



# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 36 NO 12

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

December 2007

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

A Christmas Eve service for the community will be held at 6 pm on Monday, December 24, 2007 at the Hague Wesleyan Church. After the service there will be a time of fellowship with Christmas cookies, coffee and cocoa. All are welcome.

There will also be a Christmas Eve Family Service in the Hughes Chapel in Silver Bay at 7 pm that evening.



Please help us get the news by sending us any information you have about events, organization meetings or reports, soundings and other items of interest.

## PRIVATE ROADS ANNUAL CLOSING

The Friends Point Roads will be closed for the 24-hour period of 12 am Tuesday, January 1, 2008 to 12 am Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

## MEMORY TREE DONATIONS

Donations for the Memory Tree will be accepted through December 31, 2007. Checks should be made payable to the Hague Chamber of Commerce and mailed to Imogene Frasier at 2 Whipporwill Lane, Hague, NY 12836.

The list of persons in whose honor or memory the donations are given is on the Memory Tree located in the Community Center and will be published in the January issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

## TREE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Hague Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the Tree Decorating Contest during the December 8, 2007 Holiday in Hague.

First prize of \$50 went to the Hague Senior Citizens Club for "The Birdhouse", the second prize of \$35 went to the Hague Volunteer Fire Department and third prize of \$20 went to Lin's Dog Grooming.

Also participating were the Hague Book Club, Alison Craig Realty, Cathy Clark and Jane Crammond. These lovely decorated trees are still up in the downtown area adding to the festive decorations and memory baskets.

## NOTES OF THANKS

The family of Martha Fitzgerald extends their sincere thank you to all of you. The cards, food, and generosity that you have given makes us more aware of how much friends mean at this time. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are sincerely appreciated.

Debbie Manning thanks the Hague voters for once again showing, in the recent election, their continuing support for her work as Town Clerk.

Art Steitz thanks everyone for their support on the past election and congratulates Dick Gladu and Rudy Meola on being elected to the Town Board.

## DECORATIVE TREES

Diane Farinick of *Hague Creek Cafe and Antiques* and Alison Craig of *Alison Craig Realty* admire the trees lining the brook in the downtown area in the photo below.



November's meeting turned into a surprise fun afternoon. A Chinese Auction party was the theme and made for lots of laughter. Shirley Carey, who at first appeared to be a non-winner, walked home with enough gifts to fill Santa's sack!

Election of Officers for the 2008 Executive Board was held and I am happy to announce that next year the Board will be as follows: Judy Stock, President - Kathi Ramant, First Vice-President - Joan Steitz, Second Vice-President - Gladys Graser, Treasurer - Pat McDonough, Secretary - with Christine Ianson and Shirley Smith as Trustees. We welcome the new board and look forward to another productive and active year ahead.

The annual Christmas Tree Shop was another successful day during the HOLIDAY IN HAGUE weekend, and we wish to thank all of you who came to support our efforts and to share a bit of Christmas ho-ho-ho. There is also a cute story to tell about the Senior's participation in the Community Christmas Tree Decorating Contest along the brook on Saturday. The Seniors' theme was 'The Bird Tree Cafe' with many ornaments being 'food for the birds'. Well, it seems that another Adirondack critter found the food enticing as well . . . an otter (or a mink) climbed up from the brook, climbed the tree and thoroughly enjoyed the bountiful peanut butter and bird seed goodies hanging there. Not just once! I hear he came back for seconds! His vote must have counted because the Senior Club won first prize for their efforts!

December 17th was the Seniors' Annual Christmas Party at the Hague Fire House, with The Gourmet Gal as caterer. Many Hague Town officials were with us along with members of the Chamber of Commerce who made their annual announcement of Hague's 'Senior of The Year'. This year they honored Art Belden for his more than 50 years on the HVFD and many other kindnesses to others over the years. It was an afternoon of delightful dining in a festive atmosphere with gifts for all, door prizes and the sharing of the holiday spirit.

