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HAGUE WINTER WEEKEND

by Katy Wells and Meg Haskell

It's in the books! The residents of Hague came together to celebrate another Winter Weekend February 14 - 16, 2020.

The annual Chili Cook-off was held on Saturday, February 15th with 14 entries. There was a great crowd on hand and awesome music was provided by Jim Braisted, Tom Denno, Gary Knight, Chris Lapoint, and Scott Barringer or, as we like to call them, "The Fab Five!" The voting for the best chili was close, but Ernie Trudeau placed third, Pete Borho came in second, and the winner was Tom Haskell, Jr. Way to go, Tom, for beating your dad! Thank you to all who entered.

Wrapping up the weekend was the annual Polar Plunge to benefit The University of Vermont Children's Hospital. Thirty-three brave souls took the plunge. Yup, it was COLD! In twelve years of jumping, we don't ever recall saying, "Oh! It was warm today!"



Photos courtesy of Meg Haskell



WOKO 98.9 was on hand to emcee the event and over \$3,000 was raised. The HVFD kept our jumpers safe by providing on-the-scene support.

Thanks to the Hague Fish & Game Club, the HVFD, NLG Realty, the Patchett family and Trout House Village, the Hague Sno-Goers, and everyone who came out to make this a success! ▣

FISH & GAME CLUB ENJOYS WINTER WEEKEND

by Bobbie-Jean Fish

On February 14, 2020, the Hague Fish & Game Club held a spaghetti dinner for the community to kick off Hague Winter Weekend. There was great food and company. It's nice to see folks we wouldn't usually see, being that we are a rod and gun club.

Last year, we brought back some of our Winter Weekend traditions and we

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Photos courtesy of Lara Smith-Ryder and Bobbie-Jean Fish

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

Our next meeting will be on March 24, 2020 at 1:30 pm. We will be playing Bingo, so please bring a gift to share. Game night will be on April 2nd at Maureen's house at 6:30 pm. There has been a change in schedule. Our trip to Quechee Gorge in VT will now be April 16th and our trip to the Aerosciences Museum will be postponed until a later date.

We will begin collecting items for our White Elephant Sale on April 15th. Please bring items that are in good condition because whatever doesn't sell is donated to local organizations (if they'll take them), and we have to pay to get rid of the rest at the dump. As this is a fundraiser, we sure don't want to spend part of our hard-earned profits at the dump! ▣



BESTE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

by Kathy Santaniello

On Saturday morning, February 15, 2020, at the HVFD breakfast, six Hague students received Beste Scholarship Awards.

Cassandra Martucci is our first graduating senior. She is at Siena College, majoring in English/Education. She is the daughter of David and Bonnie Martucci. "Cassie" was on the President's List for the fall 2019 semester.

Nicholas Fitzgerald is a third-year student at the University of New Hampshire, majoring in History/Political Science. He is the son of Martin and Heidi Fitzgerald. Nicholas says he is interested in becoming a museum curator.

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HVFD

by Meg Haskell

For the month of February, we had 11 fire calls and drills and four EMS calls using 216 volunteer hours.

We had a great turnout for all our events during Winter Weekend; thank you to all who came and supported us.

Now that we have "sprung ahead" into March, remember to check your smoke detectors and change the batteries. Smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors save lives, but only if they are operational! ▣



HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

Please send all news items to Editor Bobbi Bryant Taylor at: editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

FISH & GAME CLUB ENJOYS WINTER WEEKEND

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continued them this year. We all enjoyed reliving memories of years gone by.

Following the Fireman's Breakfast on Saturday, February 15th, we held our Winter Logger Games from noon to 4 pm. Thank goodness Dave May and Nat Cooper kept the fire inside going, as it was a "balmy" six degrees outside!

Scout Troop 73 manned the sliding hill and the kids had an incredible time. Thank you to Corinna Woods and Daniel Burke.

The rip of the chainsaw could be heard as 14 folks competed in the Stock Chainsaw Competition. They ripped through the logs three times. The person with the fastest time moved on to the next bracket. After ten brackets, Brad Sprague was the winner.

Next was the Axe Throwing Competition and 30 people joined in. Each competitor got one practice throw and two throws for points. The women were just as good as the men! Lumberjack Jake took first place. We'll all be practicing every day for next year, so,



Photos courtesy of Bobbie-Jean Fish

Jake, mark your calendar - we're lookin' to beat you next year!

