Wednesday 9/4 - 5, a cool front came thru dropping temperatures to mid 70's. On 9/6 and 9/7 there was a return to hazy, hot, and humid. On 9/7 temperatures reached 90 degrees. Humidity on 9/6-8 was very high- a bad night for sleeping. Sunday, 9/9 was a rainy, cold day with a low of 58 in the early morning. Rain continued into Monday 9/10 with a cooler trend lasting all week.

Our daylight continues to shorten. Sunrise is now about 6:29 and sunset at 7:10. The last days of summer are closing in. Fall arrives September 23.

September - October 2007

September

- 25 12 - 8 pm SCHOOL BOND VOTE
- 25 1:30 pm Regular Senior meeting (see p. 2)
- 27 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 26 Extra Helpings Distribution
- 28 1:30 pm Special Town Bd mtg (see p. 6)
- 29 5:30 pm Republican Oktoberfest (see p. 8)

October

- 4 7 pm Planning Board
- 8 Columbus Day - no school/Town offices closed
- 9 Staff development day - no school in Ti
- 9 5 - 6 pm Candidates Interview (see p. 8)
- 9 6:30 pm Town Board
- 13 1:30 pm Crop Walk (see p. 1)
- 16 7:30 pm Ticonderoga Board of Education mtg.
- 18 Next *Hague Chronicle* mailed
- 24 1 pm Extra Helpings Distribution
- 25 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals

ONGOING EVENTS

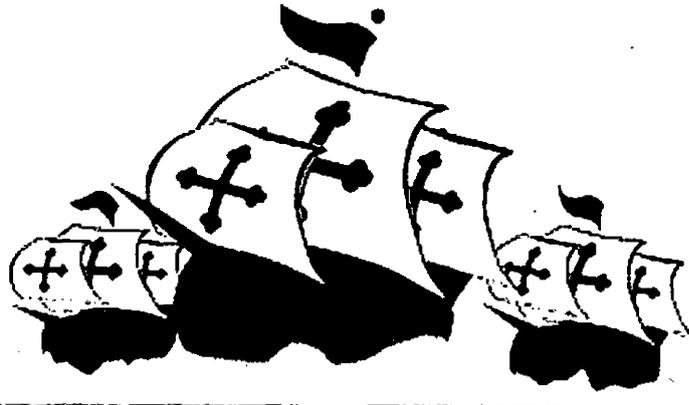
- 2nd Monday: Senior Bus to Glens Falls
- 1st Monday: Fire Department
- 1st Tuesday: Mohican Crafters
- 3rd Monday: Chamber of Commerce
- 3rd Tuesday: Mohican Crafters
- 3rd Tuesday: Fish & Game Club
- 3rd Tuesday: Sno-goers
- 3rd Thursday: Carillon Garden Club

TRANSFER STATION HOURS
9/3/07 to 7/1/08

Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm
Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

T'ai Chi classes continue at the

Hague Community Building
Tuesdays: 6:15 to 7:15 pm
September 18 - October 30
Fees for entire session or by
individual class.



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