The Hague Senior Club wishes you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
... mp



David Martucci, Sole Assessor, urges all primary residence homeowners to contact the office (543-6161) to see if they are eligible for the following exemptions:

Senior Citizens' exemption: primary residence home-owners over age 65 with the following household income ceilings for the listed taxing jurisdictions:

County	\$23,700
Town	\$17,725
School	\$22,000

This exemption must be renewed each year. Renewal forms will be sent in late December to those who had this exemption last year.

Enhanced STAR exemption: primary residence home-owners over age 65 with household income less than \$70,650. This exemption must be renewed each year unless an Optional Verification form is submitted. Renewal forms will be sent in late December to those who had this exemption last year.

Basic STAR exemption: all primary residence home-owners. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year, once the first application is approved.

Veterans' exemption: primary residence homeowners with military service during wartime periods. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year.

Details and applications are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm. The filing deadline is March 1, 2008.

COMMON MAN BOOKS

Roger Fulton, the Common Man who came to Hague by canoe last summer, has published three new books recently.

One is a career guidebook for Criminal Justice Professionals. The other two are guidebooks in his Eco-Tour series - "25 Interesting Historical Sites in the Lake George Region" and "25 Interesting Bicycle Trails in Northeastern Florida".

For more information on the books and how to order them, see his website <[www.rogerfulton.com](http://www.rogerfulton.com)>.

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](mailto: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 (check your label) to:

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

Editor/Publisher: Judith Stock (518-543-6517) Editor/Publisher, Emerita: Dorothy Henry

### WITH THE LGLC

The (LGLC) Lake George Land Conservancy has two events of interest coming up.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007**  
Guided Cross-Country Ski Trip at 9:30 am at the Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve in Bolton. Join our volunteer guide, David Thomas-Train, on this free challenging 8-mile, round trip, cross-country adventure leading to the summits of Thomas and Cat Mountains. You will be rewarded with expansive views of the frozen southern Lake George basin below.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007**  
Winter Exploration, Snowshoe Adventure from 10 am - 1 pm at the Gull Bay Preserve in Putnam. Outdoor educator and winter enthusiast Corrina Parnapy will lead participants of all ages on this free exploration of the winter world—learn basic snowshoeing techniques, winter tree ID, animal tracking and how to be prepared when enjoying winter activities. Participants must provide their own snowshoes with crampons.

For more information on these programs see <[www.lgic.org](http://www.lgic.org)>.

### LGLC RECEIVES GRANT

The LGLC has been awarded a \$500,000 EPF grant from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The grant makes possible the conservation of nearly 500 acres of pristine wetlands and forest in the uplands of Bolton Landing. The new conservation area, located between Padanarum Road and Trout Falls Road, will be named the "Ronning Padanarum Preserve", in appreciation for Rolf Ronning's donation of land value that will provide the match required by the grant.

The Bolton property includes the headwaters for Indian Brook and contains important wildlife habitat within its large, unfragmented forest. With its expansive wetlands, the land protects Lake George from excess nutrients and sediments that would otherwise easily run into Indian Brook and Northwest Bay.

### MAPLE SUGAR PRODUCERS

The 2008 NYS Maple Conference and Trade Show will be held in Verona, NY on January 4-5, 2008.

For more information on the NYS Maple Producers organization and this event see <[www.nysmaple.com](http://www.nysmaple.com)> or call the Executive Director at 607-535-9790.



### WITH THE LGA

The Lake George Association (LGA) has produced a 2008 calendar that will benefit the environmental non-profit's work. Proceeds from sales of "Oil & Water - Timeless Lake George" will go to support the LGA's Lake Saving Programs and Projects.

The 12" x 18" full-color calendar features reproductions of paintings of Lake George by artists from the Hudson River School including Leganger, Moore, Wyant, Decker, Codgale, Hart, Hubbard and Bristol. The paintings were donated for use from the private collections of several LGA members.

The 12-month calendar can be purchased directly from the LGA for \$12.95 plus shipping. You can contact the LGA office at 518-668-3558.

Previews of all of the images used in this calendar can be seen on the LGA website <[www.lakegeorgeassociation.org](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org)>.