Then, it was the men against the women in the Frying Pan Toss. Contestants picked up a two-and-a-half pound frying pan, wound up, and launched it. If you bet that a woman won this one, you're right - Beth Anne from Johnsbury crushed it!

We also held a friendly game of "Toss the Frozen Pigskin" with the kids. Preston Burris, age five, cranked out a 42-foot throw and Liam Burke was amazing with an 88-foot toss. Each child received a trophy, Stewart's ice cream, and Valentine's candy.



In the midst of all of this activity, Michelle Holman, Ron and Lara Ryder, and Todd and I managed to fix chili to enter in the Chili Cook-off. We didn't win, but we had a great time tasting them all!

Thanks to everyone for a great day! ▣

ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

by Bobbie-Jean Fish

The Hague Fish & Game Club, along with the Town of Hague, and the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) held our Annual Fishing Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, February 22 and 23, 2020. This is a big event for our club and we spent months preparing for it. We requested donations from local merchants to ensure that every child in the Junior Division who would catch a fish would get something.

This year, FMB Bait in Port Henry graciously donated items for kids and a two-person pop-up shanty for us to raffle. Fish307.com donated shirts, buckets, and lures and brought in 30 registrants. Norm's Bait and Tackle donates over \$300 in prizes to our junior division every year. This year, he also donated a drill auger for us to raffle. Silver Bay General Store and Beach Road Bait and Tackle also donated merchandise.

We opened the tournament to fishermen from other waters a few years ago. I can tell you, we have some die-hard fans who will only fish here at Lake George! They return year after year and the number of kids who enter is growing. Ice fishermen are concerned about dock bubblers that keep the shore open because they allow few access points. But, when you love ice fishing like these folks love it, you find a way!

We are proud of all of the participants. The winners and the weight, in pounds, of their catches were:



Photos courtesy of Bobbie-Jean Fish and Steve Ramant

JUNIOR LAKE TROUT:

- 1st** – Nevaeh Trudeau – a whopping 18! - the largest recorded lake trout ever caught in Lake George!
- 2nd** – Leigha Barnaby – 6.7 (1/4" inch longer than A. Winters' fish)
- 3rd** – A. Winters – 6.7

ADULT LAKE TROUT:

- 1st** – Conner Cleveland – 10.3
- 2nd** – Dillion Stein – 9.7
- 3rd** – Eugene Barnaby – 8.8

JUNIOR PERCH:

- 1st** – Grayson Hurlburt – 11 15/16 inch, .8
- 2nd** – Amber Ryther – 11 3/4 inch, .8
- 3rd** – Forest Clark – .7

ADULT PERCH:

- 1st** – Doug Bishop – 1.1
- 2nd** – Phil Collins – 1
- 3rd** – Dylan Stein – .9

JUNIOR NORTHERN PIKE:

- 1st** – Karsen Austin – 11.4
- 2nd** – Kallen Austin – 8.3



ADULT NORTHERN PIKE:

- 1st** – Randy Dorris – a monstrous 14.1!
- 2nd** – Rich Ortiz – 12.5
- 3rd** – Chad Gates – 11.2

SALMON: (all were adults)

- 1st** – Brett Holmes – 3.7
- 2nd** – Anthony Bennett – 3.1
- 3rd** – Jeff Allen – 2.9

NO FREEZE-OVER THIS YEAR

According to Walt Lender of the LGA and Larry Eichler of the Darrin Fresh Water Institute, there was an area in Hague and another near Rogers Rock Campsite that didn't freeze, even on the coldest days. There was also some question about whether the area where Northwest Bay opens up to the main lake ever froze over. So, there will be no ice-in date for 2020.

The ice is now starting to separate from the shore and rafts of ice are moving around the lake. It looks like we will have an early ice-off this year but you never know. Stay tuned for an "ice-out" date. ▣



Photo of ice on the lake on 3/2/2020, courtesy of Tony DeFranco

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2/27/2020

Chairman Robert Goetsch, Deputy Chairperson Jon Hanna, and Board Members Maureen Cherubini, Lindsay Mydlarz, Chris Navitsky, and Ray Snyder were present. Linda Mury was absent.

MACPHERSON 24 Silver Bay Road (TRIR)

The owners would like to construct a three-story addition to their legal, non-conforming house and remodel the existing structure. Applicants are requesting a variance for an eave overhang which would extend 16 inches into the ten-foot side-yard setback. They are also requesting a variance for a 93.5% increase over the existing living space, which is above the minimum 25% allowed for a legal, non-conforming structure. The owners had previously obtained town approval to do a total structure replacement, with an increase in living space of well over 100%. The owners decided to pursue an addition rather than tear down the existing structure. The application was deemed complete and a site visit was scheduled. There will be a public hearing at the March 26th ZBA meeting.

FISCHER Sabbath Day Point Road (TRIR)

The owners would like to reconfigure an existing deck and exterior staircase. Through Site Plan Review, they are asking for approval to add a screened porch and covered deck. The current non-conforming deck is within 37.9 ft. of the shoreline. The proposed deck would be within 39.3 ft., slightly further away from the shoreline, but would increase by 78 sq. ft. the non-compliant deck square footage within 50 ft. of the shoreline. The board requested that the owner consider reconfigurations that would result in a net zero increase of non-compliant deck sq. ft. within the 50 ft. shoreline setback. The application was deemed complete and a site visit scheduled. There will be a public hearing at the March 26th ZBA meeting. ■

PLANNING BOARD OF APPEALS - 3/5/2020

Chairman Dick Frasier, Deputy Chairperson Pam Peterson, and Board Members Dan Belden, Martin Fitzgerald II, Judy Gourley, and Meg Haskell were present.

COOMBE Pine Orchard Road (TRI & OCI)

The owner's revised proposal is to take 3.79 acres from tax map # 42-1-18, accessed from Holman Hill Road, and merge it with tax map # 42.12-1-52 (= 4.79-acres). The applicant has withdrawn the proposal to take 0.28-acres from tax map # 42.12-1-52, accessed from Pine Orchard Road, and merge it with the tax map # 42-1-18 (=119.28 acres). Due to heavy snow during the initial site visit and the owner's revised proposal, a second site visit will be conducted by board members. There will be a public hearing at the April Planning Board meeting.

MACPHERSON 24 Silver Bay Road (TRI)

See details under Zoning Board of Appeals. There will be a public hearing at the April Planning Board meeting.

FISCHER Sabbath Day Point Road (TRIR)

See details under Zoning Board of Appeals. There will be a public hearing at the April 2nd Planning Board meeting. ■

TOWN BOARD - 3/10/2020

Present were: Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Jack Bast, Joshua Patchett, and Steve Ramant. Martin Fitzgerald II was absent. A moment of silence was held for Gertrude Raczkowski and Dick Barnwell.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

•**Highway:** Ramant/Bast - Deputy Highway Superintendent Matthew Coffin said they are working with FEMA for road repairs from the storms of 10/31/2019 and 11/1/2019.

•**Museum/Historian:** Patchett/Ramant - Patchett said the Hague Historical Society met and that they are continuing to work on the Hague Central School District display and planning for their annual author talk, which will be at Silver Bay.

•**Town Park/Beautification:** Ramant/Frasier - Ramant distributed the 2020 Music in the Park schedule and the proposed staff for the visitor center, park attendants, and lifeguards. The park will open May 22nd and close October 18th. The Visitor Center will open June 20th and close September 8th. The board raised the boat launch fee for non-residents from \$15 to \$20.

•**Sewer District #1 & #2:** Bast/Frasier - Bast said he had been in contact with Town Attorney John Silvestri regarding moving forward with amendments to the Sewer Law.

•**Environmental Concerns:** Ramant/Patchett - At this time, there is no fee or permit requirement for owners to rent out their homes, nor is there an inspection requirement. Owners assume responsibility for the conduct of their tenants. A "Tenant Information for Rental Property" form is at <https://townofhague.org> under Zoning Application Forms.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

At the town board meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 6:15 pm, there will be a public hearing regarding reducing the number of members of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals from seven to five, with one alternate each.

Frasier suggested consideration of more affordable options for a performance center at the park than the LA Group presented. Ramant showed a flyer from Garden Time. Patchett suggested putting bids out to local carpenters to create a structure with an Adirondack theme such as log work or stone work. Seddon Beaty presented the idea of holding a contest for the best design to involve the community. The board postponed this discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was decided that Melissa Patchett would take minutes for the Planning Board and the ZBA on an as-needed basis.

Since the Town of Hague Chamber of Commerce is no longer active, the Town of Hague entered into a contract with the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC). ■

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Muriel Schwarz, 94, peacefully, at home in Clifton Park on February 22, 2020, surrounded by her loving family.