### LGA RECEIVES GRANT

The LGA has announced receipt of a \$300,000 grant award through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The funds will go toward the acquisition of the site formerly known as Gaslight Village, which will ultimately be the location for the proposed, large-scale environmental project.

"When completed, this project will have a major impact on improving the water quality in the South Basin and, over time, the entire lake," stated Walt Lender, the LGA's Executive Director.

### OUTDOOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council is pleased to announce its 11th annual essay scholarship competition for the Charles Lathrop Pack Scholarship.

Students in both age brackets 12-14 and 15-17 years old have an opportunity to compete for winning a stay for one week this summer at DEC's Environmental Education Camp in Warrensburg, New York. Sessions for 15-17 year olds run from June 29th to July 26; Sessions for 12-14 year olds run August 3rd through August 16th. The competition for the scholarship is open to permanent residents of Warren and neighboring counties who have an interest in environmental studies, natural resource issues, or related fields. Winners will receive a week's stay at DEC's Ecology Camp and Workshop. The value of this scholarship is \$250.00 for each attendee.

For further information contact the Council at 518-623-3090



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 11/29/07

Due to lack of applications the meeting was not held.

PLANNING BOARD - 12/6/07

Chairman E. J. Siwek and members Rolly Allen, John Brown, Bruce Clark, Richard Frasier and Pam Peterson were present. Peter Foster has submitted a letter of resignation.

Amara (59-1-36) 72 Battle Hill Rd. OCI

The applicant is requesting approval for a two-lot subdivision of a 33-acre parcel with one lot of 21.5 acres and the other of 11.5 acres. The Board deemed the application complete and scheduled a site visit and the Public Hearing will be held on January 3, 2008 at the next meeting.

Cornell (25.4-1-29) Graphite Mountain Rd. OCI

The applicant is requesting approval to construct a single-family residence that will be located 77 feet from a brook. Written comments concerning this project were submitted by Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper, and Tom Jarrett from Jarrett-Martin Engineers. Both men were present and continued discussion of their points.

The Board members had some concerns about the very steep slope of the property. The closest digging to the brook (75 ft.) will be for the footings for the deck supports.

The Board approved the application 5 - 1 (Siwek, Allen, Brown, Clark, Peterson for, Frasier opposed) assuming the data is correct as submitted and with conditions including tree cutting restrictions, monitoring during the construction process, mitigation of culvert discharge and distribution of the leaching system.

Ludlam/Meyer (60.13-1-16) Pudding Island Lane TR-1

The applicant is requesting an addition/replacement of an existing deck. Currently the deck sits 61 feet from Lake George. If approved it will be located 51 feet from the shoreline.

The application was deemed complete and a site visit scheduled.

The Board requested that the Town Attorney review the code modification proposal on structures.

Members expressed gratitude to Peter Foster for his seven years of service on the Planning Board.



TOWN BOARD MEETING - 12/11/07

Supervisor Dan Belden and Board members Art Steitz, Dick Gladu, Edna Frasier and Mark Martucci were all present.

A moment of silence was held for Martha Fitzgerald, Mort Granger, Marion Shoemaker and Jackie Perkins.

Rudy Meola asked Supervisor Belden for an accounting on the construction costs of the renovation of the boat slip area. Belden responded that it was \$76,000 with \$10,800 for the extra work on the dry hydrants. Although an amount over \$10,000 should go out to bids, apparently the original estimate on the additional work was only \$8,000 so the Board went ahead with it because they were in the middle of the project. Meola noted that by starting, and then later stopping, the contractor had to redo work. There was discussion about how the project had been handled especially with regards to the additional work requested by the HVFD. Councilman Gladu had tried much earlier in the summer to get the Board to delay the project until the issues were straightened out. At this meeting he noted that "too many people were in charge and things got out of control."

Meola later supplied figures to *The Hague Chronicle* which indicated the \$10,800 was in addition to the original contract of \$73,250 plus \$2,800 to an electrician, \$10,253.50 for the lights, \$3,300 for shipping them, \$625 for the benches and \$128 for topsoil, bringing total costs to over \$97,000. Previously it had been reported that a grant of \$85,000 had been approved for enhancement projects including the boat slip area and a park area near the American Legion building.

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Gladu reported that the Town Justice's computer was no longer working after having been earlier struck by lightning. A motion was approved to buy a new computer up to \$1,000, if the old one can't be fixed.

Buildings & Grounds/CC - Councilman Martucci reported that he had gotten the specifications completed for the work on the side ramp and had 4 contractors who will look at it for possible bids.

Councilman Gladu reported that he has gotten a preliminary estimate of about \$3-4 thousand from Ray Supply concerning a system of speakers and wireless microphones which can be used for meetings.

He also reported that Hudson Environmental which did the water testing is out of business and they will need to look for another firm.

CARE/Enhancement Committee - Councilwoman Frasier thanked the Silver Bay YMCA, the Hague Post Office and the HVFD for food donated to the food pantry as well as thanks to the Northern Lake George Rotary for turkeys donated for Thanksgiving and Christmas. She reported that the Enhancement Committee will be working on the brookside park project in the spring.

Con't from page 4 - Town Board

Finance & Insurance - Hospitalization insurance will be going up 16%.

Fire Dept - Councilman Martucci reported on the volunteer hours and classes attended by members of the HVFD.

Highway - Councilman Gladu reported that the new highway truck is finally here and noted that Christopher Chevrolet was not responsible for the delay. An ad will be going out requesting bids on the old truck.

Museum & Historian - The Warren County Historian, John Austin, sent an email inquiring about a Town Historian for Hague. Anyone interested in this position should contact the Community Center. The Board may be involved in the process but the Supervisor makes the appointment.

Personnel - Council members Gladu and Frasier presented the final version of the Personnel manual. Cathy Clark indicated her displeasure with not being given a copy of the details relating to her position before the Board meeting especially since she had made numerous requests to see it. There was then a discussion of certain provisions, which did not really answer her concerns and, in the opinion of this reporter, should have been done with Cathy prior to the meeting. All Board members voted to approve the Personnel manual as given to them with Councilman Martucci expressing his opinion that he felt that departments should be made aware of provisions in advance.

Recreation/Promotion & Youth - Councilman Steitz advised the Board to advertise early for lifeguards and to insure enough backup.

Supervisor Belden noted that there was a small crowd for the Holiday in Hague activities & Christmas party. Judy Stock noted that there was not much publicity and that she had asked the Supervisor the previous month to let her know about the decisions between the Town and the Chamber of Commerce. Hopefully better coordination will be assured in future events.

Sewer District #1 & #2 - Supervisor Belden mentioned a pilot program with the state on wastewater and that he wanted to apply for a grant by March 30. He reported that there are 2 easements which still need to be signed for Sewer District #2 and wants to get started but there can't be any more changes.

Town Park - Councilman Steitz mentioned the restrooms were open for the Holiday in Hague and should be open for the Winter Weekend. The telephone booth needs to be rehooked in spring.

Under other business, the Board

Passed a resolution about Dottie Henry which recognizes her "numerous lifelong contributions to the Town of Hague" and states that the Town Board recognizes her as a "local icon" and "declare(s) her a community treasure."

Acknowledged communication from Sheri Norton on an upgrade of the Warren County GIS system which will cost the Town \$2000. The amount has already been budgeted.

Approved advertising for bids on the sale of the 1985 International Dump truck with a plow and sander with no minimum bid.

Approved \$590 for the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs convention in Lake George.

Accepted the resignation from the Planning Board of Peter Foster effective December 3.

Agreed to advertise for applications to the Planning Board in addition to one already received.

Learned from Marty Fitzgerald that the application to the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation for a grant for a snow park was not approved this year. Although the application was a worthy one, there were limited funds and it can be resubmitted next year. Marty suggested that the Supervisor appoint a committee to get the design process going and try to get funds from additional sources. Marty agreed to be on the committee.

Transferred necessary funds from the General Fund to the Highway Fund to pay for the new truck. The money will be transferred back to the General Fund when the Highway Capital Fund CD comes due.