Muriel earned a BS degree in 1947 from Simmons College in Boston. She then pursued a Master's at the University of Washington, while working at Seattle's Boeing Airplane Company, helping to get the first of many B-52 airplanes off the ground. Her most rewarding career was as a kindergarten and then a nursery school teacher for 33 years.

With her winning smile, Muriel won the hearts of everyone who knew her. She was a friend to all and her greatest joy was spending time with her family. She was an accomplished watercolor artist and bridge player. The Schwarz family were Hague summer residents for 45 years and were proud members of the Northern Lake George Yacht Club. Muriel and her husband, Bob, developed Lake Forest Acres on Pine Orchard and Dodd Hill Roads in Hague in the early 1970s.

Muriel was predeceased by her brother, Norman. She is survived by: her husband of 68 years, Robert; daughters, Christina Israel (Paul) and Gretchen Bruner (James); sons Robert, Jr., (Kathie) and Kurt (Lori); ten grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

DIED: Gertrude Raczkowski, 98, the oldest living resident of Hague on March 1, 2020 at home.

Gertrude managed, on her own, to smuggle her two children across the Iron Curtain. Her husband, Tadeus, was in the British resistance underground helping displaced persons from Poland. Gertrude and the children walked by night, hiding by day, and often hearing the Russian military shooting at German individuals and families determined to cross "No Man's Land" and reach safety in West Germany, which was then under British control.

After a period of resettlement, Tadeus joined them for the voyage from Germany to the U.S. aboard the USS General Stewart, a retired transport troop ship, carrying refugees and displaced persons. They arrived in NY harbor on June 27, 1951. They raised their family in NJ, where their younger son, John, was born.

Gertrude moved to Hague in 2000, where she lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Christine and the late George Ianson. In Hague, she was a volunteer for *The Hague Chronicle* and a member of the Hague Senior Club.

Gertrude is survived by: her three children, Christine Ianson, Karl Raczkowski, and John Raczkowski; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren, each of whom received a birthday card every year from Gertrude.

There will be a service on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10 am at the Silver Bay Chapel followed by burial at May Cemetery and a reception at the Hague Community Center.

DIED: Richard Roemer Barnwell, 87, of Hague on March 4, 2020 at Elderwood of Ticonderoga.

Prior to his retirement, Richard was employed by the State of NY as the Supervisor of Vocational Education.

He had been a resident of Hague since 2000.

Survivors include: his wife of 58 years, Carol Ross Barnwell; two sons, Michael Barnwell and Scott Barnwell (Naomi); four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will take place at a later date at First United Methodist Church of Ticonderoga. Donations in his memory may be made to a charity of one's choice. ■



Photo courtesy of Forrest Wright

BESTE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

(Continued from page 2)

Connor Lawrie is a third-year student at Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in engineering. He is currently in an internship program. He is the son of Lara Smith-Ryder.

Michael Fitzgerald is a first-year student at Plattsburgh State University. He is the son of Martin and Heidi Fitzgerald. He recently changed his major to History/Education.

Skye Mason is a first-year student at Siena College, majoring in English. She is the daughter of Mandy Cyphers. She was on the Dean's List in fall 2019.

Austin Stacy is a first-year student at Onondaga Community College. He is the son of the late Christopher Stacy and was accompanied by his guardian, his aunt, Tory Belden. Austin recently changed his major to accounting.

We wish all our award recipients the very best in their continued studies!

The Beste Steering Committee extends its sincere thanks to the Hague Volunteer Fire Department for hosting

the awards ceremony and to the Rotary Club of Northern Lake George for holding its silent auction and for its generous donation to the Beste Fund.

Many thanks also to those who have continued to support the fund over the years.

To make a donation, make your check payable to: "Beste Scholarship Fund" and send it to: Hague Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836.

A list of donors who have contributed to the Beste Scholarship Fund since April 2019 will be published in the April issue of *The Hague Chronicle*. ■

NATURALLY SPEAKING

by Connie Smith

Hurry! Buy a fishing license (just \$25 for residents), grab a fishing rod, and start smelt fishing before the season closes on March 31!

You are allowed to fish for smelt on Lake George with a hook and line (no dip netting) during the open season, which is from May 16th to March 31st. If you miss the March deadline, then wait a couple of months and start smelt fishing again on May 16th. Every licensed fisher is allowed a limit of 25 smelt a day. Once you have caught your smelt, you are allowed to use these small fish as bait for bigger fish, such as northern pike and lake trout.