Approved an agreement with Warren County to pay the Town for snow and ice removal, sweeping and mowing.

Approved the sewer rent schedule which beginning in 2008 will be: Payment from May 1st through July 31st without penalty and payment from August 1st through September 30th will have a 10% penalty added. All unpaid rents will then be sent to Warren County to be added to the County tax bill.

Authorized the Supervisor to transfer the \$200,000 that is in the Town Budget to the County to reduce the 2008 county tax for Hague taxpayers.

Approved support for a Warren County Solid Waste Grant.

Approved a resolution to clarify to the APA a previous decision about rezoning some parcels off Decker Hill Road.

Authorized signing the Route 9N walkway consultation contract with LaBerge that was approved last month. The fee of \$10,600 will be paid in stages.

Announced that the end of the year Board meeting will take place at 4 pm on December 27, 2007.

Supervisor Belden reported that he is now on the Board of the ATVA (Association of Towns and Villages). He also discussed some of the land transfer proposals of the State relative to the Finch Pruyn lands.

Supervisor Belden then thanked Mike Manning for putting up the Town decorations and for doing the Community Center tree along with Rudy Meola. After wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year the meeting was adjourned. ...js

### HUSBAND FOR HIRE

Long time summer resident Jon Hanna, son of George and Blanche Hanna of Sabbath Day Point, has made the move to the North Country full time. He would like to let all the readers know that he is available for odd jobs where needed. He can do electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, tree or snow removal, clean out attics, garages, basements or barns. No job is too small. Just give a call to 543-6451.

### HVFD PREPARES FOR NEW YEAR

Election of officers of the Hague Volunteer Fire Dept. for fiscal year 2008 was held recently and key officers are: Co-Chiefs - Dave Hoffay and Jim Young, Ass't. Chief - James Belden, Capt. - Ernie Trudeau, Lieut. - Jason Laundree, Foreman - Bill Wells, President - Ray Mury and Chaplain - Bob Johnson. New appointees to the Board of Directors are Marty Fitzgerald and Renee Swinton.

At our annual Christmas party on December 7th, we continued the tradition of every member bringing a contribution of an unwrapped toy and an item for the food pantry, to which the response was outstanding. We also took time to bid farewell to long time member and Chaplain Rev. Rusty Bissell and to recognize Dave Hoffay as Fireman of the Year.

Several members have recently attended a National Grid Electrical Course and a Response to Hypothermia session.

The public should be aware that a siren test will only now occur on the first Tuesday of each month.

In October & November there were 5 fire calls using 72 man hrs. and 7 ambulance calls using 74 man hrs.

Don't forget to be extra cautious that your holiday decorations are safely installed and that you use only UL approved lighting systems. May it be a safe Holiday Season for all.

Also it is not too late to consider a year end gift to your fire dept. We need your support to help keep you safe in the year ahead. ...jm

### TICONDEROGA COMMUNITY PROGRAM

The first event of the 2008 Ticonderoga Community Program series will take place on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 6 pm at Fort Ticonderoga's Thompson-Pell Center. Jim Gabler will give a presentation on 18th-century medicine.

The series is a joint effort of Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga Historical Society, Ticonderoga Cartoon Museum and the Ticonderoga Heritage Museum.



Sally, Olivia, Rusty and Michelle Bissell

### BISSELL GOODBYE

On December 8, 2007 the Hague Wesleyan Church held a farewell reception for Pastor Rusty Bissell and his family. Many parishioners as well as other local residents took the opportunity to say goodbye to them as they leave for Florida.

Daughter Sarah was unable to attend as she was still in college in Virginia.



Assistant pastor, Skip Trembley, will be the new senior pastor at the Hague Wesleyan Church.



# ~SOUNDINGS~

DIED: Marion Dunklee Shoemaker, 83, on November 28, 2007. Marion was a longtime volunteer for *The Hague Chronicle* as well as the Hague Volunteer Fire Department, Meals on Wheels, Hague Fish and Game Club and the Hague Senior Citizens Club. She was designated Hague Senior Citizen of the Year in 1994. Survivors include her son, Richard Dunklee and his wife Annette of Hague and a daughter, Joanne Dunklee Gore of Red City CA. She is also survived by 3 step-children, 6 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

DIED: Jackie Anne Perkins, of Ticonderoga, on December 8, 2007. Jackie was a lifelong area resident. Survivors include her mother Anna (Fish) Perkins, Hague; her son Shane Graser, her brother Randy Perkins and sister Pamela Grogan all of Ticonderoga and her sister Julie Perkins of Hague.

## STANDOUT PLAYER

Lynn Stote sent information he thought might be of interest to some of our readers. Sophomore Ryan Reynolds, from Las Vegas, NV, is the starting linebacker (#8) for the University of Oklahoma football team. He is frequently mentioned during broadcasts of the games. Ryan is the son of Craig and Barbara Reynolds and the grandson of Jack and Beverly Reynolds who were the owners of The Indian Kettles for many years. You can read Ryan's personal stats on the website <[www.soonersports.com](http://www.soonersports.com)> under football, then roster.

## T'AI CHI CLASSES

A new series of classes instructed by Mae Pagan will begin on January 8, 2008 at the Community Center from 6 - 7 pm. Mae can be contacted at 543-6605 or <[returmountain@yahoo.com](mailto:returmountain@yahoo.com)>.

## SILVER BAY WEEKENDS

The Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks has scheduled two upcoming family weekends. The New Year's weekend will be held at the campus on December 29, 2007 to January 1, 2008. The Winter Weekend will be held on February 15 - 18, 2008.

Silver Bay has an OPEN PATHWAYS membership program for community members living year-round in Warren and Essex counties. This program uses an income-based rate scale designed so that all individuals and families will have access to membership, programs and services of the Silver Bay YMCA, regardless of income.

## HAGUE HONOR STUDENTS

We congratulate the following Hague residents who are on the honor roll for the 1st marking period in the Ticonderoga Middle School (Grades 6-8) and Ticonderoga High School (Grades 9 - 12). (We don't have a list of the 6th graders so will publish their names next month.)

### Grade 7

First Honors - Olivia Bissell, Grace Ginn, Bryana Goetsch, Chelsea Kearns, Jordan McKee, Shane Swinton

Second Honors - Karney Manning

### Grade 8

First Honors - Abigail Gurney, Corey King, William Lawrie, Harley Trudeau

Second Honors - Edward Kearns

### Grade 10

First Honors - Kaley Manning.

Second Honors - Jamie Patchett, Jessie Patchett

### Grade 11

First Honors - Jared Best, Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn

### Grade 12

Second Honors - Samantha Abare, Daniel Steitz, Alanna Swinton

## CONGRATULATIONS TI HIGH

Congratulations are in order for the entire Ticonderoga High School. According to a report in the *U. S. News and World Report*, Ticonderoga is ranked among the top 500 high schools in America.

## NOTE OF THANKS

Hannah Cole wishes to thank the kind and generous person who paid the expenses of moving her trailer.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County provides programs and information for families, youth, gardeners, farmers and others. To read their articles or for upcoming events and information see <[www.cce.cornell.edu/warren](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/warren)>

### OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

This month's press releases from the office of Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand include the following items of interest.

The names of New York taxpayers who are owed tax refunds by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are available through her website <[www.house.gov/gillibrand](http://www.house.gov/gillibrand)> where you can click on the link to learn more. She urges all upstate residents to look at the website to see if the federal government owes them money. We checked the website and there are no persons listed under Hague, Ticonderoga or Silver Bay; however, you may have lived in a different part of the state or recognize the names of friends or family. It was indicated that in New York, 8,722 taxpayers have an unclaimed tax refund, totaling \$10.5 million. The average unclaimed refund is over \$1,200.

Congresswoman Gillibrand has sent a letter to President Bush to request full funding for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as he prepares his FY2009 Budget. The funds are used to help offset high home heating costs for low-income families and important weatherization improvements that can help reduce the costs of home heating bills.