Rainbow Smelt are a small torpedo-shaped fish that have fang-like teeth. They can live up to nine years, can grow as long nine inches, and people say they taste great. They are eaten whole – skin,

head, and tail. You don't even have to gut them if you don't want to. The flesh is delicate and mild-tasting, and a bit oily. Smelt are high in omega-3 fatty acids and are most commonly fried, either in a batter or in a dusting of flour. In South Korea, smelt may be eaten alive. That sure would be a throat tickler!

My research indicates that the village of Lewiston in western NY, has an annual two-day smelt festival in May during which over 350 pounds of smelt are eaten by visitors. The festival's motto is, "Lewiston never smelt so good."

The first reported introduction of Rainbow Smelt to Lake George was in 1918, when approximately 2.5 million smelt were

released to enhance the lake trout fishery. Five million more smelt were released in 1921.

Smelt have historically been stocked into bodies of water throughout the Adirondacks as prey for larger game species.



So, heat up your frying pan and try some freshly fried smelt - a tasty meal that's a "whole" eating experience! ▣

WATER QUALITY MATTERS

by Mike Strutz

"What you can't see can hurt you," the catchphrase of the new science fiction horror film *The Invisible Man*, is a contemporary adaptation based on a book by H. G. Wells.

It's about a woman being stalked by her abusive partner despite him apparently having died. An invisible stalker – that's scary stuff! Like we need more scary invisible things in our lives with the flu and coronavirus lurking nearby!

In the water world, algae can be one of those scary, invisible things. Lurking just offshore, algae are sometimes just a slick surface on a rock; sometimes they accumulate in more visible colonies. Algae can be good, but sometimes they are bad, like cyanobacteria that emit deadly toxins

when found in high concentrations. These are the algae that I have talked about before that can form HABs, or harmful algal blooms.

Scientists have discovered that algae biomonitoring can be used as a technique to indicate where there are possible sources of organic pollution, like what might be coming from inadequate septic tanks or stormwater run-off from over-fertilized lawns and gardens. Through microscopic examination of samples taken near shore, the specific types of algae can be identified. Those species more tolerant of organic pollution will be dominant in the population. Specific species are sensitive to the levels of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. The ratio of nitrogen to phosphorous (N/P ratio) generally determines the dominant species, but the levels of carbon, sodium, and calcium can shift algal dominance.

The Palmer Algae Pollution Index (PPI) was developed from data on algae species near known sources of organic

pollution and uses a scoring system to indicate the level of environmental stress in an area. Areas of concern in the southern basin of Lake George were identified in the report "The Town of Lake George Septic Initiative," which I referenced in last month's issue. The PPI was one of several criteria used to rank properties or areas for further pollution control studies.

Stay tuned for more details next month, when I plan to show an example of how algae biomonitoring is used in practice.

In the meantime, don't be scared. We can figure this out.

Oh, and please do cover your nose when you sneeze!

For more information on how you can help, please visit the Hague Water Quality Awareness Committee on Facebook or contact one of our Steering Committee members: Al Rider (Chairman), Jim Beaty, Lance Clark, Ginger Kuenzel, Josh Patchett, Steve Ramant, or me. ▣

LGA COMMITTING FUNDS TO BOAT INSPECTIONS

Stopping invasive species from entering Lake George is the most cost-effective way to protect our water quality (read more at [Class AA-Special water](#)) because once an invasive species is established, it is virtually cost-prohibitive to eradicate. Because Lake George water is drinking water, we all need to ensure that no more invasives get into the water and that we aren't moving the existing invasive species to new areas of the lake.


It is with that in mind that the LGA has again pledged \$30,000 for the Lake George Park Commission's Mandatory Boat Inspection Program. Read more about the donation here.



LGA SHOPPING BAGS

Starting March 1, 2020, NY stores stopped providing single-use plastic bags and that's good news for the lake.

To help transition away from plastic bags and to help raise funds it will use for projects to protect the water quality, the Lake George Association (LGA) is selling reusable totes imprinted with its logo.

Everyone on the LGA staff has been using them and highly recommend them. Read more about it here. 



SILVER BAY HAPPENINGS

Silver Bay is hiring staff for several seasonal and year-round positions. See the full list at: www.silverbay.org/employment.

Waterfront Lifeguards: Employment includes paid training in Red Cross Waterfront Lifeguard Certification and an hourly wage through the summer.

The season (which includes training and orientation) runs from June 7th - August 14, 2020, with extended employment options. Contact Nathan Hatch at nhatch@silverbay.org or 518-543-8833, ext. 316.

Waterfront Team Leader:

Must meet all requirements above and have adequate experience.


Craft Shop Artisans:

Seasonal instructors are needed in pottery, weaving, quilting, enamel, basketry, stained glass, leather, silver jewelry, kids' crafts, and tie-dye. Local guest artisans will also be hired for weekly workshops.

Applicants must be proficient in his/her craft area(s) and possess excellent instructional and customer service skills.

Dates of employment are June 14th - August 14th. Contact Zac Smalley at zsmalley@silverbay.org or 518-543-8833 ext. 215.

On Thursday, March 26th, Silver Bay will present "The History of Eastern Elk in the Adirondacks" as part of its Dinner and Lecture Series. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm in the William Boyd Center Dining Hall and Todd Waldron will present the program beginning at 7 pm in the Luther Wishard Conference Room. The cost is \$10 per person for dinner and the lecture or \$25 for dinner, the lecture, and two drink tickets. RSVP by calling 518-543-8833, ext. 219. Payment must be made by Friday, March 20th.

From April 2nd through June 13th, Silver Bay is hosting Pickleball every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 am - 12 noon and Yoga (entry level) from 9 am - 10 am on Saturday mornings in Fisher Gymnasium. For information, contact Nathan Hatch at nhatch@silverbay.org or 518-543-8833 ext. 316. 

KIWANIS BRIDGE BUILDING

by Anthony DeFranco, PE

The Kiwanis Club sponsored its 12th Annual Student Model Bridge Building Competition on Saturday, February 1, 2020.

The experience teaches students about concepts in engineering and about working in teams. The hope is that this event will inspire the participants to pursue future careers in engineering and science-related careers. Joe Giordano and I shared how our lives were influenced by math and science and how those subjects led us to careers in engineering.

Teams of students designed and built what they hoped would be the most efficient and attractive bridges in the contest. Each team then tested the strength of its bridge by loading weights into a bucket that was suspended from the bridge until the bridge collapsed. The bridge's efficiency (the weight of the load the bridge carried prior to failing in pounds divided by the weight in grams of the bridge's actual weight) was then computed.

Eight teams from Ticonderoga Central School and St. Mary's School competed in the middle school competition. They built bridges out of popsicle sticks in an allotted time period the day of the competition. Only one team competed on the high school level. That team



designed and built its balsa wood bridge in class in the weeks before the competition.

Trophies were awarded for the most efficient bridge and the most attractive bridge. The judges for the aesthetic portion of the contest were Joyce Cooper and Leslie Midgley and Ken Engler from Hague.

The winners were:

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LOOKING BACK

HAGUE SCHOOLS, PART I

by Mary Behr



Did you know that Hague once had eight district schools? Eight! Happily, the Hague Historical Society has photos of all eight, as well as charming first-person accounts of attending these institutions.

The first three school districts were formed on September 10, 1813. Per the school commission meeting notes, School District No. 1 commenced on the “west bank of Lake George at a rock known by the name of High Rock” and ended “where the south line of the lot of land now in the occupation of the Widow Dod strikes the same.” This information is quaint but not very helpful today. If you know where the High Rock is, please get in touch!

In simpler terms, the eight school districts were as follows:

- No. 1: Hague Village
- No. 2: Split Rock
- No. 3: West Hague
- No. 4: Graphite
- No. 5: Sabbath Day
- No. 6: New Hague
- No. 7: Wardsboro
- No. 8: Battle Hill

District No. 4 was formed in 1814 and No. 5 was formed in 1822; we don't have dates for the final three schools. The boundaries of the districts were constantly adjusted in these years and the school buildings also moved locations within their districts quite a bit.

Generally, there were two eight-week terms, one in winter and one in summer. Between terms, children were needed for work on the farm. Later, the

terms were extended to 14 weeks each. In 1850, it was voted to extend the school year to eight months.