Congresswoman Gillibrand, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, has cosponsored a bill, the Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act (HR 3793), that would require the Department of Defense to provide veterans who have been discharged due to combat-related wounds with full payment of remaining bonuses within 30 days of discharge.

She has also announced that the Internal Revenue Service has issued a new rule that wages paid under the Department of Veterans Affairs' Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) program will now be considered a tax-free veteran benefit. The IRS also stated that veterans who have previously paid federal taxes on CWT wages are eligible for a refund.

Congresswoman Gillibrand has announced the awarding of nine grants totaling \$118,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. Among those in the grants are Ausable Press, Inc. of Keene for publication and promotion of books of poetry, Metatawee Theatre Company, Inc. of Salem, Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs and the Lake George Opera Festival Association.

Rising property taxes are of concern to Congresswoman Gillibrand and she has announced a new bill she is cosponsoring in Congress to allow families to deduct their property taxes without itemizing their return.

Gillibrand voted for the landmark Energy Bill which includes the first increase in automobile fuel efficiency standards in nearly 30 years. She also voted for the FY 2008 Intelligence Authorization [HR 2082] which provides funding for intelligence programs.



Ida Jordon with grandsons Hunter and Jeffrey Jordon.



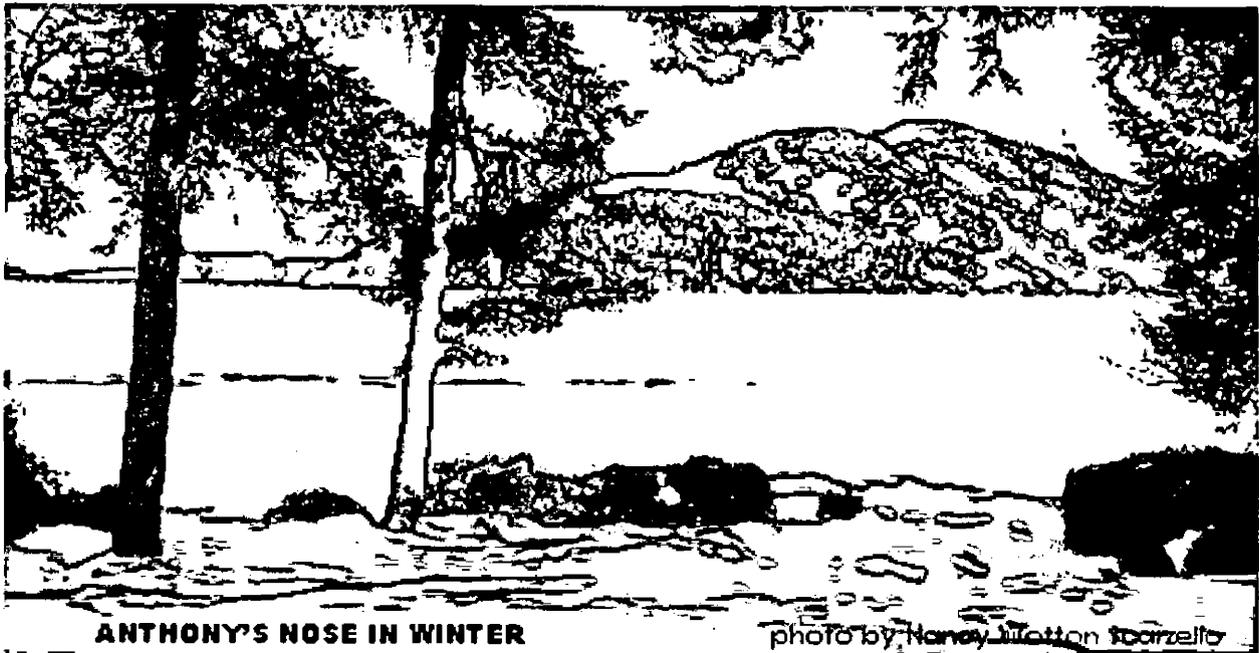
Cassandra Martucci with Santa and Mrs. Claus

### TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Those community members who turned out for the party held on December 8, 2007 enjoyed refreshments, a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and lots of presents for the kids.