According to Clifton West, former Hague Historian, the first school building for District No. 1 was located “across the bridge below Rock and Rye Corner.” The second school building was near the Hague Cemetery near today's fire department building. It was built in 1850 for \$185. In 1879, it was attended by 65 children, ages 5 - 12. In 1909, the school



was moved to a “more centralized location,” just above today's community center. You can see the spot if you stand in the parking lot; it's up the hill overlooking the basketball court. This is the building in the first photo; it was a two-room schoolhouse. Alas, no one in the photo is identified on the back.

The school for District No. 2 only moved twice. The original building was located on the lake side of 9N, right across from Split Rock Road, which was called the Hill Road then, according to Clifton West. This is the building in the second photo;

the only students named on the back of the photo are Zella Jenkins Carpenter, Susie Tupper (later Clifton), and her sister Mertie. When Walter Watrous (brother of Harry Watrous, owner of Ruah and creator of the Lake George monster) bought the property, a new school was built on Split Rock Road. You can still see the foundation; it's the first property on the right as you go up the hill. It was a white, square building with a hip roof and many windows.

Dorothy W. Goodfellow, in her book *Growing Up Wild*, devotes a chapter to her experiences at the District No. 2 school.

“A single enamel cup for the use of everyone sat on the bench beside the pail. We children had collapsible metal cups in our lunch boxes, but we all used the water in that pail. I never heard of anyone's having typhoid. I wonder why. In fact, the only childhood disease we had while attending District No. 2 was chicken pox.”

“The school picnic ended the year at the District No. 2. Held in Miss Alden's woods, it was, next to the Christmas tree, the high point in our school lives. Examinations were over, we had received our grades, and each of us knew the worst or the best. Mr. Laufberg, Miss Alden's caretaker, a genial man with a delightful Swedish accent, brought a freezer of ice cream, and on one accession Miss Alden and her companion, Miss Beste, attended, as did several of the mothers, armed with cases, cookies, and other dainties.”

The Hague Historical Society is in the middle of a two-year exhibit on schools in Hague. Next month's column will cover more information about the district schools. As always, we welcome any information from you! ▣

KIWANIS BRIDGE

(Continued from page 7)

MIDDLE SCHOOL EFFICIENCY

- 1st** – “The Spaghetti Birds” – Madeline Lender and Robert O'Neil (St. Mary's)
- 2nd** – “Dinosaurs” – Kaitlin Larmore and Eliza Strum (Ticonderoga)
- 3rd** – “The M's” – Mason Thompson and Melanie Jordan (Ticonderoga)

MIDDLE SCHOOL AESTHETICS:

- 1st** – “Team Chocolate Milk” – Olivia Quesnel and Qwyn Hurlbert (St. Mary's)
- 2nd** – “The Spaghetti Birds” – Madeline Lender and Robert O'Neil (St. Mary's)
- 3rd** – “Bob the Builders” – Landon LaVallie, Brady Leerkes, and Ian Lender (St. Mary's)

HIGH SCHOOL BRIDGE EFFICIENCY:

- 1st** – Lillian Bain, Kirsten Strum, and Zyleen Tyler (Ticonderoga)

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: “Team Mac & Cheese” – Xavier Frasier and Heiden Morse (Ticonderoga)

Kiwanis Club volunteers from Hague were: Darlene Dorsett, Donald Johnston, Tom Schaffer, Jack Bast, and me, Anthony DeFranco. ▣

MERCHANT AND VENDOR REGISTRATION OPEN FOR STREETFEST

The 12th Annual StreetFest will be held Saturday, July 25, 2020 from 10 am to 3 pm in Ticonderoga. It is a day-long celebration with sidewalk sales, shopping, food, live entertainment, arts and crafts, kids' activities, and more. It is free and open to the public.

The StreetFest Committee is now accepting merchant and vendor registrations. Vendors including downtown merchants, area businesses, retail stores, restaurants, food vendors, non-profits, artisans, farmers, arts and craft vendors, and vendors with local handcrafted products are encouraged to participate. Applications have been mailed or emailed to 2019 participants.

Those who wish to participate must complete a Merchant/Vendor Form and be approved. Applications and more information are available at www.timainstreet.org, www.ticonderogany.com, or by calling 518-585-6619.

The 2020 Vendor Fee is \$40 before May 29th and \$50 after that date. There is no fee for Montcalm Street merchants, businesses, partners, and sponsors, but they still must fill out a registration form.

Checks should be made payable to TMSP. Completed applications should be returned to the TACC Office at by July 10th. Space is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. ■



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

On Sunday, April 5, 2020 from 2 - 3:30 pm, Fort Ticonderoga Artificer Tailor Joseph Zea will explain the great efforts that were required to ensure that clothing was made, individually fit, well-maintained, and then remade, all for the purpose of ensuring a proper "soldier like" appearance in the program *Fitted with Great Exactness: The Life and Importance of Clothing to the British Soldier in the Era of the American Revolution*.



The cost is \$10/person, with free admission to Fort Ticonderoga Members and Ticonderoga Ambassador Pass Holders. ■

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

The Elks of Ticonderoga will be hosting "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" on Sunday, March 29, 2020 from 8 - 11 am at their lodge at 5 Tower Drive in Ticonderoga.

A breakfast buffet with eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast, juice, and coffee will be served. Children will be able to have their photos taken with the bunny and there will be a 50/50 raffle.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 6 - 10, and free for children under five. For more information, call 518-585-2277 or go to www.elks.org. ■

MASON/STAR DINNER

A roast pork loin 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 Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 4:30 - 6 pm in the downstairs dining hall of the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple. Takeouts will be available. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under and will be sold at the door. ■

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Please send all news items and Soundings by the deadline listed in the calendar, to editor@thehaguechronicle.org. Please send any questions to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org.

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TACC SEEKS SPONSORS AND DONATIONS

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce's (TACC's) 18th Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Auction will be held on Friday, June 12, 2020 at The Barn at Lord Howe Valley. The theme will be "Roaring Twenties - Celebrating 95 Years."

TACC is now seeking sponsorships, auction items, or a combination of the two for the event. All sponsors will receive recognition for their level of contribution during the evening and after the event in a variety of ways.

These are the sponsorship levels:

Chamber Champion - \$1,000
Visionary Supporter - \$750
Pivotal Supporter - \$500
Distinguished Supporter - \$250
Sustainable Supporter - \$125
Community Supporter - under \$125

All sponsorships or donations should be made by Monday, June 1st by mailing them, by dropping them off at the TACC office during normal business hours, or by arranging to have them picked up. ■

TICONDEROGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM

The Ticonderoga Historical Society will open its program year on Friday, March 27, 2020 at 7 pm with *"The Singing of the Green, The Irish in American Musical Theater."* The program takes place at the Hancock House and is free to the public.

"It will be a bit past St. Patrick's Day," said program presenter Diane O'Connor. "But, this program offers a lot of fun, some interesting information about the evolution of our musical theater traditions and – best of all – it features some memorable music familiar to all."

Refreshments will be served. The program is free, however, reservations are encouraged. Seats may be reserved by calling 518-585-7868 or by emailing tihistory@bridgepoint1.com. ▣

RICHARD STRUM WINS AWARD



Richard Strum has been awarded the 2019-2020 New York State Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Council for the Social Studies (NYSCSS) for the contributions he made to social

studies education in the community and in the state. The award ceremony took place at the Albany Capital Center on Friday, March 13, 2020.

Strum joined the Fort Ticonderoga leadership staff in spring 1999. He currently serves as Director of Academic Programs, overseeing teacher professional development programs, public conferences and seminars, the fort's publications program, and the Edward W. Pell Graduate Fellowship Program. Through programs like the Fort Ticonderoga Teacher Institute,

Strum has worked with over 350 educators from 47 states onsite during week-long programs. Since 2007, he has coordinated North Country History Day for students in the northeastern corner of NY State and currently serves on the NY State History Day Advisory Board.

Strum holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Houghton College and a Master of Arts in Education degree from the College of William & Mary. He has worked in museum education for more than 30 years at Shelburne Museum (1989-1999) and Fort Ticonderoga (since 1999). ▣



Photo courtesy of Sandy Powell

CALENDAR

March 2020

MARCH

24	1:30 pm	Senior Club meeting at the community center
26	5:30 pm	Dinner and Lecture event at Silver Bay
	7 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
27	7 pm	Ticonderoga Historical Society program at Hancock House
28	4:30 – 6 pm	Mason Star Dinner at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple
29	8 – 11 am	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Elks Club

APRIL

2	7 pm	Planning Board
	2 pm	British Uniform Program at Fort Ticonderoga
9		PASSOVER STARTS
12		EASTER
13		Submission deadline for the April issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
14	6 pm	Town Board
15		TAXES DUE (unless postponed)
24		April issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published

TRANSFER STATION HOURS:

September 2 through June 30

Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm | Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday: CLOSED