Above are some of those who came for the event.





## NATURE NEWS

by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

I'm finding it difficult to concentrate on the writing. My eyes keep drifting to the scene outside, more beautiful than the Christmas cards that sit on the table waiting to be addressed. Over a foot of new snow and it's still falling so I'll have to go out and shovel again before it is all over. I could be depressed or worried about this storm's arrival; I'd have plenty of good reasons: my husband usually plows the driveway but he's stuck out of town and I'm here alone, the power may go out, it's only 9 degrees outside...I could be depressed or worried ~ but I'm not.

I'm loving it! I don't *have* to go out for anything and my neighbor came by with his snowblower and cleared a path to my car and two tracks down the drive so I can get out if I really need to. I cleaned the snow off the car and shoveled paths to the front and back doors and although the snow is deep, it is light and fluffy so my back doesn't even hurt. I have flashlights ready and lots of candles that I would rather burn anyway. We heat with wood and I love the way it warms the house and everything in it. We have a gas stove so I can cook but I may have to dip into the cookies just baked because they smell so good and I deserve some after shoveling.

I am stunned by the beauty of it all. Suddenly I hear ice pelting the window and I see that the temperature has climbed to 15 degrees. It looks like it is pouring rain, and it may be doing just that in higher elevations, but by the time it reaches the ground it has become tiny balls of ice that are piling up like sand on the beach. How quickly things change and there is nothing we can do to control it; we can only choose how we react to those changes. So, I can be worried or depressed or I can choose to be joyful in the beauty of it and grateful for my neighbor's kindness as he makes another pass with his snowblower.

I take a few moments to reflect on how blessed we are to have lived in a place as beautiful as Lake George, and the friends and family community that have come together and raised each other up in our love for this place and each other. And I am grateful for every blessed moment that I have been allowed to walk upon the beautiful skin of the Earth Mother and for all those traveling with me on this life's journey.

I notice the silence now that the ice has ceased its hissing against the window. Snowflakes like cotton balls drift softly in the fading light. Constant changes. And it is beautiful ~ that is what I choose.

## WEATHER NOTES

by JoAnne DeFranco

November 18 - December 15, 2007

Although the official start of winter is still a week away on December 22, we have had about 13" of snow. I heard on the radio that the ski areas in Vermont have about 56% of their trails open as of December 13, compared to only 13% on December 13 of last year. We know winter is here just by looking out at the white landscape. Snowfalls occurred on 11/20 (2"), 12/2-3 (5"), 12/5 (1/2"), 12/10 (1/2"), 12/11 freezing rain, and 12/13-14 (5"). On 11/26 there was 1.5-2" of rain.

The past thirty days have been mostly cloudy with the sun showing for brief periods. There was one day with bright blue skies. Temperatures have been cold, ranging from mid-thirties to low twenties in the daytime. The lowest night time temperature was 11 but the higher elevations have seen lower temperatures.

The next full moon will be December 24.

We are expecting 1'- 2' of snow from a storm moving up the coast on Saturday night, December 15-16. This storm will ensure that we have a white Christmas and plenty of snow for skiing and snowshoeing.

12/07

December

- 24 - Jan. 1 No School-Holiday Break
- 24-25 Town Offices Closed
- 24 6 pm Christmas Eve Service (p. 1)
- 24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service (p. 1)
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 26 1pm Extra Helping Distribution
- 27 4pm End of Year Town Board mtg
- 27 7pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 31 Deadline for Memory Tree (p. 1)

January

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
- 3 7pm Planning Board
- 8 6:30 pm Town Board
- 9 7 pm Ticonderoga Lecture Series (p. 6)
- 17 Next *Hague Chronicle* mailed

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS**

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

**ONGOING EVENTS**

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

For January only:  
 2nd Tuesday: Mohican Crafters  
 4th Tuesday: Mohican Crafters



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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

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

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT



X/07	Name
	Address
	State
	Zip

*Celebrating the 200th Anniversary  
 of the Town of Hague*